

## Barton upon Humber

The rural market town of Barton upon Humber is situated on the south bank of the tidal River Humber at the south end of the Humber Bridge. The Town, Saxon in name, possesses one of the finest Saxon church towers in the land. At the time of the Domesday Book (1086) it was the biggest port on the Humber, and, with major river freight facilities, the town expanded through trade and shipbuilding. However, as Hull grew up across the river, it eclipsed Barton's maritime importance, but it continued to be a very important part of the North Lincolnshire trading network through which wine, fish, hides, wool and foodstuffs were imported and exported. Barton remained a significant market town, closely linked to agriculture and associated trades. In later times the town developed important brick and tile works, roperies, maltings, breweries, quarries, cement, whiting, lime, cycle and chemical works which grew and have now disappeared, except for a small boat-building yard, and a couple of tile yards that still make tiles in the traditional way by hand. The manufacture of tiles can now be seen at the newly opened Tilery Museum close to the tile works.

Barton's narrow streets, despite their modern bustle, have an air of another century about them as they thread their way between the houses, and, like most old towns, there is much to interest the visitor. The two old and well-restored churches are in a pleasant setting at one end of the town with a pond and road between them. Within easy walking distance is Baysgarth House, built in 1731 for the Nelthorpe family. In 1930 the house and its 14 acres of parkland was given to the Town. It now houses the local museum. Another museum in the Town is the Wilderspin National School Museum and Visitor Centre. The School opened in 1845 and its first Superintendent was Samuel Wilderspin, one of the pioneers of infant education. Following restoration in 2007-2008, the Museum shows the development of infant education, and features Wilderspin's achievements. Its 1840s Wilderspin Schoolroom and Playground, and the later Victorian Classroom are used for role play by groups of school children. There are many listed historic buildings throughout the town, one of the finest being the Ropewalk, this quarter of a mile long building erected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is reputed to have one of the longest pan-tile roofs in the country. In its hey-day it supplied ropes for the World. It now houses a small Museum, Art and Craft shop, cafeteria, small business offices, galleries, workshops, studios and a small community venue that offers a programme of film, theatre, music, and comedy. Another of the Town's historic buildings is 51 Fleetgate, thought to be the oldest residential house in North Lincolnshire, with parts of its timber framing dating from around 1325. This building is opened by volunteers from the Civic Society; details of open days can be found on the Society's web-site.

A great deal of the area along the water's edge is protected by being designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and much evidence of the old brick and tile industry can be found. Here you will find the Far Ings National Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre, a stronghold for some of Britain's rarest birds. One area reclaimed from an old industrial site in the late 1990s is the Waters' Edge Country Park. This 110 acre site has been transformed into wet lands and woodlands attracting an abundance of wild life. It's Visitor Centre, with gift shop and cafeteria attracts many visitors. There are many pleasant walks throughout the park, including a Board Walk over one of the lakes, and adventure parks for children of all ages.

Barton has several fine historic pubs, many restaurants and a variety of takeaway services, and Shops.

### The Railway Station

The station, opened by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1849, provided a service to New Holland and the Humber Ferry, and beyond. At one time, the Station had several buildings and was surrounded by extensive sidings which have now disappeared. Today the Station is the northern terminus of the 'Humberlinc' line from Cleethorpes and Grimsby, passengers being served by a single platform and waiting shelter. There are excellent bus links to Hull and Scunthorpe from the station.

### Useful Information.

Baysgarth House Museum: tel. 01652 637568. E-mail: contact. champ@btconnect.com

Wilderspin National School Museum: tel. 0165 2635172. www.wilderspainschool.org.uk

St Peters Church: English Heritage tel. 08703 331181.

Waters' Edge Country Park: tel. 01652 631500. www.vistnorthlincolnshire.com

Ropewalk: tel. 01652 660380 www. the -ropewalk.co.uk

Far Ings National Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre: tel. 01652 637055. www. linestrust.org.uk

51 Fleetgate: www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk

Tilery Museum: tel. 01652 637095.