

Marple Local History Society A 'virtual' Evening Stroll for May

Since 2016, Marple Local History Society has offered members and friends the opportunity for an evening stroll with a historical flavour on the third Monday evening of May, June and July, to follow on after our evening meetings finish in April. We can't gather together at the moment, so we thought you might like suggestions of routes you can follow for yourselves.

To start the ball rolling, we present **'The Rubbing Tile Trail'** for May.

Most of you will know something of the 'Revealing Oldknow's Legacy Project' which ran from 2014-18 and used Heritage Lottery money for restoration of the Peak Forest Canal Aqueduct, to investigate the industrial archaeology of the lime kiln complex off Strines Road, and to further industrial archaeology excavations of the Mellor Mill site, which had started in 2011.

The Lottery Project laid stress on involvement and learning by the public, and much work was done with young people, using the sites in all sorts of imaginative ways. School children took part in archaeological digging, used information for 'local studies', made a film and wrote stories. They drew images reflecting aspects of the sites and some of these were turned into embossed metal 'rubbing tiles'. The idea is to place a piece of paper over the tile and shade with a pencil or crayon, when an impression of the image emerges, like a brass rubbing.

The tiles are scattered between the Aqueduct and Mellor Mill, with a few at the lime kilns and one at Brick Bridge, then you can go across Strines Road and take the footpath which crosses the railway line and leads to Mellor Mill. *Please note: this path is rather narrow in parts, but does long views so you can see people coming. If you are very concerned about social distancing, miss out this part (there are only two tiles along here) and go down Faywood Drive and Lakes Road to get to Mellor Mill*

There are other features of interest along the way as well: a new footpath leads to the bottom of the Aqueduct so you can look at this wonderful structure from below, and there are elegant safety railings on the off-side, designed to look like the warp threads of a weaving loom, a metaphor for the cotton industry which did so much to shape our area. 'Interpretation boards' at the Aqueduct, lime kilns and Mellor Mill enhance knowledge and understanding, not to mention the replica Mellor Mill headstone at the entrance to the mill site

To walk the whole route, find all the tiles and rub them takes about three hours, but you don't have to do it all in one go, or in any particular order. It's great fun to rub the tiles, for young or old alike, or you can just admire them as you pass by: they are quite beautiful. And it's an ideal activity for 'social distancing' because there's only room for one person to rub at once!

Here's a sketch map showing where each tile is located, plus a list of the tiles and pictures of a few of them so you know what to expect.

Enjoy the hunt.

Tile 1 **Boat on the Aqueduct** Romiley end of aqueduct near start of path down to river



Tile 2 **Boat horse and keeper**
Side of a seat at Romiley end of aqueduct



Tile 3 **S Oldknow monogram** Near information plaque at Marple end of Aqueduct

Tile 4 **Canal boat** Near Lock 7

Tile 5 **A shovel** At the limekilns



Tile 6 **Lime kiln gothic window** At the lime kilns

Tile 7 **Tramway tub** At the limekilns

Tile 8 **An apprentice boy**
Apprentice path to All Saints Church at Brick Bridge



Tile 9 **A cotton flower**
Corner of footpath from Strines Road to railway footbridge

Tile 10 **A clog** Path near Marple Lodge leading to railway footbridge

Tile 11 **A sheep** Post of wicket gate at Mellor Lodge excavations

Tile 12 **Windows of Mellor Lodge** On seat overlooking Mellor Lodge excavations

Tile 13 **A warp beam** Near mill pond on Mellor Mill site

Tile 14 **Mellor Mill Wellington waterwheel** Entrance to Wellington Wheel headrace

Tile 15 **Engine cogs** On a stone seat looking towards steam engine beds

Tile 16 **Mellor Mill spanner** Near the steam engine beds



Tile 17 **Mellor Mill facade** Near replica headstone

Tile 18 **The black walnut tree** Near the replica headstone



Tile 19 **Boating** On the way to Roman Lakes



