

Throughout Selby there are **plaques** to commemorate places in town that are linked to important people and events in Selby's history. These plaques are in place to highlight or explain the hidden heritage. Also look out for **Civic Society markers (1)** showing good urban design.

Start at the west end of Gowthorpe, beyond the traffic lights at Scott Road. At **117 to 125 Gowthorpe (2)** are gothic-style almshouses built for the poor of Selby by **James Audus**. The Latin words imply that these houses were built out of his love for his birthplace, Selby. Walk back towards town and on the same side are more **almshouses (3)**, built by the feoffees charity in the 19th century.

Cross the traffic lights and walk east up the right-hand side of Gowthorpe. There is another reminder of the Audus family in **Audus Street (4)**. John Audus and son James were ship owners, traders and benefactors to the town during the 19th century.

Cross Gowthorpe, go right and then left down Finkle Street. On the right **(5)** is the birthplace in 1761 of **Smithson Tennant**. In 1801 he discovered the metal elements iridium and osmium and later became Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge University. Tennant is also honoured with a street in his name, off Flaxley Road.

Continue to Micklegate and at the north end is The Quay. Here, in 1828 **Sir Jonathan Hutchinson (6)** was born. His achievements as a surgeon, botanist and educator are detailed in the foyer of the old Selby museum, visited later in the walk.

Also on The Quay is the **Abbot's Staithe (7)** which was the site of Selby's main riverside trade until the 19th century. The building itself is a fine survival of a medieval monastery warehouse.

Be careful of the working environment and by turning right at the bottom of The Quay, you can inspect the detail of the building.

Exit The Quay, turn left and go cautiously along the narrow pavement of Water Lane. Turn right at Church Hill and walk towards the Abbey.

On the right at the junction with Wren Lane, we must doff our caps at Selby's brush with majesty. Around here was the original parish church. **In this vicinity (8)**, King Henry I is said to have been born. Written evidence is still needed in confirmation.

Return to Church Lane and the Abbey is ahead. Veer right and there is a grassed area that includes the **Cholera graveyard (9)**. Here around 200 townsfolk are buried.

At the end of Abbey Place turn left and face the front of the Abbey. On the right, and stretching beyond the Abbey, is a row of properties called **The Crescent (10)**. John Audus planned and built this, having been inspired by Lansdowne Crescent in Bath.

Walk up The Crescent, noting the high quality of building, and along New Street towards the river bridge. The Abbey Gatehouse, whose foundations were recently revealed in the Market Place excavations, was demolished to allow these streets to be built. Traders now had a direct route to the bridge and river. Formerly, goods went a longer way via Water Lane.

At the traffic lights, turn left and you come to **Corunna House (11)**, a listed Georgian building described as "the finest house in Selby". The proportions of the windows, the quality of the brickwork, the cowl over the main entrance, the coach-height archway and parapet all appeal.

Return to the traffic lights and cross directly over.

On the right hand side, there is a plaque at the site **(12)** of the former Customs House. A building like this showed the opulence of Selby in the early years of the railway and canal boom, 1780 – 1850. By clearing customs inland in Selby, exporters' goods could speed through ports like Hull and Goole.

Selby also had the **first railway station** in Yorkshire, built in the 1830s. Just beyond the rail bridge is the **goods shed (13)**. Imagine the scale of the trade from the door and wheel dimensions.

Retrace your steps and turn left up Station Road.

Across Park Street is a building designed to mimic a Greek temple. This was a further attempt to gentrify the Abbey area of town.

Formerly the Salvation Army citadel and the town museum, what is now **Caesar's Restaurant** has details of **Jonathan Hutchinson's life (14)** on a plaque in the foyer.

Cross Park Street, head towards the Abbey, go left up Abbey Yard and left at the end to come to the Abbey Vaults pub **(15)**. This is on the site of the massive **Tithe Barn**, demolished in 1892. At the far side of the pub yard is a wall built of stone from the original barn. This stored the grain and other agricultural products paid to the Abbey as its due. "Tithe" means tenth and this fraction of produce was given to the Abbey.

Go back and turn right in front of the supermarket. Follow the path by the playing fields, locally styled the "Bowling Green", and across the road to the Civic Centre. In the foyer, a plaque records a more modern event, the **removal of tolls (16)** and so traffic chaos from Selby Bridge on 19/9/91. One hundred and ninety nine balloons were released to mark the end of 199 years of tolls.

Leave the Civic Centre, cross Portholme Road and head left, then right up New Lane. On the corner is the **subscription school of 1811 (17)**, another improvement to Selby linked to the Audus family.

Follow New Lane and on the left is **Stander Hall (18)**, named to honour the influential Stander family who helped to improve sanitation and so remove the scourge of cholera.

At the top of New Lane, on the old town offices, a plaque mentions the **Liversidge family (19)**. They were businessmen and civic leaders in Selby about 100 years ago. Their agricultural business had a fine building that still exists on Ousegate, seen earlier at the Customs House site.

Turning left onto Gowthorpe points you towards the start of the walk.

This leaflet is part of a series covering Selby's Hidden Heritage. This circular walk is approximately two miles long; some places have narrow pavements. Please take appropriate care.

The other leaflets in the series are:

First Rate Ousegate: Stroll along the street that was Selby's hub.

Signs & Symbols on the Shopfront: Unlock the mystery of street-side signs and symbols.

Selby in the 20th Century: Some surprising examples of modern architecture.

Selby Canal Towpath Tour: From the industrial lock basin to tranquil countryside, by the Canal.

Selby has a rich and proud heritage in shipbuilding, agriculture, manufacturing and transport. By observing what remains and looking at how new developments have absorbed these influences, the often-hidden history that is all around us can be brought to light.

The maps used are illustrative only. Information is accurate at the time of writing in Spring 2009.

If you would like a large print copy of this publication or for further information on all the topics covered in these leaflets contact Groundwork North Yorkshire on 01757 703758 or email northyorkshire@groundwork.org.uk.

There is a huge range of sources and expertise concerning local history at Selby Library. Contact them on 0845 034 9540 or email selby.library@northyorks.gov.uk.

For information about the Selby Civic Society contact 01757 268418.

Selby's
Hidden
Heritage

Plaque
Parade

This project is supported by:



Guide to the walk



Throughout the walk
Civic Society signs showing good design.

West end of Gowthorpe
Commemorative plaques.

Micklegate and The Quay
Plaques for Jonathan Hutchinson and
Smithson Tennant.

Around the Abbey
Cholera memorials and The Crescent.

Along Ousegate
Plaques concerning Corunna House, Railway
Station and the former Customs House.

Goods shed
Massive doors, wheels and a lintel of 1841.

Park Street
Temple-style frontage. Detail of Hutchinson's
life in the foyer.

Civic Centre foyer
Plaque recording removal of bridge tolls.

New Lane
Dedication plaques.

