Bailey River Walk









Introduction

Hay has had a popular produce market every week on a Thursday for over 700 years. Traditionally farmers would flock into Hay from far and wide across the hills bringing goods to sell or barter in return for items they could not produce at home 1. It was common to walk a distance of 12 miles or more, leading a packhorse, or to ride a pony carrying wicker panniers filled with goods 2. The journey home, was typically hilly and steep on unmade tracks into the hills. The town used to have 41 lnns, many of which would also offer stabling on market days.

Dealers would come from across the Welsh Valleys to purchase farm produce (butter, eggs, dressed poultry, rabbits, pheasant etc) to take back to butchers shops in urban towns such as Merthyr, Port Talbot and Neath.

The building in Hay now known as the Cheese Market was built as the Town Hall in about 1835, and provided a central location for market trade. It was built as a twin-arched market hall, where goods were exchanged 3. The man who built it was Sir Joseph Bailey, Lord of the Manor. He also bequeathed the Bailey River Walk to the town, which remains a popular walk today.

This story begins at the Cheese Market and runs through town towards the river, following the route of the Bailey River Walk. It is told through the eyes of Eliza, a Victorian schoolgirl who lived in Hay around 1840.

hint: click on the images to enlarge









The Cheese Market



The year is 1840 and Eliza, her mother and their dog Moss have walked into Hay for Market Day. Eliza's mother is carrying a wicker basket, which contains fresh farm eggs and homemade butter, which she will sell on to a dealer in the Market Hall.

While Elizas' mother is talking to the dealer and agreeing a price for her produce, a bull from the Bull Ring breaks loose 4 and runs through the street towards them. Moss gets scared and he runs off. 'Moss, Moss' Eliza shouts, but it is too late, he has sped away, so she runs after him, chasing through town, calling his name...

hint: click on the icon at the top to find where you are on the map





The Tiny House

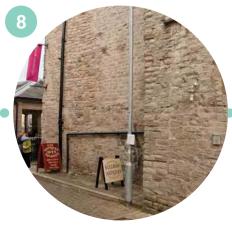


Eliza runs past the Butter Market 5 towards the China Market 6 and the Bull Ring. She stops at the tiny house to ask the shoemakers wife if she, or any of her 4 children have seen her dog. 7 8 They have not, so she continues...











The Bear Pit



Eliza runs along High Town 9 10 and turns right at the end, heading towards The Limited (now Booths Books 11). She pauses here to catch her breath and looks at all the beautiful tiles that run around the grand shop doorway. She gazes up at the huge golden lions head that roars out from under the eaves 12. Then she turns left and is amazed to see a real dancing bear in front of the clock tower 13, which has been penned overnight in the bear pit below Cranbourne Alley (now called The Pavement) 14. She feels a bit scared by the bear – he is so big standing up on his hind legs. She is sure her little dog wouldn't have stopped here, so she runs on, turning right along Broad Street.















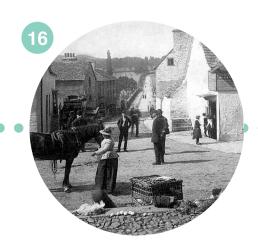


Broad Street Market



Eliza runs along Broad Street, past Golesworthys' and The Granary. It is noisy and bustling with activity on Market Day 15. There are open wicker baskets full of goods for sale at the top end and as she runs along she passes sheep penned in temporary wooden pens along the raised pavement in front of the Granary and the bank, with cattle being driven up the centre of the street. Hay is always busy on market day and there are lots of people Eliza doesn't know. She is sure her dog would get scared amongst the crowds, so she turns left at the Three Tuns 16, down Bridge Street 17 and (first right – Wye Valley Walk) drops down underneath Hay Bridge.











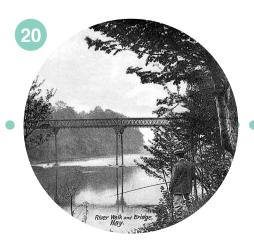
The Bailey Walk



Turning underneath the bridge, Eliza runs along the Bailey Walk. She takes the lower track which is the footpath 18. The top track is the railway line. It's cool and quiet here, with beautiful shady trees and Eliza looks out at the River Wye. A little way along, she sits down on a bench to take a breather 19. A bit further along she stops to ask a fisherman if he has seen her dog. He thinks he might have seen it run past and encourages her to keep going.









The Tram/Railway and the Waterfall



Eliza carries on, imagining what this track might have been like before the steam railway 21 when it was the horse-drawn tramline 22. At a short railway tunnel she bears left and walks through the tunnel 23, bearing left again 24 to rest on a stone seat 25 to gaze at the cascading waterfall that crashes down towards the river beside St Mary's Church.





To the Warren beach and conservation area



Eliza thinks to herself that if it was a hotter day, she might continue along the track and head to The Warren, Hays' very own beach, where she loves to go for a swim on hot days 26. Sometimes she sees boys in boats there, bravely whizzing down the rapids in front of the little cottage called the Net House. It looks such fun!

But it's not that warm today and anyway she wants to find her dog, so Eliza follows the track up hill 27, past the waterfall towards St Mary's Church and goes thorough an iron gate 28, turning left, out of the shade and onto St Mary's Road.









St Mary's Church/old castle mound and cattle market



Walking up St Mary's Road, towards the Swan Hotel, Eliza stops to ask Mrs Watkins, the Toll Keeper (29) if she has seen the dog. She thinks he ran past a little while ago, and encourages Eliza to keep looking, after all she is nearly back in town now and perhaps he has run back to Eliza's mother? Eliza looks at the old castle mound (30), with the motte and bailey fortress as she walks up the lane and remembers that she has heard her father talking about news that they may build a proper cattle market behind the castle mound soon. That would be good thinks Eliza, then there would be no more loose cattle in the streets on market day and so her dog would be safe!







Up Church St to Blue Boar



The Swan Hotel is really busy today because it's market day and there are lots of coaches and horses stopping off, as well as the postman with his horse and cart. The ground is a bit muddy, because there is no tarmac and she has to step around horse dung and straw left lying in the street.

She turns left and walks up Church Street towards the Blue Boar. She remembers from her history lesson at school that the pub sign of a blue coloured pig is the coat of arms of the Earl of Oxford, who was General of the Army of Henry Tudor (Henry VII, 1485-1509) 31.

Opposite the Blue Boar is the fire station (now Boz Books) 32. Eliza likes looking up at the fireman's helmet hung above the door 33. She has only seen the fire cart once as it rushed past being pulled by two cantering horses, with the hand-bell being rung by one of the firemen. It seemed quite wild and very exciting! 34













Eliza finds the dog!



She continues along Castle Street 35 towards Castle Square. She passes Evans Saddlers (opp what is now Lucinda's Hairdressers) and feels sad because she has heard all the houses in this row are going to be demolished soon 36. She notices a photographer in the street who is taking a photograph of Mr Evans and his children.

When Eliza arrives back her mother is sitting on the steps at the bottom of the Cheese Market waiting for her, with the dog! He is safe and her mother has finished work at the market. They go and eat faggots and peas in the Market Tavern before beginning the long walk home.



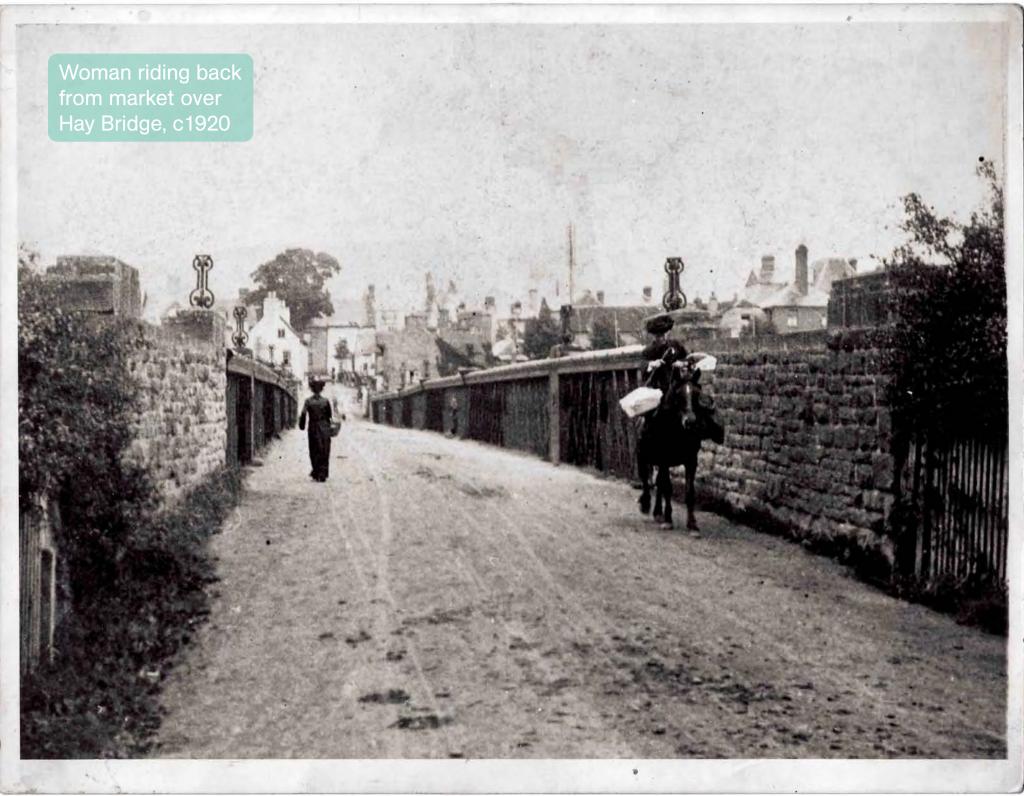
back to start























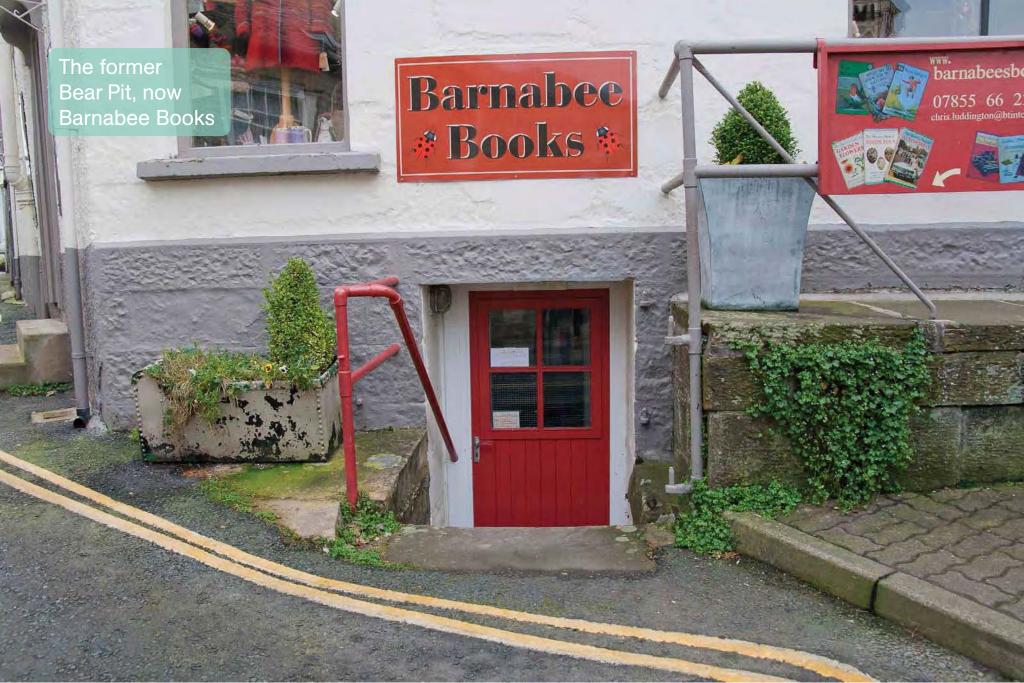


























































Bailey River Walk Cheese Market



Bailey River Walk

co Clyro, Painscastle Rhosgoch, Brilley

to Clifford
Whitney-on-Wye
& Hereford

POST OFFICE

• HIGH TOWN

• MARKET ST.

CASTLEL

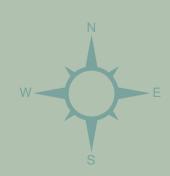
eese Market

St Mary's Church

> Hay-on-Wye County Primar School

to Hay Blu Capel-y-ffi

Cap





Bailey River Walk •••• CHANCERY LA. POST OFFICE • • HIGH TOWN • • • • MARKET ST. • .

to Llanigon, Glasbury
Three Cocks & Brecon

FOREST ROAD

Capel-y-ffin



Bailey River Walk •••• Hay Bridge BRIDGE ST.



Bailey River Walk •••• to Llanigon, Glasbury Three Cocks & Brecon



Bailey River Walk •••• 6 St Mary's Church



Bailey River Walk •••• St Mary's Church



Bailey River Walk •••• Cattle Market Castle Mound 8



Bailey River Walk •••• B4348



Bailey River Walk ••••• ST MONTHS 10 · CASILE STREET Cheese Market Hay 6

