

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW CROSTON?

1. What is carved on the plaque on the Old Police Station?

Three Lions and 1880

2. How many almshouses are there?

Thirteen. Two in Station Road. Four in Westhead Road. Four on Shevington Causeway. Three on Back Drinkhouse Lane.

3. What year was the railway line opened in Croston?

1849

4. Who was the architect of the OLD Croston Hall and Chapel of the Holy Cross?

Edward Welby Pugin 1834-1875. Son of A.W.Pugin, who worked on the Palace of Westminster.

5. What river forms the boundary between Croston and Bretherton?

River Lostock. Starting in the hills at Withnell, running through Whittle-le-Woods, Cuerden Valley Park, Farington and Leyland before joining the Yarrow at Croston.

6. What year was the stone cross replaced on the steps in Church Street.

1953. The year of the Coronation. It was unveiled by Tommy Dalton, the blacksmith who had donated the sandstone millwheel from which the cross was cut.

7. How many bridges cross the River Yarrow in Croston?

Seven. Mill Bridge: Croston Hall Bridge: Chapel Bridge: School Footbridge: Town Bridge: Castle Bridge and Fishery Bridge. (There is also a bridge just for the single track railway.)

8. What names are on the listed Boundary Stone?

Croston and Ulnes Walton. The Boundary Stone is opposite the Highfield Public House on Southport Road. The carved letters were gauged out during WWII to confuse the Germans when they took

over the country (that's how real the fear was in 1940.) The names have since been painted back on.

9. What is the name of our Twin Town?

Azay le Rideau. Set in the Loire Valley. Many friendships were made when the Bishop Rawstorne Secondary School twinned the village with Azay. Although exchange visits do not happen any more (PC?) there are still many who visit us to celebrate Bastille Day in July.

10. Where is Dandy Croft?

The narrow footpath leading from Out Lane to Highfield Road. On old maps it is shown as Dalton's Croft.

11. What is the date on Town Bridge? How much did it cost to build?

The date carved on the centre of Town Bridge is 1682. The cost: £29 18s and 1d. Charles II was King of England at the time, known as the Merry Monarch.

12. What is the official name of the road known locally as the M7?

Turflands. Prior to the 1960's, this was a footpath from Drinkhouse Road to the farms by Town Bridge. As farm machinery became larger, combine harvesters had difficulty going over Town Bridge, and the new road was constructed. This was at the same time that the M6 had been built (the Preston By-pass section was opened by PM Harold McMillan in December 1958) locals called it the M7, and the name stuck.

13. When was the last time Coffee Day was rained off?

1963. The procession had just got past the Old Police Station into Station Road, when the Heavens opened, and residents opened their doors to shelter people. It has not stopped the procession since that year. Covid, however, has closed down Coffee Day for two years: 2020 and 2021.

14. What was the family name of the occupants of the OLD Croston Hall?

De Trafford. The de Trafford family is one of the oldest Catholic families with records going back to 1050. Originating from Trafford, Manchester, their surname became de Trafford. Croston Hall had been rebuilt several times over the years, but it was John Randolphus who commissioned Pugin to build the Gothic style Hall in 1864. His son, Sigismund, married Clemantine Frances Mostyn. They had four children, Ermyntude, Elfrida, and twin boys, Geoffrey and Reginald. Reginald was killed in WWI, and Geoffrey took over as Squire on his father's death. There were no descendants from the remaining three children, and the Squire left the estate to the Catholic Church at Liverpool upon the death of his sister, 'Miss Ermy'. She died in January 1964. The hall was demolished in April 1964 by the Ainscough family, who purchased it from the Liverpool Diocese.

15. Where is the listed building, Bogger's Cabin?

On Croston Moss. At the junction with Footpaths 4 and 5, Moss Lane. This was built as a shelter for two horses. It contains a fireplace and bays for two horses. The horses would be left to feed overnight, ready for the next days work, while the farmers walked home. It is now listed with Historic England.

16. How many public houses are there in Croston?

Six. The Crown: The Black Horse: The Sports Club: The Wheatsheaf: The Lord Nelson and The Grapes.

17. Old maps show Club Street. What is it called now? When was it demolished?

It is now part of Riverside Crescent. The very old terraced houses were where the playing field is now. There was also a Back Row, accessed through an alley. They were demolished in 1967, when Westfields was built to rehouse the occupants.

18. Where was Beehive Farm?

Beehive Farm was situated between the Almshouses and Carvers Brow, Drinkhouse Road. When the farm was demolished in the early '70s, the site was developed for residential housing.

19. Who was the Sarscow (pronounced saysca) Lady?

The ghost of a lady supposed to have haunted Highfield Road / Sarscow Lane area. A bus driver stopped his bus for a female, but there was no-one there. We have a newspaper article in the archive relating to it. (More information needed.)

20. What date was it when over 200 houses were flooded in Croston?

December 26th Boxing Day, 2015. This was the worst flood in living memory. Although the Flood Action Group had been successful in campaigning for a Flood Barrier, it was only under construction at the time. Despite the setback, it was opened in 2017.