

Hello Heritage...

Belton Marketplace

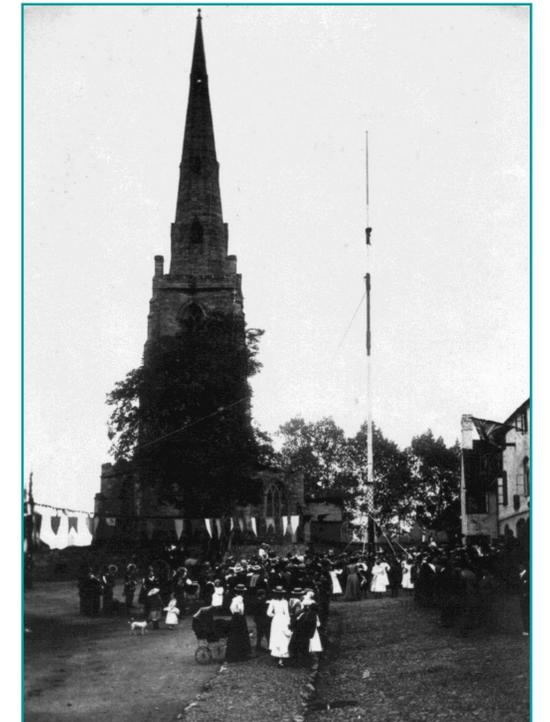


Map of Belton village

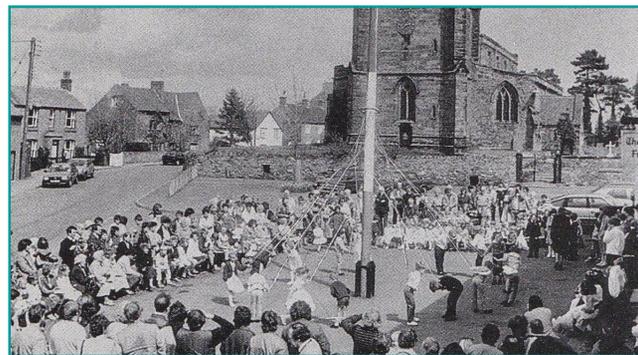
Welcome to Heritage on your Doorstep...

There are 6 display boards, as shown on the map, placed around the village to give a snapshot of Belton's history throughout the ages. Belton's prehistoric origins are demonstrated by the standing stone and possible Iron Age settlement within the parish boundaries. There is also archaeological evidence that the Romans and Anglo Saxons were here. The village thrived during the middle ages, centred around the marketplace, with its fine church, nearby watermill, and longstanding ties with neighbouring Grace Dieu Priory.

The view of the marketplace has changed little since medieval times. The 13th century church is behind you. The 18th century Queen's Head and Manor House are at the far end. On your left is the former George Coaching Inn, built in 1753, and on the right, the Blacksmith's workshop was situated behind the wall at the rear of the bus stop. There was another pub there called the Cock and Mittens. The ancient pinfold was in the corner near the phone box. There were supposedly stocks and a whipping post which stood where you are now.



View of the marketplace during May Day celebration



May Day has been celebrated in Belton for over 250 years, centred around the maypole. Traditional May Day dances are still performed by children from the village school.



In 1221, Henry III granted a charter allowing Belton to hold an annual horse fair which was locally famous, with dealers and travellers coming from all around.



A savage attack in Queen's Head pub, when a horse dealer bit off the ear of a villager, put an end to the fair for good in the 1960s.



The George, one of five known public houses, was a former coaching inn for travellers. Built 1753, it probably stands on the site of a much earlier 16th century building.

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