

## YELLOW ROUTE

**1** In the past all water on Mow Cop came from natural springs, known locally as wells. The Squires Well is a good example. Nearby is a smaller well that may have been used for horses and livestock.

**2** The Old Man o' Mow is a pillar of rock left by the old quarrymen, after they had removed all of the surrounding strata. It may have been left as a sign of homage to an old stone cairn that stood here in the past. The rock is 65 ft high and is 1090 ft above sea level. From certain angles it really does look like an old man sitting down.



The Old Parsonage



The Church School



St. Thomas' Church

Thomas Stanley of Shelton designed these buildings which were opened in 1842/43. The central porch of the school building had two doors, one for boys and one for girls, which led to separate classrooms for each gender, inside



**4** Hannah Dale was born a normal healthy child but in her short life her weight and size grew out of all proportion to her age. She was just under 11 years old when she died of bronchitis, in 1892, but weighed 33 stones. Hannah is buried in the churchyard of St. Thomas' and her headstone inscription includes the phrase, 'Child of Wonder'. Her father coined the phrase, due to her enormous size; her chest was 56 inches and her thighs were 11 inches larger than her mother's waist. The size of her coffin was demonstrated prior to her funeral by the undertaker, a Mr Boon, having five young men lying down sideways in it; when the lid was then easily closed. At her funeral, it took thirteen grown men to carry the casket.

**5** Perseverance & Prospective Mills  
**5a** The very names of these two buildings conjure up a picture of struggle and hope. Their original use was for fustian cutting. A tedious process of creating smooth velvet pile by hand cutting the pile of twilled cloth in continuous lines. Most of the fustian workers were females who walked many miles daily along the long lengths of cloth. Both mills are now used for manufacturing processes.

**6** The Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in 1842; being redesigned in 1852 in order to cater for the religious needs of local children. The new design had a chapel on the first floor and a Sunday school room at ground level. From 1874 this school room was also used to teach the three Rs. In 1986 it became a private dwelling and now also houses the Mow Cop local history museum.

**7** The entrance to the tramway tunnel which has long since been sealed off. So today there is no trace of this opening. Between 1838 and 1842 a small gauge railway line or tramway was constructed linking both the Stone Trough and Tower Hill collieries to a wharf on the Macclesfield canal, at Kent Green. The coal being carried in 'tubs' under Mow Cop for 350 yards and exiting on the Cheshire side. They were then lowered down the rest of the steep gradient to the wharf, by balanced brake revolving drums. The full coal tubs or wagons, were attached to one end of a long steel rope, with the empty tubs at the bottom, attached to the other end. The long rope in between was wrapped around a large steel drum several times. The action of slowly releasing the drum's brake then allowed the weight of the full coal tubs descending, to pull the empty tubs back up to the tunnel from the wharf. Horses were then used to haul the empties back to the collieries, ready to be refilled underground.

**8** Castle School, built in 1882. Wolstanton School Board paid for the construction of this building because there was no dedicated school building, at that time, on the Staffordshire side of the village. From 1882 the education of all the Staffordshire children of Mow Cop took place here. Since it opened five generations of Mow Cop people have been taught inside its walls.

**9** Mount Pleasant mill was also a fustian cutting mill from the 1890's until 1923. It has had various uses since, including in the 1950's, the printing of cardboard cartons for various businesses. During this period it was badly damaged by fire but was re-opened as a sewing mill. It closed at the millennium, since when it has been converted into private apartments.

**10** Mount Pleasant Methodist Chapel 1856. This chapel was built for the branch of Methodism known as the United Methodist Free Churches. In 1903 it was re-furbished with the addition of the porch and new interior fittings in an arts and crafts style. The original gallery and gallery seating remain.



**11**



**12**

Woodcocks' Well School and St. Luke's Church. The school was opened in 1858 and was the only school, of any kind, then accessible to the children on the Cheshire side of Mow Cop. Sunday services were also held in the building until the opening of St. Luke's Church in 1875. The school and Church have always been closely affiliated and both are set in an idyllic countryside location, perfect for study, learning and quiet prayer.

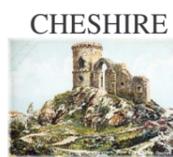
**13** Pointon's house and farm. In 1800 there were no churches in Mow Cop and Hugh Bourne, one of the founders of Methodism, said, 'The villagers are a bunch of Godless people.' Thus, in 1801 he held a prayer meeting inside Pointon's farm house. In 1807 the farm fields became the site of the first open air 'camp' meeting. So the farm house and fields are where Primitive Methodism was born. 200 years on and the farm house still stands, near to the top of Woodcock Lane.

**14** Primitive Methodist Chapel 1860. Primitive Methodism quickly became an important religious denomination in the UK, with 1000's of worshippers attending the open air meetings. Although a small chapel, built in 1841, already stood near to Pointon's farm; so as to mark the Golden Jubilee in 1857; work began on a new, larger building. This Primitive Methodist Memorial Chapel was sited at the side of the same field that saw the first camp meeting of 50 years before. Next to the side door of the building can be seen the date stone of 1841 from the earlier small building. The official opening of the new memorial Chapel was in 1860, but it had to be partly re-built in 1882, due to some storm damage.

**15** The Parsons Well  
Which was funded by money donated by Miss Wilbraham of Rode Hall

**16** Coronation Mill 1902. Opened in the Coronation year of King Edward VII and built on the site of the early Primitive Methodist Chapel of 1841 and also a 'fustian' mill. The small part of the building at the front was formerly a pub called the Oddfellows Arms. As the public bar was bisected by the county boundary of Staffordshire

and Cheshire, then the opposite ends of the same bar were subject to differing licensing laws. This was supposed to have meant that when one end of the bar was closed, then at the other end you could still buy beer for a further half hour.



CHESHIRE



STAFFORDSHIRE

The 'Castle' was built in 1754 as a summerhouse for Randle Wibraham I of Rode Hall, which is about 3 miles away, in Cheshire. Designed so as to look like a castle from a bygone age and also to improve the view from the newly built hall. Local stone masons, John and Ralph Harding, who still have descendants on Mow Cop, were employed in its construction. Their wages of 1/- or 5p per day were exceptional for the time. Originally the castle had an upper floor with fireplace and it also had a roof. In the mid 1800's a Ralph Sneyd of Keele Hall, in Staffordshire claimed that part of the folly was on his land. It was ruled, after a lengthy court case, that the folly and the cost of its upkeep was to be shared by both the Sneyds and the Wilbrahams.

At about the same time a Mr. G.H. Morris the postmaster at Scholar Green, decided to measure the tower. This is what he recorded:-

Circumference: 65ft 9ins

Diameter: 20ft 9ins. Ht. of Tower: 32ft 9ins.  
Door Ht: 7ft 9ins. Wall thickness 3ft 2ins  
Door W: 3ft 2ins Window W: 4ft

The Castle and the surrounding area have been National Trust property since ownership was given to them by Mr. Joe Lovatt in 1937, when he ceased quarrying the land.

## BLUE ROUTE



**A** Another of the numerous wells found on Mow Cop. This one was formed in 1862 and would have been used by the miners employed at the Tower Hill colliery. Some of these miners lived in a row of now demolished cottages which had stood on the embankment opposite the well. The cottages were named Williamson's Row when they were first erected; but became known by all and sundry as Welsh Row; due to the fact that a lot of the miners had their roots in Wales.



**B** The tool house and stables for the Stone Trough/Tower Hill Collieries tramway. The stables were not for the use of pit ponies but for the horses that were employed in pulling the coal wagons along the tramway. These horses would probably have been larger than pit ponies and more like shire horses as they would have had to pull any number of the coal 'tubs' in a small train. Pit ponies would not have been strong enough for such a task.



**C** The old colliery wage office which is now a private dwelling.



**D** Stone Trough farm. The colliery was operated from within the farm yard.

For a more detailed history of Mow Cop, its people, past industries and the castle, including a fantastic collection of pictures, pay a visit to the Mow Cop Chapel Museum, or on the web, go to our village web site at:  
[www.mowcop.info](http://www.mowcop.info)

Produced by  
The Mow Cop Resident's Association  
with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.