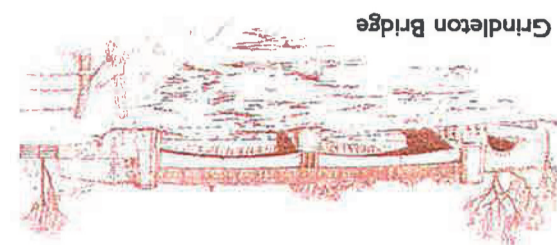


Parish Church of St. Ambrose

The Millennium Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of the community and the dedicated efforts of particular local individuals in producing this leaflet. Many thanks also to Ribblesdale High School whose pupils produced the way marker plaques and to Ultraframe plc for providing materials. Printed trail leaflets can be downloaded from Grindleton Village website or obtained from the Buck Inn.

The Village Heritage Trail has been designed to commemorate the Millennium and to provide an insight into local area and its history



Grindleton Bridge

In 1066 Grindleton was the most important village in the area with the Thane (lord) also controlling Clitheroe, but the Normans took away its status by moving the court to Slaidburn and building Clitheroe Castle. The village lands were divided between the two manors and probably then acquired the rectangular plan, defined today by Main Street and Back Lane and their interconnecting lanes and ginnels.

The name is Saxon in origin, meaning either the village by a gravelly stream or on a green hill. Unlike most Bowland villages, the stream which feeds the Ribble runs to one side rather than down the middle of the village and in a steep sided valley, which made it ideal for a Saxon mill mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Grindleton is situated to the North of Clitheroe, Lancashire and on the fringe of the Forest of Bowland. The village sits above the River Ribble and affords splendid views of Pendle Hill on the opposite side of the Ribble Valley.

6. Further up Main Street you will find Stone Hill Barn on your left opposite the bus terminus. Originally the bus turning area was part of the roadway as one of the village wells lay beneath the present line of the road. Note that the house adjacent is 'Well House'.

7. Passing up the village, on the right, at the entrance to 'Hayfield', you will come across the village pound or pinfold which was used for keeping stray cattle in. You can still see the original narrow stone gate posts and rest a while on the bench to get your breath back! Across the road a renovated barn, now called 'Cobblers' Cottage' once belonged to the village cobblers. Grindleton was once much larger with various craftsmen, handloom weavers and shops.

8. If you are feeling energetic, continue up the village past Whitehall Lane, until you reach a row of cottages on the left. Opposite these a small copse of trees surround an old quarry, which was the village tip at the turn of the 19th century. Further on is the impressive 'Steelands', a typical Elizabethan house with a Georgian wing added later and now a farm. For an interesting and somewhat strenuous diversion on your return, turn right and walk down Whitehall Lane, across the stream bridge and up to 'Whitehall' with its splendid façade. The views of Pendle Hill are well worth the effort.

9. Return down the village and turn left on to Lower Chapel Lane to the old Methodist Chapel. The lane carries on to Sawley, past 'Chapel Garth', a field where the first medieval chapel stood. Through the hedge by the church, notice the way the earth banks up. Here was one of the large medieval open fields with their ploughed strips whose soil has crept down the slope over the years. From here you can return to the bottom of the village down Back Lane where most of the new houses have been built in the old damson orchards. Alternatively you can walk along one of the attractive cross-connecting lanes.

10. Towards the bottom of Back Lane, the former slaughter house is the small building on the right and on the other side adjacent to the barn, 'Valley Cottages' sits on the site of the midden! Across the road where there are now houses the old tithe barn stood.

To the left, Sawley Road takes you past the village recreation ground and Pavilion on your left, with the Primary School and Parish Church of St. Ambrose on the right. The church originally had a musicians' gallery and a two-decker pulpit.

To the right is the Buck Inn where you started from, so which way now? The choice is yours!



Main Street c.1920



Main Street c.1900

Grindleton HERITAGE TRAIL



The Trail

You should start at the junction of Main Street and Sawley Road, adjacent to the two pubs, the Buck Inn and the Duke of York. Look out for the circular 'beehive' waymarkers, numbered to correspond with the map overleaf.

1. The house to the right of The Buck Inn was the village smithy and shared the car park with the inn. Opposite, until demolished to make way for road widening was Half Moon Cottage – just in front of Swindlehurst Farm, a typical Tudor farmhouse with an inglenook fireplace visible from the pavement. Like most of the village houses it had a kitchen garden to the front, facing south, to catch the sun and its gooseberry hedge survived until further road widening in the 1960s.

2. Go up Main Street, past the Grindleton Info Hub (former telephone box) on your left. The next row of cottages on the left is Shaw Terrace, known to locals as 'Widows' Row'. Like many other cottages they were originally thatched.

3. The next row of cottages, standing in front of a house with railed gardens is Eccles Terrace. This area was originally 'Hellfire Square', so called because ranting preachers gave sermons here. If you look carefully at the gable end of the row across the road, notice how the first three stones on one side, below the gutter, are different. In the 18th century thatch gave way to slate, which is lighter and needs a shallower fall, enabling the locals to 'raise the roof' to give fashionable height to bedrooms and have bigger windows.

4. Moving up the village, on your right, is West View (formerly the site of the post office and village shop), at the end of the row, the next track to the right has on its corner Crossfold Cottage, where the steep roof and inglenook fireplace betray its late Elizabethan origins. Continue up the hill to Lower Chapel Lane.

5. Directly across Main Street from Lower Chapel Lane the stone house on Main Street was built on the site of the old damson jam factory and in local gardens you can still find remnants of once extensive orchards. Even in 1940 the village produced half a ton of jam for a local hospital. Having all these fruit trees, Grindletonians were great beekeepers, so the patron saint of the village is that of beekeepers, Ambrose. Continue up the village, passing Rose Cottage, built on solid rock and Cherry Hall once the home of the pinders who gathered up stray cattle and placed them in the village pound.