

Queen Victoria's Visit to Worsley in 1851



'Arrival of Her Majesty at Worsley', Illustrated London News, 18 October 1851

Queen Victoria arrived by barge from Patricroft Station. The Earl of Ellesmere had the barge specially made and built a landing stage on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal.



Her Majesty is greeted by School Children outside Worsley Hall, Illustrated London News 25
October 1851

The Queen's Diaries

Queen Victoria wrote in her diary everyday day during her visit to Worsley Hall in October 1851.

She arrived on Thursday 9 October, travelling from Patricroft Station to the New Hall by barge.

The Royal Party landed on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal where the Earl of Ellesmere had built a special landing stage.

In the evening, the Queen dined at the Hall and met James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer.

The next day, the Queen visited Peel Park, Salford where she gave an address. She then visited Manchester and the Exchange.

In the afternoon, the Queen and her party returned to Worsley and visited St Marks's Church. After dinner, she watched an electric light display in the gardens of the New Hall.

Following breakfast on the final day, an address was given to the Queen by the local clergy and 1400 school children from the local area.

The Queen presented Lord Ellesmere with a souvenir in recognition of her visit. At 11 o'clock the Royal Party left the New Hall and travelled again by barge to Patricroft Station.

Extracts from the Queen's diaries.

Thursday 9 October 1851 (arriving at the New Hall by barge)

The barge glided along in a most noiseless & fairy like manner, amidst the cheers of the people who lined the banks of the canal (the Bridgewater Canal) & passed under 2 beautifully decorated bridges, belonging to the villages, connected with the vast collieries, belonging to Lord Ellesmere. Two other barges conveyed the suite & some of the servants.

Thursday 9 October 1851 (description of the New Hall)

The house is an Elizabethan one only finished 5 years ago, - very handsome, comfortable & cheerful. The Drawing room is very fine, with 2 large projecting windows, & the Library is next to it, both opening into the Hall, which is arranged to sit in. Lady Ellesmere took us upstairs to our rooms which are very pretty; the sitting room extremely light, cheerful & comfortable, hung round with beautiful watercolours, by different foreign artists.

Saturday 11 October 1851 (the view from the New Hall)

The view from the windows is very extensive but very flat, & endless chimneys & factories rise around, in the direction of Manchester. This morning the range of the Derbyshire hills could be seen in the distance.