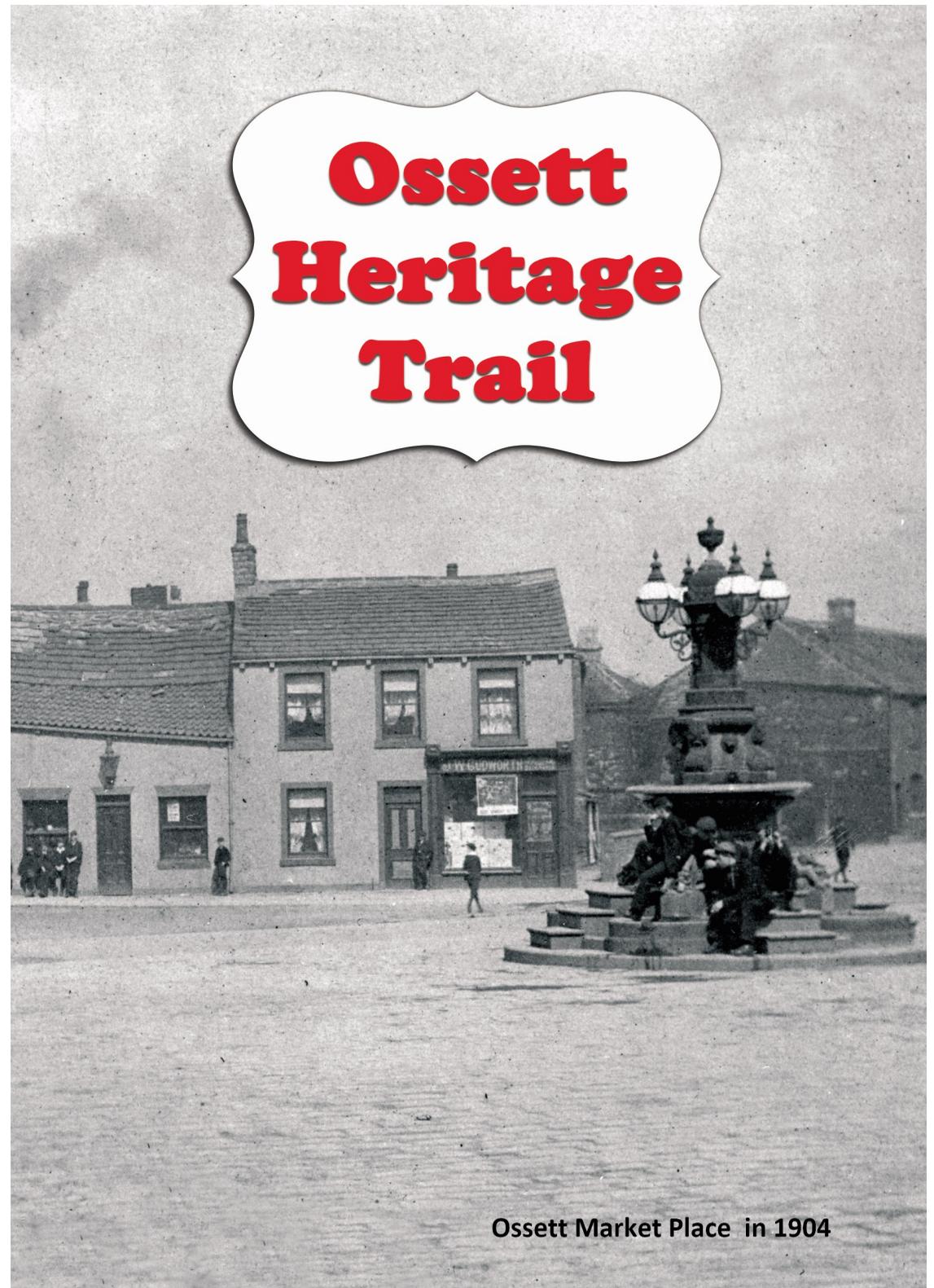




Ossett Through The Ages 

ossett.net

Ossett Heritage Trail



Ossett Market Place in 1904

This **Town Centre Heritage Trail** guides you around some of the interesting buildings and monuments in the bustling market town of Ossett. The tour includes some of the Blue Plaques located in the town. Enjoy finding out about the hidden stories that exist behind the façade of the town's buildings as you follow the heritage trail. This tour is not a complete record of the history of Ossett and there is a wealth of additional information available at the history web site ossett.net or on the Facebook Group "Ossett Through The Ages".

Town Centre Heritage Trail

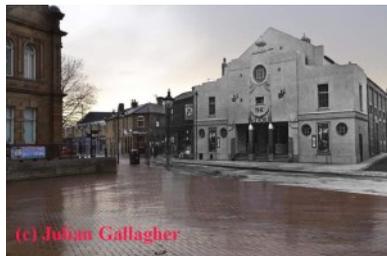
1. Ossett Town Hall

It was said that Ossett Town Hall was "*built on the finest site in Ossett*" by the Ossett Observer newspaper when the building was officially opened in 1908 by Ossett's Mayor, Councillor J.T. Marsden in front of a crowd of 12,000 local people. The old building that housed Ossett Grammar School was demolished to make way for the Town Hall, but it was originally planned to build the Town Hall on Bank Street. Dominating Ossett's Market Place, this iconic building, designed by architects W. Hanstock & Sons of Batley has been awarded a Civic Trust Blue Plaque.

2. Red Telephone Box

The iconic red telephone box at the end of Kingsway, near to Richmond's butchers, is a Grade II Listed building. The K6 red cast iron kiosk with its domed roof was designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The last red K6 telephone box was installed in the U.K. in 1968, and the Ossett phone box kiosk dates back to at least 1952. Now in a dilapidated condition, the Red Box in Ossett is in dire need of restoration.

3. Ossett Palladium Cinema (Site of)



Located where Fulton's and the Halifax BS are today. The 846 seat Palladium Cinema opened its doors on December 22nd 1913 under the management of Mr E.M. Hurst. The first film to be shown was "*Greater Love Hath No Man*". Prices of admission were 2d, 4d and 6d. Today that would be approximately 65p, £1.30 and £1.95. The Palladium cinema closed on April 29th 1961 and it was demolished the following March.

11. Cussons and Yorkshire Bank Building



Originally built in 1893, it later became the Yorkshire Penny Bank. The building was opened in March 1894 for John William Cussons, postmaster and chemist.

It is said that Marjorie, daughter of Cussons' brother Alexander, was responsible for developing "Imperial Leather" soap.

In 1900, Samuel Norman Pickard purchased the business from Cussons. In 1924, when he moved to new premises, the Yorkshire Penny Bank moved in.

12. Liberal Club

Ossett Liberal Club was built shortly after the construction of Station Road. The corner stone was laid in October 1883 by Liberal Politician, Earl Compton. In December 1884 the ladies associated with the club held a big banquet at the Temperance Hall, Illingworth Street and raised £200 toward the furnishing and decorating of the new club.

Closed in 1972, the Liberal Club became the Railway Club.

13. Mechanics Institute and Old Library

Opened in 1890 and built to a design by Ossett architect W.A. Kendall, the Mechanics Institute was a Technical School, which accommodated 119 pupils and 18 staff. The Borough of Ossett took over the school in 1898 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1935, the former Mechanic's Institute was refitted as a modern library. The library closed in 2017 after asbestos was found in the walls and roof. Currently, in October 2020, the building lies empty and unused.

14. Old Police Station

The old Ossett police station was built in 1867 and was closed in 1993 when a new, larger police station was built on Bank Street. In 1996 it became the Brickhouse Youth Centre, which moved in 2019 to alternative premises at the Newspring Church, Illingworth Street. In 2020, after some refurbishment the building has been redeveloped as The Edge, Hair Studio.

15. Croft House / Whitaker Grange

Joshua Whitaker J.P., a wealthy Ossett maltster, born in West Ardsley in 1804, built Croft House, off New Street in 1875. The grand house had stables, a coach-house, a lodge, gardens, vineries and about five acres of land in front of the house. Whitaker died there on the 30th October 1882 aged 78.

In 1927, Ossett Borough Council bought the house, cottage and 3.5 acres of land, and on Tuesday 19th June 1928, Croft House was re-opened as a Child Welfare Centre, Education Office and School Clinic at a total cost of £4,700. The site was redeveloped as Whitaker Grange, a retirement housing complex.

8. Barclays Bank



Built in 1870, the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank was Ossett's first bank and Bank Street is named after it. The architect was William Watson and the builders were Eastwood and Tolson who worked to a Renaissance design.

In 1906, the Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank was absorbed by the Birmingham and District Counties Banking Co. and in 1916 it became a part of Barclays Bank Ltd.

Some of the carved heads on the keystones appear to be portraits of the masons who built the bank. Barclays closed their bank in May 2019, and the future of the building is uncertain.

9. Temperance Hall and Old Fire Station



Located on Illingworth Street, previously Victoria Street, the Temperance Hall was built in 1888 at a cost of £1,500 to a design by Ossett architect W.A. Kendall. The Ossett Temperance and Mutual Improvement Society was set up to provide support for teetotalers and they were strongly opposed to public houses and the taking of alcohol. In 1914, Ossett had 34 public houses, two more than in 1870.

In December 1887, the foundation stone was laid by the Mayor of Leeds. Underneath that stone was a bottle containing copies of the Ossett Observer, Cockburns of Ossett Almanac and Yearbook for 1887.

Standing next to the Temperance Hall before demolition was Ossett's old Fire Station, built in 1908 and replaced in 1972 with a new Fire Station on Dale Street.

The car park on Illingworth Street stands on the site of the Fire Station. The only remnants of the old building are the shiny tiles from the urinals, which are still visible at the back of the car park. Ossett Fire Station has subsequently moved to Silkwood Park Industrial Estate.

10. Community Centre

In 1948 plans were made for a Community Centre as a memorial for the men and women of Ossett who made the ultimate sacrifice during WW2 (1939-1945). The cost of the scheme, which included the purchasing and adapting of Prospect House on Prospect Road, along with its out-buildings and its grounds, was an estimated £15,000. Half of this cost was met by government funding whilst the rest was raised by public subscriptions.

4. The Hannah Pickard Fountain (Site of)



Miss Hannah Pickard, a benevolent and philanthropic lady died in 1891, leaving much of her £4 Million fortune to charity. Hannah was a member of a prominent Ossett textile family and lived most of her life at "Green Mount", situated at the junction of Southdale Road and Ossett Green. One of her bequests was the magnificent Hannah Pickard Water Fountain in Ossett Market Place, built in 1893, at a cost then of £500. The fountain was eventually moved to Green Park after the reorganisation of the

Town Centre in 1958 and used as an ornamental flower bed. The fountain was left to deteriorate before being removed altogether in 2007. Remnants of the fountain were rescued to be reinstated in the town centre.

5. HSBC / Midland Bank

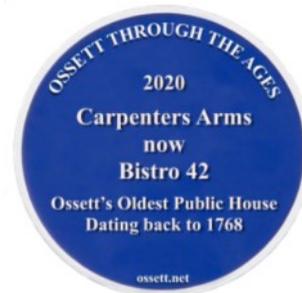


With its distinctive dome, the old Midland, then HSBC Bank was one of the most recognisable and iconic buildings in Ossett and was built in 1891 for the London City & Midland Bank. In September 1958 the dome was removed due to the interior structure breaking up and stone from the inner core of the dome falling into the living accommodation below. The building was sold in 2020 and the top floors have been converted into three apartments. The ground floor is the new home of Crafty Owls Children's Arts Centre.

6. Ossett War Memorial

The Ossett War Memorial was unveiled on the afternoon of Sunday November 11 1928, by the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Lascelles KG DSO of Harewood House. It was first located where the mini roundabout is at the Town Hall end of Kingsway. In 1954 the memorial was repositioned (still on Kingsway) to accommodate changes to the Town Centre road network. It was granted Grade II listed status on May 6th 1988. In 2001 it was moved to its current position in the Market Place.

7. Bistro 42 / Carpenters Arms



Ossett's oldest public house, which was built as a beer house in 1768 by Ossett carpenter John Harrop. Beer was brewed on the premises at a time when beer was safer to drink than water. Given John Harrop's occupation, it's fairly evident how the pub got its original name: "The Old Carpenters' Arms". A date stone above the current front door bears an inscription "HIM 1768".

Renamed Bistro 42 after closure in 2011, the new owners have funded a Blue Plaque to recognise the historic relevance of the premises.



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| 1. Town Hall | 5. Midland / HSBC Bank | 9. Temperance Hall / Old Fire Station | 13. Mechanic's Institute / Library |
| 2. Red Telephone Box | 6. War Memorial | 10. Community Centre | 14. Old Police Station |
| 3. Palladium (Site of) | 7. Bistro 42 / Carpenters Arms | 11. Cussons / Yorkshire Bank | 15. Croft House / Whitaker Grange |
| 4. Hannah Pickard Fountain (Site of) | 8. Barclays Bank | 12. Liberal Club / Railway Tavern | |