

# Hatton - A Century of Change

**Route:** Hatton Arms car park- Sankey Lane-Antrobus Cottages-Goose Lane- Warrington Road- Bluecoat Farm-return to Hatton Arms public house

**Start:** On a safe part of Hatton Arms car park adjacent to house called Hatton House.

Hatton is really a hamlet rather than a village, as it has no church. The pub is the only community building left in Hatton, as the infants school closed in the 1940s and the three chapels are no longer in existence. Hatton has a population of just over 300 people.

**Stop 1.** The Hatton Arms car park was formerly a “croft” of about ½ acre and was leased from the owner Gilbert Greenall until the Walton Estate was sold off (but not in its entirety) in 1941.

The Hatton Arms was originally a Greenall Whitley pub and dates from before 1851. It was originally called the Red Lion. It is Grade 2 listed and used to be in three parts: the pub, a post office and a shop.

The K6 red telephone kiosk is also Grade 2 listed and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee (in 1935) of the Coronation of George V. It is now used as a community library.

**Leave the car park via a narrow gap in the hedge on to Hatton Lane, turn right and walk as far as Sankey Lane.**

**Stop 2.** Sankey Lane used to form part of a circular route of roads, but is now a dead end and a bus turning round point. Until the start of the First World War there were eight houses on it which were then pulled down and the New Cottages were built of a higher standard around 1915. The occupants did farm and estate work. Hatton House was built after 1910.

**Cross Sankey Lane and continue along the pavement towards Stretton until you reach a point opposite Antrobus Cottage.**

**Stop 3.** The farm on this side of Hatton Lane is New House Farm, but was formerly called Pepper Street Farm. In 1911 Hatton had 16 farmers with named farms, but now (2017) there are very few (three?) which still operate as farms.

On the opposite side of Hatton Lane, a patch of land (with a bench) is where the Primitive Methodist Chapel stood from 1868 until 1917. There was a schoolroom next to the chapel. In 1920 they were both demolished.

**Walk back to the pub car park and cross to the Hatton Arms. Turn right down Goose Lane and as you walk, notice a house with the date of 1710 and also the Old School House. Stop when you reach Gosling Close.**

**Stop 4.** Goose Lane was once called School Lane. The house dated 1710 is probably the oldest house in Hatton. The Old School House was originally a Board School which opened in 1877 for infants only. The single storey schoolroom could cater for 40 pupils with one schoolmistress. Older children would go on to Daresbury School. Hatton’s school closed in the 1940s.

Many houses on Goose Lane and Gosling Close were built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however others are converted cottages.

**Continue along Goose Lane until the houses finish.**

**Stop 5.** The farms at this end of the lane have mainly become private houses. In 1911 all but one of the farmers was a dairy farmer. This lane housed the town pit which was used as a drinking place for cattle.

**Turn back along Goose Lane and when you reach the pub, cross the road to Hatton Gate Farm and The Old Shop on Warrington Road.**

**Stop 6.** On the residential side of the road there is one farm which was formerly known as Fairview, now Hatton Gate Farm. At one time it was the home of the local tithe collector. He collected the tithe rent charge (until 1936) on behalf of Christ Church College, Oxford. The Old Shop has been there since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is now a house. Several dwellings have been demolished and replaced with modern houses and others have been enlarged by combining two cottages. St Luke's mission once stood where The Old Chapel House now stands. It was a mission church of All Saints' in Daresbury. It had a village hall attached to it which could seat 75 persons.

**Continue to walk down Warrington Road (towards Walton) until the pavement runs out and then cross the road to the pavement on the other side and walk as far as Hatton Hall Farm.**

**Stop 7.** Hatton Hall Farm is the third listed property in Hatton. It dates from c. 1710 and is in three parts built in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is still a working farm. It was once Parr's Farm, which was never part of the Walton Estate. The farm currently raises beef cattle and grows arable crops for fodder. Hatton Show was formerly held on the field on the opposite side of the road.

**Continue to walk down the road as far as a house called The Hollies.**

**Stop 8.** The Hollies was where the tenant of the (car park) croft lived. The houses next door are all that is left of "Factory Yard", which comprised several terraced cottages in two parallel rows, with two, three or four rooms. They had beautiful gardens at the back. The back row was eventually demolished. An early 19<sup>th</sup> century Wesleyan chapel once stood behind Factory Yard. It closed in 1903 and became a private house. This was demolished in the 1960s or 1970s.

**Continue to walk down Warrington Road until you reach Bluecoat Farm and Hatton Cottage.**

**Stop 9.** Hatton Cottage was also known as Hatton Villa and was built in three sections: a Regency stables and coach house, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century middle section and a later 19<sup>th</sup> century end section. It was never part of the Walton Estate. One resident was John James Whitley of the Greenall Whitley Brewery family. He was the manager of the brewery at Wilderspool in Warrington. His son John Daubeney Whitley, succeeded him and became chairman.

Bluecoat Farm is now not a working farm, but was once the farm for the Bluecoat School in Daresbury. It was a farm of 150 acres on the Walton Estate.

As the walk has now finished, turn round and make your way back to the Hatton Arms pub.