

Today most of the boundaries follow ancient lines which still need to be protected and the Beating the Bounds walk is one way of doing this.

However, in 1778 Poole, Dorset, they had changed the Beating the Bounds procedure to throwing halfpennies for the children. But in 1911, in High Wycombe, there they changed it to the 'friendly' whipping of councillors and aldermen instead!

In 1670 in Chelsea the parish accounts show that 2 shillings were given to boys that were 'whipt', and £3 pound 10 shillings was spent on the Perambulation Dinner.

In previous times instead of beating the stones, choirboys or young boys were whipped with the wands instead! They could also be turned upside down and bounced with their heads on the boundary stones so that they remembered where they were. If a pond or a river was on the boundary, they were thrown in it and if a building straddled it, they had to climb over the roof ridge.

Beating the Bounds is an ancient tradition from a time before maps had been drawn. It has taken place all over Britain for over 2000 years. The purpose is to protect the line of the Parish Boundary. Residents used to perambulate (walk) the route and carry willow wands (willow stems stripped of bark). At the edges of the parish they would beat the post stones with their wands to mark the boundary.

# Beating the Bounds an ancient tradition from a time before maps...



Replica ancient boundary stones are being installed in the surrounding countryside along the lines of the old Parish Boundary. The scheme funding this is Pendle Council's Canal Corridor Fund which is co-ordinated by Barnoldswick Town Council. It commemorates and preserves an ancient tradition aimed at protecting the Parish Boundary line. Beside funding the production and installation of the boundary stones the grant will enable the Town Council to install interpretation boards and has helped to publish this explanatory leaflet. It will also enable the purchase of a community marquee for use in publicising walking and other activities. This will help preserve and publicise the annual Beating the Bounds community guided walk which welcomes local parishioners and visitors from near and far.



Barnoldswick Town Council appreciate the help given by the Barnoldswick History Society.

In autumn each year the Beating the Bounds Community Walk takes place around the ancient boundaries of Barnoldswick. The walk is led by members of the Town Council. At each of the boundary stones walkers are encouraged to beat them with willow wands. It's free and everyone who completes the 9-mile walk receives a commemorative medal.

*No booking required, just turn up and go and it's free!*

**For more details of day and time please contact:**

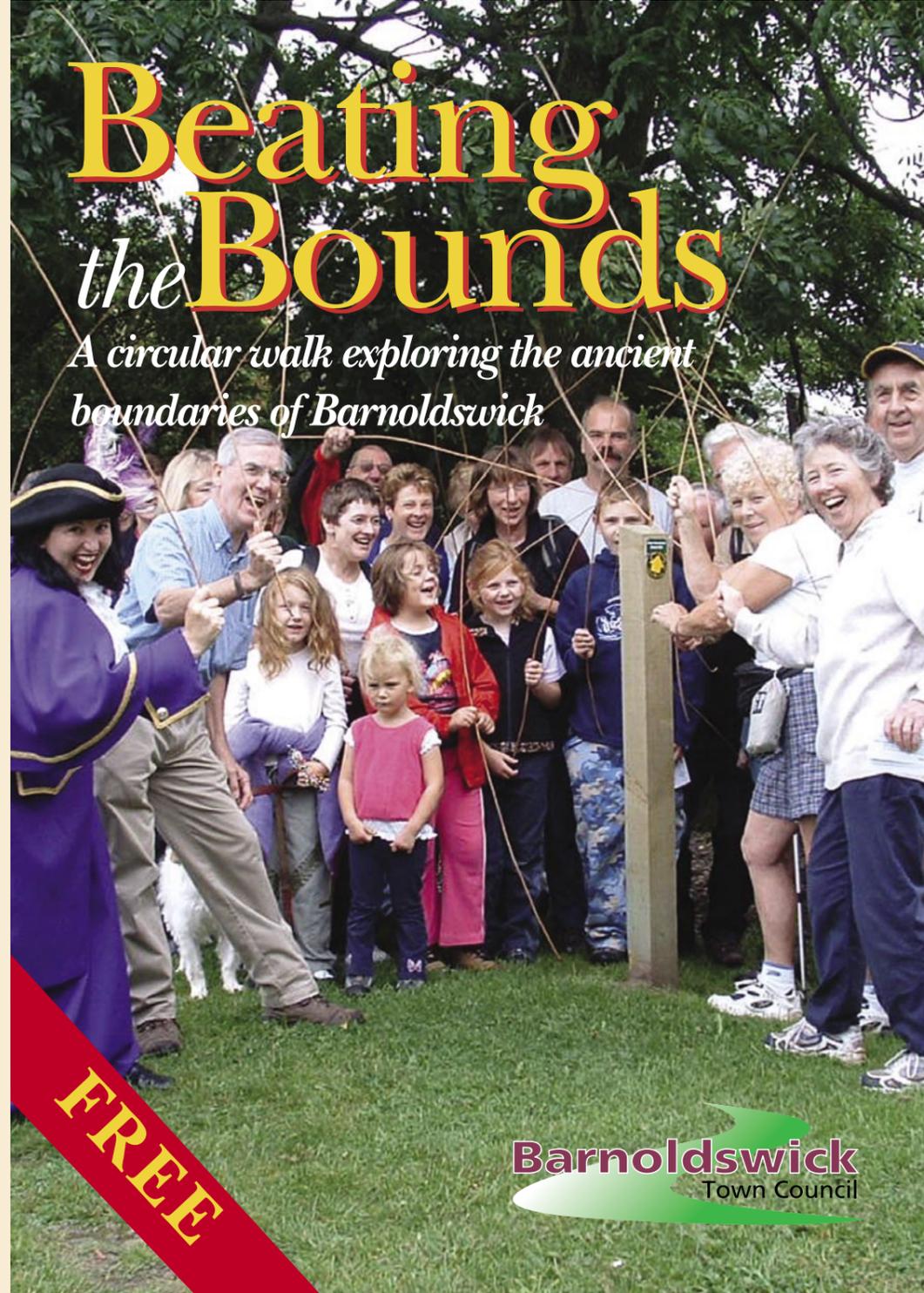
**Town Clerk**  
**Barnoldswick Town Council**  
 The Old Library, Fernlea Avenue  
 BARNOLDSWICK BB18 5DW  
 Tel/Fax: 01282 666735  
[www.barnoldswicktowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.barnoldswicktowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Walk rules**

- Please bring clothing appropriate for the day and waterproofs, as our weather can be unpredictable.
- All walkers are required to log in with the organisers before the walk starts.
- Boots or stout walking shoes are needed for the walk.
- It is advisable to bring with you a drink and refreshments.
- We reserve the right to exclude an inadequately equipped person.
- In poor weather the leader may modify the walk.
- Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead.
- Anyone getting ahead of the leader may be deemed to have left the walk.
- An adult must accompany walkers under 16.
- All those taking part do so at their own risk.
- Cars should be left locked in appropriate parking places with no valuables inside.
- Walkers should follow the Country Code.
- For any emergency, contact the walk leader or any walk steward.

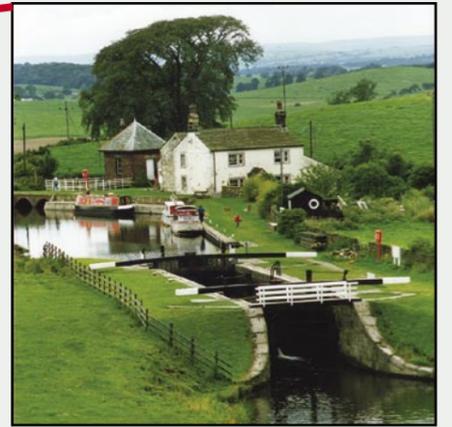


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## Some Points of Interest



**Greenberfield Locks**  
Leeds & Liverpool canal



**St. Mary le Ghyll Church**  
Ghyll Lane



**The Anchor Inn**  
Canal side, Salterforth

# Beating *the* Bounds

A circular walk of around 9 miles (approx 4 hours) round the ancient boundaries of Barnoldswick

**Starting from the Pavilion at Victory Park** (which is approx 130m above sea level), walk across the playing fields in front to the footbridge at the edge of the park. Follow the path alongside the stream to **Greenberfield Lane**. Turn right and follow the lane until you arrive at the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. At **Greenberfield top lock** join the towpath and follow this along the canal. After the towpath changes banks, there is a footpath sign across the fields towards the **Rolls Royce** factory. Follow this footpath around the factory until you reach **Skipton Road (B6252)**. Cross the road and take the next footpath sign towards **St Mary le Ghyll Church**.

At the stone stile in the corner of the church grounds, follow the path through the cemetery until you come to the tarmac surface in front of the church.

Turn away from the church and at the junction with **Ghyll Lane** turn left and follow this until the road ends. Go onto the footpath and through the field until it reaches **Ben Lane** and turn left. The lane then becomes **Salterforth Lane**, which can be rather wet in places. Follow it until it reaches a footpath going right towards the marina. Follow the footpath through the field until you reach the canal. At **Cockshott Bridge**, which is close to Parkside canal boat marina turn left along the towpath until you go under **Park Bridge, Kelbrook Road (B6383)**.

At this point you can carry on the towpath for a short distance to the **Anchor Inn** at Salterforth.

From **Kelbrook Road** follow the footpath across the fields and in front of the house above you towards the gate taking you onto **Hodge Lane**.

You then reach **Manchester Road, (B6251)** which is the Barnoldswick to Foulridge and Barrowford road. Turn left up the hill, along this road until the turn off on the right to a track, which is called **Lister Well Road**. After climbing up the hill turn right along the farm access track to **Prospect House**. Pass in front of the farmhouse and go through the farm gate. Bear right and follow this through another gate and through the fields until you reach **Higher View** on **Folly Lane**. This is the highest point of the walk at 350m above sea level.

*It is suggested that at the highest point you sing the 'Beating the Bounds' song!*

Turn right down **Folly Lane** where you can get wonderful panoramic views of the Yorkshire Dales and the Three Peaks. Towards the bottom of the hill and past the cottages, turn sharp left at the stile before **New Field Edge House** and walk across the fields. Turn

right when the path reaches **Esp Lane**, and walk down the hill towards **Town Head**. Between the cottages there is a footpath ginnel on your left. This is called **Pickles Hippings** which takes you to **Calf Hall Lane**. Turn right until the next footpath to the left takes you through the fields over **Monkroyd Hill**. When the path reaches the new housing turn left and over the footbridge. When the path opens into the field keep to the top and follow the path until you reach **New House Farm**. Go through the farmyard and reach **Brogden Lane**, which was the Ribchester to Ilkley roman road.

Turn right along **Brogden Lane** until you reach the next footpath on your left. Follow this footpath through the fields until you reach **Bracewell Lane**. Walk along the road towards **Barnoldswick**, keeping to the right and taking great care. At the bottom of the incline go forward through the gate and into the field. Follow the footpath across the field to the next footbridge across **Stock Beck**. The path now heads right following the beck until it reaches **Greenberfield Lane** again. Go straight across the road, past the pumping station and along the new path towards the park. You can soon see **Victory Park Pavilion** where you started.

*You have now completed Beating the Bounds and have walked about 9 miles and climbed and descended 220 metres.*

## The Beating the Bounds Song

Tune: The Holly and the Ivy

The land that bears the forest  
Is as rich as any known  
The trees and plants reach ever down  
To the strongest Albion stone.

*Chorus*

*The rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer  
Run a ring around the land I love  
To keep us all safe here.*

The fire in our lanterns  
Is a light that we all know  
It lights our way from dawn to dusk  
When sunlight will not show.

The wind that stirs the pine trees  
Is as sharp as any knife  
It fills the air with noble breath  
And gives the forest life.

The lifeblood of the forest  
The manor and the farm  
Is the rain that falls across the land  
To keep us safe from harm.

