

Other Places of Interest to Stan Laurel in Ulverston

If you want to venture a little further from the trail in this leaflet to see other places that Stan would have known, here are a few suggestions:

- Ulverston Canal – Stan used to go fishing at Ulverston Canal. He is known to have swung on a pair of old lock gates, the remnants of which are still in situ at Canal Foot.
- The lighthouse in the Cemetery on Priory Road. The route along Priory Road to the beach at Bardsea is as familiar to Ulverstonians today as it would have been to Stan as a boy. In the cemetery, close to the road, there is a miniature lighthouse built to the memory of Dr Thomas Watkins who died in 1897. In Stan’s day it was illuminated by a gas flame which shone 24 hours a day. This obviously made a lasting impression on young Stan as he mentioned it to a newspaper reporter in 1932, when looking at his name in lights at a London Theatre - “looks great but you should see the lighthouse in Ulverston, Lancashire where I was born – it was the eighth wonder of the world to me”. From Jenny Owen-Pawson and Bill Moulands’ book ‘Laurel before Hardy’ published by the Westmorland Gazette in 1984.
- Stan remembered having fun at Easter time when they rolled painted eggs down Hoad Hill, an event known locally as *pasche egging* which still takes place every Easter Monday. The Sir John Barrow Monument on top of Hoad Hill is visible from most streets in Ulverston and so would have been a very familiar site to Stan, who like most Ulverstonians, would have climbed the hill when the flag was flying indicating that the monument was open for visitors.



Laurel before Hardy, - Jenny Owen-Pawson and Bill Mouland, 1984.

If you would like to see more of the town, why not pick up a copy of the other Ulverston walk leaflets, which are available from the Tourist Information Centre. Including:

- Five short walks in Ulverston
- A circular walk in and around Ulverston
- A walk down Ulverston Canal
- A historic town trail and walks around Ulverston



BY ROAD: Leave the motorway at Junction 36 and follow the signs for A590 and Ulverston.

BY BUS: There are regular bus connections to Ulverston from the Central Lakes, Barrow-in-Furness and Kendal.

BY RAIL: The Furness Line from Barrow to Lancaster is a daily service with a direct link to Manchester Airport. There is also a rail service from Barrow to Carlisle (Cumbria Coast Railway), via Ravenglass, Whitehaven and Workington. It takes just over 1 hour 30 minutes from Manchester Piccadilly to Ulverston and just over 30 minutes from Lancaster to Ulverston.

For information on all bus, rail and ferry timetables and fares, contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or www.traveline.org.uk

For more information
Contact Ulverston Tourist Information Centre
Email: ulverstontic@southlakeland.gov.uk
Visit www.southlakeland.gov.uk/tourism
See also www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk,
www.explorelowfurness.co.uk and www.lowfurnesspeninsula.co.uk

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Leave no litter.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Leave all gates as you find them.
- Keep dogs under proper control.
- Avoid damaging fences, hedges and keep to paths across farmland.
- Safeguard water supplies.
- Protect wildlife plants and trees.
- Respect the countryside.



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Stan Laurel Trail around



Image by Steve Barber

Experience the historic market town of Ulverston as Stan Laurel, the town’s most famous son, would have known it

www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk

STAN LAUREL

Stan Laurel was born Arthur Stanley Jefferson, on 16 June 1890, at the home of his grandparents, Sarah and George Metcalf, at Foundry Cottages (later Argyle Street), Ulverston. That house was to be his home for the first six years of his life but after he’d left to live in Bishop Auckland, Stan still continued to spend much of his school holidays with Grandma and Grandpa Metcalf in Ulverston. Young Stan knew the streets and shops of Ulverston well through shopping expeditions with his Grandma. Mrs Metcalf had to keep a close eye on Stan as they walked through the streets as often he would stop and make faces in the glass windows of the shops. These shopping trips made a lasting impression on Stan as he often mentioned the narrow cobbled streets and familiar shops in Ulverston when he wrote letters to friends. “Stan was fascinated by the big plate glass windows of the town’s shops and Mrs Metcalf would often find that she had left him behind as she walked. Retracing her footsteps she would find him gazing through the glass making faces. It would be nice to think that it was those shelves that first saw the famous cry baby face of Stan Laurel as he scratched his tousled head.”

“Laurel, Before Hardy” Jenny Owen Pawson & Bill Mouland published by the Westmorland Gazette in 1984.

Possible items on Mrs Metcalf’s shopping list

- Green embroidery thread
- Make dentist appointment
- Toothpaste
- Beer’s Toffee
- Grandpa’s tobacco
- New hearth brush
- Change library book
- New shoes
- Tea, butter, flour



PM Lowe

Shopping in Stan’s day would have been a very different experience to the way we shop today - his gran would have been given, personal attention at a number of specialist shops rather than grab everything from the shelves herself in a one stop, self service supermarket.

See if you can guess where Stan and his Grandma would have bought some of these items and answer some of the just-for-fun quiz questions along the route!

THE ROUTE

This walking trail is approximately 1 mile long. It begins outside The Coronation Hall, in County Square, next to the Laurel and Hardy Statue. The statue of ‘The Boys’ was given to the town by the Sons of the Desert (the International Appreciation Society for Laurel and Hardy). It was unveiled in April 2009, by legendary comedian Ken Dodd. When Stan returned to Ulverston with Ollie in 1947, he received a hero’s welcome and was presented with a copy of his birth certificate on the balcony of the Coronation Hall.



Laurel & Hardy *



The County Hotel

* Image courtesy of North-west Evening Mail

PM Lowe

When Stan was a boy living in Ulverston, the County Hotel stood on this spot but the hotel burned to the ground in 1911 and was replaced by the Coronation Hall in 1914.

Don’t miss the opportunity to have your photograph taken with the comedy duo or to pop in to the Tourist Information Centre located within the Coronation Hall.

The route takes you round the historic streets of Ulverston, highlighting some of the shops and services in the town, which Stan may have visited with his Grandma. Much of the character of Ulverston as Stan would have known it still remains today. The route then takes you over the main A590 road to see the house where Stan was born and then finishes at the World Famous Laurel and Hardy Museum.

1. Start in County Square

This walk begins at the Laurel and Hardy Statue outside the Coronation Hall (known locally as The Coro) in County Square. Across the road where Poole Townsend stands was Birkett’s Stores where anything from corsets to cottons could be purchased.

2. Cross to Cavendish Street

En route to Cavendish Street you will pass by the bank on the corner of County Square and Cavendish Street. 30 Cavendish Street was Dr Ashburner’s surgery in Stan’s day. Look out for 24 Cavendish Street - in the early 1900s this was an art needlework shop, Lovegrove & Barwick.



What item on the shopping list could have been purchased from Lovegrove & Barwicks?

3. Turn Right into Queen Street

As you turn the corner onto Queen Street, the building on your right (currently Glaxo Social Club) was once The Temperance Hotel. Notice the drinking fountain in the niche in the wall - to encourage abstinence from alcohol!



PM Lowe

Further along the street at 25 Queen Street stood a quirky emporium known as The Up To Date Novelty Shop, that would have fascinated young Stan.

His Grandmother’s shopping list might have included a reminder to make a dentist appointment. She may well have attended Mr Stamper’s Surgery at 16 Queen Street.



What has the dentist become?

As you walk to the end of Queen Street, it’s interesting to note the change of use of the various

shops along the way. At the turn of the century Number 20 (now a private house) was a milliner’s shop owned by Miss Robinson who also ran a Registry Office for servants. 15 Queen Street was Dickinson’s Grocers, next door was a Ladies & Gents Outfitters.

4. Continue on to the top of Market Place

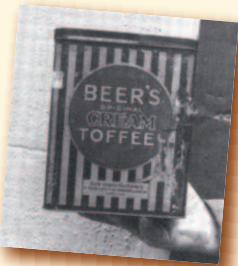
This is the hub of the town and apart from the addition of the War Memorial would still look familiar to Stan today. The surrounding buildings are all still the same, though the goods on sale have changed radically. The shop at Daltongate next to White Hart Yard was once Albert Barnes Sporting Goods Depot - Stan might have bought fishing tackle here.



PM Lowe

5. Continue into King Street (left hand side)

Very little has changed in King Street since Stan lived here - he would easily recognise the street today. Stan was known to have a sweet tooth and when he went shopping with his grandma his treat was Beer’s Treacle Toffee bought from Noblett’s Toffee Shop at 3 King Street (currently a carpet shop). Grandma is quite likely to have bought grandpa’s tobacco from Sidney Brewitt at 11 King Street. Dickinson’s Shoe Shop where Stan may have got new shoes is still selling quality footwear at 17 King Street, just as it did in the early 1900s.



Laure before Hardy, - Jenny Owen-Pawson and Bill Moulund, 1984.

6. At the top of King Street look left along Mill Street

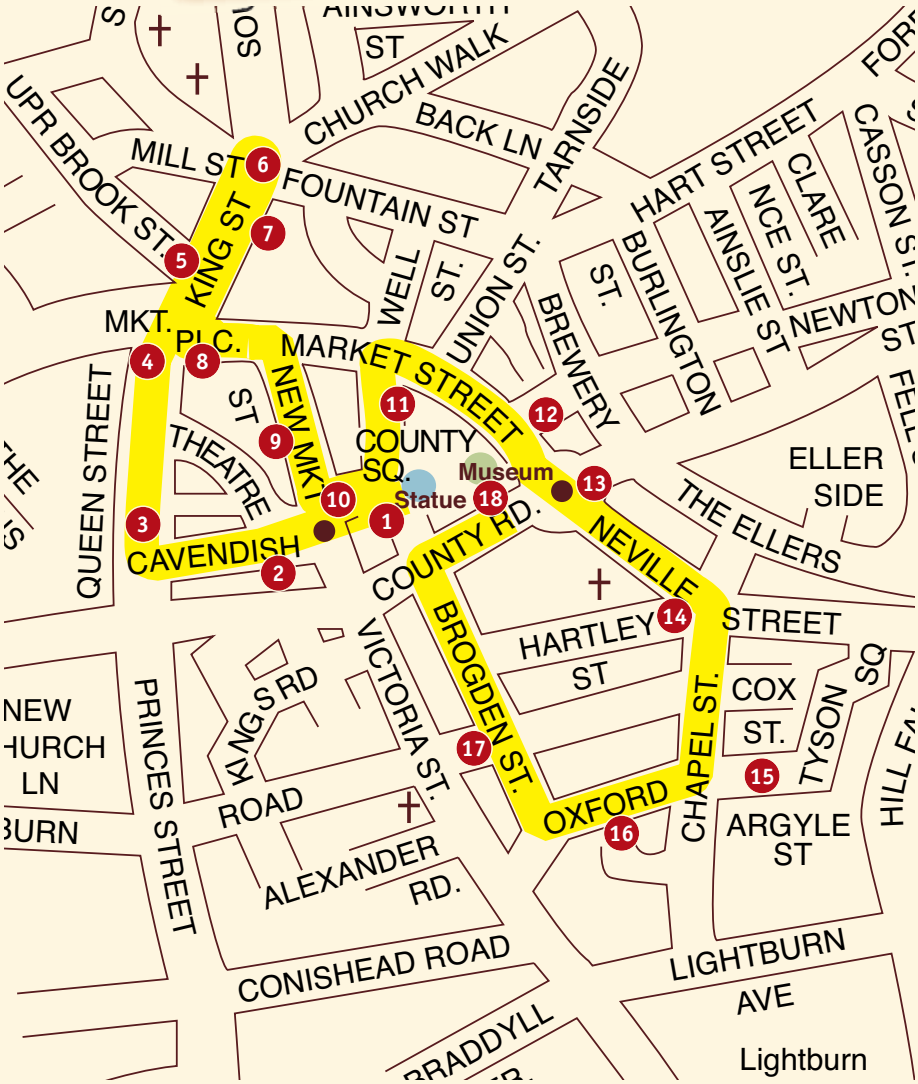
In Stan’s day the Town Mill would have been in full production. It is now a restaurant where much of the old machinery has been preserved and is still visible. Stan’s father would have known the building opposite the mill (The Emanuel Church Centre) as The Victoria Theatre, a rival to Denville’s Gaff where he was a player.

7. Return up right side of King Street

At the end of King Street, turn round and head back towards Market Place. Further along at 6 King Street was one of Ulverston’s best known Stationers, James Atkinson, where Grandma would have changed the library books.



What items on grandma’s shopping list could be accomplished along King Street?



8. Market Place / top of Market Street

When you reach the War Memorial, turn left down the cobbled street into Market Street. This was and still is the busy market square. When Stan walked down this street, farmers would have sold their produce straight from farmers’ carts.



PM Lowe

In Stan’s time the chemist on the corner of Market Place and King Street was called Mason’s and the unusual building next to it with the arched windows belonged to Mackereths who were prominent seed merchants in the town.



PM Lowe

What would Stan and his Grandma have popped into Mason’s to buy from their shopping list?

9. Turn right into New Market Street

As they walked into New Market Street, Stan and his Grandma could have visited the York City and County Bank or gone next door to 9 New Market Street to buy stamps from the Post Office. On the left side of New Market Street was a large Market Hall boasting over 20 stalls. Built in 1875, it burnt down in 1935 and was replaced with the current Market Hall which covers some of the same site.

What is the Post Office now?

10. Turn left along Cross Street

11. Turn left into Brogden Street

In the early part of the twentieth century Brogden Street was a busy shopping street. The largest shop would have been the Ulverston Co-operative Department Store at the bottom of Brogden Street.

12. Turn right into lower Market Street

At the bottom of Market Street (51 Market Street) was Gillam’s, a popular family grocer. It was established in 1892 and open for business for over 100 years, finally closing in 1994. This was the closest grocery store to Stan’s home in Argyle Street and he would have been in here many times with his Grandma.

What is Gillam’s now?



Laurel before Hardy, - Jenny Owen-Pawson and Bill Moulund, 1984.

Gillam’s grocer - which was on Market Street 1892 - 1994

13. Cross the main road – into Neville Street past the Police Station

You are now heading towards Argyle Street, where Stan was born. Notice the weights and measures on the wall of the Police Station.



Jan Hancock

14. Turn right at the Methodist Church into Chapel Street

15. Continue to Argyle Street (second street down on the left hand side)

Stan was born at 3 Argyle Street on 16 June 1890. At that time the street was known as Foundry Cottages. Look out for the plaque on the house.

Also on Argyle Street, where Sir John Barrow School is now, there used to be a theatre called Denville’s Gaff. Stan’s father was part of the acting company there before they moved away. The Gaff burned down in 1910.

16. Cross over to Oxford Street

About one third of the way up on the left hand side is 32 Oxford Street; this was the first home of Stan’s grandparents prior to their move to Argyle Street.

17. Right on to Brogden Street

Note the Old Auction Mart (now Ulverston Brewing Company) on the corner of Brogden Street and Lightburn Road and take time to read the blue plaque on the wall explaining its heritage.

18. Cross County Road at the lights

Turn right – 20 yards or so will bring you to the entrance of the final point on this trail, The Laurel and Hardy Museum, where you can have a rest and enjoy all the pleasures of Stan and Ollie!