



Bonnie 
Colne

*Welcomes
you!*

Free

*Includes a four page
historic walk guide of
Colne for you to pull
out and keep.*



Breathtaking

Free parking

Past and present and future



www.visiteolne.com

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countryside

Historic town

Friendly faces

Specialist shops

- Colne's the place!

THERE was a settlement here before Roman times and Colne became a market town in the Middle Ages, thanks to the woollen trade.

In the early 19th century, cotton replaced wool as the main industry. Lancashire cotton brought huge mills, grand mill-owners homes and prosperity to the town.

Built on the spine of a hill, our Pennine town close to the border with Yorkshire, drops away steeply with precipitous Victorian terraced streets. Many of them still have the original stone setts.

It's here, in Colne's two valleys, South Valley and North Valley, that the giant mills first fed on water to power the looms. Some still remain and Colne is full of fascinating heritage, including striking buildings from the Industrial Revolution.

It's a beautiful place which many local people still affectionately call 'Bonnie Colne upon the Hill'; a apt description taken from the title of a song.

More recently, the town, with its many towers and flanked with open country on either side, has been described as looking Italian, like a small hill town in Tuscany!

To the south east lies Boulsworth, bordering the Brontë moors. This hill is one of Pendle's Three Peaks and has stunning views. There are also fascinating rock formations on Boulsworth and natural habitats for snipe and other birds. It's a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

To the North West, Pendle Hill with its associations with the Pendle Witches, provides a mysterious and breath-taking backdrop to our town.

Colne is connected to many true stories which have become legend. It was whilst

walking to Colne for market day that the so called Pendle witch, 18 year old Alizon Device, had a fateful meeting with the pedlar, John Law.

It was this meeting on 18 March 1612 which precipitated events. It led to nine people from Pendle being hanged as witches at Lancaster Castle, over 400 years ago.

Colne was also home to the ill-fated bandmaster of *Titanic*, Wallace Hartley. He bravely led his band to play on whilst the huge liner sank off the coast of Newfoundland in 1912.

The beautiful bust on Albert Road is a good likeness of Wallace and was erected in honour of his bravery. There's also a memorial grave in Colne Cemetery at the top end of town which bears the inscription: *Nearer, my God, to thee*. This was Wallace's favourite hymn and the last music many survivors remember hearing as *Titanic* sank beneath an icy sea.

More recently, Colne has become an important cycling hub, with its yearly high speed race, the Colne Grand Prix. Many top cyclists live in Pendle and use our hills as their training ground.

Colners are rightly proud of where they live. And every year for over eight years local residents in the Colne in Bloom team have been filling the town with fantastic beds, hanging baskets and towers full of flowers. That's why we've been gold winners in North West in Bloom for the last four years and silver gilt award winners for Britain in Bloom!

For an artist's impression of Colne's present and future look at Michael Kirkbride's cryptic mural adjoining Market Street and our open market (see page 4). See if you can find the hidden messages and images from art books to uncover its meaning.



Colne's history and location	1
Shopping	2
Walks	5
Things to see, hear and do	9
Colne Heritage Trail (pull out and keep - centre pages)	
Eating and drinking	13
Events	17
Explore our parks	21

Colne's the place for shopping



COLNE is a traditional market town surrounded by beautiful Pendle fields and hills. It's the ideal location, whether you've enjoyed a walk in the fantastic surrounding countryside and need to rest up with a bite to eat and a warm drink or you want to browse around the variety of independent niche shops which Colne has to offer.

Colne Market offers fresh local produce served by a friendly local people. And if you are struggling for recipe ideas just ask. The traders knowledge and expertise is fantastic! Enjoy the hustle and bustle of Colne's indoor and outdoor markets.

There's an interesting range of things on offer, from colourful flowers for your garden, to original art, vintage items, books as well as the fresh fruit and vegetables you'd expect to find – all at very affordable prices.

People come some distance to enjoy a fantastic shopping experience in the Bonnie town of Colne. We have everything you need for your everyday shopping, with a variety of butchers, green grocers, coffee shops and bakeries, so why not treat yourself to a sticky bun. You deserve it! After all that retail therapy you might need a rest.

The town boasts two newly refurbished shopping arcades. They're full to bursting with independent niche shops, offering a unique shopping experience whatever the weather!

The elegantly restored Shackleton Hall Arcade dates back to 1888 and retains many of its original features.

The unique Arcade further up the hill offers a range of beautiful independent shops and a café, each with period shop fronts decorated in colours to suit the Victorian Renaissance.





Free Parking – car parking in the town centre is totally **FREE**, so you don't need to worry about finding change for the meter, you can simply park up and start enjoying Colne! If you're parking on the street, check the signs for how long you can stay, though! You will need to use a parking disc for the Dockray Street car park behind the Red Lion and the library.

Loyalty Card Scheme - You could be a winner with the Colne Loyalty Card which rewards you for shopping locally. Over 30 local shops participate in the Colne Loyalty Scheme which offers three lucky winners £100 each every month in the prize draw, just for shopping in Colne! Since the start of the scheme over £15,000 in prize money has been given away!

Simply collect a card from participating shops and get a stamp for every purchase you make and you could win £100 simply by shopping in Colne... now that's great!

If every adult in Colne spent just £5 in the town centre per week, rather than shopping online or at big supermarkets an additional £4.9 million would go back into the local economy. Think local!





Boundary Mill and Discover Pendle

On the edge of Colne, at the end of the M65, the huge Boundary Mill store attracts visitors from far and wide. It's in a great position looking out towards Pendle Hill, with a balcony café.

Inside, its huge, light and airy surroundings are packed with top quality clothing brands at up to 75% off high street prices. There's also a cookshop, Thorntons chocolate shop, a perfumerie and all kinds of beautiful things for your home, from bed linen and towels, to china and glass.

Discover Pendle

Pendle's gateway Visitor Centre is located at Boundary Mill and offers friendly free advice on how to make the most of Pendle's attractions. You can also buy tickets for shows at the Muni and Pendle Hippodrome.



Colne's the place for walking





COLNE is a town in the country and there's a huge variety of walks you can do, short and long in any direction. You can even set off from the centre of town. It's a pleasant starting point, full of herbs and flowers thanks to the Colne in Bloom team!.

You can enjoy a short stroll through the Millennium Green in Waterside in Colne's South Valley to the hidden river of Colne Water. If you're lucky you might catch the kingfishers and dippers skimming upstream in the shadows of the imposing Victorian bulk of Spring Gardens Mill.

For a great viewpoint over the town and out to Boulsworth Hill stroll up to Alkincoats Park and the adjoining rugby club.

From there you'll find lots of walks to choose from, through the woodland and community orchard at the top of the park and down to beautiful Lake Burwain and on to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the village of Foulridge with its fascinating canal-side wharf.

Or go upstream along the Ferndean Way through leafy Ball Grove Country Park with its tiny lake and picnic site towards the historic hamlet of Wycoller.

From Wycoller you can even stretch your legs into Yorkshire, where the Ferndean Way joins the Brontë Way. This linear walk crosses the border from Lancashire into Yorkshire across moorland made famous in Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*.

The Way leads to another hill town, which, like Colne, is full of atmospheric cobbled streets. That's Haworth, once the home of the legendary Brontë sisters.

Guides with maps and directions to many walks which include Colne are on Pendle Council's tourism website: www.visitpendle.com





Colne is the place to be for historic walks in our surrounding countryside.

Two circular walks combine the town's industrial heritage with its rural heritage, including forays into our more distant past.

These walks explore Colne's rich tapestry of landscape and history. They are part of an eight circular walk pack which you can buy from Discover Pendle Centre at Boundary Mill, Colne or by calling (01282) 856186 or from the Pendle Heritage Centre in Barrowford.



Castercliff

This short varied walk takes you from the industrial age to the Iron Age in just a few miles.

It starts at the Admiral Lord Rodney pub in Waterside, opposite the imposing Spring Gardens Mill which was built in 1840. Over 700 looms clattered over long shifts in the five storey mill which specialised in weaving doobby fabric on doobby looms. These looms could produce small geometric patterns putting extra texture into the finished cloth. Often the warp (vertical thread) and weft (going left to right) threads were of different colours.

The walk passes what was one of the largest coal pits in the area north of Fox Clough Farm.

The huge Walton Cross or spire on Knaves Hill dominates this walk and although the cross dates back to 1840, its base is ancient.

The cross stands on what is thought to be a battle-stone marking the Battle of Brunanburgh which was fought in 937.

King Athelstan defeated the combined Norse and Celtic forces and this decisive battle established England as one kingdom.

It's possible that this huge stone monolith marks the site of a mass burial ground.

There is no public access to Walton Cross but this walk offers good views of it and shows its strategic position. Walton Spire, as it's also known, has views out to Pendle and Boulsworth Hills, with Yorkshire's peaks Penyghent and Ingleborough in the far distance.

The summit of this walk is the Iron Age fort of Castercliff, thought to date from between 580 BC and 440 BC.

The name comes from the Old English words of 'cater' meaning fort and 'clif' meaning bank or cliff. An excavation in 1971 found evidence of very thick stone walls which now appear as earth embankments and defensive palisade fencing.

Ball Grove, Winewall and Trawden

This walk from peaceful Ball Grove Park takes you to the historic rural villages of Winewall, Laneshaw Bridge and Trawden which neighbour Colne. This lovely circuit shows how Colne is very much a town surrounded by farmland and open country.

Along the way you'll pass an Inghamite Chapel, Well Head and some interesting pubs like the Alma Inn, the Emmott Arms named after the old Emmott Hall estate and The Cotton Tree Inn at Cottontree on the edge of town.

*Colne's the place to
see, hear and do*





COLNE'S an entertaining town with a great tradition for live music and theatre. We're a musical town with lots of excellent bands who often play locally and have a loyal following.

For live music there are loads of venues to choose from, including ones with names relating to our textile heritage, like The Dressers (short for Warp Dressers) and Tacklers Clubs.

Live music venues are expanding too, with newer places like The Green Chimney and The Venue which are almost opposite each other near the train station.

Colne's pubs are also a great place to hear bands, from The Queens near the viaduct to the Derby Arms round the corner from the Town Hall. Not forgetting the Lord Rodney down steep Exchange Street in the south valley, opposite the huge Victorian Spring Gardens Mill.

Other good places to go include the Colne Legion Club near the cemetery at the top end of town and Jim's Vegetarian Restaurant on New Market Street. They've been part of Colne's vibrant music scene for a long time.

The unmissable event of the musical year in Colne is the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. There's live music throughout the day and half the night at the Muni, Pendle Leisure Centre and all the venues mentioned here. For more on the R&B Festival go to page 19.

The Muni is a beautiful Edwardian building. It's a brilliant venue for everything from Mowtown and R&B to classical music, drama, comedy, social dances and ballet. A packed programme of events including how to book is listed on www.themuni.co.uk.

If you enjoy going to the theatre or a musical you have a choice of three venues in Colne. There's The Muni, which is renowned for its pantomimes and for its dramas by Pendle's own Borderline Theatre Company which is based in Colne.

Then there's the Pendle Hippodrome on New Market Street and the intimate and aptly named Little Theatre on River Street., home of the Colne Dramatic Society.

The Hippodrome stands behind St. Bartholomew's Parish Church and is close to Colne's magnificent Victorian Gothic Town Hall.

It opened in 1914 as a theatre and cinema for silent films, then for 'talkies' from the 1930s and was a cinema until the 1960s.

It's a big beautiful theatre run by a team of dedicated volunteers who perform musicals and plays to a professional standard. They also run a successful costume and props hire wardrobe that's a perfect trove of treasures for period dramas, special events and themed parties.

As well as being a musical and theatrical town, Colne's a very creative community in other ways, too. We have a generous mix of artists, photographers and film-makers and galleries to show their work.

If you're the kind of person who likes to browse in a gallery and maybe buy something original, or simply get a greetings card featuring work by a local artist, then we have an interesting choice.

There are changing exhibitions of high quality artists at Arteology on Albert Road, with the opportunity to see and buy their work, or have your own paintings or photographs framed.

La Dolce Vita deli Italia, higher up on Albert

Road, has a Foto Galleria upstairs with a range of photographic exhibitions often accompanied by talks, slide shows, short films and even live music.

Colne is the home of the Northern Life and Colne Life Magazines with an art gallery at the top end of town in their Northern Emporium on Sun Street. This is another good place where you can see and buy the work of local artists.

If you like to keep fit and active in your spare time, the Pendle Leisure Centre at the bottom of the hill near the train station has plenty of ways to do it!

There's a swimming pool, state of the art gym, fitness classes, a women only Feelgood Factory and activities for people with disabilities through the Inclusive Fitness Initiative.

And they've just opened a unique adventure playground – the first one of its kind in any town in the UK!

The 42 feet high aerial assault course is the only one in a town centre location.

It has a breathtaking 60 metre zip-wire, a 'leap of faith' and a climbing wall. There are high and low rope courses for people with a head for heights and those who prefer to stay closer to the ground.

The rope courses are built around a main activity tower and visitors make their way from station to station using aerial ropes and 'stepping stones'. Qualified instructors help people along and ensure everyone's safe.

Urban Altitude is ideal for family fun, birthday parties with a difference, special occasions and team building for work colleagues. It's also an exhilarating way to spend your leisure time!

You'll find it behind Pendle Leisure Centre, off Crown Way and close to Vivary Way.



There are other fitness centres in the town including Intershape in the historic Norway House on Albert Road with another gym on Vivary Way, Colne.

For dance there's Flava dance and fitness boutique on Albert Road for yoga, pole dancing, aerobics and zumba and even dance parties.

The East Lancashire School of Dancing at Holker Business Centre on Burnley Road in Colne offers a wide range of dance classes from hip hop and jazz dance to ballet and there are regular dance classes for children and teenagers including street dance at the St John Ambulance Hall on Midgley Street.

And if you fancy an adrenalin surge, why not try Prestige Karting at Holker Mill off Burnley Road? Karting is a fun activity for kids and adults with practice sessions followed by an exciting Grand Prix race. There's also a Laser Battle Arena with birthday packages combining this with an exhilarating karting session.



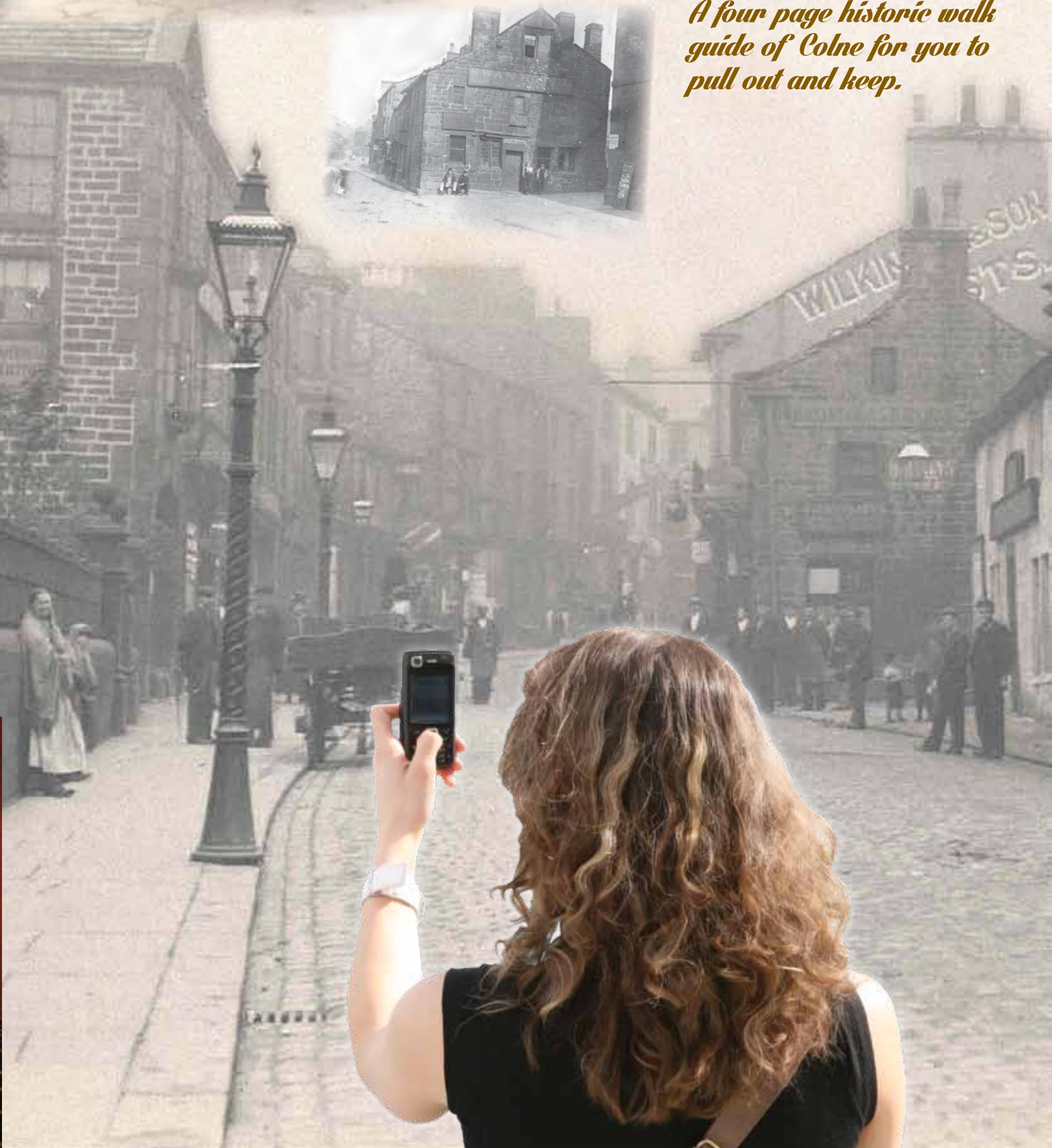




COLNE

TOWN CENTRE
HERITAGE TRAIL

*A four page historic walk
guide of Colne for you to
pull out and keep.*





Colne derives its name from the Old English word Calna meaning 'roaring river'. Waterside, at the heart of Colne, was the hub of the textile industry which was mainly wool before the 19th Century when the cotton industry flourished. The arrival of the canal and then the railway helped greatly. By 1900 there were 55 cotton mills in Colne - half of them were in Waterside. Colne received its Royal Charter of Incorporation as a Borough on 17th July 1895.

1. **Colne railway station** - the statue of Millie the mill girl here marks the importance of women workers in the mills.
2. **The Crown Hotel** opened as a Commercial Inn and Billiards Room in 1852 and served mainly rail users.
3. **90 Albert Road** was one of homes of Wallace Hartley, the bandmaster of the ill fated *Titanic*. Look out for the blue plaque.
4. **West End Buildings (1906)**, was originally a Baptist chapel, then a military hospital.



5. **Sutherland Street** - the steepest street in Colne. With a good view over the South Valley and Waterside. Beyond to the left is the only remaining five storeyed mill in Colne, Spring Gardens (Haslam's) Mill, built in 1840. Harry Haslam, the owner, hanged himself there from a beam on the fifth floor during the Great Depression in 1933.

6. **The Rectory** was designed by the Rector of Colne, Rev. John Henderson, and built in 1829.
7. **The Gables**, now the Providence Methodist Church, was built for Nicholas England, a mill owner in Waterside, in 1867. In front of it is the war memorial, near which is a horse mounting block from the 17th century and the bust of Colne's most famous son, Wallace Hartley. Wallace was bandmaster of the *Titanic* and heroically played on until the ship sank.
8. **Colne Municipal Hall**, now known as the Muni opened as the Colne Municipal Technical School in 1901. It now hosts the award-winning annual Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival as well as many other events all year round.



9. **Bank House** was the home of mill owner Thomas Shaw and Stanley Villas was the home of Samuel Catlow, mill owner and Colne's first mayor in 1895.
10. **Colne & District Co-operative Society** founded in 1886 (now housing shops and an Italian restaurant). The Society built its central premises in Albert Road, called The Emporium. Colne Hall was used as the Co-ops main office from 1903. It's now converted to flats at the rear. The Emporium was the first building in the country to be constructed with steel and reinforced concrete.
11. **Colne Town Hall**, built in 1894 from plans prepared by the architect, Waterhouse who also designed Manchester Town Hall, and the Natural History Museum, London. Outside the front entrance on Albert Road is the largest single paving stone in the country. It weighs two tonnes and measures 10 feet x 9 feet and is five inches thick!
12. **Shackleton Hall** was the first headquarters of the Colne & District Co-operative Society and opened on Saturday 26th May 1889. Known as the Co-ops. Central Premises it was renamed in 1947 to mark the completion of 50 years of official service with the Colne Society by the President, J. W. Shackleton.



13. **St Bartholomews Church.** Built in 1122 it is the oldest building in Colne.

14. **Grammar School** was built in 1812. John Tillotson was a pupil at the earlier building on this site and later became the Archbishop of Canterbury (1691 – 1695). Another pupil, Richard Baldwin accidentally killed a school mate and then fled to Ireland, where he later became Dean of Dublin University.

Ivegate which is next to the churchyard, is an ancient lane meaning road to the water. The archway to Ivegate was built in 1841 and once housed the town clock on its roof until 1875 when it was removed.

15. **Hole-in-the-Wall** (now called Craic i' the Wall), the town's oldest pub. It was first mentioned in records in 1707 but is considered to have existed for 70 years before that date. At 626 ft above sea level, it's the highest point in Colne.

16. **Community grinding stone** for grinding corn dating from 1750. Further down on the left is Colne Library where you can find more about the history of Colne in the Heritage Centre and Community Heritage Department.

17. **Colne Market Cross** used to be situated between the top of Windy Bank and Colne Lane. The cross was demolished in 1822. In 1907 a replica was erected outside the old library on Albert Road using some of the salvaged parts found in the grounds of properties in Colne. The cross was moved to its present site in the 1970s.

18. **Colne Mural** designed by local artist Michael Kirkbride.

19. **Colne Library.** Here you can find out more about the history of Colne in the Heritage Centre and Community Heritage department. Outside is a human sundial.

20. **The former Colne fire station,** built in 1905 to accommodate the new motorized engines.

21. **The former market hall** built in 1937 which later housed the famous Kippax Biscuit factory

22. **Skelton Street barns.** The upper one is over 200 years old and the lower one 400 years old. Skelton means 'the farm on the bank of the hill'.

23. **Cumberland House,** the home of mill owner Nicholas England, now the Union Exchange Pub, dated 1893. Although the house was a residence it also had a large cotton weaving workshop on the upper floor.

24. **West Street School.** Rope makers used to twist their ropes in the field and it became known as the Rope Walk. The school (built in 1906) now stands on the site.

25. **Ambulance Hall** (1907) in Midgley Street. The curved front stone façade of this building was part of the old cattle market, called Ludgate Circus.

26. **Former Baptist Chapel.** The site of a chapel and churchyard built in 1788, now a play area. In 1826, the Baptists sold it to the Inghamites, a Calvinist sect and then, later in the early 20th Century, it was used as a Pentecostal Church.

27. **Central Hall** opened in 1907 and was Britain's first purpose built cinema.

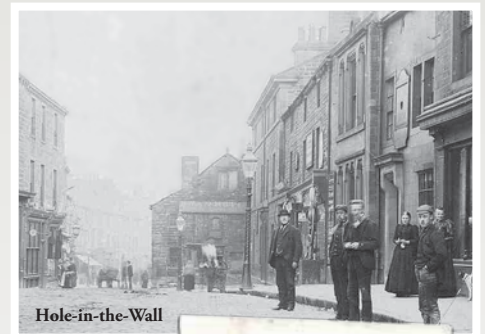
28. Site of **Former Cloth Hall,** now demolished, was built on land donated by the Walton family of Marsden Hall in 1775. It was considered one of the finest in England.

29. **Cloth Hall Belfry** – now situated outside Colne Children's Centre

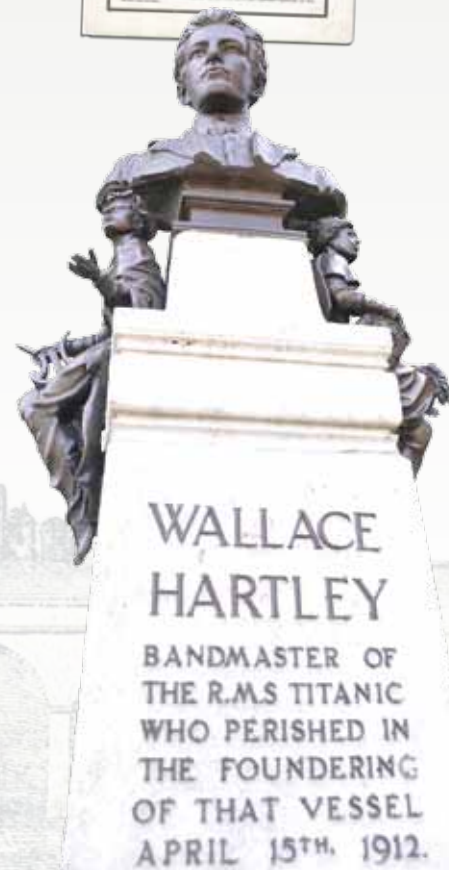
30. **Former Methodist Wesleyan School,** now used by the Colne Commercial Centre. One of its most famous pupils was the world famous scientist, Colne born Edmondson Spencer (1885 - 1955) who was a chemist and geologist.



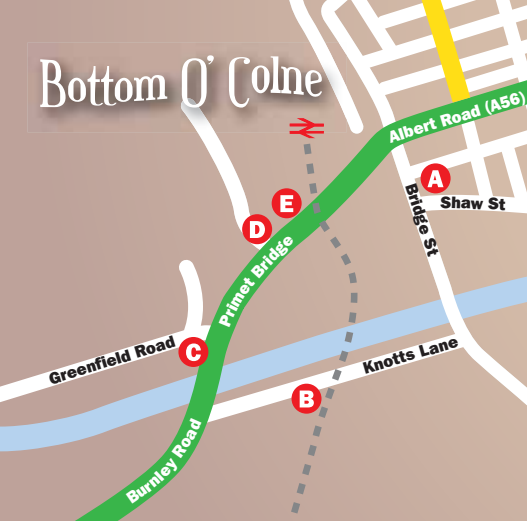
The former Colne fire station



Hole-in-the-Wall



Bottom O' Colne



Trail extras

Bottom O' Colne

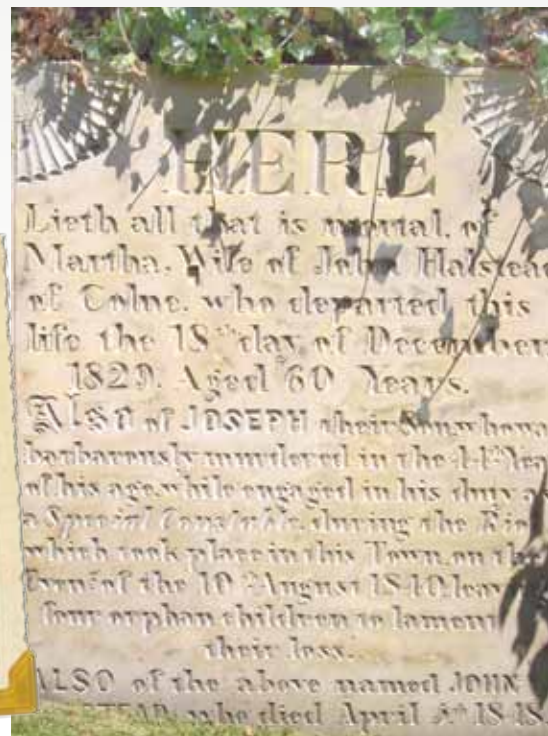
- A) Room and Power.** Near the top of Bridge Street on the left and at the corner of Shaw Street, is the building which was used for room and power units. This is where individual cotton workers would rent a room with electricity to power looms. These facilities were quite common in cotton manufacturing areas, both in houses and mills and were known as 'dandy shops'. The one in Bridge Street has the date 1874 inscribed over the archway.
- B) Mills and foundries.** Go down Bridge Street, pass the Millennium Green on your left, and cross the bridge over Colne Water. Turn right into Knotts Lane and under the railway viaduct to Primet Bridge. This area had a number of mills and foundries connected to the cotton industry. If you look west from the bridge down Colne Water near the chimney on the opposite side of the road you can see mills with sawtooth rooflines. You can also see their northern lights windows to allow maximum light for the loom workers.
- C) Greenfield Mill** (now Simpsons furniture makers) opposite you used to be called Riverside Mill before the original Greenfield Mill was burnt down in 1885. Greenfield Road used to be one of the main routes for carrying cotton bales from the canal at Barrowford Locks to mills in Colne.
- D) Spinners Arms.** Go up Primet Hill towards the railway viaduct and station and on your left there is the former Spinners Arms (now a private house). It was built in the 1820s and known locally as the 'blood tub'.
- E) Co-op store.** Next door, near the railway viaduct is a former Coop Store (now a carpet store), which also had stables for delivery horses and wagons.

Cemetery extension Top o' Colne



- A. Tower Ballroom** (now Corner House) was built in 1900 and is a Grade 2 listed building. It was said that the Tower Ballroom had the finest fully sprung dance floor in Lancashire.
- B. The Commercial** was built in 1822 as a coaching inn. It was once called the Railway Hotel because it was close to a yard where coal was brought by underground rail from drift mines at Fox Clough on the hill above Colne. The name was changed to avoid confusion when the main railway came to Colne. In 1834 the fattest man in the world, Daniel Smith came to Colne and stayed here. Tragedy struck when he died and his remains (all 36 stone of them) were taken to the parish church.
- C. Colne Cemetery.** There are two graves of historic interest. The first is the headstone of Joseph Halstead. His stone reads that he was: "barbarously murdered while engaged in his duty as a Special Constable during the (power loom) riot of 10th August 1840".

The other grave is of Wallace Hartley, *bandmaster of the Titanic*. His funeral attracted 40,000 people, the largest crowds the town had ever seen. Mourners walked in procession to the cemetery from Bethel Chapel on Burnley Road (where he used to play the violin) to Wallace's last resting place.



Jim's acoustic



*Colne's the place
for great food
& eating out*



FANCY some appetising food for home cooking or for a special occasion? Colne offers a huge variety of traditional and independent food shops, selling high quality produce with brilliant shop keepers. They're more than happy to offer their years of advice and expertise, so there is no need to have a boring tea ever again!

Did you know that Colne is part of a Fairtrade Borough, with a number of businesses offering fairly sourced products ranging from bananas to wine? So as well as supporting local producers you can also make sure producers in other countries are getting a fair deal as well!

Fresh locally sourced meat including gluten free sausages for those summer barbeques, freshly baked loafs and cakes, it's all in abundance on Colne's high street.

Inspiration is all around you. We even have a number of herb beds lovingly looked after by the brilliant Colne In Bloom volunteers. Help yourself to some mint to go with your locally sourced lamb!

And if you don't fancy making your own, Colne has so many quality eateries it's hard to know where to begin with tastes from around the world, from hearty Italian, spicy curries, and Lancashire goodness. Colne's eateries all offer something different from relaxed quiet environments to bistros with live music, tasting sessions or even the chance to

learn a new language while having a coffee with friends. Colne offers something different, so why not come back and visit again and again?

Walkers are welcome... if you don't have time to sit down and take in the scenery of Colne and you want to be up in the hills admiring the breathtaking countryside, you could always grab a bite to go from the array of delis and sandwich shops, or an awarding winning pastry to keep you going.

When you've exhausted all your energy in the hills come back and enjoy a refreshing drink in one of the towns welcoming cafes, pubs or restaurants.





Eating and drinking



Traditional Colne

If you like traditional food then Colne's pubs, cafes, market stalls and shops can give you a good range of Lancashire flavours.

There's award winning Lancashire Crumbly, Tasty or Creamy and other county cheeses to try. They're good with locally made oat biscuits or bakery bread.

Then, if you like a taste of the old days, what about some stew 'n' hard? A slice of stew and hard oatcake is a taste of the good old days for a lot of 'old Colners'!

You'll also find locally made preserves and jams and you can even sample the legendary

Bene 'n' Hot in our local pubs.

This was the favourite tippie of the East Lancashire Regiment during the First World War. The Regiment was stationed around the Benedictine Monastery in Normandy during the winter of 1918 -19. Soldiers developed a taste for the liqueur mixed with hot water and it was rumoured to have healing properties.

At home, it was also found to be effective. Soldiers demanded the drink from local pubs and said it helped to warding off the chills of the cold Lancashire winters. The tradition continues here in Colne.





Colne's the place for events



Colne Grand Prix

The Colne cycling Grand Prix sees the streets of Colne turned into a high adrenalin, high speed cycling race track that never fails to entertain.

The race is part of the British Cycling Elite National Circuit Series and takes place on a closed-road 800m circuit around Colne's one-way system, making for a fast, exciting spectacle. As a round of the National Elite Series, the top riders in the country take part. Past riders have included World Champion Mark Cavendish and Colne's very own Olympic Champion Steven Burke. There's a gold postbox to honour his achievement near the bottom of Albert Road.

We're also up for a bit of fun cycling in Colne! The Pendle Raleigh Chopper Group stage their own Le Mans style Chopper Dash just before the big race on Grand Prix nights.

You don't have to be mad to cycle with Carl Pawson and John Dixon (alias Billy Bantam) in the Chopper Group – but it probably helps.

They always arrive at the Grand Prix in costume, with a different theme every year - from Great British, to 1970s retro, to Bradley Wiggins side-burn lookalike competitions. They even challenge each other to chopper jousting!





Blues Festival

Every August Bank Holiday weekend Colne plays host to The Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival. With more than 600 artistes performing at eight official venues over four days, the Festival is believed to be the biggest of its kind in this country and the second biggest in Europe!

As well as the main International Stage, there is also a British Stage, Acoustic stage and five local public houses are transformed into roadhouses, providing non-stop music for four days.

And it all centres around Colne's main street, so festival-goers can saunter from one venue to another to listen to a whole range of new, young talent, old favourites and Rhythm and Blues legends.



On the streets

Music has spilled out onto the streets of Colne at the Blues Festival August bank holiday weekend for nearly a quarter of a century.

Musicians flock to the town and play their blues riffs to entertain passers by. There are some great live performances out there on the pavement!

Stroll up and down our main street and enjoy the best busking sounds around – east of the Mississippi.



Beer Festival

The dark days of early February are always cheered by the annual Beer Fest in Colne, bringing us the best real ales in the country. It's been running for ten years now, with thousands of people coming to sample over 100 real ales and ciders. The three day event, run by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) East Lancashire, has a different theme each year. And the local CAMRA group raises money for charity through the event, too.

Colne Gala

There's a carnival atmosphere in town when the Colne gala is on! This annual June event includes a street procession of floats and bands followed by a fair and family entertainment at the playing fields at Holt House.

Pubs and organisations take part in creating colourful floats with a theme and there are prizes for the best ones. A Gala Queen and Princess are crowned for a day.



A young child with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt and light blue denim overalls, is walking on a grassy field. The child is looking down at the ground. In the background, there is colorful playground equipment with red, yellow, and blue structures. A red and orange ball is on the grass near the child.

*Colne's the
place to
explore
wonderful
parks.*



And our parks are good



COLNE'S parks are wonderful places to explore in their own right as well as being good starting points for many walks.

And they're a great place to spot wildlife and enjoy our wildflower areas which are full of colourful cornflowers, poppies and borage in the summer.

It's hard to believe in this peaceful setting that Ball Grove Country Park and Local Nature Reserve was once the site of one of the largest leather tanneries in Europe. Built in 1860, it became bankrupt in 1970 and was demolished. But the two lodges remain and are now a beautiful lake with a picnic area and the mill pond is a haven for newts and toads and other wildlife.

Kestrel and sparrowhawks can often be seen above the woodland area. And kingfishers, dippers and grey wagtails are among the many visitors along Colne Water.

People enjoy coming with their children to feed the ducks and children love the play area, too.

Please remember, if you're feeding the ducks, to throw the food on the bank rather than in the water though. The ducks also appreciate it if you feed them a seed mix rather than bread – it's much healthier for them!

There are public toilets in the park including a toilet for disabled people.

Alkincoats Park is a beautiful park with wide open spaces, a walled garden, woodland and the chance to take part in activities. The park was once part of the estate of Alkincoats Hall, which was home to the de Alkincoats family. Their estate dates back to 1570.

The de Alkincoats were a branch of the

Parker family of Browsholme Hall in the Ribble Valley. The Parkers were an important family in Lancashire as park keepers for the King's forests centuries ago. They owned considerable land and property in Colne. The hall was rebuilt in the Tudor period and enlarged and altered through the centuries until it became structurally unsound and was demolished in 1957.

Elizabeth Parker was born at Browsholme Hall in 1726 and married her cousin, Robert Parker of Alkincoats Hall. She was widowed young and became Elizabeth Shackleton when she eloped to Gretna Green with a local wool trader, John Shackleton. He was a man 18 years younger than her and not of her social standing, so the marriage caused quite a scandal in Colne.

Whilst Elizabeth lived at Alkincoats Hall she kept a fascinating diary which gives an insight into the Georgian period and what life was like in Pendle.



Her diary details the trials and tribulations of living with her young husband, who took to drinking heavily and was often violent, including attacking her with a horse whip.

Her diary also gives her impressions of local people. These include her friend, the notorious Henry Owen Cunliffe of Wycoller Hall and his passion for dances, shooting expeditions and cock fighting.

Transcripts of Elizabeth's diary can be read in Colne Library. The Alkincoats old estate became a park in 1921 and a bandstand, bowling greens and tennis courts were added.

Things to enjoy at Alkincoats

You can have a free game of tennis here (the park has four courts) and the bowling season is from April until mid September. You can borrow a set of bowls for free from Jan at Green's Café which is open in the summer from May – September from Thursday to Saturday 12 noon until 7pm.

The café is open the rest of the year from October to April Thursday to Saturday 10am – 4pm. There's play equipment in our playground for children aged 3 – 14.

In 2012 Pendle Council Park Keepers, the Environmental Action Group and Friends of Alkincoats Park planted 200 trees for our first community orchard.

The apples, pears and plums should be ready for picking from 2015 and you're welcome to come and pick your own for pies, puddings or jams.



starting points for many walks, too!



View of Lake Burwain and the Yorkshire Dales from Alkincoates Woodland Local Nature Reserve.

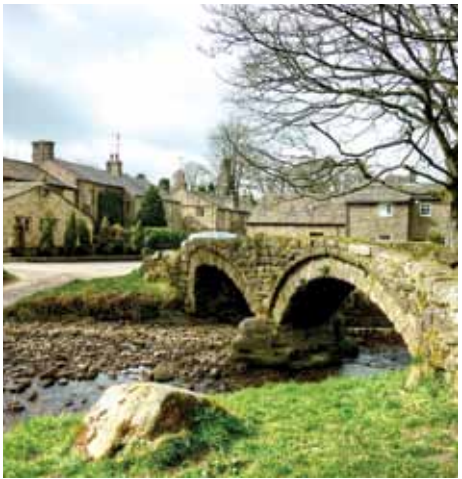
Why not become a friend of one of Colne's parks?

Do you enjoy being outside and meeting new people? If you'd like to help improve Ball Grove or Alkincoates Park then why not become a friend?

You can work alongside knowledgeable parks staff to improve the habitats for wildlife as well

as taking part in activities like planting trees and interesting events from bat walks to bird watching.

Contact Pendle Council on **01282 661569** or **01282 661600** if you'd like to become a park friend.



Wycoller

Wycoller Country Park close to Colne is a pleasant walk from Ball Grove Country Park.

This tiny hamlet is perfect for walks and picnics. You can take a short stroll to see the hamlet's seven bridges including the old packhorse bridge and ancient clam bridge. Or you can stride out to Boulsworth Hill from Wycoller, using the old packhorse trail.

The atmospheric ruin of Wycoller Hall is reputed to be the Ferndean Manor of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre. And there are ancient vaccary walls around Wycoller which are the old 13th century cattle enclosures when Wycoller was a cluster of dairy farms among the alders.



Greenfield Nature Reserve on Greenfield Road is tucked away off the dual carriageway Whitewalls Drive on the edge of town and is close to the end of the M65 motorway.

Created in the flood plain alongside Colne Water, there are ponds which are home to lots of different species from frogs to kingfishers. There's also scrubland and woodland which attracts lots of birds, including pied wagtails and redshanks.



Events in our parks

Our park keepers often run interesting activities about the range of habitats and the hundreds of species which make our parks their home. They include bug hunts and pond dipping for children, late evening bat walks and bird watching sessions.

If you like to get physical and learn new skills you can volunteer to work alongside our Park Friends on footpath work and woodland management (see page 23).

To find out what's going on, follow Pendle Council's park blog: www.pendle.gov.uk/blog/pendleparcs or telephone Parks on 01282 661600

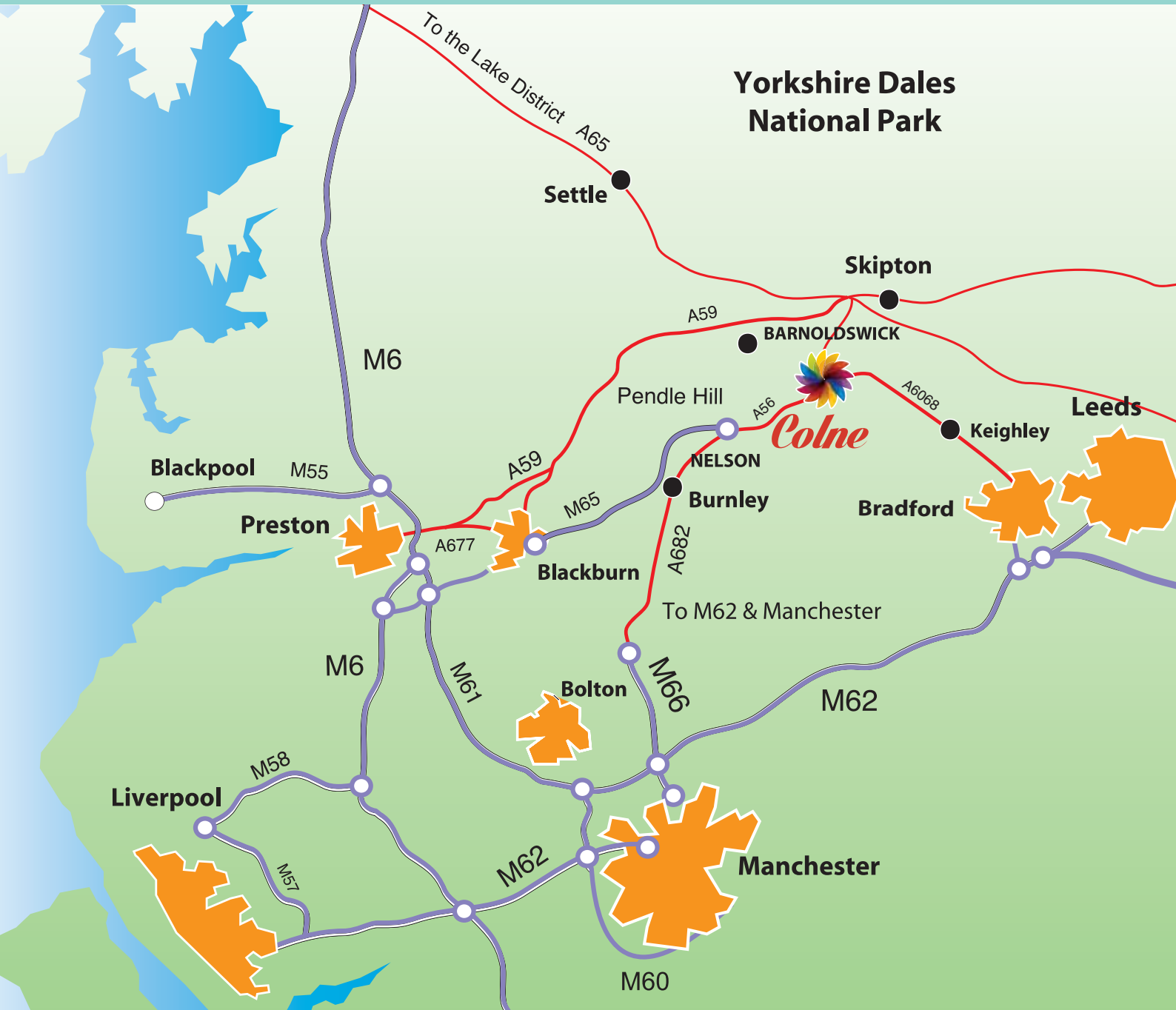
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0871 200 22 33

calls from landlines cost 10p per minute

Or, if you come by car you can make use of our ample
FREE parking.