



### Things to do and see in Haltwhistle

#### Be a Time Detective

Pick up the children's Time Detectives Kit to guide you and your family along a fascinating journey through our resourceful and industrious past.

Look out for shops that perhaps reveal a little of their history. Many of the buildings were once Bastles.

#### Reiver Past

Many of the shops were built onto the fabric of 16th/17th Century Bastles or Defensible Houses.

#### Celtic and Roman Influence

The 13th Century Church of the Holy Cross links the town to a Celtic and Roman past.

#### Centre of Britain

The Market Place dates back to the 13th Century. King John granted a Market Charter in 1207 for weekly markets and fairs to be held twice a year.

#### Haltwhistle Burn

Just north and east of the town runs the Haltwhistle Burn – a delightful walk through beautiful scenery, but in the 1860s, it was a place of intense industrial activity: the powerhouse for much of Haltwhistle's industry.



For more information on things to do and places to stay in Haltwhistle visit:

[www.heartofhadrianswall.co.uk](http://www.heartofhadrianswall.co.uk)



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.  
Europe investing in rural areas



This leaflet is part of Haltwhistle's 'Market Town Welcome' initiative delivered by Haltwhistle Partnership

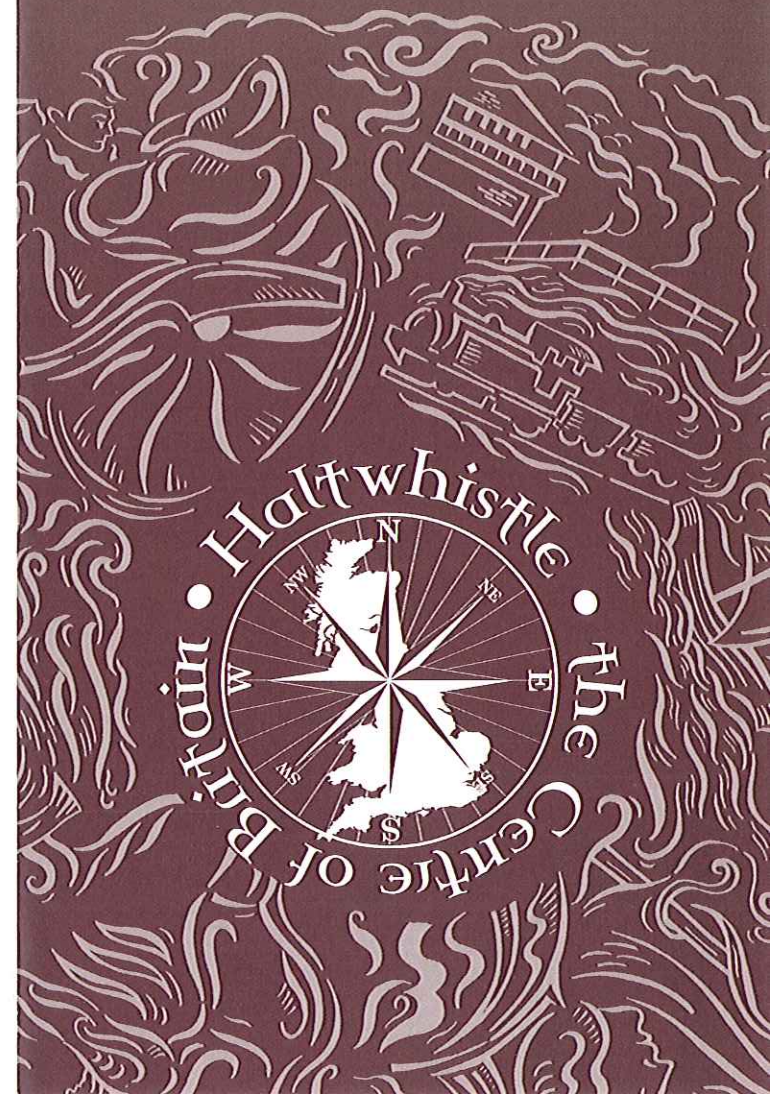
[www.haltwhistle.org](http://www.haltwhistle.org)

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Explore  
**Haltwhistle's**  
Cartwheels & Clogs

With the coming of the railway in the 1830s, many of Haltwhistle's inhabitants were tradesmen and artisans who provided for the needs of the surrounding farms and villages.







From clogs to cycles, chocolates to curtains - there were once over 60 traders on the Main Street of Haltwhistle.  
 In 1822 you could buy anything from iron beds to bread buns within 100 metres of the Market Place.

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John Liddell and Sons was founded in 1855 and typified the burgeoning retail trade of the Industrial Revolution.

**JOHN LIDDELL & SONS,**

**Universal Providers.**

Haltwhistle  
 The oldest firm in town. Established 1855.  
 Provision Merchants, Millers, Building and  
 Furnishing Ironmongers  
 Hay, Potatoes, Field Seeds and Manures

**The Rexell Pharmacy**

For THE DRUGS  
 SICK ROOM NEEDS  
 ACCURATE DISPENSING  
 SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
 General and all Photographic Materials

**BELL & SON,**

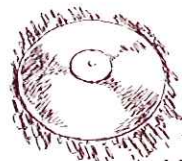
Opticians  
 Market Place, Haltwhistle.  
 Established A.D. 1858.

An advert from the 1923 Centenary handbook of the Methodist Church sums up Liddell's ability to supply people of our town with everyday items, such as iron bedsteads, cast iron stoves and tins of paraffin.

The retail map of the early 1900s shows the variety of goods that were available on Main Street in Haltwhistle. Businesses, such

as Bell's, were able to provide accommodation for cyclists and repair bicycles as well as selling shoes and fresh baked rolls.

Across the road, on what became known as Physic Lane, there was a dispensary where remedies, patented cures and medication of all descriptions could be bought.



Jackson's Blacksmith's shop at the back of the Market place was established in 1780 and fitted forged metal tyres to cartwheels while wooden clogs for mine workers and farm labourers were made in the Scott's shop across the road. The rough wooden templates for these were prepared in the woods nearby. In all, sixty traders, shopkeepers and craftsmen are listed in the Commercial Directory of 1822.



Like many other towns Haltwhistle held a Spring Fair in May and an Autumn Fair in November, traditionally the times for hiring farm labour. These fairs were big events running over three days and noted for their 'primitive' customs.

*"when youths bought fairings for their damsels, they retired to a public house where a stranger would be surprised to see 20 or 30 couples sitting around a room in an Inn kissing each other with utmost ardour. This old custom in more populous parts would justly be considered gross violation of common decency!"*

*Here it attracted no notice being allowed as a practice 'equally necessary and harmless.'*

For the May fair a stolen tree was set up in the Market Place like a Maypole and decked with holly and ribbons. At the close of the Fair the tree was sold for fire wood and the proceeds spent on further carousing.

A busy cattle market ran in what is now the supermarket car park until the mid-1980s. Names like the Fair Hill and The Mart echo busier agricultural times.

Haltwhistle had missed out on the lead boom created by the Napoleonic Wars. The idea for a Tyne/Solway Canal designed in 1810 was overtaken by the construction of the Newcastle Carlisle Railway in the 1830s. The coming of the railway allowed the exploitation of Coal in and around Haltwhistle and with the building of the Haltwhistle Alston line in the 1850's Haltwhistle's population trebled expanding from an agricultural Market Town into a prosperous Mining Town by 1860. Even so agriculture remained important as Haltwhistle had become known for the sale of Blue Grey and Galloway Cattle.

The wool and cloth industry also grew because of the accessibility to markets created by the railway and by the turn of the century drapers Forster and Robisons, and Hastewells were supplying made to measure suits from Gateshead to Kendal.

The Alston Railway had linked up again with the lead mines of Alston and lead based paint was manufactured at Greystonedale in Haltwhistle.

Haltwhistle became a natural centre for haulage firms.

The depression saw the Plenneller Colliery close in 1931 causing 50% unemployment until Hadrian Paints built a factory by the railway and found a market for paint to preserve the naval ships being built and renovated at Newcastle, Glasgow and Barrow in anticipation of the Second World War.

