

INTERESTING PLACES TO SEE IN MIDDLETON

1 LONG STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Designed by Edgar Wood, the Middleton-born architect responsible for some of the town's most impressive buildings, Long Street Methodist Church was both a church and a Sunday school. Originally called the Wesleyan Chapel and Schools, it opened in 1901 after being designed by Wood four years earlier.



6 MIDDLETON OLD CEMETERY

The cemetery is split over three sites around St Leonard's Church and is the resting place of the great and the good from the town's past. Famous sons buried here include political radical Samuel Bamford and renowned Old Grammar School headmaster Edward Jelly. Only those who own an existing grave can now be buried here.



2 OLD BOAR'S HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE

Not just a pub, the Olde Boar's Head has also been a type of court where locals would be tried, and some even condemned to death in its nineteenth century session rooms. Believed to date back to 1587, it lies on an old Roman Road linking York and Chester. Famous former customers include Samuel Bamford who popped in for a pint and to recite his poetry.



7 TWENTY FOUR STEPS

Immortalised by LS Lowry in his painting 'The Chapel', the Twenty Four Steps on Boarshaw Road used to lead to the now demolished Morton Street Methodist Church.



3 MIDDLETON LIBRARY & JUBILEE PARK

Opened by Lord Brassey to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1889, this former private-garden was bought by the old Middleton Borough Council to provide a recreation ground and free library for the town.



4 MIDDLETON FLOOD MEMORIAL

On July 11th 1927 the Rochdale Canal burst its banks at Mills Hill and merged with the River Irk sending a wall of water heading towards the town. Fred Hall, 16, Charles Heaton, 58, and Joseph Stansfield, 76, all died while trying to save others from the flood. The memorial stone was erected in Jubilee Park to remember those that died.



5 EDGAR WOOD EXEDRA

Designed by Edgar Wood in 1906 to link the Parish Church to the park, the Exedra is inscribed with the phrase: "Who works not for his fellows starves his soul. His thoughts grow poor and dwindle and his heart grudges each beat, as misers do a dole."



8 SAMUEL BAMFORD MONUMENT

Following his death in 1872, the public paid for a permanent memorial to recognise Bamford's contribution to the town. It opened in October 1877. Bamford was a poet and political radical and reformer who was a key figure in securing better rights for workers in Victorian Britain.



9 ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Believed to be the oldest building in the Manchester Diocese, a church has stood on the site of St Leonard's since records began. From a simple wooden church, it has been rebuilt and extended several times, most notably in 1412 by Cardinal Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham and former Chancellor of England and by Sir Richard Assheton in 1524. The wooden steeple was added in 1667 and is believed to be one of only three in the whole country.



10 RING O'BELLS PUBLIC HOUSE

The Ring O'Bells is one of Middleton's oldest pubs. Originally a house, it served its first pint in 1836. It was named Ring O'Bells because of its proximity to St Leonard's Church and its bell tower.



11 PETERLOO PLAQUE / LOOM HOUSE

Samuel Bamford led Middleton Contingent of the town's workers from Barrowfields to Manchester on August 16th 1819 to take part in a massive demonstration to demand improved rights and working conditions for the common man. A number of protestors were massacred and sixteen people from the town were injured in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre. A blue plaque stands at 69 Morton Street to commemorate where the march from Middleton began.



12 OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Before the Old Grammar School was built, children had been taught in the Parish Church. Known as Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, it was founded by Alexander Nowell in 1572, following the dying wish of his brother Robert to "Forget not the Middleton School... where we were taught in our youth". It opened in 1586.



Its most famous headmaster was James Jelly, whose name can still be heard today as the stream running alongside the school is known locally as Jelly's Brook. He is buried in Middleton Cemetery.

13 SAMUEL BAMFORD'S HOUSE MEMORIAL

Although his former house no longer exists, a memorial garden was built on the site which includes a large boulder featuring a plaque taken from his old house at 61 Union Street.



14 TONGE HALL

Believed to date back to 1582, this Grade II-listed hall was home to the Tonge family for many generations. The building was damaged in an arson attack in 2007.



15 HOPWOOD OLD HALL

Sited on the grounds of Hopwood Hall College, and within Hopwood Woods, this Grade II listed building dates back to Tudor times. It was home to the Hopwood family, who were related to the powerful Middleton family, until 1923.



16 ALKRINGTON HALL

Built in 1735 for the wealthy Lever family, who dominated the area known as Alkrington, the hall is believed to have been built on the site of a much old manor house.



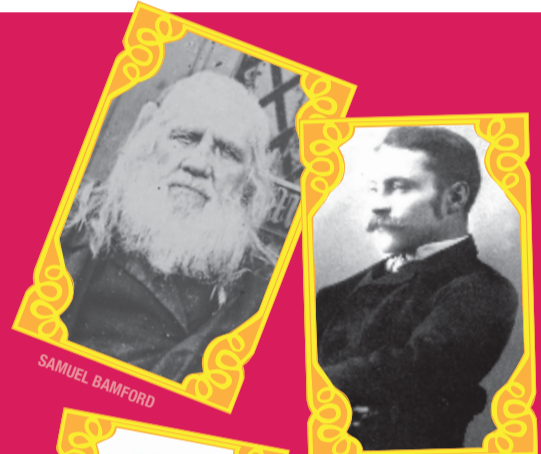
Famous Middleton People

SAMUEL BAMFORD

Born in Middleton in 1788, Bamford attended the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School before working as a weaver, seaman, warehouse man and loom operator.

During his time at sea he began to write poetry and soon turned his pen against the government and its corn laws to demand better rights and working conditions. A renowned political radical and reformist he published 'Passages in the life of a Radical' and 'Early Years'.

He married Jemima Shepherd in 1810, and had a daughter Ann. They lived at 61 Union Street, Cheapside. He died in 1872 and was buried in Middleton Cemetery.



LADY SUSAN HOPWOOD

The original green campaigner, Lady Susan Fanny Hopwood worked to cut the smog and smoke hanging over the town and even took mill owners to court for polluting the air with the coal they burnt. She was the wife of Edward Gregge Hopwood of the Hopwood family. Edward inherited the Hopwood estate in the 1850's. Both he and his wife were caring members of the community, and Susan Hopwood was affectionately known as Lady Hopwood by locals.

EDGAR WOOD

After attending the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wood trained as an architect and set up a practice in the town.

He was responsible for designing some of the town's most interesting buildings including Long Street Methodist Church, Elm Wood Primary School and Durnford Street School. He also redesigned the roof inside St Leonard's Church in 1902.

A keen artist, Wood was born in Middleton and 1860 and died in Italy in October 1935, leaving a lasting legacy of Arts and Crafts and Modernist buildings that are admired throughout the world today.

On his death bed Robert Nowell instructed Alexander to remember their old school in Middleton, and in doing so Alexander used Robert's funds together with endowments from Queen Elizabeth I and Brazenose College, Oxford to build the Old Grammar School.

FREDERICK WILLIAM JACKSON

FW Jackson was born in 1859 at Middleton Junction. He was a friend of Edgar Wood and as boys the two would go on sketching tours. He studied at Oldham school of Art before travelling the world. He finally settled in Yorkshire where he painted the sea and countryside. His best known local paintings are of Middleton's last Handloom weaver, Sunday Morning at the Parish Church, and Rushbearing.

He died in 1918 and is buried at Middleton New Cemetery in Boarshaw – his grave was designed by Edgar Wood. Can you find it?



CARDINAL THOMAS LANGLEY

After being born and bred in the town, Langley went on to be Chancellor under three Kings and the Bishop of Durham. One of the town's three secondary schools, Cardinal Langley High School, is named after him.

He paid for the rebuilding of the Parish Church in 1412 and also founded the first school in the town which opened in 1412.

RICHARD ASSHETON

Lord of the Manor of Middleton from 1480 to his death 1538, Richard Assheton led the Middleton Archers to the Battle of Flodden and was knighted by Henry the VIII for his efforts. His former home, Middleton Hall, once stood where the town's Arena now stands.

NOWELL BROTHERS

Alexander and Robert Nowell were brothers from Pendle who travelled to Middleton to go to school at St Leonard's Church. Robert Nowell went on to be a wealthy lawyer in London, while Alexander was Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

MIDDLETON ARCHERS

The Middleton Archers were a company of local Archers that used to practice in the area we now call Archer Park as well as on Jubilee Park, and Bowlee.

In 1513, a large Scottish army led by King James IV invaded England. The Middleton Archers helped defeat the Scots in what was known as the Battle of Flodden. 17 local Archers took part in this Battle.



This trail and guide map has been developed by young people participating in Pride Media Association's Young Roots Heritage Lottery Project, Rooted in Midd. This innovative project enabled young people from across Middleton to explore the heritage of their town through research, exploration of historic buildings, photography, drama and other creative media over a 12 month period.

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For more information and photographs on the sites featured in this Trail or to download additional copies of the Trail Guide please visit:
www.middleton-heritage-trail.org.uk
Alternatively, scan the QR Code on the left

Middleton Heritage Trail

Take a walk back in time!

