

The Heritage Trail

Introduction

At Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council, we recognise that our town has a rich history which deserves to be celebrated.

Even the towns' names are steeped in history, with records dating back to the Domesaday (Doomsday) Book. The name of the respective towns come from:



1. Lytchett Minster

- “Lytchett”, an old Celtic word meaning “Grey Wood”;
- “Minster”, meaning an old church;
- The spellings for these have changed significantly based on pronunciation and because of a lack of standardised spelling, combined with poor literacy rates Pre-19th Century:

Year	Recorded Spelling
1244	Licheminster
1269	Lechet Ministre
1281	Lyschet Monaster
1314	Luchet Mynstere

2. Upton

- An Anglo-Saxon word meaning “Higher Farm” or “Higher Part of the Village” (deriving from “Upp” and “Tun”).

The parish area has historical records in other Medieval texts and there are references to its beacon – as seen in our logo – throughout the Napoleonic war, as well as documents about the Upton Forge in the 18th Century and clay transportation via local rivers in the 19th century.

When WW2 ended in August 1945, after all the American and British troops had left and the military sites lay abandoned, outwardly the village of Lytchett Minster and Upton did not look too dissimilar from its pre-war appearance.

Attitudes had changed, of course, with many different cultural changes brought on and accelerated by war. Residents were also introduced to new communities for the first time, including many people of colour and the demobilised troops coming home, some of whom had been away for the entire war.

Change

But change was again on the horizon and as it gathered pace most of the familiar sites and sounds disappeared, often under tarmac, bricks, and mortar. That list would include:

- Bub Arnold's Dairy
- Two Petrol Stations
- Mont Dore Café
- Front Room Tea Shops
- Corner Shops
- Two Slaughterhouses
- The Forge and Blacksmiths
- Engineering Workshops
- The Greenridge Hotel
- Hibb's Farm
- The Original Rec. Ground and Allotments
- The Railway
- Brickworks
- The All Age 5-14 School
- St Dunstan's Church
- Most employment on the Lees, Rockley, and Upton House Estates

Village to Town

We are grateful for the flourishing expansion of our locality but, as these cornerstone organisations disappeared, the village became a town and lost part of its past and heritage:

Year	Num of Residents
1931	1,000
1951	2,000
1961	3,200
1971	5,000
1980	7,000
2023	8,700
2026	9,500

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As the population figures show, the majority of today's residents are relative newcomers to the town and may be unaware of the previous history and identity of this special town.

The Heritage Trail invites people to take an active interest in the town's history by pointing out what once stood on a particular site, or the use of that site.

It is not intended to be a walking trail because of its wide-spread nature but, rather, provides points of information. In addition to the plaques, there are already four information boards around the town detailing the history of those particular sites:

- Entrance to the Castle Trailway South (next to Crossways);
- The footpath outside the library and surgery;
- The entrance to Lytchett Bay View;
- The pound at Lytchett Minster.

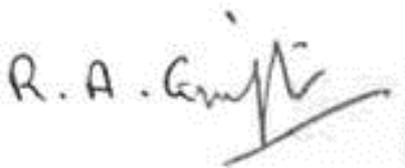
The location of the first tranche of plaques is listed below, with others due to follow:

<i>Entrance to Upton Woods</i>	<i>Frampton Terrace</i>	<i>Jubilee Garden</i>
<i>Ropers Lane</i>	<i>The Surgery</i>	<i>Moorland Way/Guest Road</i>
<i>Factory Road</i>	<i>Maple Lodge</i>	<i>Upton Manor Care Home</i>
<i>The Co-Operative</i>	<i>ALDI Supermarket</i>	<i>Yarrells School</i>
<i>St Dunstan's Church</i>	<i>Gablehurst</i>	<i>The Caravan Park</i>
<i>Lytchett Minster "The Manor" School*</i>	<i>Parish Church, Lytchett Minster</i>	

We are especially grateful to those residents and organisations who have sponsored a plaque to help preserve the heritage and history of the towns we all share.

These plaques will serve as a sign of respect for what has come before and built the place we live today, and to remind us of our own place in history moving forward.

Signed,



Cllr R Griffin

Mayor of Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council

*Two plaques will be placed at Lytchett Minster School