

Ribble Valley Villages Walk.

On the 2nd April 2025, 11 of us set out on what felt like a glorious summers day, blue skies, sunshine, birds singing – a real “Spring” in our steps. We left Pendleton, a typically lovely village with a stream running down the centre, family-run pub and village hall. From there we headed towards Standen. Despite running the gauntlet of the very busy A59 (and all managing to make it across safely) we then enjoyed a quiet car-free lane towards the village of Barrow. Barrow’s claim to fame (for cricket lovers) was the home of Cyril Washbrook, who played for Lancashire and England partnering Sir Len Hutton. Barrow has some very old cottages “Old Row” which were built for the employees of “Barrow Printworks” in the 19th/20th centuries.



From Barrow we headed towards Whalley but turned up Wiswell Lane before reaching that village. This route took us past “Bramley Meade” a Victorian residence of a Padiham Mill Owner. After which it became a Maternity Hospital for over 40 years, and once again ending up now as a private residence. As we walked up the lane into Wiswell we got our first views of the Ribble Valley to the north. We passed a Preacher’s Cross on the roadside and in the village learned about its name – Wizell, Wisewell, -linked to Old Molly’s Well on the hillside. Vicarage House is a Grade 1 listed building together with many old cottages.

The road headed east out of the village and we took the top road towards Pendleton. This is where we got magnificent views of the Ribble Valley and Pendle Hill. Mitton Church, Stonyhurst Jesuit College, Longridge Fell and the Bowland fells stretched before us. On our return to Pendleton we drove a mile further on to The Calf’s Head at Worston (another lovely village!), and enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the conservatory overlooking the gardens.

“A Grand Day Out” to quote Wallace and Gromit!

Margaret Mayor