



# Exploring Barrowford



## Shopping & Heritage

*Niche Shopping,  
Family Walks,  
Quality Food  
& Drink.*

# Explore Barrowford

*Shops & hidden gems*

1.6 miles

*Walk back through the Park* Canal walk 2 miles. Park walk 1.3 miles

*Conservation in action*

0.5 miles

**I**f you're interested in exploring family friendly walks in attractive parkland, browsing independent clothing shops and enjoying top quality food and drink -

*Then Barrowford is for you . . .*

Barrowford is a fascinating mix of the old and the ultra modern.

The architectural and hidden gems of the 17th and 18th century farming and handloom weaving communities now house independent boutiques. These line the high street and attract affluent and fashion conscious buyers from across the Northwest.

Barrowford is a great base for all types of walks. Picture this: a family stroll through the park and back along the high street; a canal-side excursion; a ramble on the footpaths which criss-cross beautiful countryside surrounding the village.

Ground-breaking local artists show off their talent at Pendle Heritage Centre and work from studios in Higherford Mill. Wine experts are on hand to help you choose the perfect tipple. Fashion and beauty gurus are waiting to help you to look your best for that special occasion.

Park up and meet the friendly community that is Barrowford.





# *Shops* & hidden gems

*Explore the delightful range of independent retailers set within quaint buildings with hidden histories. There's no reason to endure a long, busy journey to a city to buy that something special. Barrowford is full of chic designer shops, spa and beauty parlours and specialist food and drink stores. This walk allows you to explore the history of Barrowford while indulging in a little retail therapy -*

*perfect!*



## **Shop with the stars**

Barrowford attracts a number of the county's rich and famous stars to its branded boutiques, including fashion favourite David Beckham.





Roger Bannister, the famous runner, is a direct descendant of the Bannister's who lived at Park Hill - now the Heritage Centre.

**The Heritage Centre is the start of your journey for walks 1 & 3.**

**1.** Close to the junction of Gisburn Road (A682) and Colne Road (B6247) is **Pendle Heritage Centre**. The car park is across Colne Road.

Pendle Heritage Centre is open daily and includes a Garden Tearoom which specialises in home-cooked, traditional Lancastrian dishes and overlooks an 18th Century walled garden. Pendle Heritage Centre also houses a well stocked Book & Gift Shop, a Tourist Information Centre, Pendle Arts Gallery, a cruck framed barn and a conference centre.

Situated beside an ancient crossing of Pendle Water, this group of attractive Grade II listed farm buildings and walled garden offers the ideal day out for the whole family. It's the perfect base from

which to explore the Barrowford area on foot.

Discover the splendid 15th Century cruck framed barn which was rescued from demolition in the 1980s and re-erected at Park Hill. The main art and craft exhibitions are in the old part of the house which still evokes the atmosphere of the 17th Century.

**2.** At the George and Dragon turn left towards the centre of Barrowford. At the waterfall on the opposite side of the river you will see the new **fishpass** that has been built by the Environment Agency to allow salmon and sea trout to pass up river to spawn.



**3.** A new addition to Barrowford is the renowned **Booths Supermarket**. Booths is a Preston based modern food chain that prides itself on supplying high quality, locally sourced produce. The store will include a café and toilets.

**4.** Next to Booths is **Dacatie House**. The unusual name of Dacatie House comes from the ingenious cavity bridging system for doorways and windows in new buildings, called the Dacatie system. The system was designed by a local engineer based in the building.

**5.** Opposite Dacatie House is a row of buildings overhanging the river at the back. Jesse Blakey was born here in 1861 in a shop run by his father.

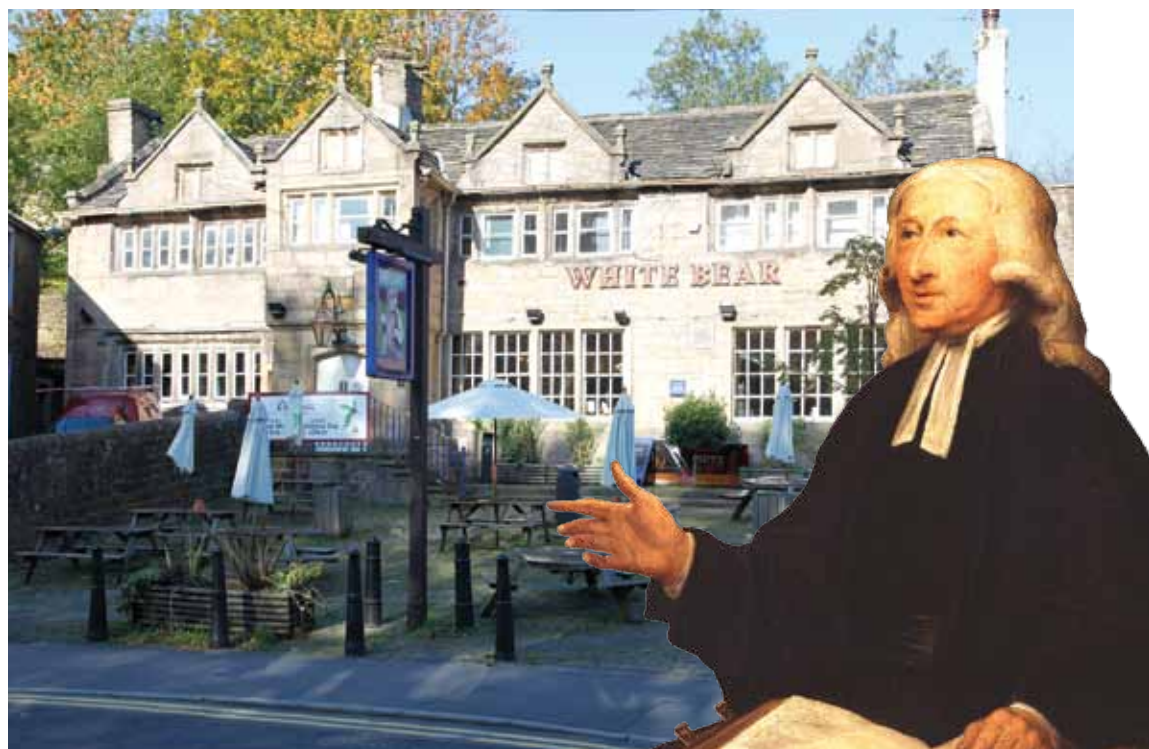
Jesse later ran the business and started the Barrowford Almanac in 1889 which continued to be published until 1914. Jesse went on to have a flourishing

business in Scotland Road, Nelson and served for 10 years as a Nelson Borough Councillor, finally standing down in 1924. He then wrote the fascinating Annals of Barrowford, published in 1929.

**6.** Back across Gisburn Road you will see **Barrowford Vets' Practice**. These buildings started life as a pair of cottages with one being converted into a shop during the mid 19th century. By the early 1900s the shop was owned and run by Ernest Faraday, a close relation of Barnard Faraday. Barnard was a well known local poet, songwriter and journalist and a first cousin to **Michael Faraday**, the scientist and inventor.

**7.** Continue a little further along Gisburn Road and you will come to the **White Bear**, built in 1667. **John Wesley**, the founder of Methodism, was forced to retreat to the building in 1748, after





being carried by an angry mob from Roughlee. The instigator of the trouble, Rev George White, Vicar of Colne, asked Wesley to promise he would not come to Roughlee again. Wesley refused saying he would sooner cut off his hand. Eventually he was allowed to leave via the back door. Unfortunately some of his friends were set upon and one was so badly injured that he died shortly afterwards. Another friend had to leap into the river to make good his escape. In great contrast to this visit, Wesley preached at Clough, a local farmhouse, in 1774 and 1776. The White Bear is more peaceful nowadays serving daily food and refreshment.

**8.** A little further along just past Winston's club, you will find **129 Gisburn Road** or **The Size House**, built around 1790 as back-to-back houses. After the building was made into one house, Ormerod Baldwin lived here and employed home-based handloom weavers. Size is a mixture based on animal fats. Sizing the 'warps' strengthened the threads and made the weaving easier by reducing friction. Some dishonest weavers also used size to increase the weight of the finished cloth to get more money for their work. However, too much size made the cloth go mouldy and those who carried on the deceptions were called 'Mouldy Heels'.



**9.** At the junction of Church Street and Gisburn Road you will find what was Shippside Maritime Chandelers (**now Nursery Time**) supplying all kinds of sailing and ships gear. The business operated from here for years, which is surprising when you consider that Barrowford must be almost as far from the sea, to the west and the east, as you can get. The business has since moved into Preston and is still going strong.

**10.** The area currently occupied by the Public Toilets used to be **The Fleece Inn**, which was a notorious public house. In the mid 1840s two village policemen



were set upon by a group of men who had been turned out of the Fleece Inn, just after midnight. The night was misty and the men armed with wooden staves set about the police and in the morning pools of spattered blood could be seen from the injured policemen. None of the assailants were ever apprehended, for lack of evidence. It was thought that many knew the names of the culprits but no one ever came forward. The building was demolished during the mid 1930s for the widening of Church Street.

**11.** A short way along Church Street is the **Lamb Club** (Bank Hall). The porch and wing was built by Thomas





and Grace Sutcliffe in 1696, possibly using materials from an earlier part of the building. In 1904 John Strickland sold the house for the sum of £587.10s to the Working Men's Institute. It's been known as the Lamb Club ever since.

**12.** The attractive shops at 99 to 103 Gisburn Road (including The Last Trading Post) are listed weavers' cottages. Tucked behind them is **Hill Top**, a fascinating group of early 19th century cottages. The lane retains its stone setts and flags (cobble and pavement). **The Last Trading Post** is a local, family run business that has been supplying occasion footwear for the feet of far and wide shoppers for over 30 years, including some of your favourite Coronation Street stars!

**13.** The row of shops across the main road (including Beech's Butchers) fronts a traditional area which was **The Bowling Green**. At the annual

**Barrowford Rushbearing** there used to be fairground rides, bazaars, shows and much more besides on the Bowling Green. Even a travelling theatre used to stay there. The Rushbearing was a traditional country fair with people coming from all the surrounding towns, including two boats full from Burnley.

In early times bull baiting took place during the Rushbearing. This was replaced by horse racing, then foot racing, and then in the 1870s by cycle racing.

**Beech's Butchers** has been serving locally sourced meat for over 50 years. They have won regional recognition for their sausages and pride themselves on their service and welcome. "Our customers come to us again and again from all around the region because they know we serve the best quality local meat and we respect and appreciate their custom. Barrowford is a village that always has a friendly welcome," says Ryan, shop assistant. Beech's



Mike Phelan who played for Burnley, Manchester United, Norwich City and England was brought up in Barrowford and started his days playing football on Bullholme for Barrowford Celtic. Now retired from playing he is currently assistant manager at Manchester United.

Butcher's reputation for service also attracts UK sport's elite; Manchester United's assistant manager and former international football player **Mike Phelan** is a regular customer.

**14.** Look out for the two old water troughs close to the pelican crossing. August 16th 1847 saw the official opening of the **Gaumless Trough** where many local worthies contributed to the cost of providing clean drinking water to the people in the centre of Barrowford. For purposes other than drinking, people would use the river - there were many openings and steps down to the water. The 'new' Gaumless Trough was erected in 1911 to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. It is officially the Royal Memorial Water Fountain.







### Dole Time

The blockading of Southern State ports by Union forces during the American Civil War caused one of the worst periods of hardship and suffering Barrowford has ever known. The raw cotton needed for the textile industry dried up and workers were laid off for long periods. The section of river wall from the bottom of Church Street to the waterfall was rebuilt during Dole Time by these laid off workers.



Jody Latham grew up in Barrowford. He has starred in various television series including Eastenders, Shameless and as the cheeky Callum in The Fixer.

**15. Holmefield House:** Built around 1865 by the Berry family and later occupied by the Holden's, whose Holmefield Mills stretched along the river bank. Thomas Berry was an early social reformer, being instrumental in setting up the provision of free education for the village. He was also an Overseer of the Poor for the Barrowford township from 1879. He died in 1889 at the young age of 38.

**16. Clock Cottages:** A tailor named John Steel built the cottages around 1840. The clock was installed for the benefit of the workers at Reedyford Mill. The tenant of the clock cottage was paid one shilling (5p) per week to wind up

the clock. The cottages were known as 'Cabbage Row' because it was said that the tailor 'cabbaged' cloth when making suits, that is, charged for pieces of cloth that weren't used.



*Now that you've explored the shops and hidden gems its time to enjoy the other side of Barrowford...*





# *Walk back* through the Park

*... Seconds away from the glitz and glamour of the independent shops you can enjoy a gentle stroll through the idyllic scenes of Barrowford Park or Gongoozle by the canal.*

*Choose your route back*



## **Gongoozler**

A gongoozler is a person who enjoys watching activity on the canals and derives from workers' slang for an observer standing apparently idle on the towpath.



## Choose your route

*Just past Holmefield House (15) on the opposite side of the road is Wilton Street. This takes you back across the river into Bull Holme playing fields and further along the river into Barrowford Memorial Park.*

From here you have a choice of four varied routes back to the Heritage Centre, three through the park and one longer alternative back along the historical Leeds-Liverpool canal.

### **Through the park:**

Follow the track around the playing fields passing the Youth Centre on your right, the new multi-use games area (MUGA) and the exercise machines (if you fancy a quick work-out!).

Just beyond the allotments you have the choice of turning right and climbing up to the cemetery. Take a moment to look down on the children's play areas and the main park laid out below you. Walk round the cemetery, past the wooden bear and down the road to the Heritage Centre café and barn.

If you don't fancy the climb you can continue from the allotment junction towards the river side and walk to the children's play areas. Here you can either take the direct path to the lake, and pass the bowling green back to the Heritage Centre.



Or take the gentler path following the river side, passing the new fish-pass and the weir before coming out at the Heritage Centre where you can sit and have a cup of tea while admiring the beautifully restored walled garden.

### **About Barrowford Park**

The award winning Barrowford Park was awarded the prestigious Green Flag award in 2010 which is a national standard for parks and green spaces.







### Barrowford Show

The Barrowford Show is held in the park every August. This is a traditional family fun day out. Competitive classes for dogs, rabbits, horses of all sizes. As well as horticulture tent, field attractions, circus workshops, trade stands, vintage cars, funfair rides, duck race, baby show and much more. Visit [www.barrowford-show.co.uk](http://www.barrowford-show.co.uk)



### The floods of 1967

Severe storms on August 8th 1967 forced the river to leave the river bed and flow down Gisburn Road causing an estimated £500,000 worth of damage. The mud left behind by the flood left the village in a chocolate brown colour.



The Park houses has children's playgrounds, which cater to different age groups as well as a nine-hole putting green, bowling green and a war memorial.

**17.** The land for the park was bought in 1922 as Barrowford's memorial to those who died in the First World War. Bull Holme was given by Sam Holden and John Dixon and the remainder through public subscription. The opening ceremony took place on 25 March 1924.

The heart of the Park boasts a lake and a wetland area. The lake was once

the original mill pond. The pond is populated with moorhen, ducks and coots. Also situated at the back of the Park is Barrowford Cemetery which incorporates the Woodland Cemetery.

The Park hosts both the annual Barrowford Show and events organised by the Friends Groups and Park Keeper Service.

Near the children's playground is the remains of Barrowford's Old Mill. There may have been a mill on the site as early as 1311 and there was a corn mill by 1541. The mill continued in production until 1924.





### **Walk back along the canal:**

At the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) do not follow the track round to the left but continue straight under the motorway bridge. Out the other side you will see the mountain bike track and the boulders that the stunt-bikers use to hone their skills!

Follow the path over the river (Colne Water this time) around the playing fields and up onto the canal side. Turn left and over the bridge, turning right takes you into Nelson and beyond!

Over the bridge turn sharp left to keep to the canal towpath. Soon you will see Walshaw House on your right, built very recently and currently housing the NHS East Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

Continue past the canal locks, back under the motorway and up onto the tarmac track. The quickest way back to the Heritage Centre is to turn right up to

Colne Road where you turn right again and you are back at the car park in 10 minutes.

For the more adventurous, the canal is worth exploring further along its route eastwards. When you come out the tarmac track, turn left (away from Colne Road). The lock keeper's cottage, the series of rising locks and the moored boats set in the wonderful Pendle scenery make lovely memories and great photographs.

### **About Leeds Liverpool Canal**

Leave behind the built environment of Barrowford and enjoy the views of the glorious Pendle countryside while “gongoozling” at Barrowford locks.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is over 200 years old, and, at 127 miles long, is the single longest canal in the country. It is home to 91 locks seven of which are in Barrowford!





# Conservation in action

*This short circular walk takes a look at Higherford's historical buildings and the fascinating stories surrounding them. Meander back along the riverbank to the Heritage Centre.*







**18.** From the Heritage Centre, turn left and over the bridge to the **George & Dragon** (formerly known as The Bridge End). It was established as an Inn by 1802 and occupies older buildings from the mid 18th century which included a stable and could have been used as a wayside tavern. The current landlady has built up a local reputation for the quality and range of Real Ales on tap.

**19.** Across the road the **Toll House** was erected to collect the toll fees to pay for the making of the turnpike road from Marsden to Long Preston in 1804. It continued to collect tolls until they were finally abolished in 1872.

**20.** Close to the George & Dragon are the **Alma Cottages** which were built in 1856 by William England, a master joiner, to house his and his children's families. The cottages were named after the famous Crimean War Battle of Alma of 1854.

**21.** The next building on the left is **Higherford Methodist Chapel**. This new building is the third chapel on the site. The original was built in 1800 and replaced in 1890 by an imposing Italian Renaissance Style building. The 1890 chapel was replaced by the current one in 1990, but this wasn't the end of the impressive 1890 building.

The chapel was bought by a Japanese businessman who had every stone numbered, ordered and shipped to Japan where he rebuilt it stone by stone. The chapel became the Grand Victoria Chapel hotel in Hachioji which

specialises in British weddings. The photo shows the reconstructed chapel in Japan.



**22.** A little further along on the opposite side of the road, is the old **Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School**. See the plaque high up on the wall. The school was built in 1834 and paid for by public subscription. In its heyday 400 scholars and teachers used the Sunday School.







**23.** Continue along Gisburn Road and arrive at **Holt Square and the Fold**. Holt Square started life as a large yeoman's farmhouse built in the late 1580s and was converted into four small weavers' cottages around 1800. The Fold was probably built around that time and reflects the local change from a 16th century farmhouse to a group of weavers' cottages.

**24.** Continue past Paradise Street to **Higherford Mill**, built by Christopher Grimshaw around 1824. The original mill was water powered, but by 1832 it also had a steam engine.

The mill's water course is today being considered for a water turbine project

to generate electricity from renewable sources. The mill chimney is sited 200 metres up the hill to the rear of the building with the flue running down the hillside to the boiler room. The Mill is currently used to house a range of fascinating small art studios.

*The Mill is currently used to house a range of fascinating creative enterprises.*

*It has open days and artists host workshops. For more information call 01282 877686.*







**25.** Walk along the attractive avenue that is Foreside. The striking Crowtrees Cottage together with Crowtrees House lead to the foot of the **Packhorse Bridge**, locally known as the Roman Bridge. It was built around 1580 and was on the main route from Barrowford to Gisburn until the present Gisburn Road Bridge was built in 1807. The bridge is built on solid rock with a high span over the river. Originally the bridge had no parapet walls! These were eventually added by the Grimshaw family during the 19th century.

**26.** Cross the Packhorse Bridge and the Corn Mill will be on your left and **The Malt Kiln** across the main road. The two buildings are joined by an

underground 'barrel-roofed' passage from the days when the two buildings were owned and operated by the Grimshaw family who were in business as maltsters. The buildings were used for the process of converting barley into malt, for use in brewing and distilling process.

**27.** Head downhill towards the river bridge and come to **The Old Bridge Inn** on the left. It appears to be early 19th century in date and has served generations of travellers at the river crossing.

**28.** Just beyond the Old Bridge Inn past the farm entrance, is a tight opening to a delightful riverside footpath that takes you back to the Heritage Centre car park.



The first Jelly Babies were manufactured in The Malt Kiln at Higherford and later produced in Nelson.



*We hope you've enjoyed our insider tips to help you get the most out of exploring Barrowford. We look forward to welcoming you, your friends and family again to our special village.*

This booklet has been produced by Barrowford Parish Council with assistance from Pendle Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

Further copies are available to download on [www.visitpendle.com](http://www.visitpendle.com) and [www.barrowford.net](http://www.barrowford.net) or are available throughout the village and:

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Park Hill, Barrowford,  
Lancashire,  
BB9 6JQ



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