

Lavender Alley at Fishergate

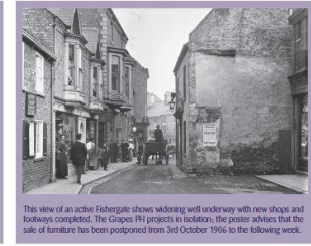
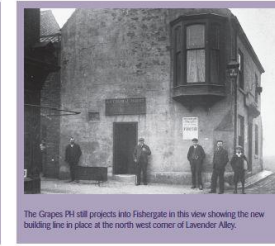
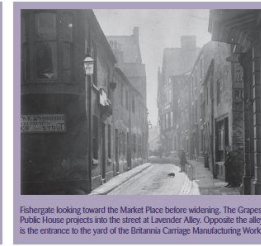
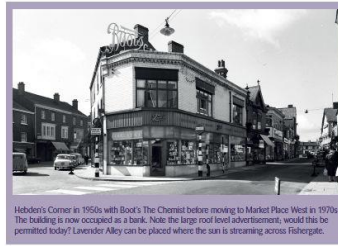
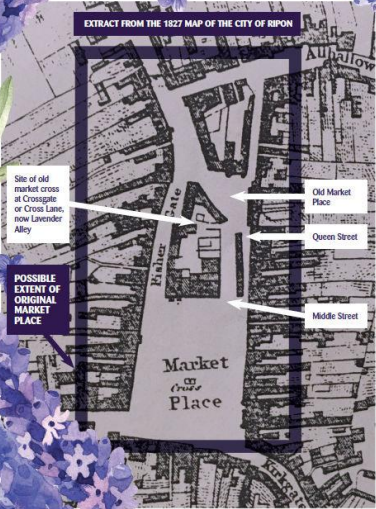
Why is this short passageway called Lavender Alley? Nobody knows, though the name might be ironical – a similar passage in St Albans was known as Lavender Alley or Bog Alley and ran through an area densely packed with buildings and yards, just as here.

Lavender Alley is a clue to the shape of Ripon's original market place, laid out by Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York from 1215. It probably stretched from the top of Kirkgate as far as Allhallowgate, about 180 metres (200 yards) long and about 90 metres (100 yards) wide. In the middle was a market cross, and there was a 'Cross Lane', or 'Crossgate'. Eventually this part of the market place was filled in by traders' buildings, workshops and yards. That left only today's Old Market Place as a memory of the past. Lavender Alley may be on the line of the original Crossgate.

By the end of the 19th century the city centre was congested and many buildings were old and dilapidated. Several redevelopment projects were undertaken affecting both ends of Lavender Alley. At this west end Fishergate was completely rebuilt and the highway was widened.

The Grapes public house that stood at this south west corner was demolished and replaced by the shop we see today. The north west side was also rebuilt, up to what was known as Hebden's Corner.

You can see how Fishergate looked from these old photographs.



These photographs have been collected and restored by the Ripon Re-Viewed project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund with thanks to National Lottery players. The originals are now held with North Yorkshire County Council's Archives Service. Find out more at www.riponreviewed.org



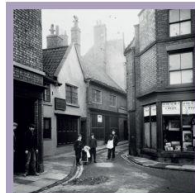
Lavender Alley at Queen Street and Old Market Place

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By the end of the 19th century the city centre was congested and many buildings were old and dilapidated. Several redevelopment projects were undertaken affecting both ends of Lavender Alley. At this east end the alley joined Middle Street, a block of property stretching as far as the market place. Beyond was Queen Street, then an extremely narrow highway defined by a continuous row of buildings with several entrances into courts and yards. Middle Street properties were demolished between 1902 and 1905; the owner of last building held out against demolition for many months.

You can see how Middle Street and Old Market Place looked from these old photographs.



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