

Welcome to Heysham

Over the years the Heysham residents have seen many changes to the village and the surrounding landscape. They have shared their personal memories and what they think makes the place so special.

Trail contributors

Katharine Gregson is a born and bred Heyshamer. Born in Knowlys Road at a private nursing home, Katharine grew up in her family home on Main Street where she still lives today with her antiques shop. Katharine is passionate about Heysham, its history and life, and is a founder member and supporter of the Heysham Heritage Association.



John Holding

grew up in Cheshire and moved around the country to Newcastle, Manchester then Exeter with his teaching career. John and his family moved to Heysham in 1967 when he got a job lecturing at St Martin's College, Lancaster and have lived there ever since, though John still describes himself as a 'newcomer'. Heavily involved in the Heysham Heritage Association, John is also a keen naturalist.



Heysham has long been a go-to destination: from being the site of pilgrimage to St Patrick's chapel in the early medieval period, to the holiday hot-spot of the 1950s when tens of thousands of people descended to enjoy the village's attractions. Now it is a more peaceful area, but the Heysham coast certainly still has a lot to explore.

This trail takes you through Heysham village and along the most prominent cliff on the Lancashire coast to explore the area's rich history and the landscape of today.



Alice Saunders has lived in Heysham all her life. Born in 1931 on Carr Lane, Alice moved to Knowlys Road where she grew up. Alice's father was the manager of the Co-op store in Heysham for 35 years and her mother came from Silverdale. Alice is really passionate about life in Heysham and has been heavily involved in the resurrection of the Glebe Garden.

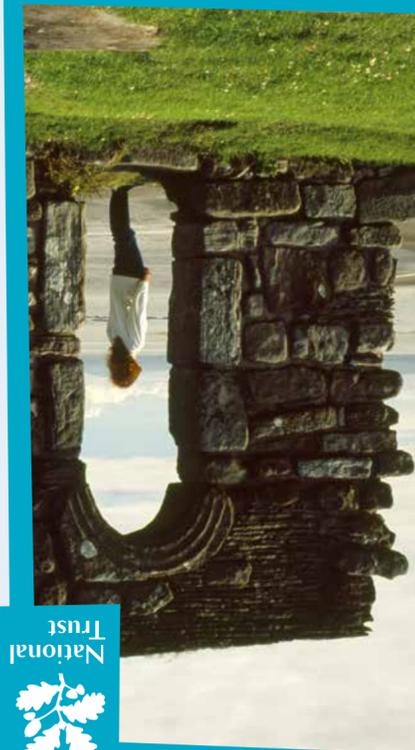
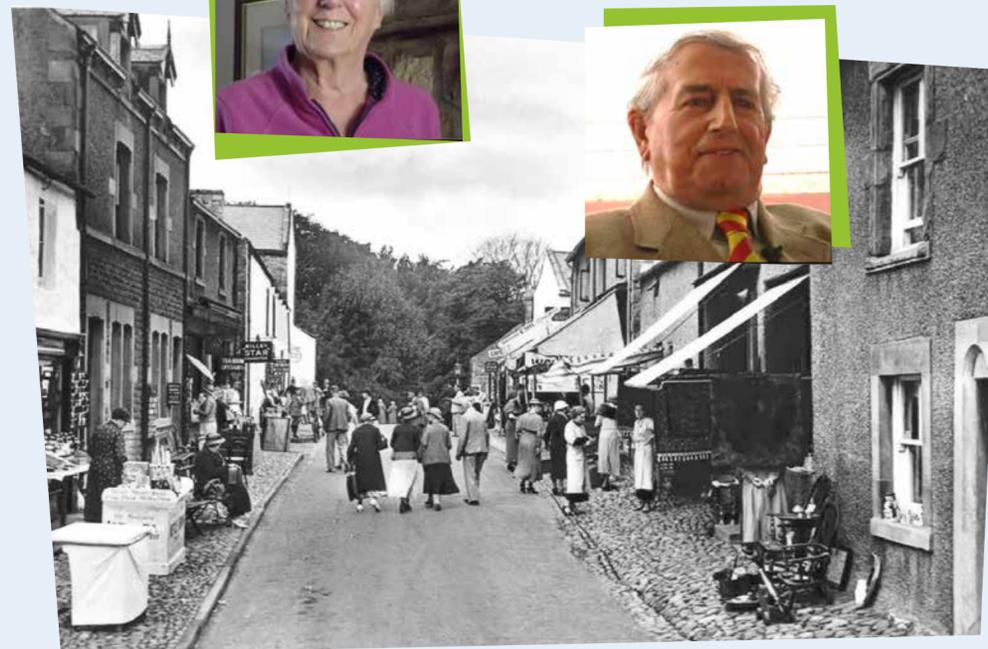
Lenora Warner grew up in the cottages on Main Street opposite the church, originally her grandfather's home, and still lives there today. She has fond memories of life in Heysham and of her father being the verger at St Peter's Church.



Freddie Edmondson was born on Lancaster Road, Morecambe in 1927. He moved to Heysham aged 3 and has lived there ever since. Freddie attended the local school and spent a happy childhood with his brothers and sisters around Heysham's coastline. He grew up helping in his family run antique shops and today has his own haulage company operating out of Heysham.



Peter Cook was born in Heysham in 1946 and grew up and lived in Heysham until he married in 1969. Peter moved back to Heysham in 1982 and has lived there ever since. His family had a popular tea gardens in the cottages known as Greese Cottage, which Peter helped in as he grew up. Peter has a great knowledge of Heysham life and is a keen naturalist and birder.



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Getting to Heysham...

- By bike:** Near to National Route 69 of the National Cycle Network. For more information visit www.sustrans.org
- By bus:** Route 2 and 2A links Lancaster and Heysham. From Carnforth route 5 runs through Heysham village.
- By train:** Heysham Harbour station 1 mile; Morecambe station 2.5 miles
- By road:** Exit M6 at Junction 34. Then take A683 to Heysham village

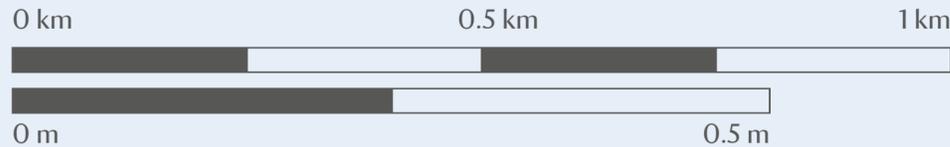
For alternative formats, please call us on **01524 702815** or email morecambebayproperties@nationaltrust.org.uk

Share your amazing days out with us!

We'd love to hear your stories and see photos from your days out with us. Get in touch on Twitter, send us a comment on Facebook and tag us in your Instagram photos.



Turn over to find out about the people who contributed to this trail...



1 Main Street (Village centre)

“ Lots of people came to Heysham in the 1950s [...]. The bus queues started where the lamp is now, [...] and they used to queue about four deep down the lane as far as the Royal until about 10.30 at night.

— Katharine Gregson

2 Village Pump

“ The village pump at the lowest point of the village at the bottom of Bailey Lane was hit by a car in the 1920s.

— John Holding

“ It was playing on the Barrows that got me interested in wildlife. You'd go up and see these beautiful birds, which were stonechats and you'd lie in the grass and hear grasshoppers and skylarks overhead and see butterflies. There was a massive colony of rabbits as well. Rabbits everywhere there'd be.

— Peter Cook

3 Bay Cottage

“ Bay Cottage or 'the Pot House' as they called it used to have a family living there called the Cockers. They all had ginger hair [...]. During the war the Puxleys lived there – they were evacuees from the London area.

— Katharine Gregson

4 Shore fishing beach

“ People used to go fishing on the skear which is the rocky outcrop further out, only visible from low tide; there was a big mussel bed. They put fish traps out there called 'bawks' – they were like a v-shaped fence that led to a pool at the bottom where the fish would be collected. They'd go out with a horse and cart as the tide went out.

— Peter Cook



5 Church/chapel

“ My Dad was the verger for the church and he also worked as the caretaker/gardener. On a Saturday tea time he would go up in the dark and get the boiler fired up ready for church on a Sunday morning. It was in this little outhouse joined to the church. I used to like going with him – it was terrifying this boiler – Dad would shovel in the coke and it would roar the fire – it fascinated me and terrified me.

— Lenora Warner



6 Heysham Head

“ Oh I lived and died at Heysham Head, I loved it there. It had a beautiful rose garden and swings, roundabouts, tea gardens. They had a wooden dance floor and my sister used to put me on her feet and taught me to dance.

— Alice Saunders

8 Half Moon Bay

“ As a child on my way out my mother used to say "where are you going?" and I'd say, "To the beach" and we'd all go down from being 6 or 7 to the beach. It was different in those days. My mother always cared but she never worried. We loved diving off the rocks.

— Freddie Edmondson

9 Barrows Lane

“ Dad and I used to go and watch the football off Barrows Lane and if they didn't like the referee they used to chuck him in the dyke over the bridge at the end.

— Alice Saunders



“ Polly Blacow was the last mussel gatherer of Heysham. Polly and her horse – Old Joe would go out to the skear to collect the mussels and the fog would come down and you could only see maybe 2 feet in front of you and she'd shout, "Home Joe"... and do you know Old Joe would take her straight back to the slipway safely.

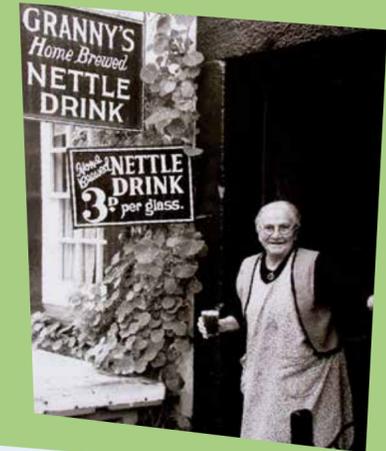
— Katharine Gregson



7 Heysham Barrows

“ There used to be a go-cart track on the Barrows. On a Sunday afternoon you'd hear this roaring noise as the cars went around. Nigel Mansell is said to have started his early career here when he was 15. Thousands of people would come.

— John Holding



We would like to thank all of the interviewees for their contributions; also Ian Miller, John and Doreen Read for providing the photographs.