



# THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY HEYSHAM



Start at the main car park by the Village Green, and cross the road to reach Main Street. Take a glance to your right and you'll spot the village institute, built in 1897 and still very much the heart of local get-togethers. Keep an eye out for the date stones on the houses – some go all the way back to 1633, a lovely reminder of the village's long history.



Soon you'll come to Heysham Heritage Centre on your right. Once a barn for the neighbouring 17th-century farmhouse, it now offers a glimpse into the area's stories and past lives.



*Call into the Heritage Centre to learn all about the fascinating history of this small Lancashire village (seasonal opening and selected days; please see [www.heyshamheritage.org.uk](http://www.heyshamheritage.org.uk) for details).*

Carry on along Main Street until you reach The Royal Hotel - there's been a building here since the early 1500s, when it served as the village corn store.



Next door once lived Granny Hutchinson, in what's now called Nettle Cottage. Back in the early 1900s, she was part of the local tradition of brewing Heysham's famous Nettle Beer – an unusual, non-alcoholic drink with a distinctive (and much-debated!) flavour.

Just a little further on, you'll find St Patrick's Well set into the wall. It was once one of the village's main water supplies... although its waters were apparently a bit on the 'brackish' side – perhaps best admired rather than sampled!



*Stop at The Royal for a cosy drink by the fire in winter or a glass of something cold outside in the beer garden in summer.*



Just beyond the Well, turn left onto the drive towards the Parish Church and headland.

Here you'll find the ruins of St Patrick's Chapel, a small 8th or 9th-century building once important to early Christian pilgrims. Nearby, mysterious rock-cut graves lie carved into the bedrock, shaped to fit the body and marked with cross sockets—making this one of Lancashire's most evocative historic sites.



These ancient rock-cut graves may look familiar – they featured on the cover of Black Sabbath's 2000 album *The Best of Black Sabbath*.

*Imagine pilgrims and settlers gathering here on the headland – early Celtic Christians, pilgrims or monks drawn to this quiet, dramatic edge of the land and later Vikings, establishing communities and blending beliefs and cultures.*

Follow the coastal path to Half Moon Bay (10min) to view the impressive bronze and steel sculpture 'The Ship' by artist Anna Gillespie. Commissioned by the Morecambe Bay Partnership as part of the Headlands to Headspace project, and supported by National Lottery funding, the sculpture reflects the area's long seafaring history. Its two seated figures face in opposite directions, symbolising journeys, change, and the meeting of past and present.



Think about what the sea and the coast means to you – a place of freedom and holidays? A place of arrival and departure? A place of work? An essential part of life on an island?



Head back down the pathway then turn left through the gate into St Peter's churchyard. The church contains many important artefacts including the world-famous 'Hog Back Stone' (Viking grave stone). St Peter's is one of the oldest churches in Lancashire. It was first recorded in 1080 but it is believed that there was a church here about 300 years earlier. Open Mon-Sat in summer, Wed and Sat in winter.



As you follow the path around the north side of the church, can you spot the grave which is close by of the unfortunate Sarah Hannah Jones, one of the wives of James Jones, which bears the inscription "Poet, Philosopher, Failure"?



Turn right along the path, heading back towards the church gate and turn left through the opening in the wall to what looks like a secret garden known as the Glebe Garden. The word 'glebe' means 'land belonging to the church'. This tranquil garden has been restored by local volunteers. Among the many plants in the garden you can find the *rosa gallica ocinalis* – the Red Rose of Lancaster.



The ornaments in the garden have been lovingly placed by visitors in memory of loved ones. Look closely and you'll discover teddies, fairies, tiny houses and animals – each one a small, heartfelt tribute.



We hope you've enjoyed this Discovery Trail!

Have you taken photos of the stunning views across the bay, stopped for a moment in the peaceful surroundings of Glebe Garden, or discovered more about the Vikings? (NB Don't miss the Heysham Viking Festival which takes place each July!)

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