

Plaques and memorial plates can be both ancient and modern. This walk takes you past commemorative tablets covering events from 1068 to 2010.

Start at **Selby Community Centre (1)**, which was opened in 1977 using funds gained from the sale of the lease of the former Town Museum in Park Street. Plaques inside describe the dedication to World War II servicemen. The field between the Centre and Abbey Park Shopping Centre is called Memorial Field for the same reason.

Walk across this field towards town.

Looking at Selby's skyline, the spires of four major religious buildings, from right to left, St Mary's Catholic, former Primitive Methodist Chapel, St James' and the Abbey – can be seen.

Walking through the shopping centre, a typical **"Three Swans of Selby" (2)** sign notes the construction in 1998.

Continue into Finkle Street, turn left into Micklegate, and towards the Post Office

Fine children's mosaics (3), with scenes from Selby's history are on the frontage.

Turn right and take a snicket before 'The Griffin'.

An **enamel sign (4)**, possibly from the 1950s, shows how firmly pavement bikers were then regarded.

This path leads you to the Cholera Burial ground. Turn left on arrival.

The first of several fine foundation stones on this walk is on the **Hawdon Institute (5)** to your left. The name commemorates a philanthropic 19th century Selby family.

Continue on this path

A Civic Society **"Good Design" award (6)** celebrates the quality of the Edwardian houses with highly decorated 'Queen Anne Revival' façades.

Turn right and follow the railings

A classic **"Blue Plaque" (7)** marks the birthplace, according to tradition, of King Henry I.

Turn left here, follow the road gently downhill and carefully cross the road.

Ahead is another **Civic Society plaque (8)**, describing the founding of the first, wooden Selby Abbey in this area. Turn right, and at the bottom of the slope are the Amphitheatre and Riverside Walk, opened in 2009. The historic roundels and statuary are covered in the 'Selby Timeline' leaflet. **Two plaques (9)** explain the development and its award.

At the Amphitheatre, facing the Abbey, turn right, and proceed carefully along the narrow pavement.

At ankle level on the limestone frontage is an odd metal plate. The **Bench Mark (10)** is a "flush bracket", from the 1920s. These were part of an Ordnance Survey national network of points at which height above sea level had been precisely measured. They are often cut into stone on churches or bridges. In this case the mark is in the metal. "5838" is just a reference number.

Turn round, walk towards the traffic lights and cross the bridge.

On one of the stanchions on the left hand side is a **builder's plate (11)**, marking the reconstruction of the "Toll Bridge" of 1792 in 1969/1970. Following further work on the bridge in Spring 2011, these plaques may have been removed or augmented. Electric motors swing the bridge horizontally to give a 31' wide channel for the small amount of shipping that now comes to Selby.

Continue to walk across the bridge.

On the bridge house there are more **builder's plates (12)** noting other renovations and, on the far side some of the enormous cogs that were involved in the manual operation of the original bridge. Their action is described on a plate on the far wall of the bridge house **(13)**

Return across the river and directly across the lights. 100 yards further, on the left, is Selby Park.

Inside the Park is a small **cenotaph (14)**. Cenotaph is from the Greek for "empty tomb" and is a monument to the unknown dead and so a focus for communal mourning. Nearby is a **plaque (15)** with an appropriate biblical quote.

Return to the lights and turn left. Cross the road to stand in front of the Abbey.

Ahead is a classic market town hotel, "The Londesborough". After the Dissolution of the Abbey in 1539, its ability to take in travellers was removed, so coaching inns such as the Londesborough developed to offer hospitality.

The hotel is a mid 18th century building, originally "The George", but now named after Lord Londesborough, the major landowner in Selby from the 1850s onwards. The family **coat of arms (16)** and motto, translated as "With my virtue I repel adversity" face the square. This is the highest point in Selby town centre and the only part of the town to stay dry in the 1947 floods. A **metal tablet (17)** records the 2009 redevelopment.

On the railings beyond the Abbey, a plate explains the **cholera outbreak (18)** of the 19th century, whose victims lie buried under the grassed area to your left

Cross the road and go down the snicket, over Market Lane and into the Market Cross shopping area.

On your right is a more **modern foundation stone (19)**. This new development was opened in 1984, and is a typical example of that decade's style.

Continue ahead through the car park.

Another foundation stone is on **Selby Abbey School (20)**. 1920s calligraphy in a Macintosh style marks the school's opening in 1923.

Retrace your steps and go left through the car park onto New Lane. Turn left again and you will come to St James' Church.

To the left of the church are the 1834 **almshouses (21)** of St Mark's Square.

Go down a snicket, with the church on your right.

On turning left at the end, the Audus Memorial School of 1874 is to your right. The **triangular pediment (22)** commemorates the opening of this Sunday School, along with the adjacent St James' Church. The building also functioned as a dining hall for Selby Abbey School; a polling station; a wartime refectory for servicemen, before latterly becoming a snooker hall. Now converted into flats, behind the **foundation stone of 1874 (23)** at the base of the left hand wall is a time capsule.

Continue along the back alley, with the hall to your right. Turn right and right again at the end.

The building in front of you is **Laurie Backhouse Court (24)**, a sheltered housing development of the 1980s, named after a councillor of the time. Compare these "almshouses" with those in St Mark's Square.

Go forward, via a car park and right up Gowthorpe.

Notice the engraved street sign **"South Parade" (25)**. Small private streets to the right, Turners Square and Milton Place, remain as examples of Victorian "back yard" housing which was common in Selby until the 1960s. Up an alley marked "23A" is a path into a small garden area to the rear of the former Quaker Meeting House. Here are both modern **children's ceramic tiles (26)** contrasting with **ancient Quaker memorials (27)**. Several of these come from a 17th century Quaker burial ground linked to Drax Abbey.

The adjacent St James' church hall has a fine **foundation stone (28)** dedicated to Elizabeth Standerling of another important Victorian family in Selby.

In contrast to the carved street names, the **"St James Terrace" sign (29)** is one of the few remaining blue enamel street signs in Selby.

Return to Gowthorpe, cross the road, left at the "Abbey Walk" awning to return to the shopping precinct. The Community Centre is beyond the supermarket.

This leaflet is part of a series covering aspects of Selby's Hidden Heritage.

Selby has a rich and proud heritage in shipbuilding, agriculture, manufacturing and transport. These leaflets aim to raise the awareness of this urban inheritance.

The maps used are illustrative only. Information is accurate at the time of writing in Spring 2011.

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.

Plaque Parade: A tour around sites linked with famous people and events in Selby's history.

The Selby Timeline: Stroll past artwork celebrating a millennium of Selby in a fine riverside setting.

Selby Town Hall: Chapel, clinic, car repairs and civic symbol, the story of over a century of the building's public uses.

Selby's Railway Stations: The detail of Yorkshire's first railway station of 1834 and its subsequent replacement of 1840.

Copies of these leaflets are available from Selby Library, Groundwork North Yorkshire offices, Selby Civic Centre. Online at www.groundwork.org.uk/nyorkshire. Or the "Hidden Heritage" page of selbytowncouncil.gov.uk.

For further information contact Groundwork North Yorkshire on **01757 703758** or email northyorkshire@groundwork.org.uk, or Selby Library on **0845 034 9540** or email selby.library@northyorks.gov.uk. To contact the Civic Society, call **01757 268418** or via selbycivicsociety@yahoo.co.uk


Selby's
Hidden
Heritage

Memorials
& Markers

This project is supported by:



Selby Civic Society



LOTTERY FUNDED



CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES



