

Village Tour

This section is about the old buildings and "places" in the parish. The oldest building in the parish is St Helen's Church which has its own section.

Listed buildings in the parish; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Listed_buildings_in_Overton,_Lancashire

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Below is the "1st History Meeting" by Frank Hargreaves Snr. It is a guided tour around the village and an excellent piece of local history To help the flow of the tour I have added old photo's and comments (in blue).

1946-2,000

1st History Meeting in the Memorial Hall Oct 2,000

Organiser and Chairlady Mrs G Gardner History

History Meetings were started in October 2,000 for the benefit of New Residents and young people in the years 1950 onwards, as our Parish has altered so fast with Estates being built and Town People coming in, and old villagers dying out. A record had to be written of our Parish up to the year 2,000, as this has never been done before.

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Overton and Sunderland Marsh known as Ladies (**Lades**) Marsh was owned by the Port Commissioners of Glasson Dock up to 1970. It was then put up for sale by Morris and Irvine (Solicitors) in the Globe Hotel It sold for a figure of £3,750. Now owned by Mr. Clarkson of Goosnargh. The piece of land from the Quarry to Bazil Point was not in the sale, this is on the East side of Ladies (Lades) Pool to the hedge sides. The Marshes are Tidal twice a day and the road to Sunderland Point is not passable during Tide times.

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The River Bank was rebuilt and raised in 1995 from the Globe Hotel to Trailholme Farm from soil taken from Bowie Land belonging to Mr F.I.Hargreaves leaving a large 4 acre Lake, now known as Bowie Lake bird sanctuary. The land is rented to the Lune Bank Riding School Proprietor Mrs Jeanette Carey in Summer time.

The Bank continues on to Potts corner, this was the Gateway to Middleton Sands. The soil for this part of the Bank was taken from Clive Baxters Browns Farm leaving a three acre lake, which is now a Registered Fishing Lake.

Competitions are held regularly during the season.

Going up Trailholme Lane the land on the left is Parish Council Land, on the right belongs to Mr. Snowden. At Bank Corner a side road leads to the Parish Sewerage Farm now being renewed in 2003, to continue on is a Public Footpath to Middleton Village.

On the left side of this side road is the Bank Corner Wood (Planted 1992) with the "Golden Seat"

in it, given to the Parish by the Hargreaves Family on 9th March 1998. (Bank Corner Wood is also known as Trailholme Wood).

At the end of Trailholme Lane is Dots Bridge. There are footpaths to Sunderland Point, Middleton Sands and Middleton Village, all signposted.



The Globe Hotel looking from Trailholme embankment (The River Bank)



The Globe Hotel Onwards The Hotel was built by the Pearson family in the early 17th Century. In 1691 it was bought by Robert Lawson as part of an Estate, but later went bankrupt in 1728. Tenancies changed up to 1880. A licensed Dealer by the name of Evan Makinson took over in 1900 trading in Tobacco, Cottons and Wines brought in by ships from all parts of the world. In the 1920 period to 1944 a Mr. George Slater was the Landlord and in that time there were lovely well kept Pleasure Gardens, Putting Greens and Bowling Greens which many Holiday Makers and Charabancs came to at weekends. A black and white spaniel was kept at the Hotel called "Rover" and all its life it carried a collection box on its back. It collected over £3,000 for charity and on "Rovers" death he was buried in the Globe gardens and a stone was erected on the right, just through the main gate, and is still there now (2003)

In the winter of 1942 a German Agent was spotted signalling to U-boats in the Irish Sea by the local Home Guard Unit on night patrol. This was reported to the Police and the Army and they arrested him, but kept Hush, Hush, at that time. During the war the Gardens and Greens were neglected and have not been attended to since. In 1987 the Hotel, Gardens and and Parking Ground (4 acres in all) were sold in the Hotel to Mitchell Breweries for the sum of £135,000. It was then renovated in 1988-89 costing £1,250,000



The Globe Hotel has ceased trading and as of 2019 is awaiting redevelopment.



To continue on from the Globe Hotel to Main Street the 3 houses on the right were once known as the Club Houses. Here was where the Twelve Men Committee used to meet to look after the Parish and Ladies Marsh rights, as all the Village people had the right to put animals on Ladies (Lades) Marsh. As time went on all the Committee died and the Meetings were discontinued, and when the “Commons Registration Act” came into force in the 1990’s all these rights were lost.

On the left side the houses were known as Singletons Cottages, also called Wagg Hall The Mews. These previously were a farmhouse and a sweet shop. Next door was Robert Shuttleworths orchard and greenhouse. He was a local stone mason, this has now been taken over by the Pearson Family and built into a Highly Modern Nursery in the 1990’s. Next door was the Overton Methodist Chapel the Preacher for 50 years was a Mr. Fred Jackson. On his death the Chapel was sold and converted into a private house in the 1980’s.



This photo is Singletons cottages on the left, club houses on the right. The Primitive Methodist Chapel is top left.

Courtesy of TuckDB.



Overton Hall, looking down Main Street.

At the top of Globe Hill on the right, Overton Hall Farm House and Cottages built in 1677. Run by Jack Baxter till his death, the farm was left to Mr. Alan Baxter and the 2 cottages were sold to Mr Jim Braid. The end 2 cottages were used as Potato Houses up to the 1930's they were then

converted into living premises. The road which runs up the side of Overton Hall is just a right of way to the farm and 3 houses on the right side.



Main Street with the "old" post office. Courtesy of TuckDB.

Main Street was rebuilt in the early 18th Century after the "Great Fire" of 1618, which destroyed a lot of the Wooden Houses. The houses were started to be numbered after the War.

On the left side at the start of Main Street, No.29 was the Old Post Office run by Miss Bessie Gardner until her death, it was then turned into a private house.

No.25 was occupied by Jack Woodhouse, Boat Builder and Undertaker and in the front garden wall was a deep well now filled in. **No 23** was the Police House. **No 21** was occupied by Mrs.Miller local School-teacher.

The Cot this small house was once joined on to **No. 19** which was the Quaker House where meetings were held, but are now private houses.

No.17 and 15 were the Rose and Crown Public Houses also called Overton Arms in 1740 until they closed. They were occupied by the Braid Family in the early 19th Century who were a Professional fishing family up to the 21st Century. In between these times alterations were made to **No. 15**. When the walls were altered the "Old Bar and Mugs" were found still intact. They were taken out and burnt, much to the disgust of our local Historian Dr. Fred Hogarth, also small windows were between each of the rooms. The reason for small rooms was that there was a "Window Tax" on them. This tax was abolished in 1851. *No. 15 is presently (2020) called April Cottage has a date stone of 1741.*

Old Mrs Braid was the Midwife and Layer out of dead people in the Parish. Her last patient was Mr. Shep Rogerson of Main Street.

Next door **No.13** was occupied by Miss Annie Burrow. She was the local Baker who served all the Parish with fresh bread and pies, taking them round twice a week on a carrier bicycle. This all ceased on her death around 1960. *No. 13 is presently (2020) called Central House and has a date stone of 1739.*

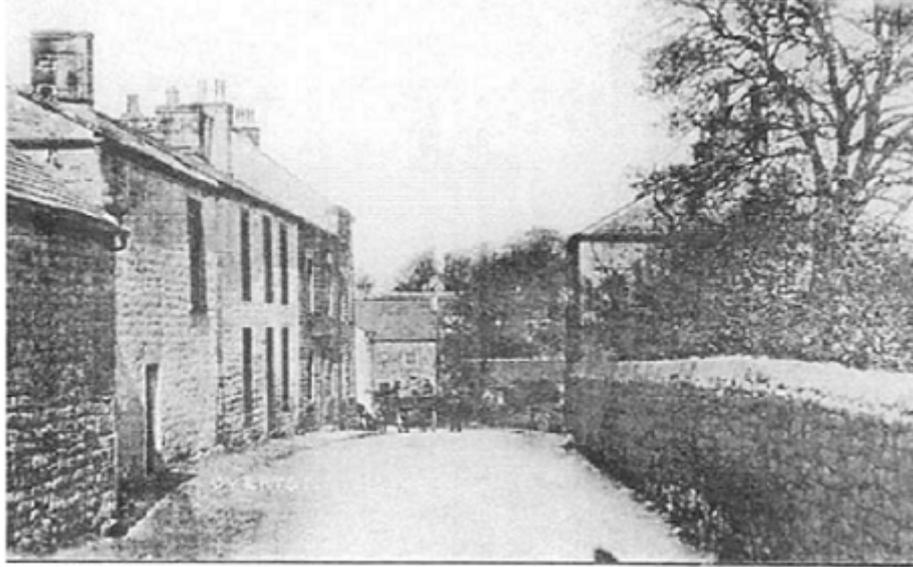
At the rear of Main Street is still an Air-raid Shelter built in 1940. Also all the houses have large kitchen gardens which have been very productive.



Main Street



Next we come to Pedder Farm Buildings and Farmhouse. These were demolished to make way for Pedder Grove, leading on to the new Pedder Estate, but half the Farmhouse was left up, joining on to the Ship Hotel and is now 2 cottages.



Overton Village

Main Street with Pedder farm and the Ship. Not sure when this photo was taken and also unsure of the building on the right.
Courtesy of Lancashire County Council's Red Rose Collections.



A lot has been written about the Ship Hotel in an earlier paragraph but to add to this, it began as 2 cottages in the 18th century, just 2 storeys but in 1905 they were renovated and made into 3 storey. In 1958 the Old Smithy and Swings were demolished and in July 1960 a Bus Shelter was erected and in 1984 a Bowling Club was reformed and Bowling Green was brought back up to standard. The Hotel was the main entertainment place for Wedding Receptions, Funeral Teas and Village Dances in Victorian times. It still has the Village Pump but the well is now sealed up.

The best known tenants to us from 1930 were the Macluskie family who had the Tenancy over 60 years. Mrs Mac. as everybody knew her, was known all over the world, having customers during the war from Army and R.A.F. camps stationed in a radius of 50 miles. These military people were frequent visitors to the Village and Pubs, not only for sightseeing and drinking, but also to try and purchase some fresh farm produce to help out their Rations. Around the 80's and 90's bereavement ended the Tenancy. It is now a Thwaites Drinks and Lunch Hotel run by a Mrs. Webber whose ancestors were in the village 300yrs. ago.

Some more history of the Ship. A Mr. Thomas Jackson was the licensee of the Ship Hotel from May 1874 until May 1922 and a local Farmer. Members of Mr Jackson's family still live in the village. Mr. Jackson was a well known birds egg collector and the collection presently in the Ship was (I have been informed) collected by him.



The Ship. Courtesy of TuckDB.



The Village Smithy probably the one at the Ship. Courtesy of Lancashire County Council's Red Rose Collections.



We now come to Glebe Farm House a Trust house with small windows. It was Overton Vicarage in 1844, then the Cottam Family took over as Farmers up to the 1930's. The house then stood empty up to 1940-41. It was used as the Local Home Guard Headquarters up to 1945. Next

came Mr. W.Ellis a local Agricultural Contractor who with his tractors and equipment could do any job required of him. He was a very reliable man and served all the Parish well up to his death in the 90's. It was then taken over by a builder who demolished the old buildings and rebuilt it all with old stone purchased from any old property, it is now coming to completion in 2004 and the builder has made a wonderful job of it.



Glebe Farm House



We now come to North Farm in the Square built in 1674. Used as a complete farm for generations by the Birkett Family with all the land on the outside of the Village and is still run very successfully today in 2003 by Mr. Henry Birkett and Son.



North Farm.



The short length of road from North Farm to the Old School was in the old days called Down Lujitt but is now part of Middleton Road. Next property was another Market Garden-Small Holding then occupied by a Mr R Shuttleworth, a very cantankerous old boy. After he left the property a Mr Ted Raidy took over and it was then known as Raidy's Farm from where he ran a Fruiterers Business and also made Ice Cream for the Parish. He always had plenty of helpers every Friday. One of the family is still with us today, Mrs Margaret Rainford who was our Parish Councillor for years.



We now have the "Pride of the Parish" The Memorial Hall which has served the Parish since built and opened in 1949. In memory of the four Local Men and one Lady who died serving the Country in the Second World War. The history of the Hall has been written in an earlier paragraph. The Bungalow next to the Hall was not built until 1965-70

This whole paragraph is the end of the Village on the left side of Main Street from the Globe Hotel to Middlepool Bridge on the left hand side.



The Memorial Hall



From here is the property on the right side from the Square to Middlepool Bridge. In the Square there were two cottages and a three storey Hotel in the eighteenth century. Mr Pearson could have a photograph of this Hotel, but the two cottages were only demolished in 1970/80 to widen the road into the Square. Directly behind was the house and workshop of Mr Kewley Gardner Joiner and Wheelwright for the Parish. After his death it was taken over by the Capstick Family.

Down Middleton Road to the Old School and grounds built 1697 containing a deep well, this had to be covered over and a pump installed in 1903.



Overton school and village pond, c. 1900. The National School opened on 15 September 1873 and cost £700. The population of the township was around 300 and in 1880 the school enrolled between sixty and seventy children mostly from the agricultural and fishing families of the district. The school is now a private home and the pond has become a vehicle turning area and bus stop.

It has now been converted into private houses, one of these has been named The Blue Potts named after the pond next door, which began as Blue Clay Pit in the eighteenth century then turned into a watering hole for the Village farm stock. Each farmer had a time each day to water his stock, but when water was piped into the Parish in 1934 at the expense of Overton and Middleton Parish Councils at the cost of 3/- on the rates, the pond was left derelict. During heavy rain it would flood the road two foot deep. When the Ship Hotel yard was too dangerous for double Decker buses to reverse into, it was decided to turn the Blue Potts into a new Bus Terminus. It was drained along Pedder Road to Lades Dyke.

This was begun in 1950 and it was filled in with ash from I.C.I. completed in 1953, but was not made into a Bus Terminus until May 1969. The land at the rear was purchased by a Mr. Redman and was let to the local Scout and Beaver Group, but if ever they vacate it, the land is handed back to the Parish Council. Middleton and Overton Parish Council again financed the cost of the new Terminus.

We then come to Braid's field and at the entrance was a very large "Gate Stoop" and the Middleton Road from the Stoop to Downyfield was named Stoop Lane The field was eventually built up by a Mr. Stretch, Builder.

Leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land at the rear still occupied by Mr. Jim Braid. To carry on Middleton Road to Middlepool Bridge which covers Lades Dyke a few more properties were built. Along side the Dyke to Downyfield is a public footpath. This was once named Moss Lane. This paragraph concludes the history on the left side of the main street down to Middlepool Bridge, including the right side of the Square down Middleton Road to Middlepool Bridge A "stoop" is usually a stone gate post.



We now start on the right side of Main Street from South Farm It is a large farm house built in the late seventeenth century now converted into a lovely private property. The land to the rear has a large bungalow owned by Mr Christian our local electrician. To the front is Chapel View Road and on the right are the farm buildings now converted into large houses. To the right is Kittley Lane leading up to the Battery Stone this is a Public Road. From here to the right is the footpath to Hall Greaves Hill. A wonderful view of the whole Parish. During the war it was a military outpost, from here down the hill to Lades Marsh, turn right along the shore, it brings you out to the Globe Hotel . To carry straight on from Battery Stone, the footpath leads through what is known as Old Hawe Land. From 1920's to 1939 this land was let out in strips 30 yards wide with a bank to separate each one, to local Market Gardeners. They then sold their products locally and in Morecambe and Heysham. In 1940 this land was all levelled out to grow grain for livestock. The footpath leads out into Chapel Lane.

Back to Chapel View Road. On the left is a short stretch of lane, this was always known as Jimmy's Lane leading to Kittley Lane, Chapel View was built by Barretts and built on the land belonging to South Farm, To carry on was Jack Woodhouse's Boat Building, Undertakers Yard, and Shop, famous for 300 years, but bereavement ends everything, it is now a nice little bungalow in 2003.



The Woodhouse Boatyard at Boatyard Corner. Courtesy of Lancashire County Council's Red Rose Collections



We now come to Palings Road with the Post Office and Gift Shop. Here is the Village Notice board containing all coming events in the Parish, also a map of all footpaths.



A Palin's store became the "new" post office, now a private house. Courtesy of TuckDB.

On to the cross roads known as the Square the road to the left to Morecambe and Heysham, to the right Chapel Lane. In the Square was the Police Station and Sweet Shop, known once as Bee Farm House. Then Manor Farm House and opposite North Farm House. Mr Jim Pearson could have a photograph of a three storey Hotel in the square. These properties all going back to the sixteenth century.



The Square. Courtesy of TuckDB.

Also in the square there is now a very useful Grocery and Newspaper Shop in 2003. In the 1930's a house and a lean-to building on the end, was occupied by a Mr. Robert Taylor who was a local Fisherman. The next tenant was Mr Fred Baxter a retired farmer who opened up a Pig Farm on Lancaster Road, on land which was previously the School Kitchen Garden. During the war corn stacks were built on the garden.

Once again tenants took over the house about 1947 and it was then converted into a Grocery Store. Also the back of the house land was dug out to make a Bake House. The front of the shop was modernised, as it is today, this was done by Mr and Mrs Baron. The property has had a lot

of tenancy changes during the last 50 years. When Mr and Mrs Byron had it, it was known as the Spar Shop but it is now run as a Private Business.



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Going up Chapel Lane (2) was Overton Prison. Bars were taken from the windows in the 1930's, First right is Back Street known up to the 1930's as Park Lane. The two old properties were Ivy Cottage and Dennison Farm these properties were built by Monks of Cockersands Abbey and a lot of stone brought in from that area. In the wall round the well of Ivy Cottage are Monk Stone Carvings. *Dennison Farm has a date stone of 1742 and the Old Barn has a date stone of 1744.* The orchard at the rear of Dennison Farm has now been built up and given the name of Orchard Place being named by Miss Rosa Hampson in 2001.

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To carry on up Chapel Lane we come up to The Beeches this property before and during the war was our Fruit and Market Gardens (Proprietor) Mr Woolsencroft & Son. With greenhouses and $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of land. This is now all built up, and is now Stephens Grove

On the first corner of Chapel Lane is Smugglers Cottage opposite here is Yanhem Lane known locally as Dog Kennel Lane with the "Catholic Church" down here. This building was erected by the R.A.F. during the war to store their equipment as their duties looking after the large "Fire Decoys" on Yanhem Lane near the Marshes. The lane leads out to Colloway Marshes. There were only two private houses up Chapel Lane up to 1946, building then began with Bungalows and Council Properties on the left side and Chapel Park built in the 1990's on the right side up to the (Vicarage, built around 1898) from the Vicarage on both sides of Chapel Lane 90% of the properties were built by Mr George Stretch, up to St. Helen's Road. Beyond here and behind the churchyard the builders were Whitehead and Loxham now deceased. A little further up we come to Quarry 1 which is a very deep Water Area, not recommended to take children to visit. During the past 60 years 2 adults have drowned there. The other half is a stock feeding and shelter area from the High tides. There was a ramp up to the centre, it was built so that horses and carts could transport the stone and rock out to all the Parish. 90% of Farms, Houses and Walls were built with stone from these Quarries. Those employed were all from the Parish and these men were eventually very skilled Stone Masons. The employers were the Monks of Cockersands Abbey. Quarry 2 was next which was quite large, it was eventually used as a Refuse Tip for all the Parish. When this was full 2 nice bungalows were built on it, the refuse was then transported to Lancaster Salt Ayre Tip.

This proved too expensive so a new tip was opened on Bowie Land off Sunderland Marsh. When this was terminated the refuse was taken to Salt Ayre again.

Overton Church, A lot has been recorded about the church, but here I would like to write on a personal note on behalf of the older families who have worked inside the church and outside, keeping the Churchyard in good order. It is now up to the younger generation to keep up the maintenance.

Back now to the Square to go along Lancaster Road once known as Tunstall Road. First on the left is The Reading Room built in 1897 a building 408. by 208. Built with corrugated sheets, with a very good coke boiler and fire at one end and a chimney which, on Mischief Night lads would put a wet sack over and smoke out the occupants. This was when the local Bobby came into play. The Reading Room had Billiards, Darts, Books and Playing Cards up to 1939 and it was missed when it was demolished around the 1950s. The small piece of land to the rear of the Reading Room is now Overton Children's Playground bought by the Village Efforts which realized £8,100, for the cost of £7,000 in November 1993.

There was no property on the left hand side of the road until 1940. The first two houses were built by the War Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural workers only. Later on a whole row of Council Houses were built for the younger generation, it was named Nappy Row Later private houses were built up to Stephen Hancocks Tunstall Farm. Along side here is a narrow lane leading to the Parish Football Field. It was purchased in May 1976 from Mr Jack Taylor for the sum of £2,500 by the Parish Council. Carry on up the long slow hill which is called the Irish Hill we come to a B.T. Mast, and then Macluskie Field where they used to live in a wooden Bungalow before taking the Ship Hotel.

The next property is Wimber Hill Farm now in the hands of Mr Mcdonna our other local electrician. Then along the road we have the last large house standing on its own, it was built by George Stretch for the Orr Family from Heaton Hall. It is now occupied by people who have visitors occasionally by helicopter. The junction further on the road is called The Pointer.

Overton School. The piece of land, about 3 to 4 acres was given in the 1960s to build a Church of England School by the W.Mashiter & Sons Family. This is the second time the Mashiter Family have given land to the Parish. The Memorial Hall land was donated by them. An additional classroom was added in 1992, also the entrance had an improvement in 2001. Then the Infants Playground was made safe. Approximately 170 children attend and a school bus is employed to bring the longer distance children to and from school. The "Rose Queen" is held each year in the first week in July and is usually opened by a past queen, also sales are held successfully to help out finances. During 1990 on November 22nd it was Tree Planting Year. About 90 trees were given and planted by residents of the whole Parish, also with the enthusiasm of the School Headmistress Mrs Alison Smith, who has been with us around 37 years and Mrs Barnes Teacher now retired. Flowers were planted by Jim Pearson and F. Hargreaves Jnr. At Middlepool Bridge the entrance to the Village. The old School Ringing Bell was presented back to the School in 2002 after an absence of 40 years.

Next little plot of land was the Old School kitchen garden, worked every year by the upper class pupils. When it was vacated a Mr. Jack Taylor took it over as a Piggery. After his day Jeff Bargh took it over as a Tractor and Implement Store.

We are now on Old Tue Lane which led up to Colloway Hill which is the highest point of the Parish (100 feet above sea level) The residents of Kevin Grove have now taken the Lane.

Colloway Farm is the last property on the right of Lancaster Road. It has been in the Jackson Family for generations and I understand it is still worked by Bill and Irene's daughter.



Lancaster and District- Mannix 1881

The old wooden bridge between Overton and Sunderland was replaced with a new stone structure for £200