



PRESTON CITY CENTRE STATUE TRAIL



Start point: Preston Market Hall, PR1 2JA.

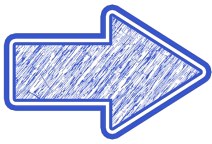


Wallace and Gromit Bench

This bronze sculpture of Wallace and Gromit was unveiled in 2021, in honour of the animated duo's creator, and Honorary Freeman of the City, Nick Park. The statue shows Wallace and Gromit as they appeared in 'The Wrong Trousers' and, thanks to the incorporation of the bench, it makes a fantastic photo op, as well as homage to the beloved characters from Aardman Animations.

Nick was born in Preston's Brookfield Park and went on to study at Preston's College, further studying animation at the National Film and Television School in Buckinghamshire. In recognition of his achievements, Preston's College named their library the Nick Park Library Learning Centre.

The statue was unveiled by the Mayor of Preston, Councillor Javed Iqbal, and Nick Park himself. Don't miss the opportunity to snap a photo of yourself with the cheese-loving inventor and his companion before moving on.



Follow the trail for Preston Cenotaph

Standing with Wallace and Gromit behind you, head left down Market Street towards the Flag Market. The Cenotaph will be visible on your left.



Preston Flag Market, Cheapside, PR1 2AP.

Cenotaph

The Cenotaph was paid for by public donations in memory of the men of Preston who lost their lives in WWI. The structure underwent a restoration project in 2013 and stands proud over the Flag Market, in memory of some 2,000 men who tragically lost their lives in the Great War.

It was designed by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, whose father Sir George Gilbert Scott designed Preston's first town hall, before it mysteriously burned down. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott also designed the iconic red telephone box; a design which can also be seen to the left of the Cenotaph, down the side of the old Post Office building, in the longest row of red telephone boxes in England.



Follow the trail for the Obelisk

You will find the Obelisk opposite the Cenotaph on the Flag Market.



Preston Flag Market, Cheapside, PR1 2AP.

Obelisk

The Obelisk sits opposite the Cenotaph on Preston's Market Square/Flag Market. The monument dates back to 1782 and was originally installed for the Guild celebration the same year.

In 1816 a gas lamp was fitted to the top of the Obelisk, making it the first outdoor location outside of London to be lit by gas.

The structure was removed in 1853 and remained in storage until 1979, when it was restored back to its home on the Flag Market. This re-erection was to mark and celebrate the 800th anniversary of the city being granted the charter by King Henry II.



Follow the trail for the Peace Gardens

With the Obelisk on your left, and the Cenotaph on your right, bear right and walk along Friargate. Continue along Friargate until you come close to the Ring Way. Here, the Peace Gardens will be on your right.

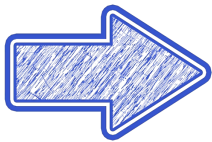


Friargate, PR1 2EJ.

Peace Gardens

The Peace Gardens were opened in 1991 and designed by Graham Mort. The gardens originally housed the praying hands sculpture which now resides on Fylde Road.

The Peace Gardens are a place to sit and watch the world go by. They include outdoor seating, surrounded by pieces of poetry and depictions of doves.



Follow the trail for the Preston Martyrs memorial

Opposite the Peace Gardens, and a little closer to the Ring Way, is a path that takes you to Lune Street. Follow this path and you will see the Preston Martyrs outside the old Corn Exchange building.



Lune Street, PR1 2NN.

Preston Martyrs

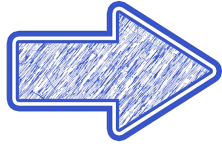
Situated outside the old Corn Exchange (now the 1842 restaurant) is the Preston Martyrs memorial statue.

This statue marks the site of the Lune Street Riots in 1842. The riots took place during the 1842 General Strike, also known as the Plug Plot Riots. These were prompted by a depression in 1841-2 that resulted in workers' wages being cut by over 25%.



On August 12, following a meeting of around 3,000 cotton workers on the site that is now Preston covered markets, Preston workers began their strike. The strike continued on 13 August and moved into the town centre. It was on Lune Street where the crowds were met by police and soldiers, leading events to become escalated. Strikers gathered and threw stones at the police and military, resulting in the military opening fire into the crowd. By the time the crowd had scattered, four workers had been shot dead and three others had been injured.

This memorial, which stands on the site where these sad events took place, depicts the four factory workers being shot. It was designed by Gordon Young and was unveiled on the 150th anniversary of the shooting. The memorial's design was inspired by Goya's painting "The Third of May 1808" and aims to remind people "Never without sacrifice have gains been made towards justice and democracy".



Follow the path for the Sir Robert Peel statue

With the Preston Martyrs memorial on your right, walk up Lune Street, towards Fishergate High Street. Turn right onto Fishergate, then the first left down Chapel Street. Continue down Chapel Street until you see Winckley Square Gardens on your left. Enter the gardens and cross to the other side where you will see the Sir Robert Peel statue.



Winckley Square, PR1 2JT.

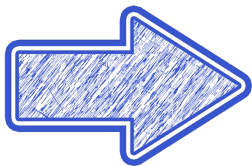
Sir Robert Peel



This statue was erected in memory of Sir Robert Peel and his achievements. It was sculpted by a local sculptor: Thomas Duckett Senior.

Sir Robert Peel is known as the “Father of policing” after he established the Metropolitan Police Force for London in 1829. After this proved successful in cutting crime in London, all cities in Britain were obliged to form their own police forces by 1857.

Sir Robert Peel, however, was most admired in Preston for abolishing the Corn Laws in 1846, during his time as Prime Minister. The Corn Laws were tariffs and other trade restrictions on imported food and grain which raised food prices for the British Public. Abolishing the Corn Laws was beneficial to the less wealthy and it was because of this that Sir Robert Peel was held in great esteem by the poor. The erection of this statue by public subscription went ahead in 1852, after his death in 1850.



Follow the trail for the Cotton Reel

Follow the street opposite the Sir Robert Peel statue (Cross Street) and take the second right onto Avenham Road. Walk to the end of Avenham Road and you will find the Cotton Reel at the top, to your left.



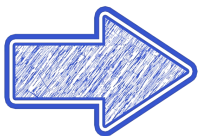
Avenham Road, PR1 3TH.

Cotton Reel

Featuring a large bobbin and sewing needle, this inviting statue was designed by Van Nong and local residents. It commemorates the former Simpsons Gold Thread Works and marks its importance in the city's history.

The Gold Thread Works was home to Stephen Simpson Ltd. – a company which advanced the science of gold thread manufacture and ran in this building 1839 – 1991. They produced gold and silver wire embroidery for the military, royalty, cruise ships, and Freemasons. They also produced other important pieces for uniforms of the staff on the Titanic and German Military badges for English Spies in WWII.

The company was established by Isaac Simpson and was continued by his son Stephen Simpson.



Follow the trail for the Sevastopol Cannons

With the Cotton Reel on your left, and Avenham Road behind you, turn right along Avenham Lane and follow the road until you come to Bushell Place on your left, and a line of trees leading into Avenham Park. Cross over the road and follow this path with the line of trees, and down a set of steps. Continue forward towards another set of steps. The Sevastopol Cannons sit on either side of these steps.



Avenham Park, PR1 8JT.

Sevastopol Cannons

Sitting either side of Avenham Park's steps, overlooking the River Ribble, are two 36lb Sevastopol Cannons. The original cannons they represent were brought back from the siege of Sebastopol and presented to Preston in 1858 following the Crimean War. The Preston-based 30th and 47th army regiments played a crucial role in the siege of the Russian port of Sebastopol, the capture of which virtually ended the war.



Follow the trail for the Miller Park fountain

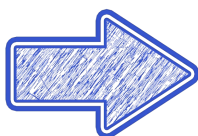
Head down the steps and take the pathway towards your right, leading down and alongside the River Ribble. Continue along the path, with the river on your left, and under the bridge into Miller Park. Take the side path to your right, which you will see leads to the fountain.



Miller Park, South Meadow Lane, PR18JP.

Miller Park fountain

This fountain is Grade II listed and was designed by Edward Milner, responsible for the design of Miller Park. It dates back to 1865 and depicts the four elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Air.



Follow the trail for the Earl of Derby statue

Opposite the fountain is a set of steps. Climb these steps to find the Earl of Derby statue at the top.



Miller Park, South Meadow Lane, PR18JP.

Earl of Derby Statue

The Earl of Derby statue overlooks the picturesque Miller Park. The statue is in memory of Edward George Geoffrey Smith-Stanley, the 14th Earl of Derby and British Prime Minister 1866 – 1868. He was the longest running Conservative Party leader to date.

Stanley was born to Lord Stanley, who was later the 13th Earl of Derby. The Stanleys were a long-established and wealthy land-owning family. Their principal residence was Knowsley Hall, Lancashire.





Follow the trail for the Boer War Monument

With the Earl of Derby statue on your left, follow the pathway under the bridge. Ahead, and to the left, is the Boer War Monument.



Finish point: Avenham Park, PR18JT.

Boer War Monument

This monument is dedicated to the servicemen who died in the 1899 – 1902 Boer War. It is made of polished pink and red granite, sculpted by T. Hodgkinson of Preston. It was originally erected on Preston Flag Market in 1904, before being moved to its current location in 1925, with the current Cenotaph replacing its place on the Flag Market.



Preston Statue Trail map

1. Wallace and Gromit bench
2. Preston Cenotaph
3. Obelisk - Flag Market
4. Peace Gardens
5. Preston Martyrs memorial
6. Sir Robert Peel statue
7. Cotton Reel
8. Sevastopol Cannons
9. Miller Park fountain
10. Earl of Derby statue
11. Boer War Monument

