

CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN



Heald Well



Stock Well

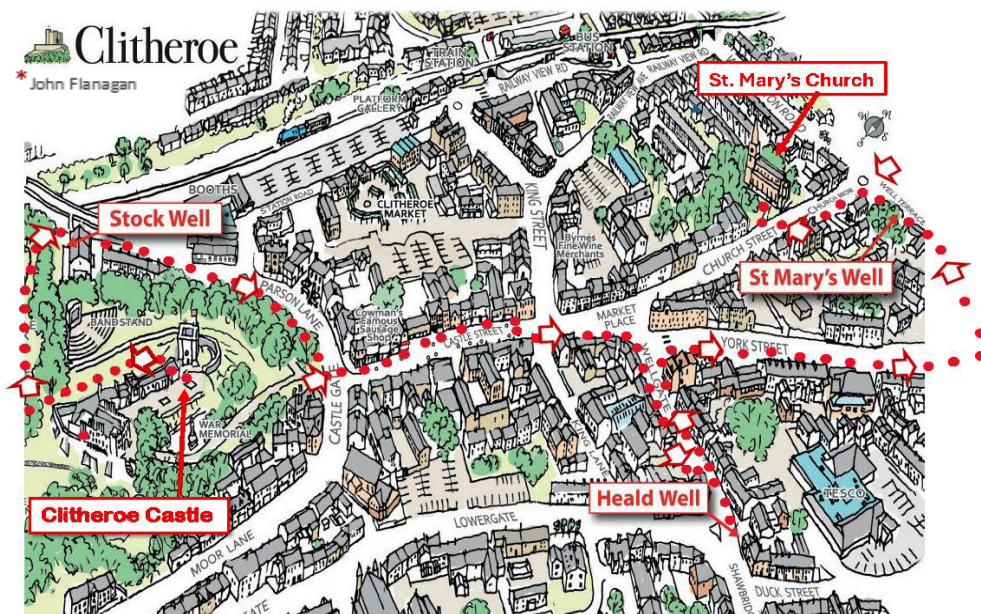


St. Mary's Well

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2025

A STROLL ACROSS CLITHEROE'S LIMESTONE RIDGE

Saturday 13th Sept. 2025 @ 10.00am & 2.00pm



Welcome:

Thank you for joining today's Heritage Open Days guided walk. Whether you are with a Guide or 'self – guiding, we or you will traverse Clitheroe's historic backbone, from its martial stronghold here at the Castle, through the temporal lifelines of its ancient pre-Norman Spring Wells sites, to its spiritual centre at St Mary Magdalene's Church.

This ridge and these sites shaped our town's evolution – by governance, faith, and daily life. The stones, spring waters, and memorials are part of the story. Today's walk is to promote the particular significance of the three former Public Town Wells which are under serious threat from long term neglect and ignorance of their significance to this ancient parish of Clitheroe."

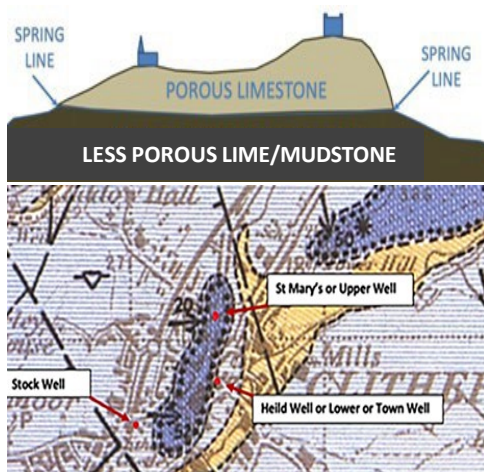
Why the Limestone Ridge¹?

Clitheroe town centre sits on what is commonly known as a ‘reef knoll’, (more correctly a Waulsortian ‘*mud-mound*’) The connection between the ridge we will cross today, and the Town Wells is that rainwater percolates through this upper porous strata then, as it encounters the near impervious mud stone sub-strata, it springs out at various points at this interface.

This was taken advantage of by our Anglo-Saxon forebears – possibly even our Brigantian Celtic ones too - as a constant source of drinking water in a strategic location. Here then was a place of secure defence with a reliable source of water surrounded by the fertile plain and woodlands of the Ribble Valley. ‘*All boxes ticked*’ for the foundation of an early sustainable settlement.

Mud-mounds were laid down in the early Carboniferous period, approximately 345 million years ago, when Britain sat close to the equator. They consist of ‘lime mud’- grey/white poorly bedded limestone, formed from microscopic organisms (down to bacteria size) with virtually no fossils contained within the mound.

There are some exceptions to this ‘rule’ though as can be seen at Clitheroe’s former Salthill Quarry now an industrial estate but with a well-directed Geological trail. Here the mud stone has been colonised by Crinoids, a plant-like marine animal. Clitheroe’s very foundations lie along this dramatic limestone knoll — a strategic backbone that offered security and a reliable source of potable water.



Annotated Extract from British Geological Society

Clitheroe Castle

Clitheroe’s limestone outcrop has long drawn the attention of rulers. Prior to the Norman’s arrival here the region had been under the stewardship of **Earl Leofric**, one of the most powerful Saxon magnates (and husband to Lady Godiva), during the reign of **King Cnut**. These layers of lordship — Danish, Saxon, Norman — reflect Clitheroe’s strategic significance on the borders of Mercia and Northumbria.

The Ribble Valley was a natural corridor for Celtic tribes, Roman legions, and medieval traders, with Roman roads skirting the castle's base and fertile lands supporting settlement and agriculture and has been labeled as part of the '*Viking Superhighway*' by linking Scandinavia with Ireland via York and Bromborough – '*Bromburg*'²



Clitheroe Castle Ribble Valley Borough Council Image

In the wake of the Norman Conquest, **Roger de Poitou**, a powerful ecclesiastical and political figure, briefly held lands in the region as part of the Honour of Lancaster. Though his tenure was short-lived — he fell from favour under King Henry I — his involvement marked a transitional moment when Anglo-Saxon landholders like **Orm the Englishman** were displaced by Norman elites.

Following Roger's 'fall', the Honor passed to **Robert de Lacy** around 1102, whose family would shape Clitheroe's destiny for generations. The castle's stone keep, likely built by Robert's grandson, also Robert, in the late 12th century, crowned the limestone crag where Orme the Englishman may once have maintained a timber fort.

From the **Battle of Clitheroe (1138)** to its role in the **Wars of the Roses** and **Civil War**, the Castle stood as both fortress and landmark. Slighted in 1649 and 'reborn' as a war memorial in 1920, it is now Clitheroe's prime heritage monument — a testimony to centuries of domination, resilience, and now community pride.



The Clitheroe Limestone Ridge: Clitheroe Library Collection

Clitheroe's Three Ancient Spring Water Wells

Before Clitheroe benefited from 'mains' piped water in 1856, water sprang naturally out of the ground around the limestone knoll bearing the Castle. This, due to the geological formation of the rock outcrop on which the medieval settlement of 'Clyderhowe' (Possibly a combination of *the Old English 'clyder' or clither' - for loose stones and 'hoh' – for hill.*)³ was built.

Here then is the natural geological and hydrological connection, wisely taken advantage of by generations of settlers here in the lee of Pendle. As indicated in the extract from the British Geological Survey above, this eventually springs out in many places around this interface.

These springs – and there could have been many more than we can see today – provided an essential and reliable source of drinking water. Initially, they would have been enclosed in some very basic form of enclosure – if at all – similar to that still visible at St Helens Well in Eshton, North Yorkshire.

Local Historian, Arthur Langshaw in '*Clitheroe's Thousand Years*'⁴ identifies the land behind '*The Alleys*', (to the North of St Mary's Well - and one of the town's oldest residential areas - as '*Springs Field*', further evidence of the geological and hydrological influence on Clitheroe place names.

History

What can be seen today of the Three Town Wells are, considered for to be for the most part, Tudor constructions. Stock Well is the most altered, with only two walls of the C16th enclosure now visible – the Victorian East & South walls. This Campaign believes the present ancient enclosures were built in response to the grant of two additional 'Fair Days' by Henry VIII. The good people of Whalley had been defaulting on revenues from the annual fairs - to the King's displeasure.



Bronze Age Wellspring Illustration

³ Andy Bowes: '*Reflections on the Water*' (ROTW) Self Published 2024

⁴ Published by The Borough Printing Co. Clitheroe 1966.

There were also ‘*...inquieting of the religious person of the said monastery.*’⁵ Consequently, in 1519, these rights were transferred to Clitheroe, the administrative centre of the ‘*Blackburnshire Hundred*’, This to Whalley’s distress - and Clitheroe’s benefit!

Fairs were the source of great interest, amusement and - particularly - revenue in Late Medieval and Tudor times. Large amounts of fresh drinking water for livestock and people would be required, hence our three public town wells so significant and substantially constructed then that they remain standing today. This provision survived until a series of local - and national – cholera outbreaks



Ancient Open Pool or Spring Well at St Helen’s, Eshton, N. Yorkshire

occurred in the mid C19th., resulting in the formation of the Clitheroe Waterworks Corporation in 1854 and the delivery of mains Water in 1856.

It is accepted that all the pre-16th dates referred to here are debatable but recent research published in ‘*Reflections on the Water*’ firmly places both Heald and Stock Well as sites which existed prior to the Norman Conquest.

This Campaign looks forward to the day when archaeological investigations can be commissioned to back up the etymological provenance of these sites being of Anglo-Saxon, if not earlier, origin. All three sites were Listed Grade II in 1950 and recognised that all were ‘**the only public water supply for the town until 1854.**’ This confirms their joint and equal significance in the supply of public water from the Tudor period (at least) until the 20th year of Queen Victoria’s reign.

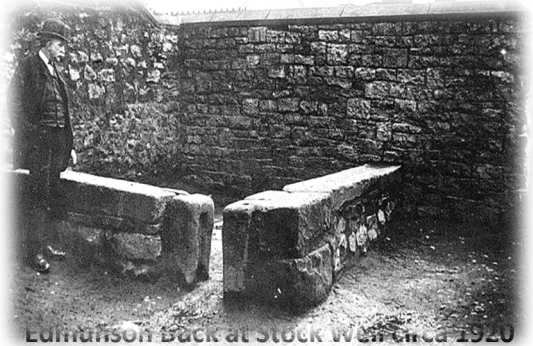
Sadly, Heald and St Mary’s have yet to be registered with HMLR. This impedes the due care for these sites which Listing warrants. This Campaign seeks to address this by raising their profile and the public consciousness via such presentations as this guided walk and other information on our website.

Now onto the Town Wells!

⁵ Bowes: ‘ROTW’

Stock Well: ‘The well at the tree stump’

Recent research into the actual meaning of ‘**Stock**’ indicates that **the name** for this well is **not** related to either the Town Stocks or to ‘**Stock Meadow**’. The latter was the ‘pinfold’ adjacent to this Well until, probably, the arrival of the railway and its marshalling yards in the 1850’s.



Recent etymological research confirms that we can say - ‘*with near complete certainty*’⁶ – that Stock Well’s name is derived from the middle/late English ‘**stocc**’- **a tree stump**’, thus this is the ‘**well at the tree stump**’.

The significance of such stumps is that they were where communal proclamations were made in pre-Norman times. Some may recognise the term ‘*On the Stump*’ which derives from an early Georgian expression and custom in both England and in America. This was where electoral candidates campaigned from town to town and stood upon a sawn-off tree stump to deliver their speech. The origin of our ‘Speakers Soapbox Corner’ perhaps.?

Stock Meadow certainly was used to marshal ‘live-stock’ coming into the town on its three Fair Days, eventually added to by Market Days. The provision of a reliable source of drinking water - for livestock and visitors alike - was now vital to support these. This is the smallest and most altered of the three public wells here. The first specific written reference we have for it is in the **Courts Leet records of 1645**.

In response to this Campaign’s intent to ‘**secure a lasting and meaningful future for all three of our town’s former Public Wells**’, Ribble Valley Borough Council (the Council) made an application to register Stock Well to Her Majesty’s Land Registry. Though no title deeds could be found for this well – not uncommon for sites of such great antiquity – the application was successful and was granted by HMLR in November 2019.

Sadly, there has been nothing done to conserve - or better interpret - this ancient heritage site since then and no further applications made for either Heald Well or St. Mary’s Well by RVBC. CTWCC continues to engage the Council on this.

⁶ Bowes: ‘ROTW’

Please take time now to look at the well-worn entrance jamb and coping stones, the result of centuries of daily use by townsfolk and frequent visitors to Clitheroe's Market Days and Fair Days in past times.



Stock Well today - only two original walls standing or visible

The raised and levelled floor is likely to have followed from an incident of 1880 when two children almost drowned! What lies beneath this Victorian intervention we can only imagine. What we can say is that, given its proximity to the Publicly owned Castle Gardens, this would be a prime site for detailed Archaeological Investigations into this site's history and the town's Pre-Norman origins.

Finally, please note the dilapidated condition of this well where walls are now moving out of alignment and original lime mortar has been replaced with inappropriately hard cement mortar. This is now cracking, and missing altogether in many places, allowing damaging water penetration and destructive frost action into the structure further advancing these problems and accelerating the dilapidation.



There can be no doubt that this site is a vital part of our town's history and is now in need of urgent and appropriate conservation along with better interpretation alongside the other two former Public Town Wells.

Heald Well: at the foot of the eponymous ‘Wellgate’.

This well has had many names including, at least, the following: **Heil/Hald/Heild Well** and was also known as **the ‘Town’ or ‘Lower’ Well**. These closely associated names – differing perhaps due to the varied pronunciation and fluid approach to spelling at the time, and subsequently Early Norman interpretation of Anglo - Saxon words, all mean the – **‘well on the slope’**.

‘Tun’ is the Old English name for a manor or homestead and the root of our present-day word **Town** - which the Norman **‘ville’** eventually competed with and **‘Lower’** probably from the Old Norse **‘lagr’**, still recognisable and in use after over 1000 years.

In the forthcoming *‘English Place Name Society Lancashire volume’* it’s referred to as **Heald Well**. This is now the adopted spelling for this site by this Campaign.



Heald Well Circa 1900: Red Rose Collection

This well is sited at - what is now - the bottom of **Wellgate** and just opposite, to the South West, is **Lowergate**. Both further indications of the town’s pre-Norman roots. These sites - by their names - are thus clearly of great antiquity, supporting the case for an Anglo-Saxon settlement here in Clitheroe - or **‘Clyderhow’ or ‘Cletherwoode’** and connect us to a settlement period prior to the building of the Norman Keep.

The earliest specific reference to **Heald/Heild Well** - or the **‘Lower’** or **‘Town’** Well - was during the last four years of Charles I’s reign when the 1645 Court Leet assembly recorded: **‘The Courts Leet annually appointed - Two for looking to cleansing both wells, i.e. the Well in Well Gate called the Heild Well and the Stock Well’**.⁷ This is the largest of our three enclosed spring wells, with a stepped central pool and a missing South- East wall – built over to accommodate what is now Wellgate Fisheries.

⁷ William Self Weeks: *‘Clitheroe in the Seventeenth Century’*, Clitheroe Advertiser & Times 1926-28

Here we can see the sunken central section with the raised paved surround enabling users to dip their buckets, flagons, or tankards into the sunken well area for refreshment as they passed over the junction of four of the town's oldest throughfares - Lowergate, Wellgate, Duck Street and Shawbridge Street.



Heald Well E. Buck circa 1910

This would have been a place of great daily, communal, gatherings as the water carriers bent or knelt on the paved, stepped, enclosed, spring-fed pool and exchanged their news and the gossip of the day. Note now the following features here too:

1. The pair of horse mounting steps flanking the NW entrance - and the wear of centuries use both display.
2. The equally smooth and worn steps into the well enclosure and the top 'coping' stones - clear evidence of the essential and prolonged use of and wear to this well caused by the iron rimmed bucket, the gloved hand, and the iron shod clog which have gone into, onto, and out of this ancient well.
3. The late Victorian or Edwardian cast iron surface water pipe which, brutally breaking into, and out of, the walled enclosure. One of the many previous visitors to this site believed this was cast at her grandfather's foundry, sited at Well Fold, the Victorian Industrial area that existed behind 28d Wellgate, immediately to the north of Heald Well, now occupied by Tesco's.

At Heald Well, let's pause for a moment before we move on. Imagine the conversations that have taken place here over the centuries: between the *Burgesses* of Clitheroe - their sons, daughters and servants; the town's tradesmen - many employed in the nearby early Victorian Industrial area of Well Fold, Also, their forebears: the Travelers and Traders entering the town from all points of the compass - and all ready to slake their thirst after a pack-horse trek over the Pennine Hills from Yorkshire, or from one of the great Lancashire ports or cities.

Think also of the weary coach, cart, or pack- horse after its own ‘in- service’ journey. Then the relief brought to beast - and man alike - by the assured provision of Clitheroe’s Limestone filtered potable water - before something a bit stronger, for the driver at one of the town’s many Inns and Public Houses!

And – perhaps - before all of these - the Normans, Angles, Saxons, Vikings. Romans and Brigantian Celts, who may also have had cause to bless the spirits of these life sustaining sites and their spring waters as they passed over – or settled on – this Carboniferous Limestone Knoll of ‘*Clyderhowe*’.

St Mary’s Well, or ‘Upper’, or ‘Over’ Well in Well Terrace

Welcome to St Mary’s or the ‘**Upper**’ or ‘**Over**’ Well. All are references used in the records of the ‘**Courts Leet**’ - established in the late C13th - but taking on many of the practices previously used to administer the pre-Conquest, Anglo- Saxon ‘Hundreds’ and ‘Wapentakes’. The first reference⁸ to St Mary’s Well, was in 1599 where ‘*Presentments*’ (*suspensions*) were recorded that ‘**Edmund Standen, Thomas Worswicke, Edward Dugdall, and Annes Deynne, for bayrnen, borne or boyrn (to wash or rinse) in the Over Well onse**’



St Mary’s Well; Edmunson Buck, Circa 1920

It’s interesting to note that many of these surnames survive here in Clitheroe to this day - though no longer under any ‘*Presentments*’ – we believe! St Mary’s Well is often considered to have been a Holy Well with all the attendant curative and ‘good luck’ power associated with such pre-Christian sites. Arthur Langshaw’s annotated copy of Lang’s 1776 map identifies this as a ‘Holy Well’. Certainly, the site’s antiquity and proximity to the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, atop the town’s limestone ridge, makes this a possibility. There’s no actual provenance for this, though it certainly does exist for many ancient wells associated with subsequent early Christian Churches.

⁸ Court Great Leet Record in Lancashire County Council Archive
Page 10 of 18

This well is the most complete and unaltered of all our three wells and was close to three of the great late medieval houses here in Clitheroe – ‘*Fishes*’, ‘*Well Hall*’ and ‘*The Alleys*’ - all now long gone.

Like Heald Well, St Mary’s does not have the benefit of a registered title with the Land Registry. The consequence of this is that no funds can be raised, or grants applied for to conserve and better interpret this site. Obtaining registration, for Heald and St Mary’s Wells, in the similar manner as was done by Ribble Valley Borough Council for Stock Well, is thus now the top priority of this revived campaign to address this issue. Take note now the following details of this most complete structure of all the towns former public wells:

1. The central walkway running, approximately, east/west and creating an unequal upper and lower division in the sunken pool complete with a central overflow channel. Was this separation for filtration on the upper incoming side? - or for clothes washing on the lower side? We are unlikely to know, for sure, pending future, hoped for, archaeological investigations.



St Mary’s Well; Edmunson Buck, Circa 1920

2. The Ordnance Survey Benchmark ‘Arrow’ incised adjacent to the West corner coping stone and the bronze mounting pin. These were used by the OS to relate local levels to the National Ordnance Datum, founded in 1921. It refers to the above ‘*mean sea-level*’ point taken at Newlyn, Cornwall and is the basis of the national datum height for all of Gt. Britain. This benchmark indicates it is 260.77 feet above the NOD in Newlyn.

3. From the well-worn gritstone cube in the centre of the lower, northerly, outfall section, it is apparent just how the iron shod washerwomen - and waterboys - could have been the cause of the extensive wear to this hardest of Northern stones after two or three centuries of near constant use – probably accompanied by much conversation too!

4. Robust Carboniferous Sandstone construction, ('Gritstone' as it is known locally), used here for the squared Copings, Jambs, Steps, and Walkway are typical of all three wells. This, as it was much easier to 'dress' these key elements neatly than the



Carboniferous Limestone, used for the roughly coursed wall stones. Today's quarrymen inform us that the Gritstone would have been from one of the many Pendle Hill 'delphs' and the Limestone from one of the many quarries between Clitheroe & Chatburn. The similarity of construction strongly suggests a similar source of materials **and** a similar construction date for all three sites

A most unfortunate incident occurred here in June 1888 when the one-year-old John Houghton drowned. It was the opinion of The Coroner's Jury at the following inquest that: ***Clitheroe Municipal Borough Corporation - remove the horse block and the square stone in the middle of the well as they were a great danger to children***. For whatever reason neither direction was acted on. The standing block remains and though the trough isn't visible now, it does remain - more or less - intact.

During work to alter the adjacent roadway and repair adjacent surface water drains in 1989 - the two chambered stone horse trough was uncovered. This is the same one referred to in the 1888 Coroner's Jury report. What older and more fascinating discoveries may lay beneath our feet here - and all the town's other ancient well sites?



Two chamber horse trough, revealed during 1989 drain repairs: Photo John Lambert.

Moving on now to the last of the sites on this '*Stroll Across Clitheroe's Limestone Ridge*':

St Mary Magdalene's Church – Clitheroe's Parish Church

The church, dedicated to Jesus' companion Mary Magdalene is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building.

Given the prominence of this site on Clitheroe's Limestone Knoll it is not unreasonable to believe this site may have been occupied as a place of worship before Norman times.



Red Rose Collection: Medieval St Mary's Clitheroe

The first recorded church here dates to 1122, during the reign of William the Conquerors' youngest son, Henry 1, when it was granted by him to Pontefract Priory. In the early 15th century, the original structure was rebuilt. The tower and east window from this phase are the only parts which still stand today. That church was similar to St Mary's Church in Whalley, most of which remains today.

By 1831 Clitheroe's population was around 5000 souls and the medieval church could only hold 500 people. The new church building was begun in 1828 designed by Thomas Rickman & Henry Hutchinson and consecrated in 1829 – an incredible achievement for the times.

Rickman was responsible for the classification of Medieval Gothic Styles into their four 'periods' – **'Norman', 'Early English', 'Decorated' and 'Perpendicular'** - and was in the vanguard of the Gothic Revival. Prior to this commission he was responsible for Clitheroe's New Town Hall, at the bottom of Church Street, which replaced the medieval Moot Hall.



Vanadalsed C15th ? figures in the Alleys Chapel depicting a knight and his wife

The spire, added in 1846, became a local landmark - though it developed a lean and was rebuilt in 1969, and again in 2012 due to the expansion of corroding ferrous '**cramps**'. The clerestory and timber roof were added in 1898 by Frederick Robinson, '*enhancing light and verticality*'. In 1969 the top 18' of the spire was rebuilt; in 1979 a fire led to substantial repair to the church interior. In 2010 the roof was completely reslated with Burlington slates from the Lake District and in 2012 the spire was completely rebuilt. In 2017 the Sanctuary was completely reordered and the alter brought forward from the Sanctuary to the front of the Chancel.

Some of the many notable features⁹ in St Mary's include:

- Vandalised Reformation/Civil War?), alabaster figures in the South Chapel, believed to commemorate members of the Radcliffe family, prominent in the area during the late medieval period. (see above)
- Brass plaque in the Alleys Chapel commemorates polymath **Dr. John Webster**, astrologer and headmaster, who died in 1682. Author of "***The Displaying of Supposed Witchcraft***" (1677), in which he argued that witchcraft accusations were rooted in superstition, not evidence—an unusually progressive stance in post-Pendle Witch Trial England; "***Metallographia***" (1671), documenting mineral discoveries in the area.
- North & South galleries are carried on slender cast iron columns an early innovation of Rickman's he was to use widely on many of his Church commissions



⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary_Magdalene%27s_Church,_Clitheroe

- Piscina In the south side of the chancel, is the ‘ogee’ headed ‘*piscina*’ (see adjacent) which is from the late medieval church.
- The octagonal font is - possibly - 17th century but stands on a 20th-century suggesting it may have been relocated from an earlier in front of the principle West End entrance.
- On the north chancel wall is a ‘funerary hatchment’, and wall tablets to the Aspinall family with dates in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the north aisle is an alabaster memorial to those who died in the both World War. A more recent ‘chapel area’ has been created in front of this now.
- There is heraldic stained glass in the east window, with some fragments of medieval glass possibly, if not probably, salvaged from the late medieval Church.
- The ‘four-manual’ organ was rebuilt in 1961 by Nicholson, repaired twice by Sixsmith in 1970 - and again in 1982 (after fire damage - and most recently in 2007 by Principal Pipe Organs.
- There is a ring of eight bells in the West end tower cast and hung by Gillet & Johnston Of Croydon in 1928.



The Ogee Piscina

The care of this church is a continuous process and costs born largely by its Parishioners who are its owners and stewards. *Donations to assist with this will be most gratefully received by the Church Wardens.*



The Aspinall Funerary Hatchment

St Mary's is a testament to the continuing *spiritual* significance to the Parishioners of this Ancient Parish of Clitheroe/Clyderhow. Along with the *martial* significance of its Castle and the *temporal* significant of the town's three former ancient Public Wells - they are THE most sustaining and defining features of the Parish and define its unique sense of place. Long may this continue and thrive into the future.

References & Resources:

Clitheroe Castle:

Clitheroe Castle Archaeological Report by Oxford Archaeology North (2008)

<https://eprints.oxfordarchaeology.com/2203/1/Complete%20Report.pdf>

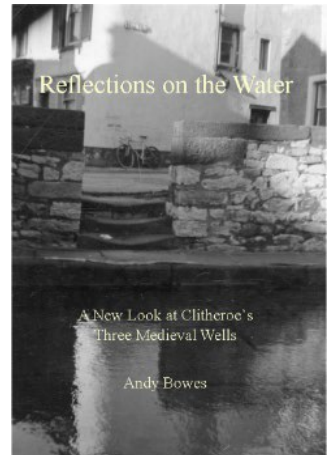
Clitheroe Castle: A Guide by David Best. Publisher: Carnegie Publishing:

<https://www.carnegiepublishing.co.uk/product/clitheroe-castle/>

Clitheroe Town Wells:

Andy Bowes Book Launch & Signing of ***Reflections on the Water : A new Look at Clitheroe's Three Medieval Wells***.

This book was Launched in the Moot Hall on Sat. 7th Sept. 2024 by the author, our own Clitheroe Library Assistant Librarian, Andy Bowes. This new publication uses the three, spring water sites - and their development into three Public Town Wells - as the *'stream'* for one of, if not the, deepest narrative histories of this ancient Parish. This book is on sale at Clitheroe Library.



'Water From The Well':

Clitheroe's Ancient Town Wells Video

Local & Marine Historian, Steve Ragnall, (a member of the CTWCC Team, has produced an excellent 30min video on Clitheroe's former Public Wells. This can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QLVI0PKLJ4>



Clitheroe St. Mary Magdalene's Parish Church

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Clitheroe – Wikipedia Article:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary_Magdalene%27s_Church,_Clitheroe

St. Mary Magdalene's Parish Church website: <https://stmarysclitheroe.co.uk/>

St. Mary Magdalene Clitheroe: Its History and Mysteries. Linda Allen Ainsworth MA
Self Published and on sale in the Church

‘Concluding Resume’

We are fortunate to retain such monuments to the indigenous bond the first settlers here had with the natural environment and one of its prime elements – **drinking water**. These sites were rigorously tended by our municipal forebears during their millennial service to this town and long after! This confirms their significance to the town’s history, ancestors and descendants. This stewardship has regrettably stalled since the turn of the last Century.

This campaign aims to see this care and appreciation restored for the beneficial reflection of present and future residents and visitors to Clitheroe. Far too many similar sites have been lost forever. This should not be the fate of Heald Well, St. Mary’s Well and Stock Well and – as stated in their own words.

THE ANCIENT WELLS OF CLITHEROE

*Even we, can not recall
Who owned the land, who enclosed with walls.
But here we remain, here we still stand
Since clash of Roses, over wild northern lands
and we served all, well!*

*As charters were writ, our pure waters ran free
We slaked your thirst; you filled your canteen.
All partook freely, with rarely a thought
Of where, by whom, this bounty was wrought
Yet still, we served you, well!*

*With clear and free water, you prospered, then grew
Then - beyond our means - too many of you.
Dams, pipes and valves are now your supply.
Yet still we were cared for – and the reason why,
For we had served you, well!*

*Thirsty minds we’ll still slake - with will to look,
for Histories ran through us - from crag down to brook.
We’re all ancient sites - happen th’oldest in t’land,
With a great story to tell – if you’ll now lend a hand,
To save those that served you - Well?*

This concludes this guided tour of five of the most significant sites in this Parish. They admirably display the Medieval Military bastion, the emerging Victorian Gothic Revival Church, and the vital temporal Vernacular Architecture containing our former Public Wells - all created to meet the needs for **security, sustenance and spiritual support** - they define this ancient Parish of Clitheroe.

CLITHEROE WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

As seen on 



Sign our petition to get **Ribble Valley Borough Council** to accept its ownership of Heald Well and St Mary's Well.

Your support will help convince **RVBC** to accept their responsibility, at no cost to the public purse, and help us preserve the historic heritage of Clitheroe. ***This is your chance to help us save the wells!***

OUR WELLS NEED
YOU



Please scan this QR code and sign the petition at www.change.org

AT RISK



Heald Well - at Wellgate outside the Dog & Partridge Pub

AT RISK



St Mary's Well - Well Terrace beside the Grammar School

SAVED!



Stock Well - Castle Park entrance at Trinity Church

Go to www.clitheroe3wells.com and find out about the history of the wells and how water was important to the making of Clitheroe.

The Campaign's aims are promoted on our Website @ www.clitheroe3wells.com Messages can also be left there. Direct contact can also be made via by email to the Secretary @ sbcaltd@outlook.com

Please also note our Change.org Petition accessible via our Website or the QR Code above.