



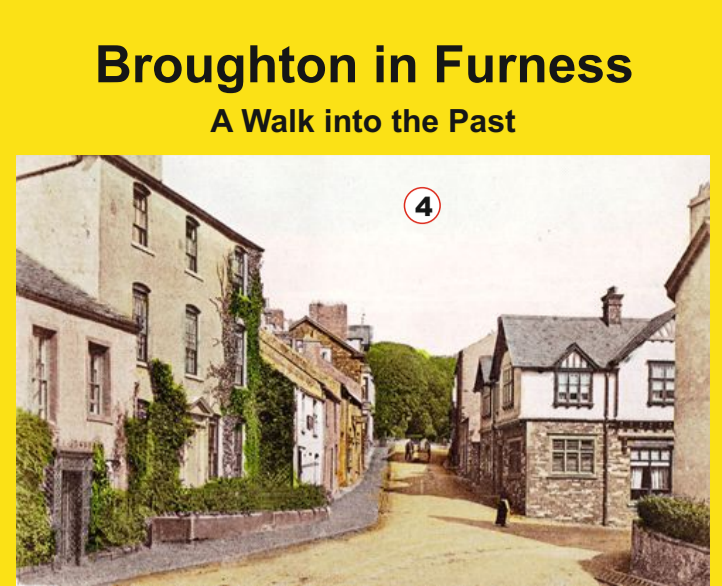
New Street 10

New Street was built in 1792 on land given by the Lord of the Manor as an easier route to Coniston avoiding the steep hill to the High Cross. Looking at this photo from one hundred years ago not a lot has changed. It's certainly worth walking a little way up the hill to see Gable Mount on the right hand side, used as a cottage hospital from 1915 for several years.



The Square 1

Villagers, geese and a cow gather in the Square for the annual reading of the Market Charter sometime before 1889, as a gaggle of geese strolls into view. A framed copy of the Market Charter, dated 1593, can be found on the wall in the Old King's Head.



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# Broughton in Furness

## A Walk into the Past

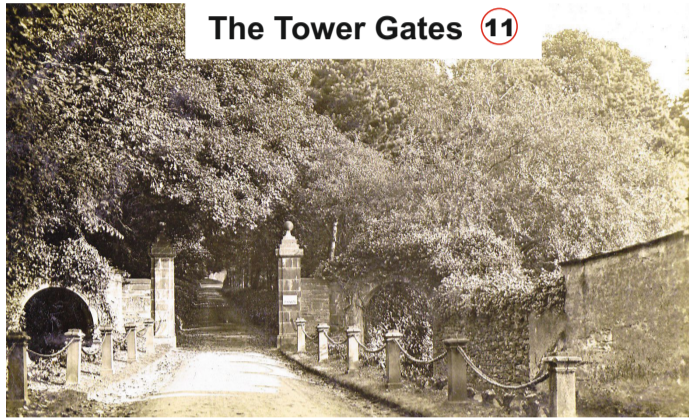
### Welcome to Broughton!

Our town's history dates back to at least Saxon times. In 1593 a Royal Charter was granted by Elizabeth I to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. In the mid-18th century the town was transformed by the building of The Square.

"Broughton is so much improved, by the late lord and the inhabitants, that it has the appearance of a new town. It has a weekly market on Friday, and a fair for all sorts of merchandise on the first day of August. The town is situated on ground sloping to the south; the plan of it is a regular square, the houses are all built of stone, are neat and commodious and being covered with slate, make a good appearance." — (A Descriptive View of Furness and it's Antiquities, Thomas West, 1805.)

Today, despite the closure of local industries, banks, solicitors and numerous shops, Broughton remains a vibrant community well served by its remaining shops and pubs. Enjoy your "Walk into the past" as you follow the numbers on the map. Begin if you can in the Square, then down Timber Hill and to the rear of Lodge Terrace. Cross over the road and follow the trail up Prince's Street and into Church Street. Follow the sign down to the church and then to the rear of the churchyard take a signposted footpath across the meadow to climb a wooden stile. Turn right across another meadow to a gate and on to the High Cross Hill. Return via Church Street and Griffin Street to the Square.

Researched by  
The Duddon Valley Local History Group



The Tower Gates 11

In the north-west corner of the Square are the imposing gate posts and drive to the Tower, the one-time residence of the Lord of the Manor. Once a fourteenth century Pele tower, the present house is largely eighteenth century with Victorian additions. It was donated together with its extensive grounds to Lancashire County Council in 1947 who converted it into a boys' residential school. Cumbria inherited it in 1974 and soon sold it for conversion into several luxury apartments. Today it is a private house with **no public access**, but can be viewed from the rear on a footpath through parkland to the north.



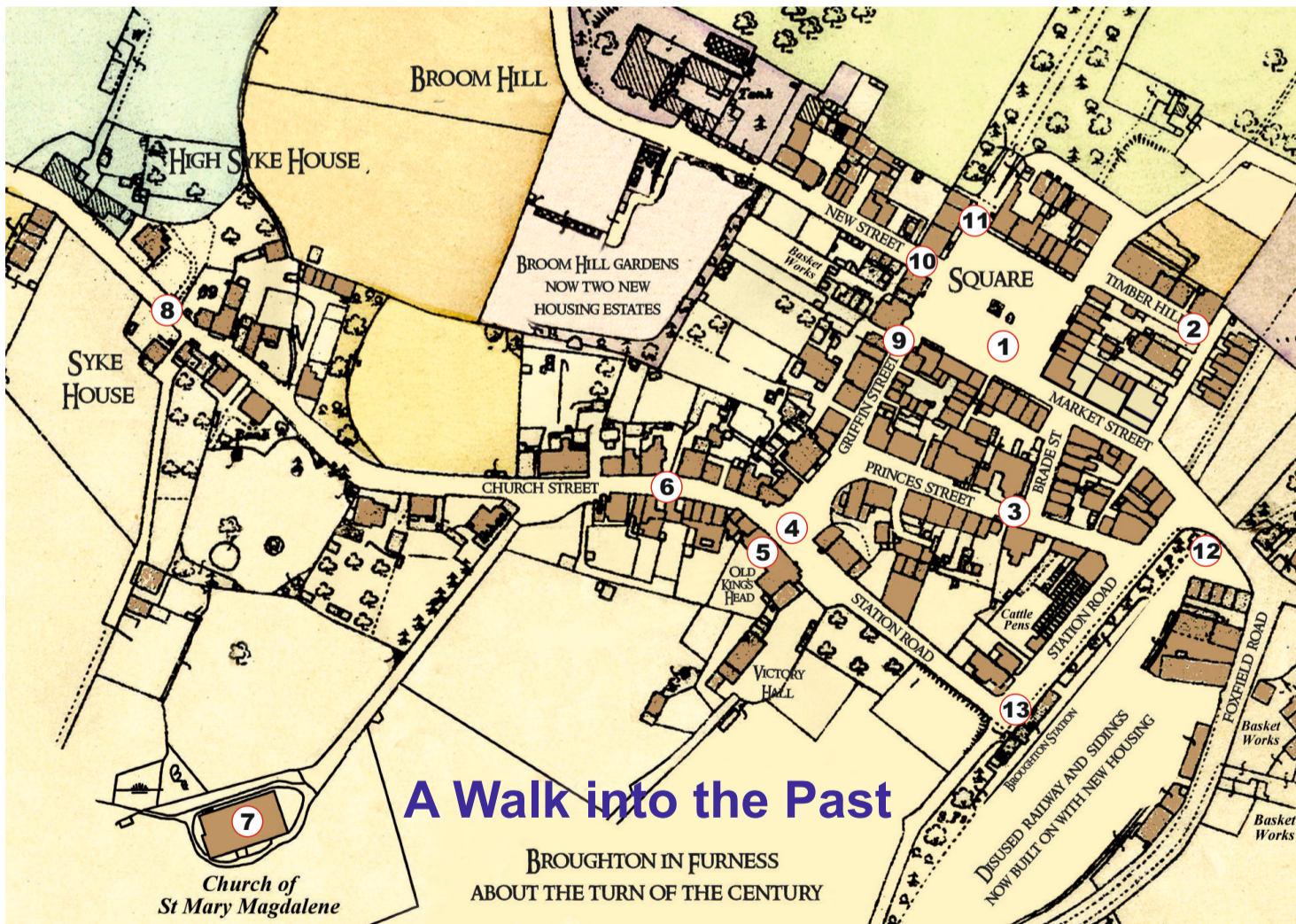
The Square 1

A very early Charter Day outside the 'King's Head' (now renamed as 'The Manor'). Note the brass band with the huge bass drum - 'a bit of a do' indeed!



Broughton Station 13

The Coniston Railway opened for passenger traffic on the 18th June, 1859 and was operational for just over one hundred years. The railway brought prosperity to the village and gave a connection to the wider world. But in 1958 passenger services ended and in 1962 the line was finally closed. The signal box has long gone and the level crossing gates are no more but the station is still there, converted into two private houses. The old railway line will now lead you on an excellent walk to quiet lakes and parkland.



## A Walk into the Past

Broughton in Furness  
About the Turn of the Century



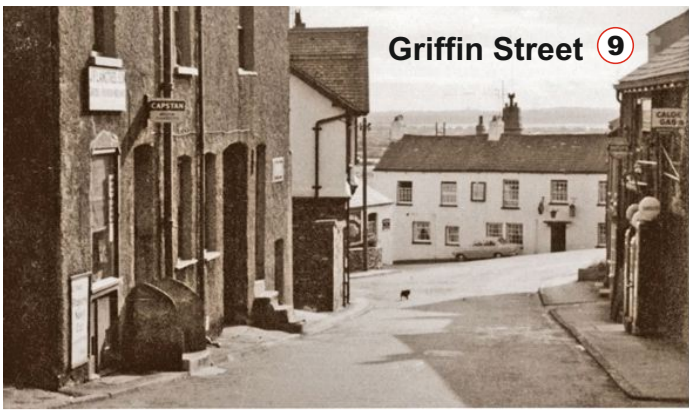
Signal Box & Crossing Gates 12



Church Street 6



Prince's Street 3



**Griffin Street 9**

It's the 1960s and hard to believe petrol pumps are there on the right with swing over arms to pump petrol into cars parked along-side. A shop on the left with every advert focussing on cigarettes completes the difference between then and now.



**Early Griffin Street 9**  
(paved with river cobbles)



**Syke House 8**

Little seems to have changed in the one hundred years since this photograph was taken but look carefully and there is a lot to see: an old farm yard and tannery hidden under an archway, a former bank and solicitors built on the site of a felt-hat maker and there was even a grocer's shop here until the mid-twentieth century. This is the oldest part of the village around the 'syke' (a Saxon word for a brook that dries up in summer) and several houses incorporate Syke into their names. Further back along Church Street was once the police station, the village school and numerous shops. It was once a bustling part of the village.



**St Mary Magdalene Church 7**

In 1900 the old tower seen here in this photo was demolished and rebuilt. The four red sandstone pinnacles at each corner of the tower were removed and preserved on gateposts and walls by the church elders. If you are observant you will find them on your walk. The graveyard contains several tombs and monuments which are grade II listed (the Atkinson Monument, two chest tombs and two table tombs). A special place.

Dating back to the early days of the village this was once the Church House Inn. It was also an important hostelry and posting station on the road from Ulverston to Whitehaven. The joining of the Whitehaven and the Furness Railways at Broughton on 29th October 1850 made Broughton an important terminus for two railway companies and was marked by a special train bringing seventy guests to a grand banquet at the Old King's Head as it had then become known. A plaque commemorating the occasion is to be found inside the dining room.

At this point on the walk the Victory Hall is clearly visible; it was built at the expense of Sir Robert Rankin, Lord of the Manor on land purchased by the Parish Council (a former bowling green belonging to the Old King's Head). It was dedicated on 1st August 1930 to the memory of those who had died in the Great War.



**The Old King's Head 5**

The Square was laid out in the 1760s by the Lord of the Manor, John Gilpin Sawrey, to remind him of the London squares of that time. The Market Hall predates the building of the Square and the seven archways would once have been open to accommodate market stalls.

The clock, a later addition, is dated 1766 and was built by William Shepherd of Millom. It still has the original movement and is wound twice a week by a villager who lives close by. A bell tower with its distinctive weather vane can be seen above the clock. No. 4 The Square was once a baker's shop and in 1886 the then squire, Mr Sawrey Cookson, put a notice on it to declare that "One piece of bread, to be eaten on the premises, is to be given to anyone passing through Broughton up to 10pm", the baker being recompensed by the squire. However in 1904 it was removed "owing to so many taking advantage of it". The wooden notice board is now kept safely in the Duddon Valley local history archives.



**The Square 1**

**The Obelisk 1**



The Obelisk was erected in 1810 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of George III and its sandstone steps have long provided a place to sit and watch the world go by. Of the thirty nine Grade II listed buildings in Broughton, only the Obelisk and the Tower are listed Grade II, "particularly important buildings of more than special interest."



**Church Street 6**



**Wool Market 4**

In the 1930s farmers drive their carts loaded with fleeces to be sold outside the Old King's Head. This was once more than just a bustling village, look carefully as you walk around the village streets and you'll see lots of evidence of former shops.



**Timber Hill 2**

Timber Hill is aptly named. This terraced row of cottages just off the Square once housed a carpenter's shop, storage barn and wood yard to the rear. Owned by the Butterfields, they lived proudly in the last house of the terrace at the bottom of Timber Hill... Butterfield House. Turning right at the bottom of Timber Hill takes you past an old kerbside petrol pump that was manufactured in Fort Wayne, Texas in the 1920s!



**Prince's Street 3**

The Brown Cow Institute started life as an ale house but was converted to a place for local meetings and somewhere to read the daily newspapers. Prince's Street is referred to on old maps as Shepherd Street and was the premier shopping street in the village. Today all of the village's remaining shops are located here but early in the twentieth century it was a much busier street containing a smithy, Co-op store, the Methodist Chapel, Post Office, the Black Cock pub, the Broughton auction market, a bank and several shops.



The intrepid Postmen outside the Post Office.



Shaw's ironmongers just above the Post Office.