The Blackburn to Chatburn railway opened in 1850. The first line, 250 people travelled by special train of 15 new first class coaches. The railway was electrified in 1874. On the day of the opening of the Hellifield branch, the line from Blackburn to Clitheroe reopened in 1994. It is hoped to reopen to Hellifield in the future and connect to the Kirkham to Foulridge line. The Second World War brought about major changes to the railway network. The village of Chatburn was hit by the bombing and many houses were destroyed. The mill was built in Ribble Lane between 1860 and 1864 and rebuilt by the Broughton family. Chatburn Mill was the only mill in the area to weave checked material. It was known locally as ‘the mill that made the town’. 500 people worked there. The mill was bought in the 1960s by Smith & Nephew Textiles Ltd, finally closing in 1976. 500 people worked there.


d. The Parsons’ Mill, which was the first to be built in the village, so low that people could clearly see the pilot. As the plane passed over the village, it released two bombs, causing widespread damage to the mill and adjacent buildings. The mill was later bought by the local community and is now a community centre.

The businesses featured here are part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It is the first protected area in England to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The Charter approach ensures that organisations, local people and businesses are working together to protect the area, whilst at the same time increasing opportunities for visitors to discover and enjoy its special qualities. Sustainable tourism aims to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while encouraging better income, employment and conservation of the very landscape upon which our tourism is based.

For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at www.forestofbowland.com or ring 01772 531473 for an information leaflet. The businesses featured here are part of the local economy which supports this special landscape - please support them with your custom and enjoy your stay!


d. The Parsons’ Mill, which was the first to be built in the village, so low that people could clearly see the pilot. As the plane passed over the village, it released two bombs, causing widespread damage to the mill and adjacent buildings. The mill was later bought by the local community and is now a community centre.

The businesses featured here are part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It is the first protected area in England to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The Charter approach ensures that organisations, local people and businesses are working together to protect the area, whilst at the same time increasing opportunities for visitors to discover and enjoy its special qualities. Sustainable tourism aims to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while encouraging better income, employment and conservation of the very landscape upon which our tourism is based.

For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at www.forestofbowland.com or ring 01772 531473 for an information leaflet. The businesses featured here are part of the local economy which supports this special landscape - please support them with your custom and enjoy your stay!


d. The Parsons’ Mill, which was the first to be built in the village, so low that people could clearly see the pilot. As the plane passed over the village, it released two bombs, causing widespread damage to the mill and adjacent buildings. The mill was later bought by the local community and is now a community centre.

The businesses featured here are part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It is the first protected area in England to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The Charter approach ensures that organisations, local people and businesses are working together to protect the area, whilst at the same time increasing opportunities for visitors to discover and enjoy its special qualities. Sustainable tourism aims to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while encouraging better income, employment and conservation of the very landscape upon which our tourism is based.

For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at www.forestofbowland.com or ring 01772 531473 for an information leaflet. The businesses featured here are part of the local economy which supports this special landscape - please support them with your custom and enjoy your stay!