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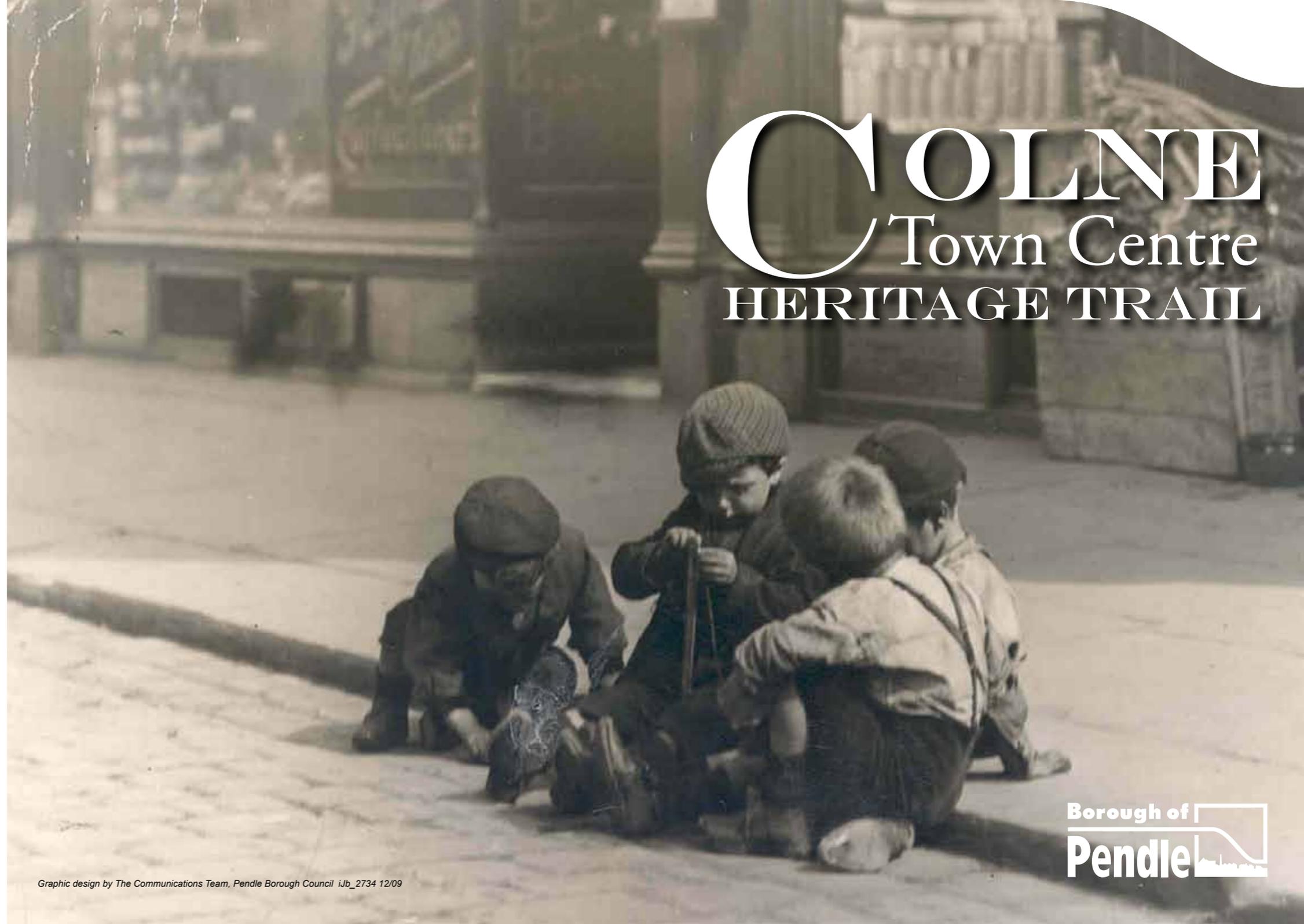
**Funded by:**  
Waterside Community Network, Pendle Council and Colne Town Council.

**Supported by:**  
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# COLNE

## Town Centre

### HERITAGE TRAIL



# COLNE

Town Centre



*From t' train up' Albert Road*

*From Albert Road up' Church Street*

*From Church Street up' Market Street*

*From Market Street up' Keighley Road*

*Making your way back*

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## Introduction

**C**OLNE derives its name from the Celtic word 'Coln' meaning "habitation by rushing water". There is no evidence that Colne was a Roman settlement with the name of "Colunio"!

The former village of Waterside (in the South Valley to the right of Albert Road) is full of history. Locals called Waterside 'Wapping', which means 'by the water', as Colne Water runs through the valley. It was once the heart of Colne with a population twice the size of the rest of the town during the 19th Century when cotton was king.

The wealth of Colne was built on the cotton industry and its good transport links.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal opened to Leeds in 1796 and to Liverpool in 1816 – so connecting cotton, canal and the Colne Community.

The railway to Leeds opened in 1848 and to Manchester and Liverpool in 1849.

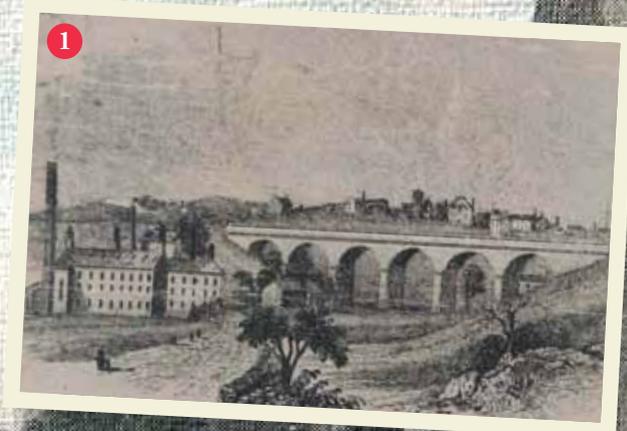
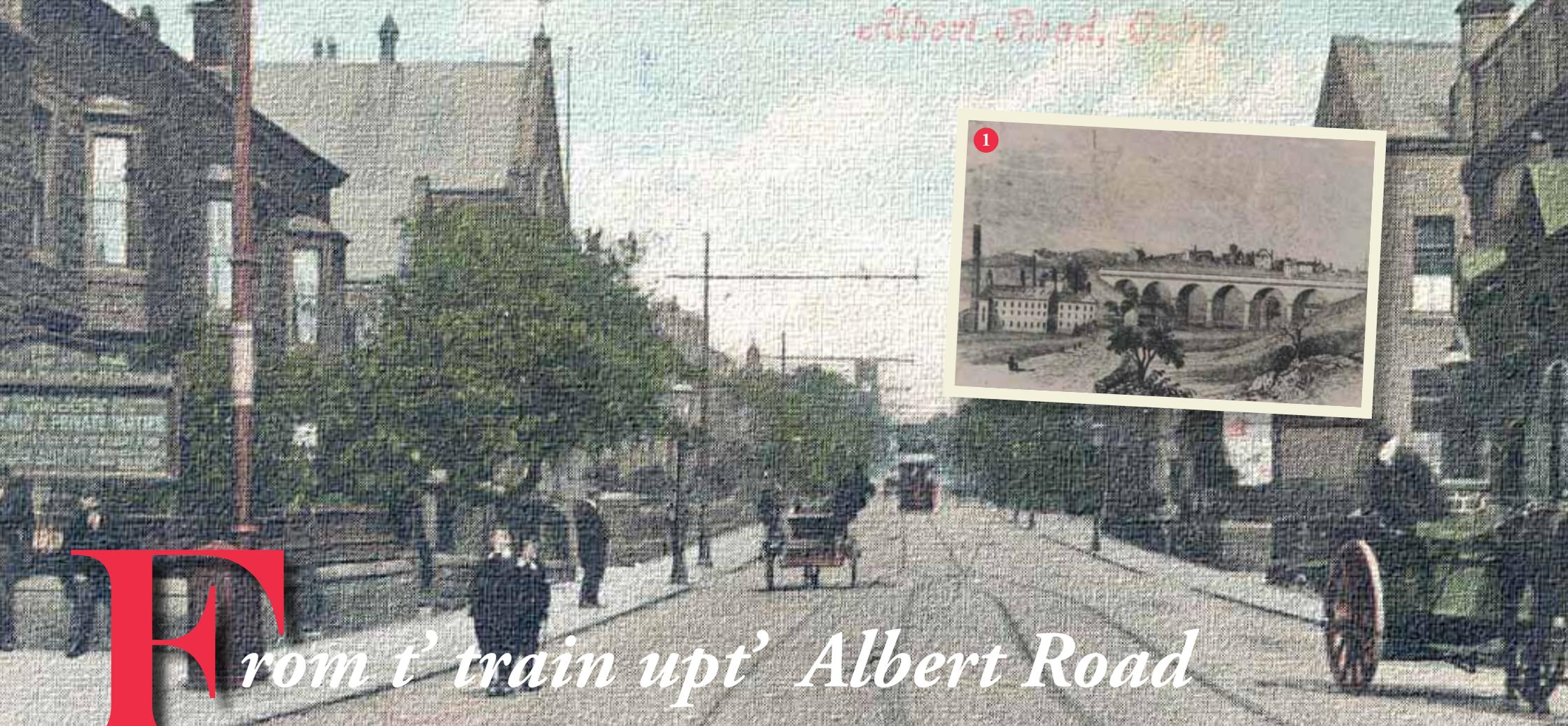
Main roads were built in the 1920/30s along the East Lancashire Valley routes.

In 1900 there were 55 cotton mills in Colne with 27 of them in Waterside. Of these, 17 were in the South Valley east of the railway viaduct up to Carry Lane, and 10 were to the west of the viaduct on the boundary with Nelson. Today not one remains as a cotton weaving mill.

Most of the larger houses in Albert Road were former residences of mill owners or managers.



*A view of Colne in 1900 showing the mills of Colne.*



# From 't' train upt' Albert Road

**1. The Railway** between Leeds and Skipton was extended to Colne in 1848. The Colne viaduct was completed in 1847 with its six arches, spanning 45 feet. The Colne to Burnley section was finally opened in 1849.

This section incorporated the East Lancashire Railway. The Colne – Skipton section of the railway line was closed on 2nd February 1970.

The gardens around the station, as with the rest of Colne, are cared for by Colne in Bloom - winners in 2009, for the second year running of Best Large Town in the North West in Bloom Competition. The sculpture of Millie - the Mill Girl celebrates the many women who were employed in the textile industry in the town.

**2. The Crown Hotel**, Albert Road opened as a Commercial Inn and Billiards Room in 1852 and served mainly rail users.





3. After the Crown Hotel comes 90 Albert Road, the family home of **Wallace Hartley**, the bandmaster of the ill-fated Titanic which sank on 15th May 1912.

The Bethel Independent Methodist Chapel and Sunday School, Burnley Road is where Wallace Hartley was a member of the choir and played the violin, while his father was the choirmaster.

The Wallace Hartley bronze bust is next to the war memorial in Albert Road and records his tragic death. An ornate burial monument marks his grave in Colne Cemetery, Keighley Road. His funeral attracted the largest crowds the town had ever seen as they walked in procession from the Bethel Chapel to the cemetery.



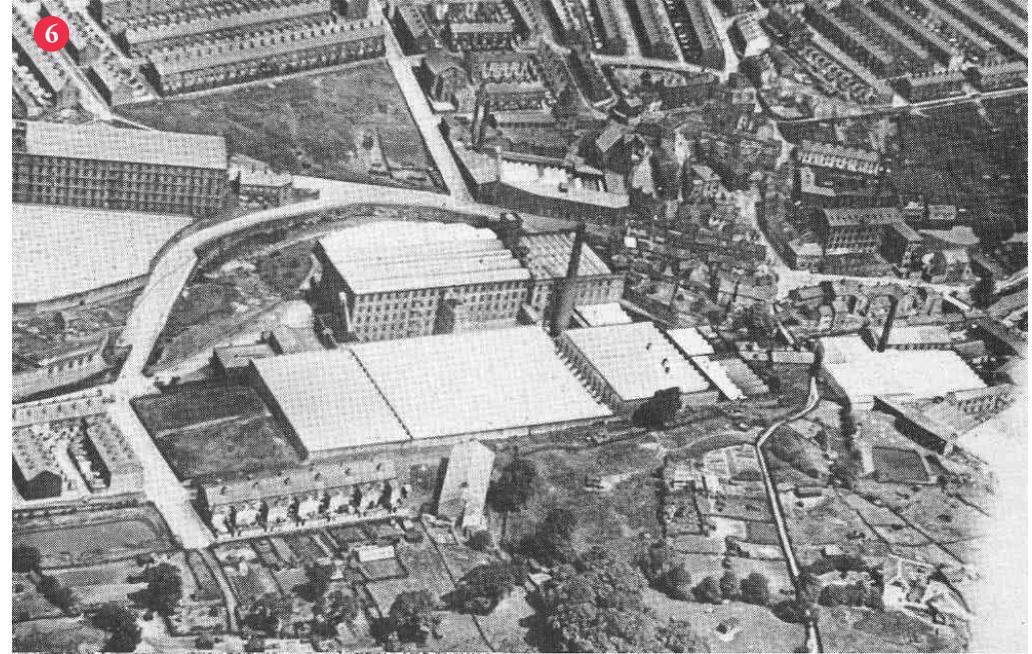


4. The car park after Queen Street on the left was the site of the **Old Court House and Police Station** and cells from 1876 – 1961. The Police Station was moved next door to 82 Albert Road from 1961 – 1978.



5. Opposite you is 113 Albert Road, **West End Buildings** [1906], which has seen many uses – originally a Baptist chapel, then a military hospital followed by engineering, sewing and picture businesses.

6. At the traffic lights, you will find **Sutherland Street** on the right opposite you. This is the steepest street in Colne.



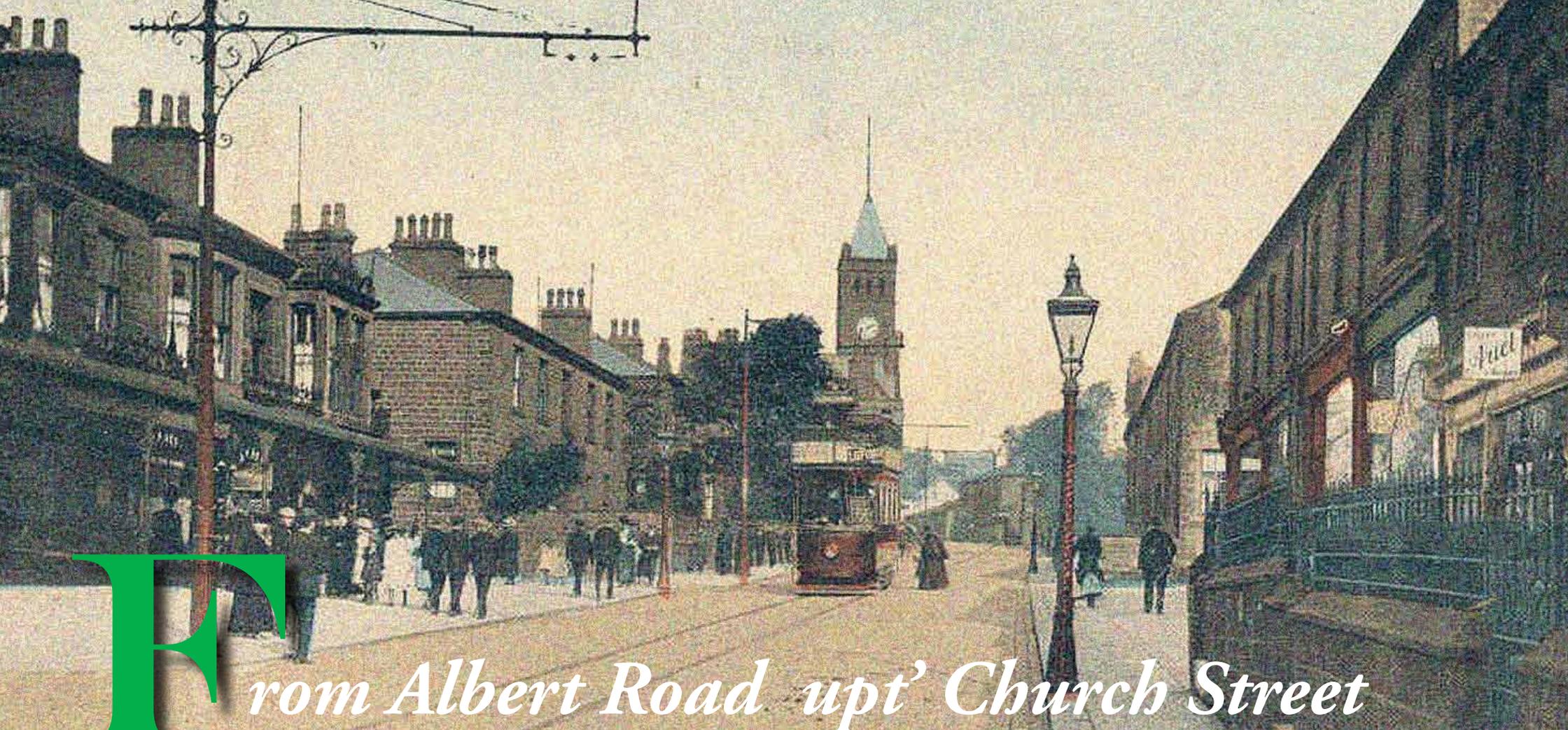
It has traditional cobbles [setts]. Near the top, there is a good view over the South Valley of Waterside with the Millennium Green.

Beyond to the left is the only remaining five storey mill in Colne, **Spring Gardens [Haslam's] Mill**, built in 1840. Harry Haslam, the owner and a bankrupt,

hung himself there from a beam on the fifth floor, by the water tower, during the big depression in 1933.

7. **The Rectory** was designed by the Rector of Colne, Rev. John Henderson, and built in 1829.





# F rom Albert Road up' Church Street

**8. The Gables** [now the Providence Independent Methodist Church], behind the War Memorial, was built for Nicholas England Junior, a mill owner in Waterside, in 1867. After his death it became the home of Thomas Shaw Junior.

In 1907 it was converted into a Carnegie Public Library. In 1972, the library moved to its new premises on Market Street and The Gables became

the home of the Providence Independent Methodist Chapel.

There are other interesting memorabilia by the war memorial, such as an old gas lamp dated 1840 which came from Croft Terrace, Waterside, and a horse mounting block, thought to be from the 17th Century. The mounting block was found at the top of Colne Lane and used by the many customers of the Cross Keys Inn.



## From Albert Road upt' Church Street

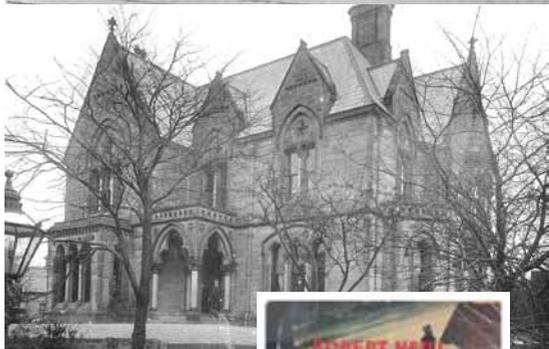
There is a modern stone sculpture of a guitar to celebrate the annual Colne Rhythm & Blues Festival which takes place every August bank holiday.

**9.** Next door is the **Municipal Hall**, opened as the Colne Municipal Technical School [and Evening Institute] in 1901 with a 1000 places for students.

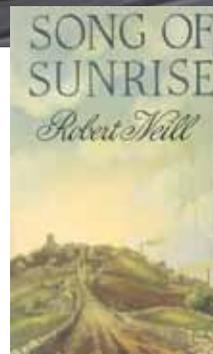
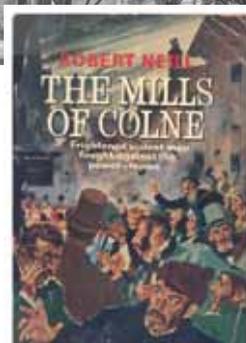
**10.** Opposite are two houses built for mill owners in 1870. **The Bank House**, home of Thomas Shaw, son of Robert Shaw [now Pendle Leisure Services] and **Stanley Villas**, home of Samuel Catlow [Colne's First Mayor in 1895].

**11.** The Colne & District Co-operative Society founded in 1886 was the largest retailer in the area with 26 branch shops by the 2nd World War. The Co-op Society built its Central Premises in Albert Road, called **The Emporium**, in 1906/7, on land bought from the estate of the late Robert Shaw of **Colne Hall**, Linden Road, which had been built in 1868.

The Hall was used as the Co-op's main office from 1903. The Emporium was the first building in the country to be constructed with reinforced concrete. It is now called **Norway House** and has a range of shops, some still displaying the old Co-op



*Colne Hall home of Robert Shaw major cotton manufacturer, whose story is told in the Robert Neill book Song of Sunrise (also printed as Mills of Colne), this building was used as offices for the Co-operative building now converted into flats*



shop signs.

Their first headquarters opened on Saturday, 26th May 1889, these were renamed in 1947 as the Shackleton

Buildings to mark the

completion of 50 years of official service with Colne Society by the President, J. W. Shackleton. **Shackleton Hall** as it's now known is further up Albert Road, past the Town Hall, in Church Street (between the Barclays Bank and the Parish Church).

**12.** Further up Albert Road, on the left, is **Spring Lane**. This was originally known as Springy Lane as it twists and turns at the bottom. There are still a number of old back-to-back cottages, which were homes for workers at Vivary Mill. Four of these ancient homes still have the crystal clear original spring water in the cellars. In Spring Lane, there is also the Centenary Arch, designated in 1995 to celebrate the hundred years since Colne received its Royal Charter of Incorporation as a Borough on 17th July 1895. There are a number of streets and houses off Albert Road associated with the Earl of Derby, the Stanley family, who were big landowners in Colne (e.g. Derby, Stanley and Earl Streets, as well as Stanley House and Villas).



**13.** At the top of Albert Road is the **Town Hall**, opened in 1894, from plans prepared by the Architect, Waterhouse who later designed Manchester Town Hall, on the site of old cottages, known as Hall Hill. Waterhouse also designed the Natural History Museum in London.

**14.** Outside the front entrance on Albert Road is the largest single **Paving Stone** (flagstone) in the country. It was laid when



the Town Hall was built and weighs 2 tonnes, measures 10 feet by 9 feet and is 5 inches thick. It came from Clough Fold Quarry, Rawtenstall, Rossendale.

**15.** Further along from the Town Hall in Church Street, past the bank is **Shackleton Hall** on the left. The Hall was the first headquarters of Colne and District Co-operative Society in 1889.



**16.** The **Parish Church of St Bartholomew** is the oldest building in Colne. In the churchyard is the old **Grammar School** built in 1812 and now used as the parish rooms. This building is on the site of a former tithe barn built in 1558 where John Tillotson was a pupil who later became the Archbishop of Canterbury (1691 – 1695).

Another pupil, Richard Bold accidentally killed a school mate and then fled to Ireland, where later in life he

became the Dean of Dublin University.

Next to the church yard is **Ivegate**, an ancient lane meaning road to the water which linked the church to the North Valley. The archway to Ivegate was built in 1841. The turret once housed the town clock which was removed in 1875.

17



# F

## rom Church Street upt' Market Street

17. After Church Street comes Market Street and on the right there is the **Hole-in-the-Wall** [now called Craic i' the Wall], Colne's oldest surviving inn. It was first mentioned in records in 1707 but is considered to have existed for 70 years before that date. At 626 feet above sea level it is the highest point in Colne.

18



18. The town centre once boasted more **public houses, inns and hotels** (as well as chapels and mills) than today. Most of them are long gone, such as the White Horse Inn, Golden Fleece and Parker Arms which were all opposite the church. There was The Cross Keys followed by the The Black Horse which was opposite Colne Lane then, opposite the Hole-in-the-Wall

in Market Street was the Black Bull. Below it on the right was the Swan Hotel on the site of the former Burtons, now Althams Travel Agent and beyond the present Red Lion, on the left was the Angel, a stage coach inn. Colne had a reputation of being both 'boozy' and 'religious' – a very 'spirited' place!



19. Further along on the left, in Richmonds Court, Market Street, outside the Health Centre, is a **Community Grinding Stone** (circa 1750) for grinding corn.

20. Next to the present Market Hall, on the right, is Colne's ancient **Market Cross**. It used to be situated between the top of Windy Bank and Colne Lane in the centre of the road. The road was widened after complaints of obstruction from stage coach drivers and the Cross was demolished, and parts were scattered around Colne. In 1919 three parts of the original Cross were reassembled into the present day Cross by members of Colne Literary and Scientific Society. Parts were found in the Parish Church grounds, in the garden of Caxton House down Colne Lane where they were being used as plant holders and at Cook House Farm. The Cross was then re-erected



21. **The Library** was built on the site of the **Congregational Chapels**. It is well worth visiting Colne Heritage Centre located on the first floor of the library in the Community History Department. It features permanent and changing exhibitions on the history of Colne.

22. On the left in Dockray Street was **Colne's Fire Station**, built in 1905 (now Whitesides, the Bakers) to accommodate the motorized engines. There was a public outcry when Greenfield Mill was burnt down in 1885, which hastened the formation of Colne Volunteer Fire Brigade and later the building of the Fire Station.



Further down, on the right, in Dockray Yard, were the stables for the horses which pulled the fire engine. Originally, there was only one engine and one horse. Later, the fire station acquired another engine but no second horse. So, in the event of a fire, a man would race around to Lund, the bakers, to borrow a horse to pull the second engine.

23. Opposite you, on the corner of Dockray Street and King Street was the former **Market Hall** built in 1937 on the site of the original market hall destroyed by fire (later the Kippax Biscuit Factory).



24. Back on Market Street and on the left was Colne finest Cinema, **The Savoy** (now Farmfoods), one of a number of cinemas in the town



25. **Skelton Street**, off Market Street and after Dockray Street, on the left, is worth looking at. There are **two barns**. The upper one is over 200 years old and the lower one possibly over 400 years old. Skelton means 'the farm on the shelf of the hill' and there was a farm on this site in Anglo-Saxon times. The patch of land nearby was once used as a 'pound' for stray animals.

26. The next building, on the left, past Skelton Street, was **Cumberland House**, the home of Nicholas England, whose sister, Anna, married Robert Shaw. It is now the Union Exchange Pub with an incongruous façade, dated 1893, and the upper floor of the original house behind it.

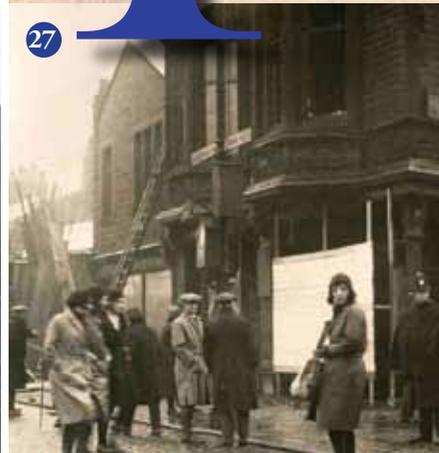
The house was a formal residence with a large garden where the car park is. It accommodated a large cotton weaving workshop on the upper floors, with an entrance via a flight of stone steps at the rear (now demolished). Later a large warehouse was built behind the property and today part of the archway can be seen. On the west side of the house large vertical openings can be seen, which are now windows. This is where they lowered large pieces of cloth onto waiting carts below.



28

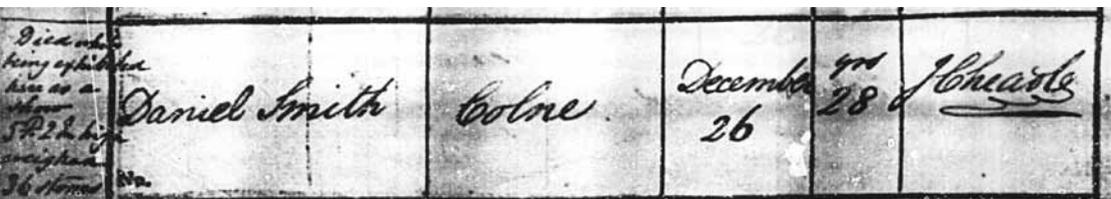


27



27. At the corner of Keighley Road and Craddock Road, by the traffic lights, is the **Tower Ballroom** (now renamed the Corner House). It was built in 1900 and is a Grade 2 listed building. It was built on the site of the meeting rooms of the former Weavers' Institute. In 1930, it was stated that the Tower ballroom had the finest fully sprung dance floor in Lancashire.

28. Opposite you is the **Commercial** which was built in 1822 as a coaching inn. It was once called the Railway Hotel because it was close to the site of a yard (on the former site of Kwik Save in Craddock Road) where coal was brought by underground rail from drift mine pits across the South Valley into the heart of Colne.



The name was changed to the Commercial to avoid confusion when the main railway came to Colne.

In 1834 the fattest man in the world **Daniel Smith** age 28, with an height of 5' 2" came to Colne and stayed at the Commercial Inn. Tragedy struck when he died, his remains (all 36 stone of them) were transported by his own travelling caravan to be buried at the parish church.

The funeral was witnessed by a huge crowd including the grammar school boys who had a special holiday for the occasion.

**29.** Continuing along Keighley Road there are some old low cottages, called **Dubbin Row** on the right. They are roofed with Yorkshire Stone slab tiles. These tiles indicate that they were built before the canal was fully opened in 1816. After that date, Cumberland slate was brought by boat for use as roof tiles. The name Dubbin Row is a corruption of 'Double Row' which in fact the cottages became, when two were demolished to make the entrance to Grosvenor Street.

**30.** After these houses is **Colne Cemetery**. There are two graves of historic interest.

The first is the **headstone** of a special constable, **Joseph Halstead**, aged 44 years, who was killed during the riots against the power loom. His gravestone reads that he was: "barbarously murdered while engaged in his duty as a Special Constable during the riot of 10th August 1840". The headstone was moved from its original site in the old Methodist churchyard in Albert Road.

The **monument of Wallace Hartley**, band master of the Titanic is further down the cemetery, below the chapel, on the left of one of the main paths.

You get good views of Boulsworth Hill from the top of the cemetery.

**This is the end of walk.**



## Making your way back

You can retrace your steps to the traffic lights in Keighley Road and return to the railway station by the route you came.

**31.** Alternatively, you can take a different route to take in other places of historical interest, by turning left into Craddock Road, going down Newtown Street and turning right into West Street, previously known as **Rope Walk**. Rope makers used to twist their ropes along the street outside the factory where West Street School (built in 1906) now stands.

**32.** Pass the school, on the right. This is Midgley Street and above the car park which is the site of the old public baths, is the **Ambulance Hall** on your left, dated 1907. The curved front stone façade of this building was part of the old cattle market, called Ludgate Circus, which was demolished in 1957.



**33.** At the corner of West Street and Colne Lane is the site of a former **Baptist Chapel** and churchyard built in 1788. It is now a play area. In 1826, the Baptists sold it to the Inghamites and, then, later in the early 20th Century, it was used as a Pentecostal Church.

**34.** In Colne Lane, beyond the new housing development on the left, is **Central Hall**, which opened in 1907 as the world's' first purpose built cinema.

Continue up Colne Lane, turn left into Craddock Road and pass the furniture business and showroom which stands on the site of the former print works of Joshua Duckworth, who ran the cinema in the nearby Central Hall. Go to the top of Walton Street, where on the left the well known Cloth (Piece) Hall once stood.





**35. The Cloth Hall** was built on land donated by the Walton family of Marsden Hall in 1775. It was demolished by Colne Town Council during 1955. The Cloth Hall was considered the second finest in England, after the famous Piece Hall in Halifax.

Originally, it was built for the woolen industry to trade pieces of cloth but this was soon replaced by the growing cotton weaving industry.

The **plaque** taken from inside the Cloth Hall when it was demolished, marks the location of the former Cloth Hall and is currently set into the tarmac outside the pine show room, on the corner of Craddock Road and Walton Street.



**36.** A Sure Start Children's Centre has been built on the adjacent Cloth Hall Square, where the old **Cloth Hall Belfry** was erected after being moved from outside the old Library on Albert Road.

**37.** From the top of Walton Street, turn right into Nelson Street to Great George Street and Exchange Street, to one of the most prominent British Society Schools, the **Methodist Wesleyan School**. This building is now used by the Colne Commercial Centre and by the Open Door Centre. In the early 1900s the school was also a 'half timers' school' with a fee of 4d per week.



One of its most famous pupils was the world famous scientist, Colne born Edmondson Spencer (1885 - 1955) who was a chemist and geologist.

**38.** In Exchange Street, opposite the Colne Commercial Centre and below the old National Society [Church of England] you'll find **Exchange Street School** on the right.

**39.** Continue down Albert Road, turn left into Bridge Street (opposite the Crown Hotel). Near the top of Bridge Street, on the left, 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.

**40.** 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** (at the junction of Burnley Road and Primet Hill). 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.

**41. Greenfield Mill** (now Simpsons furniture makers)] opposite you used to be called Riverside Mill before the original **Greenfield Mill was burnt down in 1885.**

This former Corn/Cotton Mill was located further down Greenfield Road, across Whitewalls Drive (now a Local Nature Reserve).

Greenfield Road used to be one of the main routes for carrying cotton bails from the canal at Barrowford Locks to mills in Colne.

**42.** Go up Primet Hill towards the railway viaduct 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'.

**43.** Next door, near the railway viaduct is a **former Co-op Store** (now a carpet store), which also had stables for delivery horses and wagons.

Walk under the railway viaduct and back to the station car park and the start of the walk.