

Bolton Museum Circular Town Centre Walk

Walk Two in the 'Crompton Walks' series takes us from Bolton Town Centre out through the Crompton ward celebrating community spaces. On the route you will uncover beautiful buildings, Bolton's involvement in the English Civil War and Samuel Crompton's grave.

Time: 2 hour walk

Distance: 5.07 miles

Energy used: 371 calories

Origins of Bolton: Bolton was previously known by many names; Botheltun, Bodeltown, Bolton-le-Moors. In 1251 a market charter was received allowing Bolton to trade.

1



Bolton Museum, Le Mans Crescent, BL1 1SE

Built in 1939 by local architects firm Bradshaw Gass and Hope, it was established to house the museum, library, police station and magistrates court.

There is a plaque outside the library to American Walt Whitman; he never visited Bolton but his poetry was enthusiastically enjoyed by a group of Bolton "Whitmanites" in the 1900s who corresponded with him.

2



Bolton Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RU

First phase completed in 1873 by architects William Hill of Leeds and George Woodhouse of Bolton. It cost £166,418, took seven years to build and was extended in the 1930s.

A fire in 1981 led to the redesign of the Albert Halls.

At the front of the Town Hall; look up at the triangular tympanum with figures by sculptor William Marshall - they represent Bolton, with manufacture, agriculture, cotton, commerce and trade they are almost life size.

3



Samuel Crompton's Statue, Nelson Square

This 1862 statue of Samuel Crompton, inventor of the Spinning Mule, was funded by public subscription. The sculptor was William Calder Marshall.

Samuel was also a talented musician; he wrote music and made musical instruments. He never made a fortune from his invention the "spinning mule" as he was unable to patent it, which was a costly business. You can visit Hall'I'th'wood Museum, Bolton where he worked on his invention.



Visit Bolton

A Bolton Community Inspired Walk
www.visitbolton.com/cromptonwalks

4



St Peter's Church, Churchgate

Building consecrated in 1871 and built by architect E G Paley. The tombstone in the graveyard of Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, was funded by cotton workers and Samuel was married to Mary Pimlott here in 1780.

On the floor near the church door is a memorial tablet to Dr. Samuel Taylor Chadwick and his family; his children died in infancy. There is a statue to him in Victoria Square. He funded good quality housing for workers, an orphanage and the Chadwick Museum which stood in Queen's Park and was the forerunner to Bolton Museum as we know it today.

5



Ye Olde Man and Scythe, Churchgate, BL1 1HL

The building has been on the site since 1251 and was rebuilt in 1636. James Stanley, Seventh Earl of Derby spent his final hours here 1651 before being executed on a scaffold outside the pub, for his involvement in the siege of Bolton in 1644.

6



Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bank Street, BL1 1TS

Built in 1856 by architect George Woodhouse. Robert Heywood, mill owner and first Mayor of Bolton worshipped here. He originally supported slavery, then after a visit to America in 1834 he witnessed how slaves were treated inspiring him to actively support the anti-slavery movement.

7



Little Bolton Town Hall, St George's Road, BL1 2ER

During the eighteenth century Bolton was split into two townships Great and Little Bolton. The town hall was built in 1828, designed by John Thompson from Blackburn and funded by local bleacher and Little Bolton Trustee Peter Ainsworth. It included a dungeon, accommodation for the deputy constable and a large meeting room.

Continued for magisterial and police use until 1876, re-opened as a library into 1900s and utilised as a local history museum until 1978.

8



Masjid-e-Noorul Islam, Prospect Street, BL1 3QH

Denomination Islam. "Nooru Islam" means the light of Islam. Capacity 700 persons.

Community memory: "My dad was called Dowad, in English that's David, so that's how people knew him. As children we had to be in bed by 8pm. The corner shop could see our bedroom window and we never went to sleep on time. The lady shopkeeper came and knocked on our front door "you know David those kids are not asleep I can see them!" That's how it was; people looked out for one another, you knew one another". (1970s)



9



Former Blackburn Road Congregational Church, Blackburn Road, BL1 8DR

Before the building was built services were held in a temporary corrugated iron structure hence its nickname “the Iron Church”. It was completed in 1895 by architect Jonathan Simpson.

Community memory: “We would play out, my hiding place was the Iron Church, climbing into the yard I cut my leg, it made a scar... I still have it”.

10



Taiyabah Masjid, 31a Draycott Street, BL1 8HD

This was a former Congregational Church School linked to Blackburn Road Congregational Church. It was built in 1895 by architect Jonathan Simpson. The local mosque had begun 1967 in premises nearby on Canning Street this site was purchased 1988. It is named ‘Taiyabah’ from the arabic term ‘Tayyab’ (purity).

Community memory: “1970s mosque school, finished school at 4pm; went home and ate, then onto the mosque at 5pm. There were no school holidays for mosque schools like they have now”.

11



Church of All Souls, Astley Street, BL1 8EY

Monies to build this were provided by local mill owner Thomas Greenhalgh who inherited, when his brother Nathaniel died in 1877. The church was completed in 1881 by architects Paley and Austin. It closed in 1986, re-opened as a community centre in 2014, after being redeveloped by OMI architects.

12



St Thomas The Apostle Church, Eskrick Street, BL1 3JB

Due to nineteenth century population boom extending St Paul’s Church Halliwell Road was considered, however Mr. Thomas Cross of Mortfield, bleachworks suggested building an alternative site; offering £2000 towards build costs. Consecrated 1875, architect E G Paley and H J Austin.

13



St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Horace Street, BL1 3PU

Built in 1900 by architect Henry Brewer.

Community memory: “I remember the Sunday schools, processions and the Wake’s Weeks with everyone dressed in white dresses and you had to stay clean or there would be trouble to pay! Each church sent a group to join the processions, then there was a party afterwards”. (1950s)



14

**Mortfield Lodges**, Avenue Street

These were the water lodges for Mortfield bleachworks owned by Thomas Cross and family.

Community memory: "During my childhood, I would go "ladybird picking" with some of my friends, on a local patch of grass. I think one of my friends regularly cheated. She told me that the ladybirds I had picked up would harm me, they were the wrong type. Ladybird picking: Ladybirds landed on the grass and you collected them into a cereal box; the one with the most ladybirds in their cereal box was the winner".

15

**Mere Hall**, Merehall Street, BL1 2QT 1837

Benjamin Dobson of engineering company Dobson and Barlow bought the land and rebuilt the house, renaming it Mere Hall. In 1889 John Pennington Thomasson purchased it from Richard Howarth, then bequeathed it to Bolton, investing £5000 turning it into a museum and art gallery; then in 1996 it became Bolton Register Office.

16

**Veda Mandir Temple former Church of St Barnabus**, 1 Thomas Holden Street, BL1

This was built in 1896 by architect Frank R Freeman. The church was redundant in 1974 and redeveloped in 1982 as Vishwa Hindu Parishad Centre.

Community memory: "1960s we didn't have school dinners, the older boys looked after us, we had an egg; which mum had made and wrapped up for us, we ate the egg in the grounds at Mere Hall".

17

**St Helena Mill**

This is Bolton's oldest mill, dated 1780. It sits on an isolated island by the River Croal; a reference to the island of St Helena where Napoleon was interred. It was closed as a working mill in 1979.

Community memory: "My mum and dad worked in the mills; the mill had a rounders team which the workers played for and we rented a house in Folds Road".

18

**Spinners Hall**, St Georges Road, BL1 2BS

Built in 1880 by architect J J Bradshaw (of Bradshaw, Gass and Hope), and extended in 1911 for the Operative Cotton Spinners by architects Potts and Hammings. In 1964 the Amalgamated Union of Engineers took ownership, and it is now residential accommodation.

The first collective Eid in Bolton was held here in 1964 and subsequent celebration continued up until the late 1990's. In 1966 the very first Gujarati Mushaira (poetry reading) in the history of the UK was held here.



19

**The United Reform church of St Andrew and St George**, St Georges Road, BL1 2BS

This was built in 1863 by architects Oliver and Lamb. Originally St Georges Road Congregational Church, in 1972 it was amalgamated with the Presbyterian Church and became St Georges Road United Reform Church. In 1979 it took over defunct St Andrew's United Reform Church and became The United Reformed Church of St Andrew and St George. It had a spire until 1969. The first Viscount Leverhulme was a member.

20

**Former St Georges church**, St Georges Road, BL1 2BS

Built in 1796 by architect unestablished and remodelled in 1908 by James Lomax Simpson. It seated 1800 people, and the last service was held in 1975.



Key

 Pavement route

