

01

The Sir John Barrow Monument

Grade II\* listed structure with glorious views over Morecambe Bay, the Langdales and the Yorkshire Dales



03

Six gentle walks around Ulverston

Explore the historic market town of Ulverston with six gentle walks, starting and ending at the Coronation Hall



04

A tour of Ulverston - from coast to hills

11 mile circular walk around Ulverston with extensive views of Morecambe Bay and the surrounding fells and mountains



Shopping in Stan's Day

Explore Ulverston



**How to find us**

**BY ROAD** Leave the Motorway at Junction 36 and follow the signs for A590 Barrow and Ulverston.

**BY BUS** There are regular bus connections to Ulverston. For timetables and fare enquiries telephone 0871 200 22 33

**BY RAIL** The Furness Line, north from Lancashire or south from Carlisle is a scenic coastal journey, calling at Ulverston. Direct services from Manchester Airport to Barrow-in-Furness also call at Ulverston.

For details of all public transport in Cumbria contact Travel Line on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info) Calls to Traveline from BT landlines cost 10p plus network extras. Costs of other providers may vary.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** For enquiries about transport, booking accommodation or events, please go to [www.chooseulverston.co.uk](http://www.chooseulverston.co.uk)

**PLEASE REMEMBER**

- Leave no litter
- Guard against the risk of fire
- Leave all gates as you find them
- Keep dogs under proper control
- Avoid damaging fences, hedges & keep to paths across farmland
- Safeguard water supplies
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Respect the countryside

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[www.chooseulverston.co.uk](http://www.chooseulverston.co.uk)  
[www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk](http://www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk)

02 Stan's Ulverston town trail



Experience the historic market town of Ulverston as Stan Laurel, the town's most famous son, would have known it

**ULVERSTON**  
the 21st century markets town

**Stan Laurel**

Stan Laurel was born Arthur Stanley Jefferson, on 16 June 1890, at the home of his grandparents, Sarah and George Metcalf, at Foundry Cottages (later Argyle Street), Ulverston. That house was to be his home for the first six years of his life but after he'd left to live in Bishop Auckland, Stan still continued to spend much of his school holidays with Grandma and Grandpa Metcalf in Ulverston.

Young Stan knew the streets and shops of Ulverston well through shopping expeditions with his Grandma. Mrs Metcalf had to keep a close eye on Stan as they walked through the streets as often he would stop and make faces in the glass windows of the shops. These shopping trips made a lasting impression on Stan as he often mentioned the narrow cobbled streets and familiar shops in Ulverston when he wrote letters to friends.



"Stan was fascinated by the big plate glass windows of the town's shops and Mrs Metcalf would often find that she had left him behind as she walked. Retracing her footsteps she would find him gazing through the glass making faces. It was those shelves that first saw the famous cry baby face of Stan Laurel as he scratched his tousled head".

Laurel, Before Hardy  
Jenny Owen Pawson & Bill Mouldand  
Published by the Westmorland Gazette in 1984



This walking trail is approximately 1 mile long. It begins outside The Coronation Hall, in County Square, next to the Laurel and Hardy Statue. The statue of 'The Boys' was given to the town by the Sons of the Desert (the International Appreciation Society for Laurel and Hardy). It was unveiled in April 2009, by legendary comedian Ken Dodd. Don't miss the opportunity to have your photograph taken with the comedy duo outside the Coronation Hall.

When Stan was a boy living in Ulverston, the County Hotel stood on this spot but the hotel burned to the ground in 1911 and was replaced by the Coronation Hall in 1914.

Stan returned to Ulverston with Ollie in 1947, he received a hero's welcome and was presented with a copy of his birth certificate on the balcony of the Coronation Hall.

The route takes you round the historic streets of Ulverston, highlighting some of the shops and services in the town, which Stan may have visited with his Grandma. Much of the character of Ulverston as Stan would have known it still remains today. The route then takes you over the main A590 road to see the house where Stan was born and then finishes at the World Famous Laurel and Hardy Museum.

# Stan’s Ulverston town trail

## History walk

Approx 1.25 miles (2 km) circuit | 30 min - 1 hr  
Ascent : Mostly flat

The street layout has changed little in two centuries and certainly since the when Stan Laurel was born, with many fine Georgian and Victorian buildings remain. Remember to look around and above you when walking. Many of the town’s historic buildings have blue plaques which provide more detailed information.



**P1**  
Coronation Hall and the Post Office in County Square.  
Early 1900s

Starting at the statue of Stan & Ollie, behind you is the Coronation Hall, used for concerts and many local events. It was built to commemorate King George V’s accession to the throne in 1911.



**P4**  
King Street at the corner with Upper Brook Street - would be familiar to Stan today. Buildings haven’t changed and one business is still there - Dickinson’s Shoe Shop.  
Early 1900s

4 Continue for fifty yards (46m) into King Street, turn left and walk along Upper Brook Street. This will bring you into a large open area known as The Gill. This large space surrounded by delightful colourful cottages, was a meeting place for townsfolk, especially during Ulverston’s Whitsuntide and Martinmas Hiring Fairs, held until the last war.



**P5**  
The Gill dated around World War I - note the military parade.  
1914-18

5 A clockwise walk around The Gill will take you past Holy Trinity School (1892) and the Town Beck at the head of The Gill. Sign posts point the way for hardy walkers who want to tackle the Cumbria Way, a 70-mile trek northwards across the Lake District to Carlisle. The start point is marked by The Cumbria Way Marker sculpture. Continue on and notice the cobbles outside No. 36 and 37 as you make your way back to Mill Street, passing the old well next to the public conveniences.

6 The Town Beck is culverted under The Gill today. It emerges under the former Town Mill, which is now Millers pub. The beck can still be heard rushing under the original mill workings, which are preserved and feature in the building. Dating from the 12th century, the Town Mill was owned for generations by the Woodburn family. On the corner of the building on Mill Street is a carving in the stonework known as The Four Seasons of Woman. This was sculpted by Edwin Woodburn who later became champion pole vaulter of England in 1874 at the local Flan Sports day. Ulverston is the birthplace of pole vaulting as a competitive sport.

7 A few paces on and you re-enter King Street. At the corner beside the Kings Arms is a busy five-way road junction. From here you can look along Church Walk towards Hoad Hill and the Sir John Barrow’s Monument. Sir John Barrow was a famous son of Ulverston and the monument is in the style of the Eddystone Lighthouse. It was built in 1850 and is open at weekends when the flag is flying.

8 Turn right and cross the road. Walk along King Street until you reach a narrow entry on your left called Smith’s Court. Walk along Smith’s Court and you will see the original Town Goal on your right, before coming to Buxton Place Car Park. The few remaining alleyways in town are typical of central Ulverston in the 19th century. Imagine small cottages and a few workshops packed together. There is a fine example of a disused 18th century house and a refurbished warehouse in the middle of this car park.

9 Turn right at the end of Smith’s Court and then right again into Lower Brook Street. Proceed along here and take the first turn left, this leads into Brazier Fells Yard. The yard was named after Mr Fell, a brass worker who died in 1895. Walking through would rest after crossing the sands of Morecambe Bay.



**P2**  
Looking down New Market Street with the curved frontage of Birkett’s Stores on the left.  
1912

There are many fine buildings in County Square including the sandstone, Dutch-gabled bank, the Old Library and the Post Office, built in 1914.

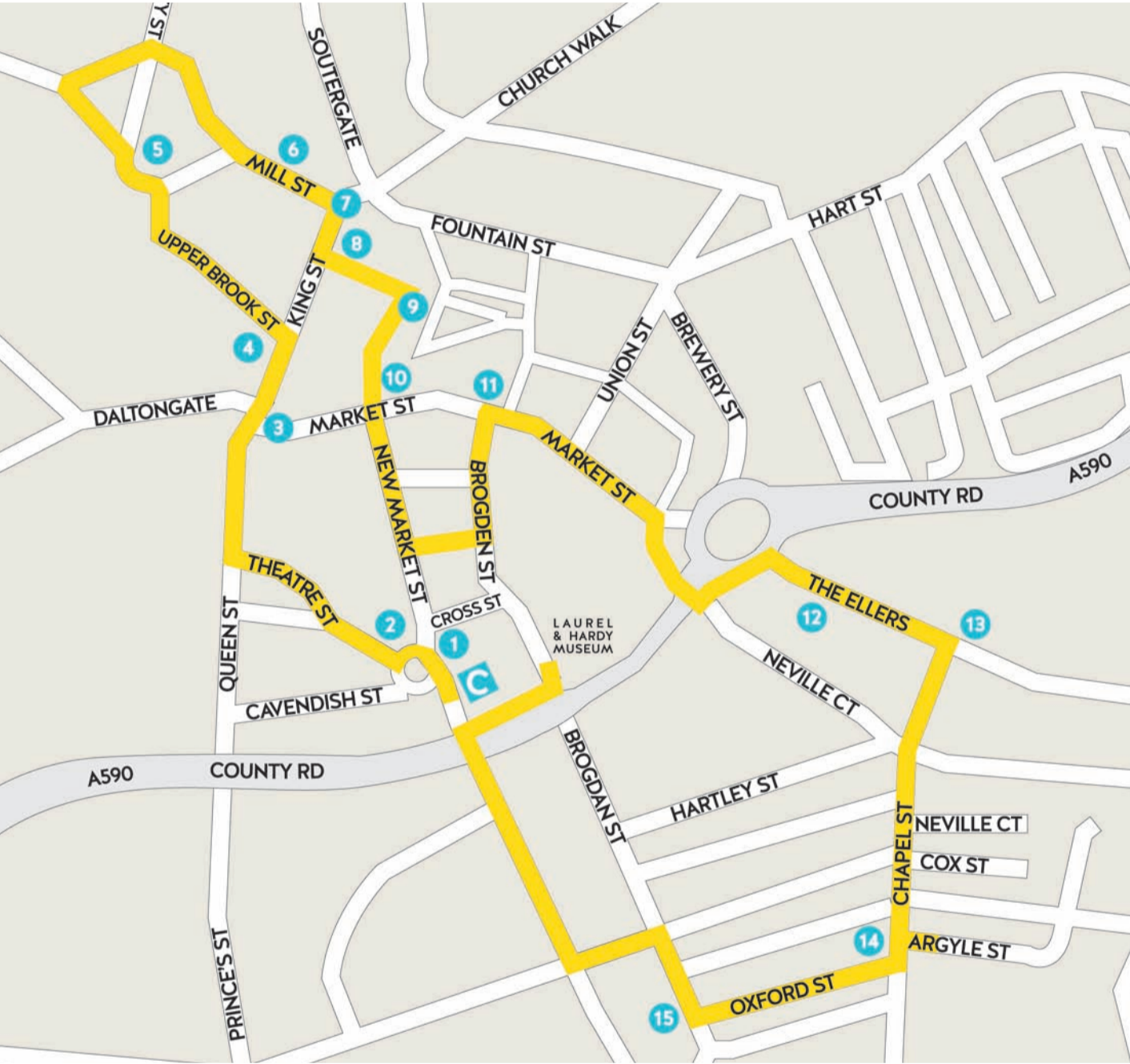
1 Walking anti-clockwise you will pass the entrance to New Market Street. On the left hand side of this street is Victoria Buildings. This was a purpose built ‘shopping centre’ of the era, built to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee in 1887. Turn right into Theatre Street from County Square. On your right is the site of the former Theatre Royal, the first purpose built theatre in Ulverston, which is now a car park and an auction room. On your left directly opposite, is the narrow back street known as Rack Alley. This long straight alley was used to make rope for many local companies in the 19th century.

2 Follow Theatre Street. This street was used during the twice-yearly Hiring Fairs, when local people seeking employment in service or on local farms would make sure they were seen in this area. Turn right into Queen Street until you reach the cobbled Market Place and the Market Cross. It was here that cattle, sheep, pigs, geese and corn were traded until late Victorian times and local people gathered to jeer at miscreants locked in the stocks. (Street Market - Thursdays and Saturdays).



**P3**  
Market Place - in Stan’s time the chemist was called Mason’s and the unusual building next to belonged to Mackereth’s, prominent seed merchants.  
Early 1900s

3 At the War Memorial, stop and look around. Ahead are grade II listed buildings such as the chemist. To your right to see the cobbled Market Street with its small specialist shops, pubs and cafes. To your left is the Grade II listed Farmers Arms. To its right and across Daltongate, the arch signifies the site of what was once the Braddylls Arms Public House - a classic example of a former coaching inn.



**P11**  
Looking west along Market Street towards Market Place. Note the carts from which farmers sold their produce.  
Early 1900s

10 Directly across the cobbles enter New Market Street with the Market Hall on your left. Walk through the Market Hall and enjoy a rest on the squirrel seat in the hall, ideal for weary shoppers or walkers. At the rear entrance to the Market Hall turn left into Brogden Street. At the bottom of the street, look up and note that this was Ulverston Co-operative Department Store.

11 Turn right down Market Street and walk on to the next corner where you will see the original Ulverston Savings Bank that dates from 1838, crowned by a spectacular clock tower. Carry on down to Tank Square, the main roundabout. Turn right and cross over heading towards a pedestrian crossing on the main County Road (A590). Cross the main road safely and turn left and follow this pavement around into The Ellers.

12 On the corner stands one of the town’s last cotton mills,

once High Ellers Mill but now Rachel’s Court – a block of flats. Half way along you will see Lantern House.

13 As you walk down The Ellers, pause at the next junction before turning right. In the distance you see the three story Low Ellers Mill. Continue on to the next junction, where you will see the Methodist Church on your right and cross straight over following Chapel Street along to Argyle Street on the left. Stan was born at 3 Argyle Street on 16 June 1890. At that time the street was known as Foundry Cottages. Look out for the plaque on the house. Also on Argyle Street, where Sir John Barrow School is now, there used to be a theatre called Denville’s Gaff, Stan’s father was part of the acting company there before they moved away. The Gaff burned down in 1910.

14 Cross over to Oxford Street. About one third of the way up on the left hand side is 32 Oxford Street; this was the first home of Stan’s grandparents prior to their move to Argyle Street.

15 Right on to Brogden Street. Note the old Auction Mart (now Ulverston Brewing Company) on the corner of Brogden Street and Lightburn Road and take time to read the blue plaque on the wall explaining its heritage. Turn right into Victoria Road and make your way along the road to the traffic lights where you can cross County Road safely and return to your starting point or wander round behind the Coronation Hall to the Laurel & Hardy Museum for a well earned rest and a laugh.