

CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

'Save Our
Ancient Town
Wells'



HEALD WELL



STOCK WELL



ST. MARY'S WELL

CTWCC AUTUMN 2025 NEWSLETTER

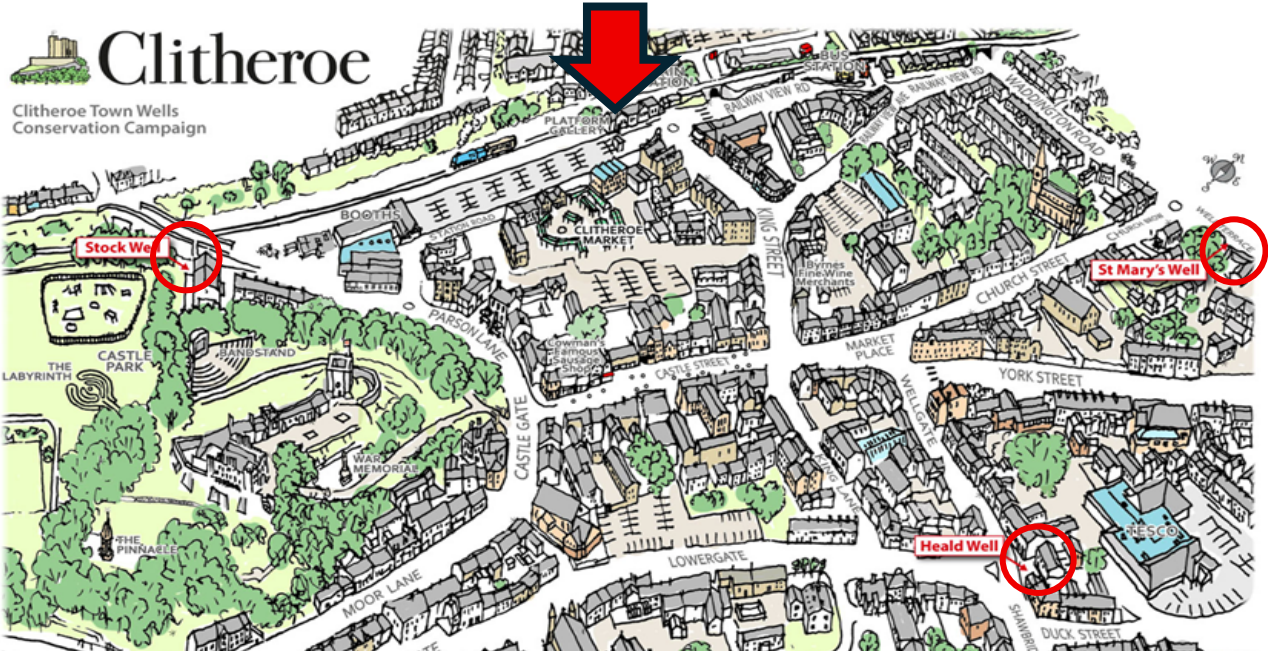
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT CLITHEROE'S THREE FORMER PUBLIC TOWN WELLS?

Well -

- No town in England is known to have three ancient Wells in such a recognisable condition.
- Most of the existing stone enclosures date back to the reign of King Henry VIII.
- They are all natural 'Spring' wells and - by research of into the origin of their existing or former names - they are confirmed as having Anglo-Saxon origins.
- These sites are older than Clitheroe Castle. They were in continuous use for a thousand years - or more - until mains water came in 1854.
- Without a clean and reliable water supply - the Anglo- Saxon '**Clyderhow**' would not have developed into today's **Clitheroe**.
- Our ancestors cleverly took advantage of the existing geological on Clitheroe's Lime-stone Reef Knoll and the interface there between porous upper and impermeable lower strata's.
- Historic England recognises their significance by their **Grade II Listed Building** Status.
- Clitheroe's Conservation Area Assessment records them as '**most notable**' for their '**distinct identity**'.
- RVBC's Core Strategy confirms '**...its Heritage Assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced**'. To date this has not been the case for our Town Wells.
- With effective stewardship, all have great Heritage Tourist potential, akin to that in the Peak District where thousands flock annually to the **Well Dressing Festivals**.
- They are unique to Clitheroe and contribute to its status as one of Lancashire's finest historic towns.
- They inspired Andy's Bowes' book, '**Reflections on the Water**,' published in 2024 - probably the best historical narrative of Clitheroe and available @ Clitheroe Library.
- All are, avoidably, deteriorating - year on year - due to the disputed ownership of Heald Well and St. Mary's Well. CTWCC is confident that '**with the will to do so**' this matter can be resolved to the lasting benefit of these sites and the ancient Parish of Clitheroe!

So, where are these Wells?

Here



Hmm, so what can I do about this?: Please read on -

CTWCC continues to develop its programme to secure a lasting future for our three ancient former Public Town Wells. In pursuit of this aim, we continue to encourage our elected Councillors and our appointed Officers to:

- Accept their Municipal & Legal abilities to adopt Heald and St. Mary's Wells - in a similar manner as done for Stock Well in 2019 - and apply to the Land Registry for 'title' to them, and**
- Regard these ancient and unique sites as the 'Communal Assets' they have always been and not 'liabilities' - which is our Council's position to date.**

The significance of 'registered title' is that - without this - funds can't be raised to commence the urgent Specialist Investigations and Repairs, nor can legal permission be granted to undertake such works to these 'Listed' sites.

At RVBC's July 2025 Full Council Meeting it is understood Council's Officers it is understood directed to "..... **prepare a report to Community Services Committee on whether there is an appropriate route that the Council could take to acquire ownership of the two remaining Wells, Heald Well and St Mary's Well, to align their guardianship following the Council's 2019, successful, application for Stock Well.**"

CTWCC and Clitheroe Town Council are convinced there is an '**appropriate route**' almost identical to that which RVBC used to register Stock Well in 2019. All that is absent is '**THE WILL TO DO SO**' !

Please visit www.clitheroe3wells.com and add your name to the list to assist CTWCC to finally get positive action for these sites from our elected representatives and Officers.

STOP PRESS!

Halloween themed '**Spirits of the Wells**' broadsheets are now, temporarily, displayed at each site, promoting a mythical aspect for each site. Subject to weather we hoped to put on a short, repeated '**Open-air, Audio-Visual presentation**' of this on All Hallows Eve. at Heald Well running between 6.00pm & 7.00pm.

Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign

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