The Cross

The cross, or preaching stone, was erected by the Benedictine monks from Monk Bretton Priory so that they could preach christianity to the locals.



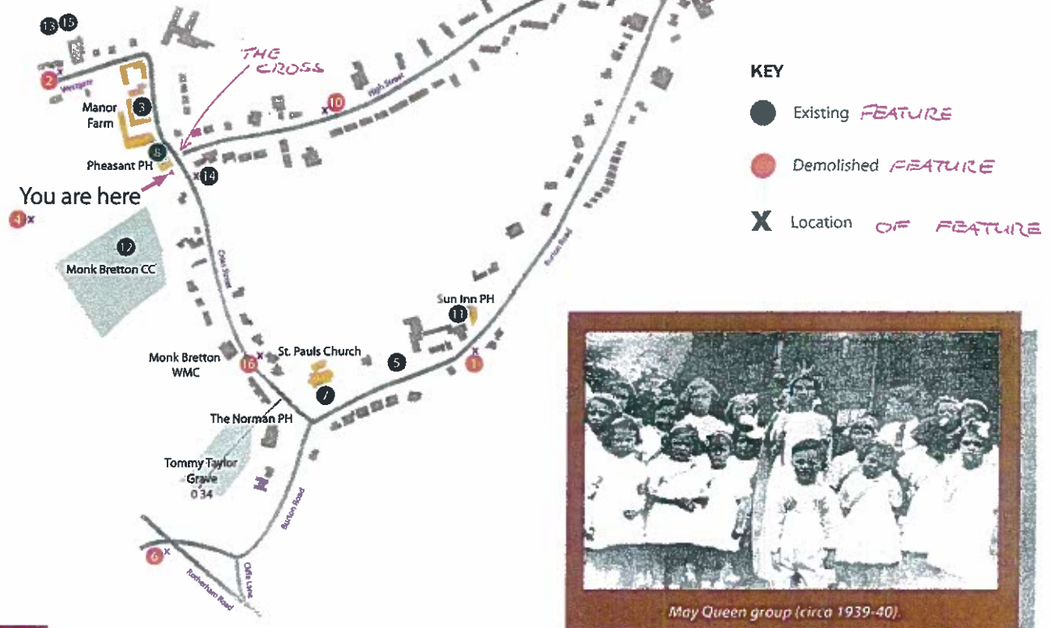
Monk Bretton Cross (also known as the Butter Cross), looking East down High Street with the newly built Butchers Arms beyond (circa 1900)

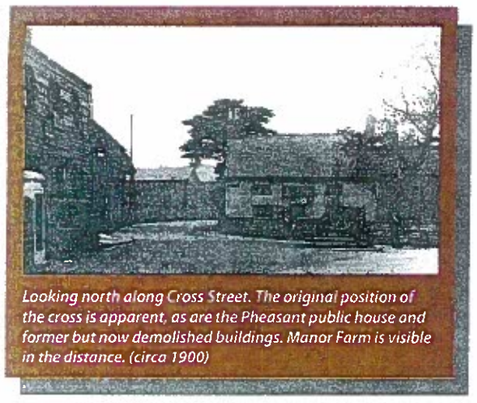
The Cross was erected over 700 years ago because the nearest church that villagers could attend was at Royston, some two miles away. It has remained an important local landmark and meeting place ever since.

Over the years the cross head was lost and the shaft was replaced, however the steps and base have remained largely unaltered. In the 19th century gas pipes and a lamp were connected, and subsequently converted to electricity in order to illuminate the area.

It was moved to its present location in the 1960's when new houses were built following the demolition of a number of older properties in the immediate vicinity. This was when the original cross base or 'socle' was encased in concrete covering the ancient rings once used for tethering livestock.

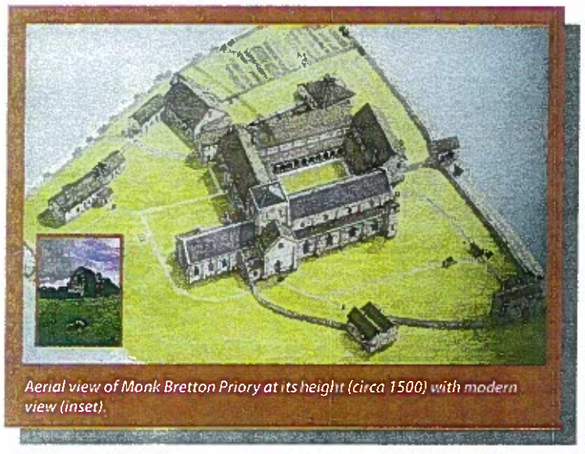
The Cross has always been a meeting place for the community and has in the past incorporated seasonal events such as the procession of the May Queen, and singing hymns at Christmas.





Looking north along Cross Street. The original position of the cross is apparent, as are the Pheasant public house and former but now demolished buildings. Manor Farm is visible in the distance. (circa 1900)

May Queen group (circa 1939-40).



Aerial view of Monk Bretton Priory at its height (circa 1500) with modern view (inset).

Monk Bretton Priory

Monk Bretton Priory was founded in 1154 as the Priory of Mary Magdalene of Lund and was originally a monastery under the Cluniac order. The priory is located in the village of Lundwood close to Cundy Cross roundabout.

Over the course of time the priory took the name of the nearby village of Bretton and became commonly known as Monk Bretton Priory.

The monastery closed on November the 30th 1538 and was surrendered to Henry VIII on November the 21st 1539. In 1541 the site was given over to Henry VIII's commissioner William Blitheman. In 1580 the land was sold to George Talbot, the sixth earl of Shrewsbury, who gave the estate to his son Henry on his marriage to Elizabeth Rayner.

The Priory and site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument under the care of English Heritage.

Research and Text: Sadie Cushing and Don Booker MBE

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ENGLISH HERITAGE
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CHECK FONT UNIFORMITY THROUGHOUT

Monk Bretton Timeline

Circa 1600

14th-15th Century - The Cross

1

The Manor House
George Wood, an early member of a prominent local gentry family, was born in Monk Bretton in 1534 and died there in 1589. There was a Monk Bretton Charter which originated from James 1st in 1600 to which a member of the Wood family was a trustee. George Wood was the ancestor of the 19th century Liberal politician Charles Wood who took the title 1st Viscount Halifax of Monk Bretton for his 1866 peerage. The Wood family lived in a stone cottage complex at the junction of Burton Road and Littleworth Lane.



FONT SIZE (HEADING)

1677

2

Ridings (Westgate)
The detached stone residence, The Ridings on Westgate, was built in 1677 and was once the home of relations of the Queen Mother. The Thackray family were the last residents before it was demolished in the 1960s to make way for new houses.



1600s

3



Manor Farm
The Manor House and several other interesting structures on Cross Street disappeared in the 1960's. Also demolished was Monk Bretton Castle (see 4). Only Manor Farm remains and the oldest structures still standing are a 17th century barn and three other structures at the junction of Cross Street and Westgate.

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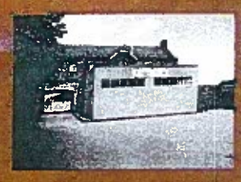


The Castle
Monk Bretton Castle was a famous local landmark that could be seen for miles around South Yorkshire. The castle or folly was built as an observation tower by local farmer Mr Wordsworth and stood on the edge of Burton Bank 100 yards from the cricket ground and overlooking Wordsworth Road bungalows off Rotherham Road. The area was used for the lighting of beacons on occasions such as Coronations, Jubilees and at the end of World War Two. Local Boy Scouts regularly built bonfires on the site, the last time being in 1949 by the 38th Air Scout Group. The Castle was demolished for safety reasons in 1950 and the Ordnance Survey pillar now stands near where the castle once stood.

1800

5

Church School and Redfearns Social Club
The present modern frontage hides the former Church of England Primary School built in 1800 and was the first school in the village. The building was also used as a Scout "Hut" and headquarters for the wartime Home Guard. In later years it was home to Green Monk toys who made the famous television personality "Sooty" and his musical xylophone. Redfearns National Glass subsequently made it their sports and social club.



1810

6

Salt Pie Houses
"Salt Pie Houses" on Burton Road were three storey terraced properties standing near Tennyson Road. Access was gained to the bedrooms via a ladder and to the rear there were single storey kitchens. Due to their peculiar chimney stack "turrets", the row was also known as Castle Row.



1838

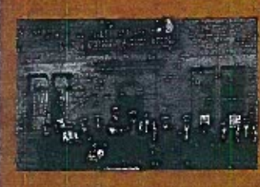
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The Church of St. Paul
The village had two parish churches within the brief period of 40 years. Although the priory at Lundwood, known in its active day as the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene de Lunda, formed a Christian community, Monk Bretton did not possess a church prior to 1838. The foundation for a 700 seat church was laid in 1838, but the structure was so poor it was demolished in 1876 and the St. Paul's Parish Church built at a cost of £4000. In the church entrance there is a 1000 year old stone font once used at the priory for wine making. A panel in the high altar shows a miner, a miner's lamp, and the old village castle.

1855

8



The Pheasant Pub
The Pheasant Inn faces Cross Street and has been a famous local hostelry for footballers, cricketers, darts and pool players and for the ancient game of "poor mans golf" or Knur and Spell. During the pit disputes miners held their meetings in the pub which was famous for its roaring open fires and buskers' nights. The Pheasant Fold cottages were once adjacent and were situated on the present car park site.

1867

9

Monk Bretton Colliery
Monk Bretton was built on coal and the first sod was cut for a colliery on May 30th 1867. The first coal was won at a depth of 300 yards on July 30th 1870. Three shafts were sunk and the Barnsley coal seam was nine feet thick.

The colllery was modernised when it was taken over by the National Coal Board in 1947 and pithead baths were provided - some miners did not have bathrooms in their homes. When reserves of coal were exhausted in 1968, the pit was closed.



KEY

● EXISTING FEATURE ● DEMOLISHED FEATURE

Monk Bretton Timeline

1860s

10

Methodism Arrives
In 1786 John Wesley preached in Barnsley, and within 35 years there was a Methodist society in the village. The first Methodist chapel was at the bottom of High Street, only a few yards from the present church which opened in 1963.



1905

11

Sports in Monk Bretton

Knur and Spell
Gentlemen posing for a photo outside the Sun Inn in readiness for a game of the ancient "poor man's golf" or Knur and Spell. A similar game of Nipsy was also traditionally played in the village.



1908

12



Cricket in Monk Bretton
Gentlemen playing for the Monk Bretton Cricket Club first XI.

1919

13



Monk Bretton United Football Club first team during the 1919-20 season.

1920

14

War Memorial 1920 / 1945
The first village war memorial comprised of two stone columns with names of those killed engraved at the base. They were erected in 1920 at the entrance to the castle grounds with the Castle as a backdrop.

In 1978 the monument was renovated and re-sited on land on the opposite side of Cross Street where it was re-dedicated by Father Harold Ingamells, Vicar of Monk Bretton.



1926

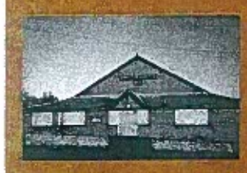
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Monk Bretton ladies football team
The team played in the Barnsley Ladies League and lost their final match of the 1926/1927 season, in the process conceding the championship to Honeywell Ladies. They had goal nets and hair nets!



1931

16



Miners' Welfare Hall
The Miner's Welfare Hall – 1931 stood in Cross Street, and was built by weekly contributions from men at Monk Bretton Colliery. It featured dances, youth clubs, boxing tournaments, a Scout group and also a Darby and Joan club. The Miners' Welfare Committee was granted £4,760 in 1925 to buy land close to Lamb Lane for recreation purposes. It became a park and in 1927 was conveyed to Barnsley Council to be held in trust. The land in this area still shows undulations of the ancient ridge and furrow cultivation – strip farming.

1946

17

Glass Works
As the mining industry contracted, Redfearn Bros threw an industrial life-line to the village, and to Barnsley. They built the largest glassworks (in Europe) with an associated rail and canal network on land off Burton Road. In March 1946, Mr. Milton Asquith, chairman of Redfearns, cut the first sod at the site and production of bottles started a year later with 200 employees. Dr. Stanley Race, who joined the company in 1933 as a junior trainee manager, watched the development and by 1970 had become its chairman. The company sent bottles to ports and countries throughout the world.



Interesting Facts:

Monk Bretton Cricket Club has played at the Castle Ground several metres from this display since 1890 with teams competing in Yorkshire leagues.

IThe club has provided Yorkshire and England with opening batsman Martyn Moxon and bowler Darren Gough. Both men also captained Yorkshire.

Barnsley, Manchester United and England centre forward Tommy Taylor lived in the parish. He was killed in the Munich air disaster on February 6th 1958 aged 26. His grave is marked 0 34 in Monk Bretton Cemetery.