

Large-print guide

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1996.1.1 · LONG GALLERY

Ropewalk shift bell

1868. Bronze bell, iron bracket, hemp pull rope.

This bell hung over the ropewalk gate from 1868 until the works closed in 1971. It rang four times a day: 6:30 am, noon, 12:30 pm and 5 pm. The walkers at the far end, 330 metres away, set their pace by it.

1994.8.1 · LONG GALLERY

Walk foreman's pocket watch

About 1889. Gilt brass case, enamel dial, glass.

Albert Kitto was walk foreman from 1889 to 1926. Every rope made at the works was laid by men walking backwards down the walk, twisting the strands as they went, and Kitto timed each length with this watch. A good crew laid 220 metres of well rope in 40 minutes.

2003.4.1 · LONG GALLERY

Boat compass from the ketch Maud

About 1905. Brass case, glass, painted card.

The Maud was a flat-bottomed ketch that carried coiled rope 22 km down the Merrin to Orwick, three or four trips a week, from 1905 to 1937. Her crew was Captain Henry Mayes, his brother and a boy.

1972.2.1 · IN STORE: ASK TO SEE IT IN THE READING ROOM

Chart of the Tarrow Reach

1889. Ink and watercolour on linen-backed paper.

Josiah Rennard spent the dry season of 1889 in a rowing boat with a lead line, sounding the river from the town bridge to the Orwick bend. He wrote every depth in red ink, in feet, and drew the sandbars in pale yellow.

1998.11.1 · HACKLING LOFT

Wall telephone from Brisco's Pharmacy

About 1932. Bakelite, steel, cloth-covered cord.

Brisco's Pharmacy on High Street had Tarrow telephone number 7. Most houses had no phone, and the exchange shut at 10 pm, so when someone needed the doctor at night they knocked on the pharmacy door and a Brisco made the call.

Merrin Valley Dairy enamel sign

About 1935. Vitreous enamel on steel.

This sign hung outside the Merrin Valley Dairy depot on Mill Street, where the milk carts loaded before dawn. The chips along the bottom edge match the height of a cart's wheel hub.