

A History of Ingol & Tanterton

Ingol means 'Inga's Hollow' in both Old English and Old Norse. So who was Inga, and where was his Hollow? The best guess is that Inga was a descendant of those Vikings who had settled in Ireland, but who were kicked out in the early 10th century, and settled in the Fylde. His 'Hollow' was probably by the banks of the Sharoe Brook, up towards Walker Lane, where the Historic Environment Record shows traces of a possible 'motte' or settlement mound. Inga and his descendants would have cleared the area around Higher Greenfield, Mayfield and Cantsfield, and started farming there. By the time of the Domesday Book (1086), there were probably a number of scattered cottages, but not enough for it to be recognised as a '*ville*', unlike Ashton and Lea, which are both mentioned in Domesday. The first mention of Ingol in the records is in 1200: while Cottam – which just means 'at the cottages' – first appears slightly later, and was probably even smaller.

What about Tanterton? Well, that is not a historic name. It first appears as the name of a farmhouse on the 1844 Ordnance Survey map, near the canal, and near where Barry Avenue/Dunbar Road now are. It was compulsorily purchased and demolished when the Barry Avenue estate was built: but it seems that when the northern half of Ingol was being developed in the early 1980s, someone borrowed the name for a new road - Tanterton Hall Road.

What was around here before Inga arrived? Well, the land was a mixture of mossland (peat bogs) around New Rough Hey, and heather covered moorlands, particularly over towards Whitby Avenue, probably with some 'carr' or wet woodlands too. The whole area was probably used for grazing animals and perhaps some digging peat for fuel too, but there was probably very little, if any, settlement. However, the Roman Road from Ribchester to Kirkham had passed through, crossing where Bexhill Road now is, then crossing The Dip, and on across the southern end of the Brickcroft. The road continued to be visible well into the middle ages, and was known in Lea as *Watlingstrete* according to a 13th century document.

By around 1200, some at least of the residents were well-off enough to be able to give some land away as a charitable donation. First Walter of Ingol, and then John of Ingol, gave land in the southern part of Ingol for the support of Preston's Leper Hospital, St Mary Magdalene's, which was located where St Walburge's now stands. At this date, the arable land was farmed as Open Fields, divided into strips; and the pattern of those strips can still be seen in the layout of Ingol's roads, while traces of medieval 'ridge and furrow' could be seen until recently on the golf course, east of Dukes Meadow. However, by the Tudor period, the old Open Field was being enclosed, and other new fields were being carved out of Cottam Moor, around where Whitby Avenue now is. By this date, the Haydocks of Cottam Hall owned most of the land, with the rest being held by the Crown, as part of the Duchy of Lancaster estates – Duke's Meadow, named for the Duchy, occurs as a field name on the Tithe Map of 1838, but the name probably goes back hundreds of years before that. It was later used as a new street name in the development of the 1980s. History largely passed us by, but local residents cannot have failed to be aware when, in 1537, William Haydock of Cottam Hall, a monk of Whalley Abbey, and a son of their landlord, was

executed for his part in the uprising against Henry VIII known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. They would equally have been aware when in 1584 William's great-great nephew, George Haydock, also born at Cottam Hall, was also executed for the crime of being a Catholic priest. The Haydocks continued to keep the old faith, and found themselves in trouble again in 1715 during the Jacobite Rising when another priest of the family, Gilbert Haydock was taken prisoner at what came to be known as Catch Field, by where the Ancient Oak now stands. However, this time, he was only imprisoned briefly, not executed like his ancestors had been.

When the first maps begin to show some detail for the area, at the end of the 18th and early 19th century, the main feature is the road running north through the district, now called Tag Lane. This seems to have been called that after 'The Tag(g)', located where Tag Farm Court now stands, which was a dower-house belonging to Cottam Hall – presumably so-called because it was 'tagged on' to the hall. Pool House is also visible on the maps, as is Hollinhead (where Hollinhead Crescent now is) – but that was about it. Then in 1797 the Lancaster canal was dug through the area, with bridges spanning it at what is now Bexhill Road, and Cottam Lane, off Barry Avenue. At the latter bridge, a fine house was built by the canal company. Soon after, a brickworks was established on the banks of the canal, which made bricks using the local heavy boulder clay dug out on Cottam Moor, with the bricks then shipped out via the canal.

The 1861 Census gives us a great insight into Ingol at that time. At that date there were just 80 men, women and children living in 14 homes: compared with 7500 people now, living in 3500 homes. The residents were mainly farmers, farm servants and labourers, although at Tanterton Fold, the occupants included a railway labourer and a piecer at a cotton mill, while a number of the women were working as 'charwomen' (ie cleaners). However, a little before this date, Ingol's Most Famous Resident had come to live in The Tag(g). George Leo Haydock was born in 1774 at Cottam Hall, and followed the family tradition whereby one or more of the sons in every generation became a Catholic priest. In the 1830s, after a dispute with his superiors, George Leo retired to The Tag, where he lived for eight years, before going on to become parish priest at Penrith. However, why he is famous was that he earlier had translated, and with his brother Thomas who was a publisher, had published in 1814 a new English edition of the Bible for Catholics, with an extensive commentary. Now known as the Haydock Bible, this came to be found in all of the Catholic churches in England, but was also very popular in America, being used by both John Kennedy, and more recently Joe Biden, at their presidential swearing-in. See <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/penrith-and-potus-background>

For more information on George Leo, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Leo_Haydock

By the end of the 19th century, Ingol had not changed much. Oaktree and Mayfield Avenues had been built, with a few houses; and there were a few more houses starting to appear along Tag Lane. Early in the 20th century, there were a few more houses on Hillcrest Avenue, while by the 1940s there were quite a few more along Tag Lane, and some on Cottam Avenue. St Margaret's Mission (opened in 1925) and the Methodists (opened in 1937) had

buildings, and a Women's Institute had been formed in 1928. The population was then about 1000: but everything was about to change. In 1951, when the Development Plan for the Borough of Preston was published, and a large-scale programme of slum clearance and Council House building began. By 1962, 5000 new homes had been built, with the first high-rise flats opened in 1963-4 (at Avenham and Moor Lane). Then in March 1962, work began on building 2500 homes on 200 acres of farmland in Ingol, compulsorily purchased after the district was taken into the Borough of Preston from the neighbouring Rural District in 1956. These homes are now operated by Community Gateway Association. Holy Family Church opened in 1964, as did Tulketh High School (which closed in 2008): the John O'Gaunt pub (now Building Blocks Nursery) opened in 1965, St Margaret's new church opened in 1966, and the two schools, Holy Family and Ingol Community Primary opened in 1968, as did Ingol Labour Club (now Social Club). Meanwhile, the Brickworks ceased production using local clay, and the former clay quarry was taken over to become a landfill site. A significant new development was Preston Employment Rehabilitation Centre, opened by the Duke of Edinburgh 1978 in what is now Dovedale Close. Unfortunately, it was not a success and it closed in 1992 and was subsequently demolished.

The next phase for the district was another land-grab which brought the part we now call Tanterton into Preston Borough. A new social housing estate, operated by North British Housing (now Places for People) was built west of the new Tanterton Hall Road, while to the east a new up-market private development of semis, detached houses and bungalows was built, called Ingol Golf Village, with work beginning in 1978, and the golf course opening in 1981. As the population grew, new facilities were provided, such as Pool House School in 1980, plus two new pubs, the Falklands Heroes (opened 1983, but burned down in 2002 in an arson attack, demolished and not rebuilt) and the Guild Merchant, named in honour of the Preston Guild of 1982. The next major development was the opening in 1985 of Tom Benson Way, named after a famous local long-distance walker – and now the boundaries of Ingol were redrawn to incorporate all the land to the east of the new road.

In 1993 a group of residents formed the Ingol and Tanterton Action Group (INTAG) to provide support for vulnerable people in the district, operating from a building provided by Places for People: then in 2002, they moved to a larger building in the southern part of the ward, an abandoned youth centre, which had closed through lack of funding. It is now known as the Ingol and Tanterton Community Trust (INTACT). Tanterton Christian Fellowship opened in 1996 and then, in 2003, Tanterton Village Centre opened. More information about the recent history of Ingol can be found on the Ingol Memories website <https://www.theharris.org.uk/about-us/ingol-memories-exhibition-digital-map-and-tea-towel/>

Within the new boundaries of Ingol and Tanterton, there were now just two large undeveloped sites left – the brownfield site of the Brickcroft, and the greens of Ingol Golf Course. The residents there believed that their homes would always back onto the golf course – but it became clear the owners had other plans, and in 2017 the club and course closed for good. Plans had been submitted for housing development and a training facility for PNE – but it looks like the latter will not now take place. Meanwhile, various plans have

been submitted over the years to develop the brickworks site, with the first building being the Lady Elsie Finney House, opened 2008, while house building is currently under way elsewhere on the site, and commercial development is expected to follow.

Just one small patch of 'wild' Ingot remains, the Dobcroft Nature Reserve, five acres of woodland and wetland set aside when planning permission was granted to develop the brickworks, and now owned and managed by Intact. If Inga were to return after 1000 years, he would be astonished by what has happened to the district – but at least he would feel at home in Dobcroft.

Bill Shannon, January 2022