

magazine

# Pennine

**Brontë Way • Robin Hood  
The Day the V2 Fell on Oldham  
• Merrie Wakefield**



**Christmas & New Year**

**70p**

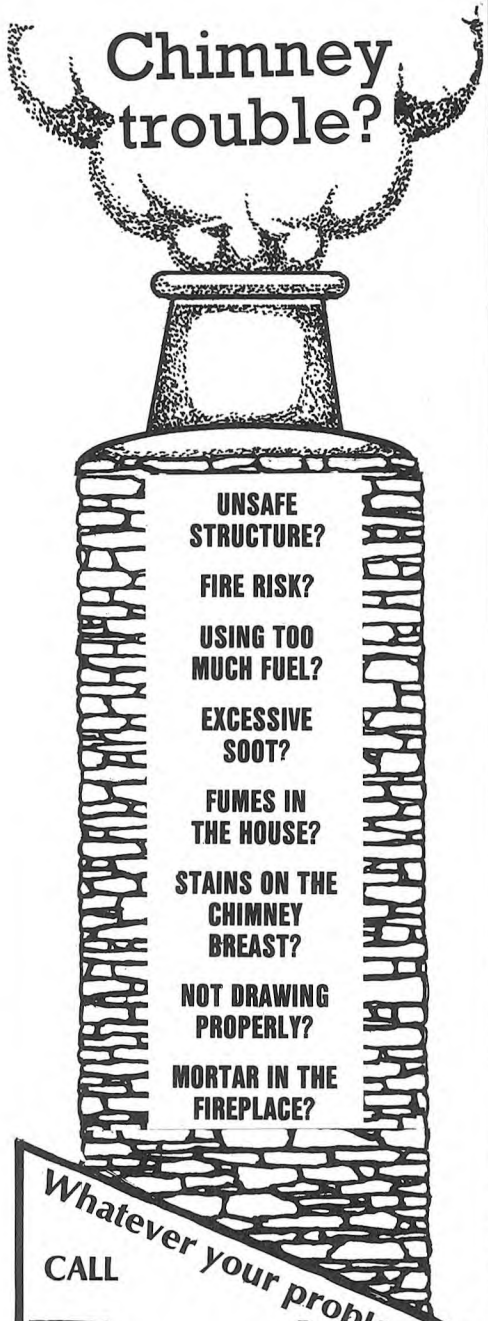
# CLEGG'S PEOPLE

Barnsley-born Michael Clegg, naturalist, historian and former curator of the Yorkshire Museum, is one of the region's most colourful personalities. His enthusiasm and typically northern sense of humour have helped make 'Clegg's People' one of Yorkshire Television's most popular local programmes and viewers will be delighted to learn that a new series is currently in production.

In one of the programmes, to be screened early in the new year, he retraces an old pack-horse route across the Pennines from Cheshire to Scunthorpe.



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# magazine Pennine



Christmas & New Year 1985/6  
Vol. 7 No.1 7th Birthday Issue

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## EDITORIAL STAFF

**EDITOR** Richard Catlow  
**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** David Storr  
**MARKETING MANAGER** Chris Vere  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Carol South  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** Kate Mellor  
**TYPESETTING** Viv Creese  
**CIRCULATION** Helen Uttley  
**ACCOUNTS** Sandra Lomas

Mike Clough, Hilary Darby, David J Ellis, David Fletcher, Richard Fox, Chris Helliwell, Roy Hubbard, Jennifer Little, Julia Smith, Tim Stead, Pat Starr, Frank Starr.

## EDITORIAL OFFICE

The Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorks, HX7 8DG. Tel (0422) 844804  
 © Pennine Magazine. ISSN 0261 - 2836

Pennine Magazine is published by Pennine Development Ltd.

Contributions are welcome but unfortunately no responsibility can be taken for loss or damage to contributor's material.

The view's expressed are not necessarily those of publisher.

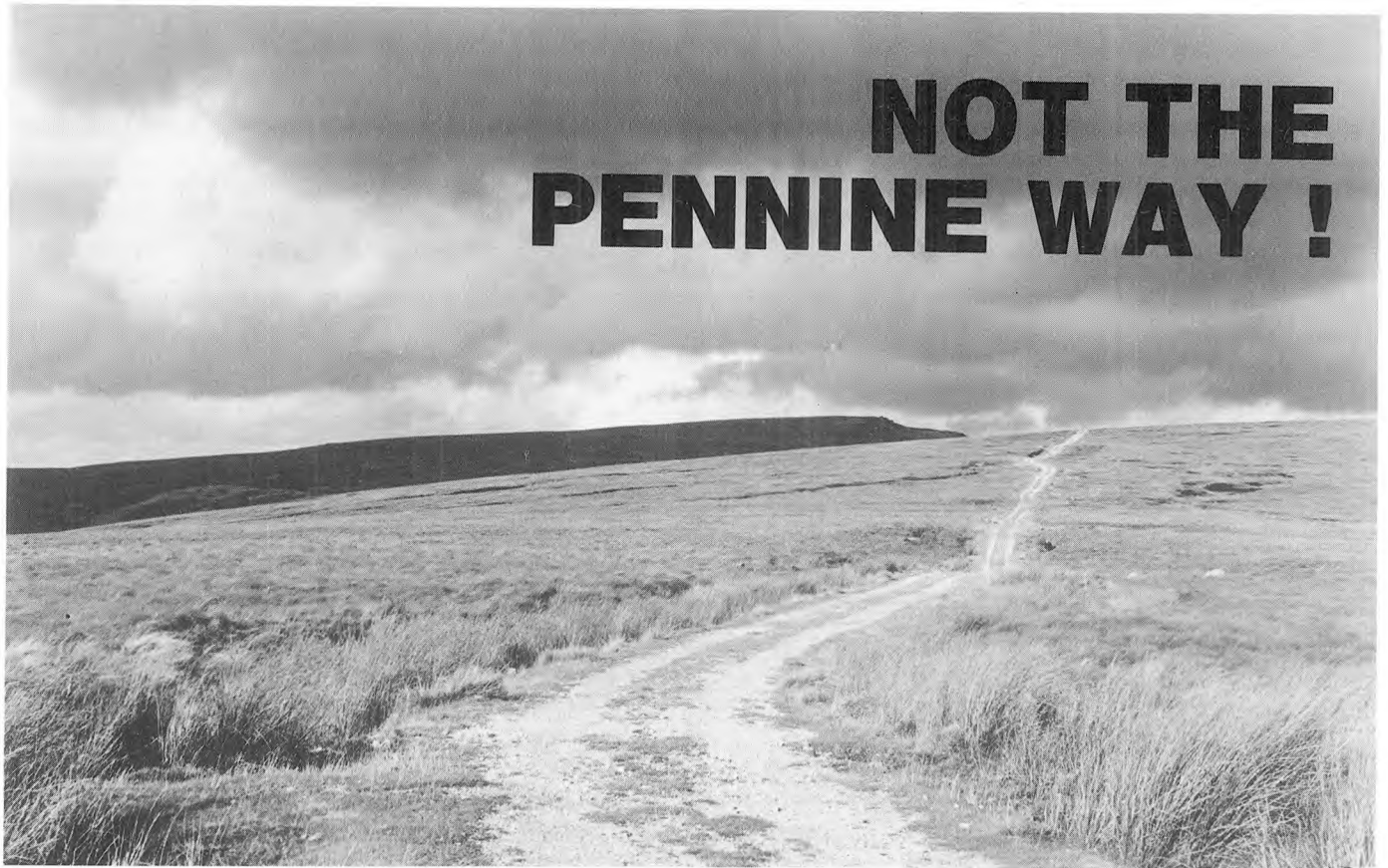
**ADVERTISING** Stephen Hill,  
 Yorkshire Weekly Newspaper Group,  
 Southgate, Wakefield, WF1 3TE.  
 Tel. (0924) 375111.

**PRINTED BY** Yorkshire Communications Group, 17 Monkton Road, Wakefield, WF2 7AL, Tel. (0924) 381380.

## FRONT COVER PHOTO.

Father Christmas on Manchester Town Hall.  
 By Richard Fox.

# NOT THE PENNINE WAY !



*calls for Britain's most famous footpath to be diverted.*

It's 50 years since Tom Stephenson first proposed a long-distance path along the Pennines.

In his column in the Daily Herald, his reply to two young American girls asking for England's equivalent of the Appalachian Way, was to outline a route along England's spine.

Many years of hard campaigning, arm-twisting and bargaining were needed before the Pennine Way came into being and in that time there were many modifications to the route Stephenson originally had in mind.

Nowhere is this more true than in our own area, where you could say it's not really the Pennine Way at all!

The Way, intended as a high-level route, forsakes the Pennine range and winds its way through lesser hills to the east.

The map on the wall of the Tourist Information Centre at Hebden Bridge sums it up perfectly. Where the Way passes through wilderness areas it is edged with bright green: a colour which vanishes when the route enters our area at the south and re-appears in the Yorkshire Dales to the north.

In Stephenson's original article he foresaw the route running through the

vale of Cliviger and along the wild crests of Black Hameldon and Boulsworth with their splendid view of Pendle. But access problems were insuperable and instead the present route through Mankinholes, Blake Dean and the Brontë moors was chosen, and the Calder Valley has reaped quite considerable economic benefits as a result.

The direct gain of tourism-based jobs and the indirect bonus of the publicity the Way brings could have been enjoyed by Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle.

Now the opening recently of the Rossendale Way and the creation by the North West Water Authority of an access area on the Lancashire slopes of Black Hameldon and an access route to the summit of Boulsworth & back offers a new opportunity for a new beginning.

Other sections of the Pennine Way, notably near Marsden, Kinder Scout and at Dufton in Cumbria, offer a choice of routes.

So there is ample precedent and every opportunity for creating a Pennine Way alternative which would leave the existing route at Blackstone Edge, cut across the Summit valley and up into the Rossendale hills. From there it could go along to Thieveley Pike and down into Cliviger before taking in

Black Hameldon and Boulsworth and finally rejoining the existing route in the Cowling area.

There's the argument, of course, that this would involve bringing too many walkers into areas of great wilderness value. And it's one I can share.

But when I meet motorbikes, churning the peat hags to destruction along the crest of Black Hameldon or in the area of the Gorple Road, it's hard to imagine the Pennine Way could make things worse.

The problem of over-use of the Way, with its attendant erosion, is one that is not going to leave us. A whole range of Pennine Way alternatives, all the way from Edale to Kirk Yetholm, could mean a problem shared becoming a problem halved. ■

● In the next issue of Pennine I'll be taking a walk along my suggested route for the Pennine Way and issuing an invitation to try it for yourselves.

In the meantime, the various authorities who are now beginning to take up the call (I first made in the Burnley Express earlier this year) will, I hope, have made further progress.



# We've got designs on Fine Wines...

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This voucher is worth 10p off when you buy a bottle of Berres Hahner wine at Hebden Bridge Food Fair

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# D I A R Y

## Silver Screen

**C**inema buffs have a new Mecca in Manchester where the Cornerhouse, a film and visual arts centre, opened in October in the former Shaw's furniture building on Oxford Street, opposite the Palace Theatre.

The centre has three cinemas, three galleries, an education area and bookshop and a bar and cafe.

Cornerhouse offers a wide range of films, lectures and activities for children. ■

## Rise & Sign

**B**ingley's most famous attraction the spectacular five-rise locks, are now signposted ... and that should prove a benefit to local residents and traders who, for years, have been pestered by visitors trying to locate these wonders of the waterways. ■

## Gerry Chips In

**M**oney raised by Gerry Marsden's charity recording of "You'll Never Walk Alone", in the wake of the Bradford City fire disaster, has helped to create a new plastic surgery and burns research unit at Bradford University. ■

## Best Shelter

**W**ilsden buses may not be very frequent, but the villagers will soon have a very ornate and historical shelter in which to wait. As part of a scheme drawn up by the West Yorkshire Co-operative Society and the Passenger Transport Executive, the hundred year old Co-op store was demolished and the stone was used to build a new bus shelter.

Dominating the inside of the shelter is a large stone crest set on the rear wall. Seven feet by five feet, it depicts a beehive with swarming bees, the old trade mark that used to grace the front of the old building in Main Street. So, can any of our readers boast a better bus shelter? Let us know. ■



## Gates go

**T**he 105-year-old iron gates of Keighley's former rail goods yard are getting a new home at Ingrow Station, in a scheme involving the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, Bradford City Council and the MSC. The giant gates, which weigh more than a ton, were rescued from the site of the new Sainsbury supermarket. ■



## Towering

## Glory

Peel Tower, built on Holcombe Hill above Ramsbottom and a familiar landmark all over the North Manchester basin re-opened in November.

Peel Tower was erected in 1852 on the 1,100 ft. high hill in honour of Bury's most famous son, Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister and founder of the Police Force. Peel died after a riding accident in 1850 at the age of 62. The money for the building of the tower came from public subscription and the 120 foot high tower was built from local millstone grit stone quarried on site.

The tower originally contained 148 steps. Unfortunately, the internal staircase became unsafe in the early 1950's and the tower was closed and the entrance bricked up. Now some 35 years later, it is open once more.

£40,000 has been spent on re-pointing the whole structure both inside and out and a completely new internal concrete staircase has been constructed within the tower, including a smaller metal spiral staircase from the final landing to the top.

On a clear day the view from the top of the tower is quite splendid.

Initially, because of winter, the tower will be open on Saturdays and Sundays only from 10 a.m. - 12 noon and from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. ■

# D I A R Y

## How do you

### Say Keighley

How do you say Keighley?  
For it's quite amazing  
to discover the ways in  
which folk get knotted  
or garotted  
in trying to say Keighley!

Many seem to agree  
with announcers on the BBC  
who are professionally clean-teethly  
and call it Keethly

Some confuse it with Healey  
and pronounce it as Keely.  
There are other who are deathly  
and call it Kethly.  
Sometimes it sounds like Keefly  
as if rhyming with briefly.  
But we must always take heed  
of the native breed  
who pronounce it Keya-fley  
to rhyme with caref'ly

So, vicey-versa  
which is wors'er?  
Or versi-vicest  
which is nicest?

If only we were Welshy  
and our language more squelchly  
we'd rhyme it with Pwllheli  
and call Keighley Kwillheli

G. Higgins

## Padiham Plus

**P**roject Padiham, a unique  
experiment in urban  
conservation involving  
Burnley Civic Trust and Pennine  
Heritage, has been highly commended  
in the European Conservation Awards.

Among project successes in its first year  
were:

- Attracting around £250,000 in special housing grants
- creating a riverside path
- setting-up a committee of local residents and traders
- planting trees and bulbs
- starting a hanging basket scheme for shops
- Encouraging the sympathetic restoration of buildings

## Royal Oils

**S**addleworth artist John McCombs had the maximum of four works accepted for the recent annual exhibition of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters.

And John, who was elected the previous year to be an officer of the Institute, also had the honour of helping to escort HRH Princess Michael of Kent around the display.

John, who is the Institute's only North West member, exhibited four pictures of Delph. ■

## Good Weather

**C**litheroe's Tourist Information Centre staff were kept on their toes this summer despite the gloomy weather - or maybe because of it!

To the end of August the staff had dealt with over 14,000 enquiries, compared with just less than 13,000 in the whole of 1984!

'The poor weather seems to have encouraged more visitors to make use of the Centre to find out where to go and what to see - particularly if it is indoors' explained Brian Manning, Ribbles Valley's Deputy Town Clerk and the officer responsible for promoting tourism.

## Remembered

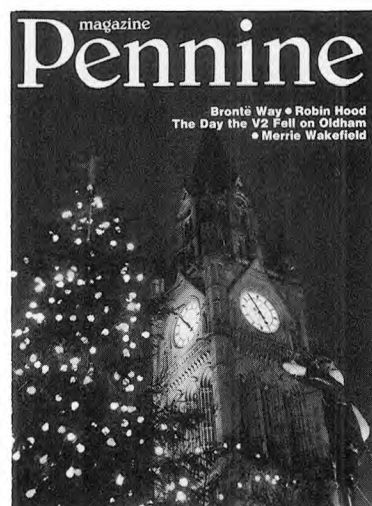
**K**athleen Eyre, well known Lancashire author and lecturer in local history, who appeared in both radio and television programmes died tragically after open-heart surgery in April.

One of her last acts was to read the final proofs of her latest book "Scenes from Fylde Coast & Country" which has now been published by the County Library & Leisure Committee.

Now her memory is to be perpetuated in a new competition for Lancashire Young Writers organised by the Lancashire Authors' Association which Kathleen served as deputy chairman.

The competition, fittingly for a local history project, is open to students attending all secondary school & colleges in Lancashire. ■

# Give someone the Pennines for a whole year.



The ideal Christmas gift for those who care for the Pennines. A £5.00 subscription to Pennine Magazine brings a number of benefits and discounts, plus of course, all the news, comments and action through the Magazine itself.

Order by 16th December and your gift will be sent, along with a card telling the recipient that the gift comes with your good wishes.

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Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG.

# LETTERS.

## Quack Tracks

Dear Fellow Collectors,

I am in the process of researching the history of "Quack Doctors" and their bottles, jars, ointment pots and medicinal pot-lids for a proposed comprehensive book on this fascinating subject.

I would therefore be grateful to receive black and white photographs, sketches and information on any Quack Medicine bottles, vets' bottles and stoneware, apothecaries jars, ointment pots, hair restorer bottles and medicinal pot-lids etc.

I also require old advertisements, trade cards, bill-heads, ephemera, packaging etc, on the above subject.

Due acknowledgement will be given in my proposed book.

Alan McEwen  
Farling Top Farm  
Old Lane  
Cowling  
Keighley

## Back by Demand

Dear Mr Catlow

The Feb/March issue of Pennine told your readers of the intention of this trust to re-print the 1907 book "Shaw Church in By-Gone Days" by the Rev George Allen

Thanks to the publicity given by yourselves and the local media it was a sell out before printing was completed with copies going world wide. The demand for the book has continued and the trust has undertaken a second re-printing.

If any of your readers failed to get a copy previously there is now another opportunity by applying to me at the address below by 'phone or letter. The price is £4.50 (plus p&p) per copy.

Yours sincerely  
Harold Booth  
President, Crompton Civic Trust  
3 Harton Close  
Shaw  
Oldham

## From the Pennine to the ...

Dear Sirs

I was very surprised to read that the name Pennine is so old when actually it was thought of about 1979.

Here is how it happened.

Once upon a time there were nine hippy drop out writers in Hebden Bridge who decided to publish a magazine entitled the "The Nine Pens Magazine" This was soon corrected by the general public to the "Ninepence Magazine" so the word order was reversed to Pen Nine Magazine.

All this was revealed to me by one of the writers in a drunken stupor because he had been sacked for believing there was life south of Manchester, - poor misguided soul.

Yours helpfully?  
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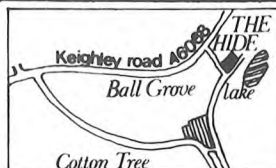
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# From the Editor

**'What is happening to Pennine' is the question you must be asking. Coming out in colour has come as quite a shock to me as well, after all those years in black and white.**

The answer is simple. Informal soundings among our readers has shown that while we're credited with doing more for black & white photography than any other publication, you'd welcome a little colour letting into your Pennine lives.

We hope that you'll be as pleased with the result as we are.

We promise to be just as demanding in our quest for the best in colour as we will continue to be with monochrome.

*Our aim remains the same, to give the best possible coverage of the mid-Pennine area.*

And, with this in mind, we can promise some exciting new developments in 1986.

Next issue will see the launch of our PENNINE CHALLENGE when we'll be seeing whether six of our Pennine towns and cities come up to scratch in looking after their visitors. We'll send two 'visitors' to assess the attractions, and give marks on a scale ranging from 'terrible' (scores 0) through to 'out-standing' (scores 10) on a range of points that include signposting, car

parking, the value for money in the attractions chosen; value, choice and quality in eating out; friendly reception and special facilities, such as loos for the disabled.

We won't give unfair advantages by giving all the detail in this issue, but we have already selected the three 'red rose' and three 'white rose' candidates - Bradford, Oldham, Huddersfield, Bolton, Wakefield and Rochdale - and the report on Bradford will be printed in our next edition.

Naturally, there will be a special award to the winner - and probably a Pennine wooden spoon for the town or city with the lowest score.

And countrylovers won't want to miss our new 'Day in the Countryside' series with talented artist Roy Hubbard. That is only for starters!

So why not treat yourself, or a friend, to a years subscription - it only costs a modest £5 for six issues - just send a cheque or PO payable to Pennine Heritage to our office at The Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorks HX7 8GD - and we'll send a special card to announce the gift, plus the magazine of course.

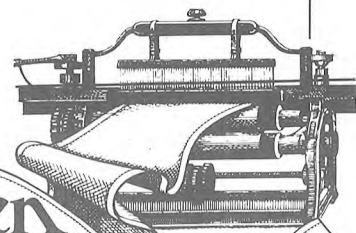
**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year**

Richard Catlow (Editor).



Photo. Courtesy of Daily Mail.

An original 'Union Shirt' makes a splendid Christmas or Birthday present - and in buying one (or two), you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the Queen Street Mill project at Harle Syke, Burnley which is the last working steam powered mill in the country. Complete with swing ticket and stitched - in label to prove its pedigree, the shirt was designed by Anna Benson who manages the Mill. The shirts are cream, with a choice of blue or chestnut pink stripes, and come in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes. Stocks are naturally very limited - but a cheque or postal order for £26, payable to 'Queen Street Mill' will secure your shirt. The price includes packing, postage & VAT. Please send your order to 'Union Shirts', Queen Street Mill, Harle Syke, Burnley, Lancashire, remembering to specify size & colour.



Queen  
St Mill

**SOME SHIRT**



The checkpoint on Rossendale's annual Whinberry Naze dash on Boxing Day. Father Christmas and helpers hand out smarties to the gallant runners. Photo Stephen Bateson.

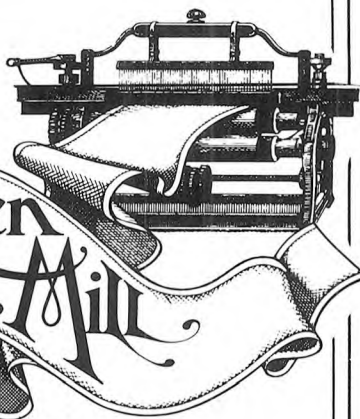
## CRAFT WORKSHOP UNITS TO LET AT QUEEN STREET MILL, HARLE SYKE, BURNLEY.

Situated within the Queen Street Mill complex, and offering splendid opportunities to benefit from the visitor route round the mill, we have eight fully serviced Craft Workshop units to let. Sizes range from 480 to 5,100 square feet - and all have single phase Electricity, Gas supply with a space heater, cold water supply and drainage. A wide common corridor links directly to the visitor flow areas of the mill itself, with access for light commercial vehicles at Harrison Street and for larger vehicles by arrangement at the Queen Street loading bay.

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The units are ideal for manufacturing or processing where the goods will be of interest to the mill visitors - and tenants will be able to use the services of the Mill Shop within the Exhibition area to display and sell their goods.

For further details please contact  
The Borough Planning & Estates  
Officer, 6 Elizabeth Street, Burnley  
Lancs BB11 2ER. Telephone 0282  
25011 ext. 288/358.



Queen Street Mill  
Harle Syke, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 2HX  
Telephone: Burnley (0282) 59996

# Will you be the Next Pennine Photographer of the Year ?

So successful was the 'Pennine Photographer of the Year Contest' launched in 1985, that we've decided we've just got to have another one. Our 'Craftsman in Crystal', Mike Clough has agreed to create another superb trophy for the winner and there'll be certificates for the runners-up. Like this year's contest we'll be putting a display of some of the best entries on a tour of Pennine Venues, as well as featuring as many as possible in the magazine itself.

### COLOUR TOO

We have decided to amend the rules to allow colour photographers to enter - submitting either transparencies or colour prints.

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

For the 1986 competition, there will be two categories - for photographs which best capture the flavour of the South Pennines - either in its *people* or in its *places* - to include both urban and rural landscapes. Within these two categories, competitors may enter black & white or colour prints, or transparencies, and there will be awards for the best entries in colour and in black & white in each section. The photographer, who in the

opinion of the panel of judges, best captures the theme of the competition will receive the trophy and the title '**Pennine Photographer of the Year**'.

### Detailed rules

Prints - either colour or black & white - can be up to 15" x 12" in size. Transparencies can be any size up to 4" x 5". They must be the work of the entrant, but trade processing is, of course, permitted. Entries - securely packed - must reach Pennine Heritage by 31st July 86, and must be marked 'Photographer of the Year Contest'. The address is Pennine Heritage, Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. HX7 8DG.

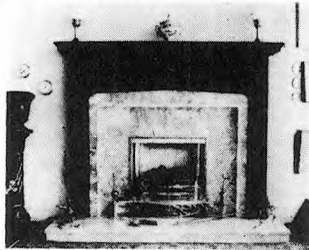
The results will be announced in the Autumn issue, published in October 1986. Pennine Heritage reserves the right to reproduce entries in Pennine Magazine and for publicity purposes, but will always acknowledge the work. The prints will be exhibited, but can be returned to the photographer if a suitable large SAE is enclosed with the entry. Whilst Pennine Heritage will take every care with the photographs, we cannot be held liable for loss or damage to them. Professional photographers - those deriving at least 70 percent of their income from photography - are not eligible to enter. The Editor's decision is final regarding entry acceptability.

Prints from the 1985 competition will be on display at the Haworth Gallery Accrington from 9th December. As promised we will try to feature as many of the photographs from the 1985 contest as possible in each issue. Below is an entry by Sally M. Smith of Huddersfield.



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## MEMBERS PAGE

News of what is happening with Pennine's projects.

### Uppermill Cemetery

Pennine Taskforce Supervisor, Ian Taylor reports that the work on the Uppermill Cemetery near Saddleworth has now been completed, with site supervisors, Kevin Kilroy and Paul Parkinson having made a major contribution to keep the work on schedule. Picture shows Sean Greenwood from Ovenden, Halifax and Peter Gillon from Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, splitting stones for 'toppers' on the dry stone walling.



### In on the groundfloor

Tom Horsfall's Building Restoration Team have now completed their work at Hebden Bridge's Ground Floor Project, where they have provided the skilled craft work to extend the premises and give further room for the Centre's facilities. Structural extensions, tiling, plastering, joinery, painting and plumbing are all amongst their skills. 'It has been a most exciting project for us to complete' Tom told PENNINE - 'and more than demonstrates the wide spectrum of skills within our Manpower Service Commission supervisors and operatives'. The official opening of the extension was on Wednesday 6th November.

### Very Special Shirts

A very appropriate Christmas gift is the 'original Union Shirt' - designed by Anna Benson, and made up from material that has been woven at Queen Street Mill using steam power. There are special swing tickets and a sewn in label to give the shirt's credentials. Sizes are Small, Medium and Large, and there are blue and pink threaded patterns. Stocks are naturally very limited indeed, and the price including postage, packing and VAT is £26 per shirt. Please order direct from Queen Street Mill, Queen Street, Harle Syke, Burnley, making your cheques or PO's to 'Queen Street Mill'.

### Pennine Photos on Tour



We were delighted to host the award winners in the Pennine 1985 Photographer of the Year competition for presentations held at Hebden Bridge Tourist Centre (thanks to West Yorkshire County Council) on 10th October 1985, with our Chairman, David Fletcher presenting the splendid engraved goblet to Patrick Riley, and special certificates to the runners up and 'commended' entries.

After three weeks at Hebden Bridge, the exhibition of prints moved to Saddleworth Museum at Uppermill and will be at the Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington from 9th - 27th Dec

*Picture shows Patrick Riley receiving the goblet from David Fletcher (Right) with winning picture on the right.*



*Mrs Norma Thorp leads the MSC funded Oral History Team*

### On the Air

We were delighted that Bradford's Pennine Radio were able to use some of the Oral History Groups recordings for the special Armistice Day programme. We value the close links with our local radio stations, and Oral History recordings can provide unique material on our Pennine community. We look forward to further projects that will take us 'on the air'.

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Illustration Roy Hubbard

## Oldham's Flying Bomb

*KEVIN Mc PHILIPS looks back at the worst V-1 incident of the war.*

It is almost 41 years since Oldham bore the brunt of a missile attack by the Germans using V-1 Flying Bombs. As 1944 drew to a close, and Allied forces moved towards Germany, the tension of the wartime years began to ease.

One sign of this was seen in the increasing coverage given to local news in the town's papers as the war seemed to become more and more remote. The main news item in Oldham in December 1944, was the discovery of the body of a young local woman.

Police action was swift and within a few days they arrested and charged a man who had been a friend of the victim.

Another story was about the possible closure of Platts Engineering works in the town when the war ended and the prospect of higher unemployment as a result. However the firm hotly denied the story.

More than 100 evacuees, many from the Channel Islands, were in Oldham and a big effort was under way, despite wartime restrictions, to help them to enjoy the festive season. Traditional treats were almost non-existent. For example, only British-type wine was available at about 30p bottle. Smokers got a better deal for quality with a good brand costing about 12p for a packet of 20.

But the noise that awakened many that morning of Christmas Eve was not the

sound of bells. One young man described it as being like the engine of a motor bike going uphill. There may well have been more experienced ears in the district.

As their expertise with the weapon grew, the Germans announced that they would extend the scope of attacks to Northern England. The threat was not taken all that seriously as many regarded it as only propaganda. So some of those who woke up when the warning siren sounded shortly after 5 am assumed it was some sort of practice and were annoyed at being disturbed at such an early hour.

A few waited apprehensively for the noise of enemy bombers. However,

because there had been so many false alarms, no-one considered going to an air-raid shelter or using the more convenient spot for cover, beneath the stairs of their own homes.

Then what all heard was the spluttering of a primitive rocket engine. The Germans had overcome the range difficulty by loading the missiles onto aircraft and launching the attack from over the North Sea.

As the V-1 approached Oldham it passed over Lees and released letters from prisoners held in Germany. These were found later in Lees Cemetery. The engine was heard for only a few seconds. The noise died and there was a brief silence followed by a tremendous explosion.

The target for this weapon was Manchester, but it may have run out of fuel prematurely, although there was a rumour that it had been knocked down by an RAF fighter. Some locals said they saw the bomb's tailfin lying in Abbeyhills Road riddled with bullet holes.

Had it landed a few seconds earlier the bomb would have fallen harmlessly on open ground while had it continued a little longer it would have destroyed a mill containing Italian POWs. As it was it fell on a row of terrace houses killing 27 people, adults and children, and injuring twice as many. 35 homes were

flattened immediately and more than 1,000 damaged when at least one ton of explosives ignited. Many V-Bombs buried themselves in the ground so reducing their effectiveness, but this one landed at an angle so that there was widespread destruction.

Survivors still have vivid memories and some, even now, cannot speak about the incident. Wartime censorship prevented the full story emerging at the time but "Death" notices in local papers a few days later referred to enemy action causing deaths on Abbeyhill Road.

In one house a wedding party was drawing to a close. Four people were killed there. So random was the destruction that one young man escaped with hardly a scratch while two others in the same room were killed. When the survivor was rescued from the debris of his home a few hours later, he found that all he had left in the world was his pyjamas. He was given a pair of shoes which luckily enough fitted, a coat and an old pair of trousers that he fastened with the pyjama cord.

This feeling of destitution has remained a sharp memory ever since. Nor were his troubles confined to the effects of the bomb. He went to a reception centre in a local church to get help and his

experience there has made him wary of officialdom down to the present day.

Even though he had known some of the officials for years, he found he was being treated as a stranger. He was given clothing coupons to the value of £10, although this was later deducted from the amount of compensation paid for the demolished home as were sums given to the other members of the family.

So they had to depend heavily on the generosity of neighbours to survive and rebuild their lives. Later that morning the scene was visited by the wife of a member of the Cabinet.

The national press was present and went to great lengths to explain how concerned she was, but one young man who survived the bombing said that she had refused to serve him a cup of tea on the grounds that at that time of day he should have been at work.

Of the half-dozen or so rockets fired at Britain in this attack it was the only one to cause appreciable damage. The people who survived have never forgotten that terrible morning but many paid tribute to the spirit of the area by returning to live on Abbeyhill Road when new housing became available and to resume their lives as far as was possible. ■

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The heading of this article is not a Scandinavian word, it is simply the combined English words, 'see you later', as pronounced in Calder Valley, (I find it hard to call it Calderdale) and used as the standard form of farewell. It has become a sort of catchphrase for my wife and I, so often do we hear it; and especially because of the pronunciation. Coming back to the area after an absence of over thirty years produced a number of culture shocks for which I was not entirely prepared. The continued murdering of the English language is just one of them.

Having filled up on 'playn teecaykes' made myself almost ill on local baked meat pies, marvelled at the carpet of purple heather on Norland Moor, picknicked on Horsehold Rocks, walked along Beaumont Clough (now, unfortunately a mess of mud and cow shit) and thrilled to the musical magic of the combined Brighouse & Raistrick and Grimethorpe Colliery Bands I began to understand the long felt urge to return to my roots.

My memories of Hebden Bridge, as a child, are of cobbles, horse droppings in the streets and the sky hidden by smoke and soot. It was a dirty and rough place in the nineteen thirties; drunken Irish navvies fought in the street and kids hurled horse droppings at each other on the way to and from school.

To find that there is a world famous, male flower arranger in Hebden Bridge serves to reinforce the contrasts between then and now. It is odd to consider that within the space of my lifetime he would probably have been chased out of town by the highly macho male population; none of whom would have been seen carrying flowers, let alone arranging them. Were it not for the stories of local drug dealing and the unacceptable levels of unemployment, it would be easy to say that things were a great deal more civilised now. Calderdale is an area of contrasts; whilst there is a sizeable sprinkling of new, but small industry, based on the new technologies, very large amounts of time, effort and expense are going into the task of turning the entire area into a museum. The three copies of this magazine which the editor sent to me are evidence of an obsession with the past which could, if not kept under control, hazard the future.

Having moved to the area, and established my office in Dean Clough, I came face to face with a phenomenon, the like of which I have not seen elsewhere. The million square feet of Halifax which was the site of Crossley's carpets, is now a buzzing hive of small, mainly new businesses. Unemployment and huge sums of money from the Government, and from Europe, have certainly stirred a lot of people into having a go on their own.

# THE WAY I SEE IT

“Seeyerlater”



## Peter Veevers, considers Calderdale's problems & opportunities after 30 years in exile.

The sad, underlying fact about the large numbers of businesses being started in Calderdale is that some 75% of them will fail.

It is anomalous that the very academics who failed to properly equip youngsters whilst they were still within the educational system should be handling the large sums of taxpayers' money being spent on attempts to remedy their earlier failures. It's a bit like handing the keys to the safe to a burglar who was too incompetent to get it open with his jemmy. Some of this may be a bit political for readers of this journal but, when all the buildings have been cleaned, when the trees have matured on the sites of formers slums and when Calderdale has finally become an Industrial museum, (albeit, set in pleasant surroundings) there will still be people here; and its people who matter.

But if Calderdale is not to become a monster museum, populated by ageing and elderly people, looking backwards all the time, there is a need for those responsible to be looking well into the future, thinking about what needs to be done to ensure a self-sufficient, balanced population. There are many advantages attached to being in the North of England, hence my return, but, despite over-population, traffic jams, high costs and destroyed communities, the South still has a monopoly on the future.

Unemployment and the need for urban rejuvenation has created problems for millions of people. It should not be that a minority of opportunists, seeking to make a fast buck, are allowed to achieve their own objectives without creating something worthwhile, and lasting, in the process.

Calderdale might well be a land of opportunity; whether the opportunity is universal or for the benefit of a few smart operators is a matter for consideration, sooner, rather than later.

Ayoreyt then? Seeyerlater!

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In two short years, local businessman Ernest Hall has turned the former Crossley Carpets building in Halifax from 1 million square feet of redundant mill buildings to an exciting home for over 100 small firms, and workplace for 500 people. The complex includes a conference room and the Calderdale Business Exhibition Centre, to be joined this year by an enterprise training unit and industrial design centre.

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# Riding Through the Glen



*PAT STARR takes a trip through Shipley Glen in times past*

“Shipley Glen Ramble”, a recent publication by Stanley Varo, prompts a ready response to the question “Where to go?”. For the cost of £1.50 the reader, as yet unaware of the delights of the area, can discover the points of interest and learn about the background of this beauty spot with so much to offer.

Situated with Eldwick to the west and Baildon to the east, Mr Varo’s explanation is that its name Shipley Glen was derived from the late 19th Century when Bradfordians in their thousands streamed out from the city on trams “To Shipley to t’Glen”.

This was before the day of the motor car; the day of Sam Wilson’s Ocean Wave Switchback and his ‘Largest, Widest and Steepest Toboggan Slide Ever Erected on Earth’. Now local folk tend to go further afield for their leisure, but the glen continues to draw crowds. This is due to the fact that it caters for families who can either spend or not, for even on a wet day there are things to do within easy distance.

Stanley Varo’s book, which would fit in a pocket or handbag, has a useful map showing points of interest. The book is clearly written, well informed and really does provide a helpful and enjoyable addition to the local literature already available.

It is worth visiting Shipley Glen for a ride on the Glen tramway if nothing else. The narrow-gauge, double-tracked

railway climbs the steep 386 yards between Trench Wood and Walker Wood, and whatever the season the experience is well worth the modest charge of 20p return. Throughout December, the Santa Special - 75p - runs, and this surely is an excellent alternative to sitting in front of the television.

Useful too is the fact that the tramway links the moorland and Glen amusements with the riverside activities and the unique Saltaire village in the valley below.

There is a shop selling souvenirs, sweets, guide books etc and Mike Leak and his staff are very willing to answer any questions. More information can be had by telephone. See list of numbers below.

Just up the road from the tramway can be found the dodgems and other childrens attraction. The swing boats, highly-painted and so exhilarating in my memory, now hang no more. There only remains their supporting frames and these, along with the other rides that can still be enjoyed, would greatly benefit from a coat of paint.

Nevertheless, many children oblivious to the aesthetic, were enjoying their delights on our last visit. Maybe the coat of paint is scheduled for 1986?

At the junction of Prod Lane and Lucy Hall Drive is the Wishing Well Restaurant. A phone call would give information on menu, and opening times - the menu displayed looked worth investigating.

From personal experience I can recommend the Old Glen House, which is opposite. It caters for children in providing an adventure playground and tea room. Hikers in walking boots are not frowned upon and dogs, (very rightly) are allowed.

The pub has been refurbished which hides its age and long tradition of providing refreshments for travellers. It is well worth a visit.

At Bracken Hall Countryside Centre can be found a wealth of information on the flora and fauna of the area. The warden, Wendy Emmett, is available to give information in a general sense or to discuss the centres field study facilities and weekend walks/talks etc. which can be arranged.

There is much to interest the casual browser and the more academic visitor is equally well catered for.

The Centre is owned and managed by the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council with grants from the Countryside Commission.

Quite apart from the above attractions, the countryside itself merits a visit. Loadpit Beck which runs through the ravine is a child’s delight and can be crossed at some points without too much difficulty. High above, but mainly hidden by trees, are various crags many of which have their interesting associations. Number 9 rock prompted a verse around the turn of the century:

**“Meet me Gwen on Shipley Glen,  
on Sunday afternoon.  
Near number 9 we’ll have a good time  
- it’s just the place for a spoon..”**

And there is the Sentinel Rock, a large boulder, so weathered by time that its features have become those of an old man with protruding chin and long nose.

It is all there to be seen and to the energetic to be explored more thoroughly, for few places can so effectively combined the natural features with the man-made. ■

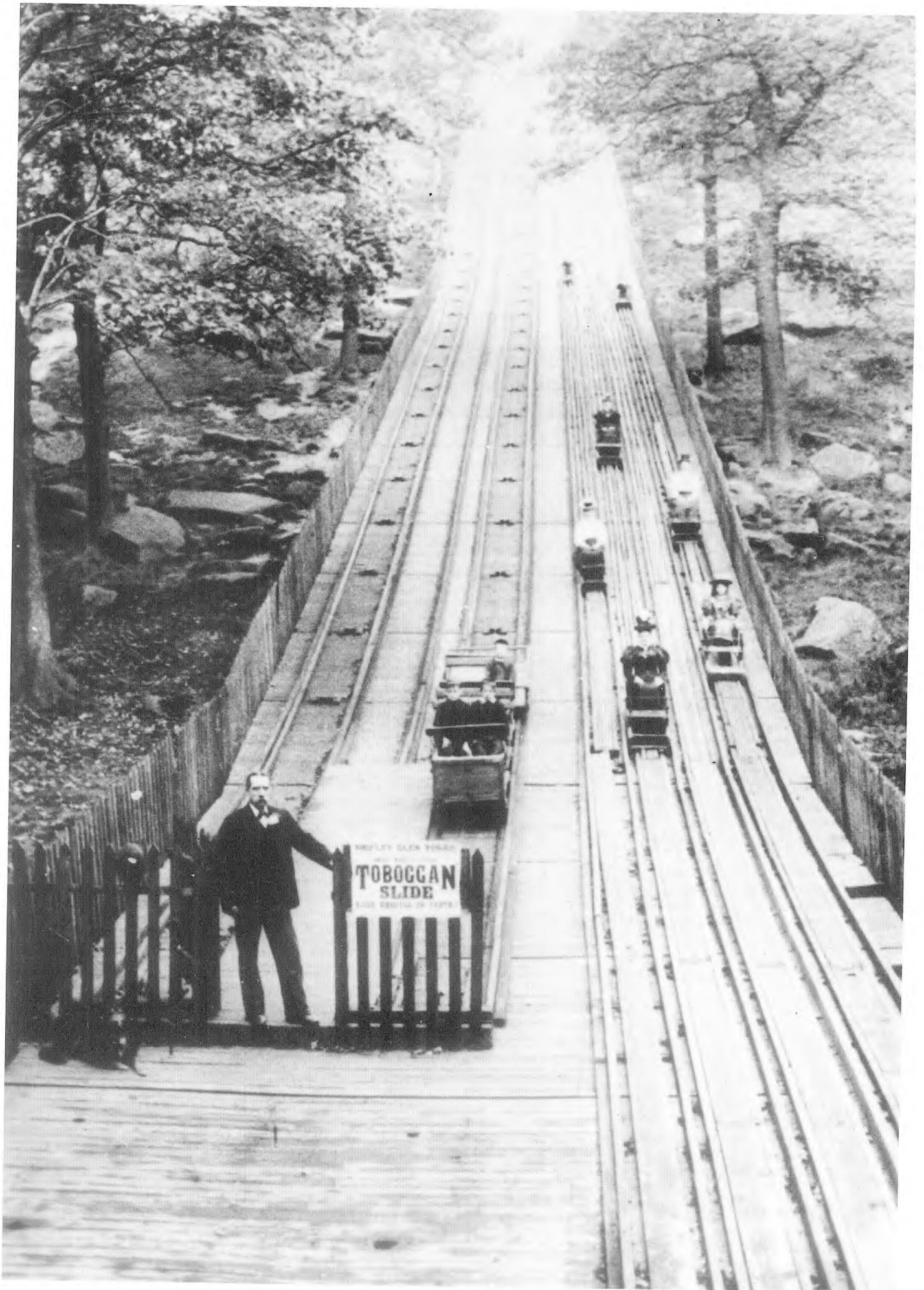
## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

The Glen Tramway	(0274) 685532/589010
Shipley Glen Nurseries	(0274) 583545
Wishing Well Restaurant	(0274) 592439
Old Glen House	(0274)589325
Bracken Hall Centre	(0274) 584140

*Photos courtesy of Stanley Varo.*

*ABOVE: The stepping stones at Shipley Glen.*

*RIGHT: The toboggan run in 1898.*



The old house standing in Nelson's Marsden Park was built by Henry Walton in about 1560. By that time, Waltons had farmed land in the manor of Colne for over 200 years and during the following centuries they continued to accumulate an extensive estate at Marsden. Their social standing rose accordingly.

With their increasing prosperity, a new house had been built adjacent to the old one by 1740 but this has not outlasted its predecessor.

The last member of the Wroe-Walton family died in 1851. Marsden Hall Estate was auctioned in 1885 by their successors, and the Hall itself was sold in 1911 to the young Borough of Nelson. In the following year, its grounds opened as the fine municipal park which exists today.

Ambitious plans to use the Hall as an art gallery and museum proved prohibitively costly however, and the newer part was finally demolished.

Fortunately, the original house survived near collapse to be fully renovated by Pendle Council in the late 1970s when it was leased for use as a restaurant.

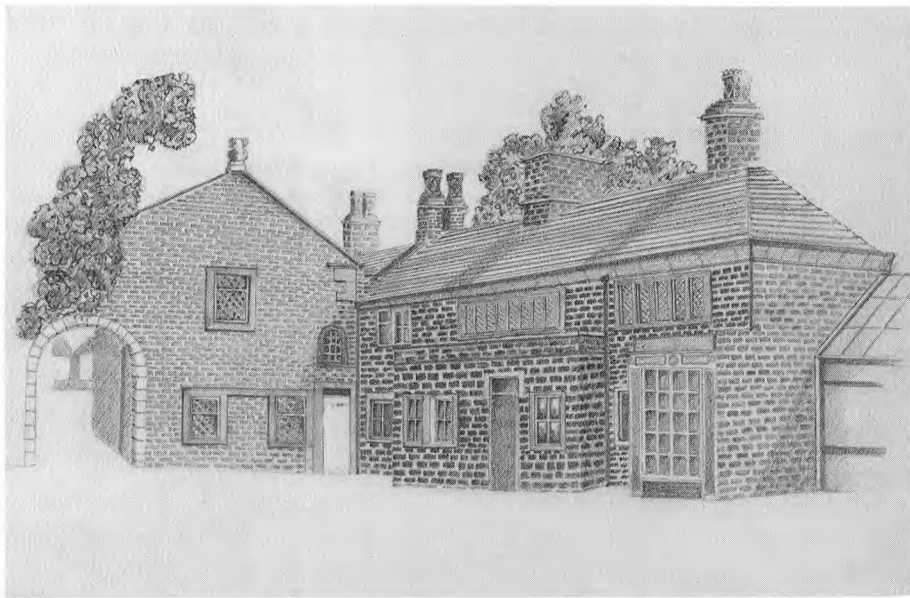
It is the oldest of the buildings still to be seen in the park. As one of many substantial homes built by the better off local farmers in Elizabethan times, it stands in contrast to the mean housing conditions endured by most.

It is severely plain - do not expect architectural treasures of Henry's house. Coursed local sandstone and gritstone and a low-pitched, heavy flagstone roof give it a stern Pennine vernacular feel.

A small but very colourful flower conservatory marks the site of the new Hall. Of five bays square and three storeys, the Georgian house had a symmetry and proportion contrasting with the earlier building. Much more spacious, too, than the old house, its principal rooms included a withdrawing room elegantly decorated in blue with white medallions and a high ornamental ceiling and a library with its carved marble mantelpiece. Stained glass and oak panelling and joinery completed the air of richness.

It was early in the 14th century that the Walton family received the first of many mentions in Colne Manor records, though ancestors had lived at Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, for longer. One of the first was Richard de Walton who, in 1353, received a modest grant of land in recognition of his service as a stock keeper on the Duke of Lancaster's estate in Pendle Forest.

By the mid 16th century, Waltons were recorded as freeholders and copyholders of several farms in Marsden and Colne (copyhold was a form of land tenure). Some land was gained by colonising the open Pennine



# FROM MARSDEN TO NELSON

*D.A EDMONDSON tells the story of a country estate which became a town park.*

moors of the "King's Waste" - the area was then still a part of the Crown's Duchy of Lancaster. Some formerly had belonged to Pontefract Priory, being acquired after the dissolution of the monasteries.

Gradually, too, the holdings of different members of the family were amalgamated and other farms inherited by marriage. So the Marsden estate grew in the 17th century, passing first to Henry Walton's son, Henry, who married Margaret Parker of Extwistle Hall, then to their two long-lived sons before, in 1684, yet another Henry inherited.

In 1699, this Henry was raised to the gentry, that broadly defined level in the social order below the nobility. From this time, the head of the Walton family was titled Esquire. A considerable inheritance to the family fortune came with the marriage of his son, Ambrose, to Mary elder daughter and heiress of Henry Banester Esq of Altham Hall and Easington - though Ambrose died before his father, so did not succeed to the Marsden estate.

The two estates only merged in 1724 when Henry died and his grandson, already the inheritor of the Altham estate and manorial lordship, succeeded.

The new Squire Walton - a Henry it will come as no surprise - derived sufficient wealth from farming, rents and commerce for him to build the new Marsden Hall. When he died, the trustees of his will were two eminent Yorkshiremen, Edward Parker Esq of Browsholm Hall - his daughter in law was of this family - and Thomas Lister Esq of Gisburn, father of the first Lord Ribblesdale.

His son, Banester, commissioned a survey of the Marsden Hall estate, which still exists at Colne library. This is particularly interesting for its record of field names such as Great Dole, Standing Horse Copy and Four Days' Work. Tenter Croft indicated a connection with clothmaking, though as large landowners the Waltons did not depend upon the dual-economy of farming and cloth, an economy badly hit by the growth of factories.

Banester, however, did have an eye to the cloth industry; he provided the site and a share of the capital for Colne's Cloth Hall. Built as a market for wool and cloth in 1775 - before the Piece Hall at Halifax - this imposing edifice is now gone.

Banester's heir in 1784 was his cousin, the Rev Richard Wroe Esq of

Radcliffe, who took the name Wroe-Walton and was followed by his son Richard Thomas, in 1801. Forty four years later, this man too made his last journey to the family vault at Altham Church after a life remembered as a benefactor.

A memorial plaque is there, whilst at Sheffield, high above Nelson, the Walton Spire also is dedicated to his memory.

Richard Thomas, unmarried, bequeathed the widespread Walton possessions to his two sisters whose lasting memorials are at St. John's Church and junior school at Nelson and Altham school, for which they provided the land and capital. The last sister, Maria, died in 1851, also without direct heir. Even then, Marsden was a scattered farming community of fewer than 3000 people, and Colne but a small cotton town. In 1849 however, the railway had come, and with it the start of a dramatic change for both north-east Lancashire and Marsden Hall estate.

The new owners, nearest relatives of the Waltons, retained the Altham estate, but leased out Marsden Hall and auctioned first its mahogany and rosewood furniture before its 860 acres went under the hammer.

Bidding for the Marsden farms such as Bradley, Catlow and Slate Delves and for the land at Colne was described

as heated. Much of the lower land was destined quickly to be built up as the new town of Nelson took shape.

All was not terraced cottages and mills however. The Council's acquisition of the Hall, its gardens and plantation for £6000 has preserved a little of the Walton history; a reminder moreover which is an invaluable public asset.

Other than the addition of its varied recreation facilities, present day Marsden Park is much as it was in the days of Richard Thomas. He commissioned much of the stonework and had the large, walled garden laid out. The secluded little sunken garden probably was made for his two sisters.

Beside the fishpond, his Gothic style arcade never was completed with its upper level orangery, but it has a variety of carved reliefs.

A noteworthy piece of stonework is the rare sundial in front of the flower conservatory (though not in this spot originally). It was made by Thornber and Kippa in 1841. Twenty faces told the time in many of the world's major cities and in some less well known places too. Another sundial, dated 1837, with an incised motto, is now half hidden among climbing shrubs on the side wall of the impressive, balconied coach stable.

A large wall clock in the conservatory was brought from Richard Thomas'


now demolished Walton cottages, but is incomplete.

The north gate, nearest the Hall, has separate carriage and pedestrian arches and a raised sidewalk for boarding carriages. On a ornamental pedestal above the gate is the lion of the Wroe coat of arms. A little way down Walton Lane, the piers of the lofty main gate are surmounted by figures of a wild man and demi-lions, respectively the family crests of the Waltons and the Wroes.

On its ironwork, as well as in Altham Church, can be seen the family coat of arms. The final form of the arms included the heraldic cross of the Banesters and the Wroe lion, with which the Walton's shield of three falcon heads was quartered.

Like so many municipal parks created by the great industrialisation of the Pennines, Marsden Park now has to face problems created by the shortages of local authority funds - just think of the amount of maintenance they demand.

They will have to change, too, with changing leisure patterns. Yet they are still a facility much used by many people, unfortunately some of whom are less than helpful, and too often taken for granted. Perhaps readers could write in with their thoughts on local parks, on what is happening to them - and what should. ■



# Staff of Life

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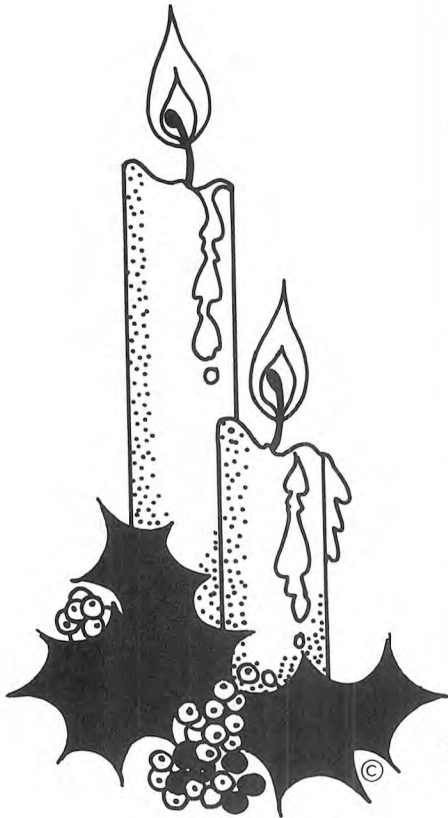
Jacqui & Sue Grundy invite you to visit their new shop, and view the exciting Spring fashions, in the historical setting of Hebden Bridge.



Open 10.00 to 6 p.m.  
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# Clothes Line

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- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 10.00-10.30am   | The Paddock Youth Band  |
| 10.30-11.00am   | The Hautbois Medieval & Renaissance Players                             |
| 11.00-11.30am   | The Paddock Youth Band  |
| 11.30-12.00noon | The Hautbois Medieval & Renaissance Players                             |
| 12.00-1.00pm    | The Highlands School Old Students Band                                  |
| 1.00-1.30pm     | 'The Wonderful Transformation of Mrs Winter' The Glassworks Theatre Co. |
| 1.30-2.15pm     | The Clifton Handbell Ringers  |
| 2.15-3.20pm     | The North Halifax High School Concert Band                              |
| 3.30-4.30pm     | CAROL CONCERT with the Hebden Bridge Junior Band Candlelight procession |

For further information telephone (0422) 68725 or write to Leisure Services Department, Calderdale M.B.C., Wellesley Park, Halifax

# HALIFAX IN CALDERDALE

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Give someone an original issue of the Yorkshire Herald (1820s – 1935), London Times (1850s – 1985) or Nottingham Guardian (1919 – 1959) dated the very day they were born (or, perhaps, exactly 100 years before)

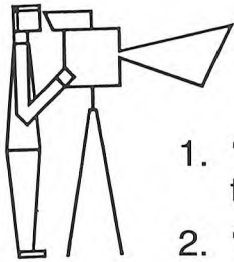
£9 (plus, a free 130 year old newspaper from Yorkshire, Manchester, London, Edinburgh or Glasgow).

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**YESTERDAY'S NEWS**

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## TVA present their Christmas Videos

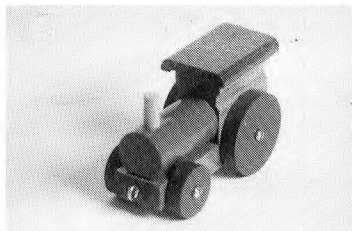
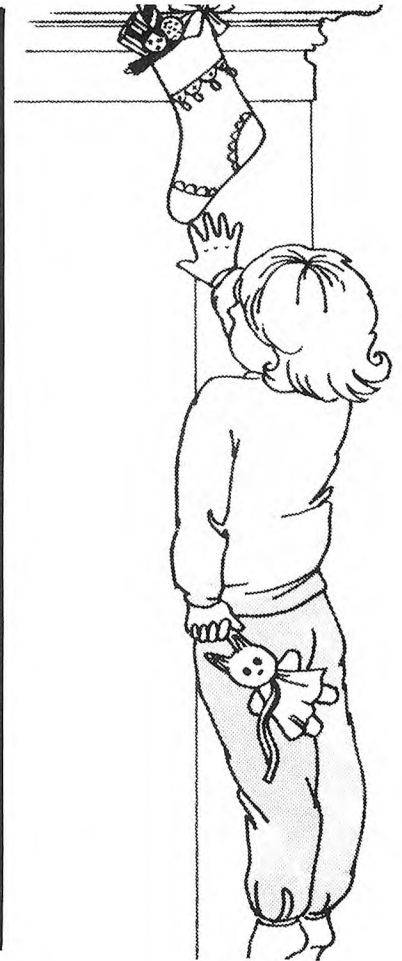
1. 'YORK REVISITED' – JUDI DENCH revisits the city of York, her home town.
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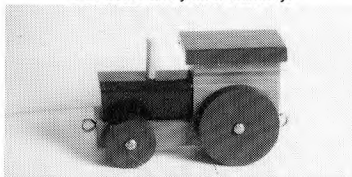
Telephone Order: Access, Barclaycard, Visa – Prices Valid Until Jan 1st 1986.



### LOCOMOTIVE

(approx size 6" x 4" x 2 1/2")

Shown with varnished body, red roof and wheels, blue boiler and yellow chimney.



### TRACTOR

(approx size 6" x 4" x 2 3/4")

Shown with varnished body, red roof and wheels, green bonnet and yellow chimney.

## TRADITIONAL WOODEN TOYS FROM HEYWORTH-GARDBERG

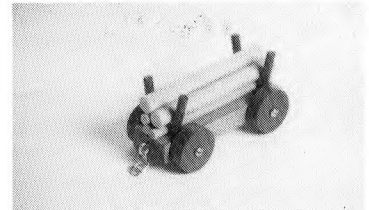
18 STANSFIELD STREET, TODMORDEN, LANCS, OL14 5ED Tel: 070 681 7194

All our toys are available in ready-made or in kit form.

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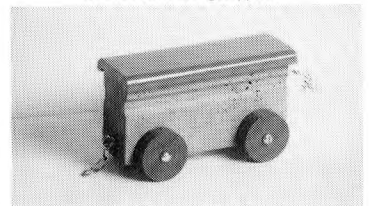
Together you can choose your own individual colour scheme and then set about building your toy. Your child will not only get a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment out of making the toy, but will also learn a good deal in the process. Each kit of high quality precision components includes a full set of easy-to-follow instructions and, like all our products, comes packaged in a sturdy mail order box.



### LOG TRAILER

(approx size 6" x 3" x 2 3/4")

Shown with varnished body, red wheels and log supports



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(approx size 6" x 3 1/2" x 2 3/4")

Shown with varnished body, blue roof and red wheels.

### ORDER FORM

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PLEASE INDICATE QUANTITY OF EACH TOY REQUIRED IN APPROPRIATE BOX AND FILL IN RESULTING SUB-TOTALS AND GRAND TOTAL

#### TOYS IN KIT FORM

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 Carriage @ £2.75 each = £ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total = £ \_\_\_\_\_

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Grand Total = £ \_\_\_\_\_

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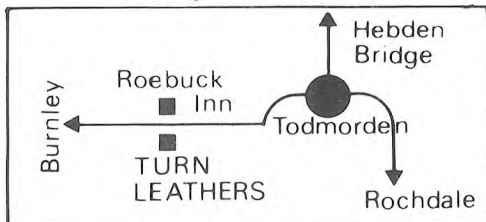
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# CALDERDALE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

A new Museum in Calderdale opening in August 1985. A museum with a difference—most of the objects work! There are steam engines in steam, oil engines, working looms, toffee wrapping machines, even working historic washing machines! Crawl through a coal and clay mine, wander the streets of the Halifax of 1840, see the unique Spinning Jenny and Flying Shuttle loom. An exciting, noisy and possibly even pungent impression of 150 years of Calderdale's Industrial history.

Calderdale Industrial Museum,  
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*Sgasa*

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**I was an early convert to the wonderful range of toys for boys made by Meccano in Liverpool. I secretly knew that Binns Road must be a most wonderful place - how could it be else, making Meccano, Hornby speedboats, Dinky Builders, Hornby-Dublo railways and those incomparable Dinky toys themselves. Favourite aunts indulged their young nephew from time to time, but imagine the joy and bliss of taking a 2/6d piece to the local stockist to invest in a Lagonda Coupe or US Army Jeep - the first two post war wheeled Dinkys!**

Meccano, alas, is no more, Dinky are long gone to the great garage in the sky, and although Hornby lingers on as a brand name, I had no idea that these toys of joy lived on, alive and well in Halifax in what must be one of the most magical shops in which to travel down memory lane once again. Thanks to Mrs Adrienne Haley and her son, Simon, I made this journey for Pennine Magazine, sharing part of the heritage of youth with these specialist antique toy dealers at their shop in 89 Northgate, just off Northbridge in the town centre.

**It began with money boxes**

Antique dealer, John Haley has an abiding hobby - the 19th century mechanical money box, made in the USA and in Europe. His collection is unrivalled - and it was this interest that has gradually moved his business away from general antiques to that of being a specialist in toys. Typically - on the day I visited - he had an urgent call that a prized specimen was up for auction and had raced to buy it (he did!) leaving his wife and son to show us around the shop. Mrs Haley began with some of their collection - starting with the well known black boy whose eyes rolled when a coin was placed in his hand - and then he placed it in his mouth. But there were many more, rarer and more involved mechanisms - eagles that fed their young when a silver US dollar was placed in their beak, and my favourite - the Tammany Bank - where a wheeler-dealer politician of long ago placed the proffered coin straight into his own pocket!

**Racing Alfa**

Opening the beautiful display cabinets that house their stock originally from a Huddersfield jewellers - Mrs Haley showed us the pride of their tinplate toys-

a twelve inch long, orange Alfa racing car, powered by clockwork, that had come in second in a race for these toys. Her nephew, 3 year old Adrian soon found that this was one of his favourites before it was returned to its pride of place on display. From France in the 1920's its value is estimated at around £1,000. 'All the German tinplate toys are eminently collectable', Mrs Haley said, with Bing and Marklin firm favourites. Sadly though the factories were lost in the Second World War - and the English models are not yet really collectors items.

which there were reputedly only 500 made. A really fine one - boxed - can command £1,000.

But not all the Haley fleet of Dinkys are so highly priced. I was pleased to see in their back room there was a large box of models with damaged paint and lost tyres - each awaiting the loving care of the restorer to bring back their pristine gloss. 'For those with limited budgets, this is a fine way to begin to collect' said Simon 'although we don't normally stock models that have been restored in this way'.

Chris Vere discovers

**TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT**

at Northgate, Halifax.



**Back to Binns Road**

But £1,000 or not, I had to return to the Dinky models that I had loved so much. These are Simon's speciality. 'Unfortunately, many of the pre war Dinkys now suffer from metal fatigue' he explained - demonstrating that the metal would crumble where the die cast was the thinnest. It was probably due to the metal used, but it does mean that the market for the post war models is growing. For the serious collector, it is the mint condition model, still in its original box that commands the highest value - and to demonstrate, he brought out the eight wheeled Foden supertoy lorries that I remembered, The Queen Elizabeth ship models, aircraft - the Avro York - and a selection of the cars and tanks. 'The advertising lorries are valuable models' Simon said - 'but strangely, the most valuable is the Vulcan Bomber - of

**On the rails**

No collection of toys would be complete without the model railways - and here the Haley collection includes the larger gauges as well as Hornby-Dublo (OO), - a modest £25 will buy you a die cast Duchess of Montrose Pacific in old BR green with orange lining, complete with two bogie coaches in tinplate, tender and oval track. On the back room marshalling yards a modest 50p can buy you a coal waggon - or choose from seventeen level crossings or a collection of Dublo station buildings that would have made Doctor Beeching apply a closure order. Signal, track, accessories - all are there for the collector.

More unusual are the larger gauge models - in steam, clockwork and early electric, with gauge 'O' predominating. A fine Hornby Midland Compound - 2-4-0 was priced at £165, and the handsomest of all

the 'O' gauge locomotives, the LMS Princess Elizabeth Pacific - alas, without a tender - was £285 - and in really first class condition, could be worth £450 with its box.

**Roundabouts & swings**

Meccano assembled wonderful demonstration models in the factory for their stockists - usually powered with electric motors - and one of these - a fairground swingboat in pre war silver & gold still turns steadily in the Northgate window. As children how often did we press our noses close to the glass to view these marvels? It could have been mine for £70. I then asked about that wonder of wonders - the Meccano Outfit Number 10. 'About £150 when we have one in stock' Simon answered, and then unwrapped a set 6a (an accessory set to upgrade a set 6 to set 7) still in the original Liverpool brown wrapping paper to protect the red box - and never before opened. £38 was the price.


**Largest in Britain**

'We have regular customers from all parts of the continent of Europe - Switzerland, Scandinavia, France and Germany' Mrs Haley said - 'and we've postal customers from the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There is no other shop in the North with anything like our range, and I would venture to say that we have one of the finest collections in Europe. Naturally, we need to buy constantly to keep our stock up, and we are always happy to give valuations - but I do stress that the best market is always for the mint models, still in their boxes. We are interested in Clockwork toys, money boxes, savings banks, Dinkys, Corgi Toys, Matchbox, Noah's Arks, Teddy Bears, railway sets of all kinds and gauges, single locomotive by Hornby, Bassett-Lowke and the German makers - and speedboats and tinplate models. We don't deal in 'scratch build' models - just the manufacturers ones!

The shop is open Monday - Saturday, 10am to 5pm and there is a large car park close by.

Telephone (0422) 822148/60434

**As I left, sadly I wondered where all the boxes from my own fleet had gone, but then I thought, how could one part with the friends of youth - even to such collectors as the Haleys? Perhaps I was right to lose the boxes so soon? ■**



# Dewsbury Museum

CROW NEST PARK, Heckmondwike, Dewsbury  
Telephone: Dewsbury 468171

Extensively refurbished and reopened on 14 December 1985 this Museum concentrates on the theme of childhood including galleries of children at work and at play. A large temporary exhibition gallery also features various aspects of Dewsbury's history, childhood and other relevant topics.

Open: Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Sunday 1pm - 5pm

### Admission free

Saturday 14 December  
SIMPLE SIMON  
1pm to 4pm Jokes and games for children  
Sunday 15 December  
SIMPLE SIMON  
1pm to 4pm Jokes and games for children  
Saturday 21 December  
BLOWFELT THE JESTER  
1pm to 4pm  
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BLOWFELT THE JESTER  
Sings, tells jokes, clowns for children  
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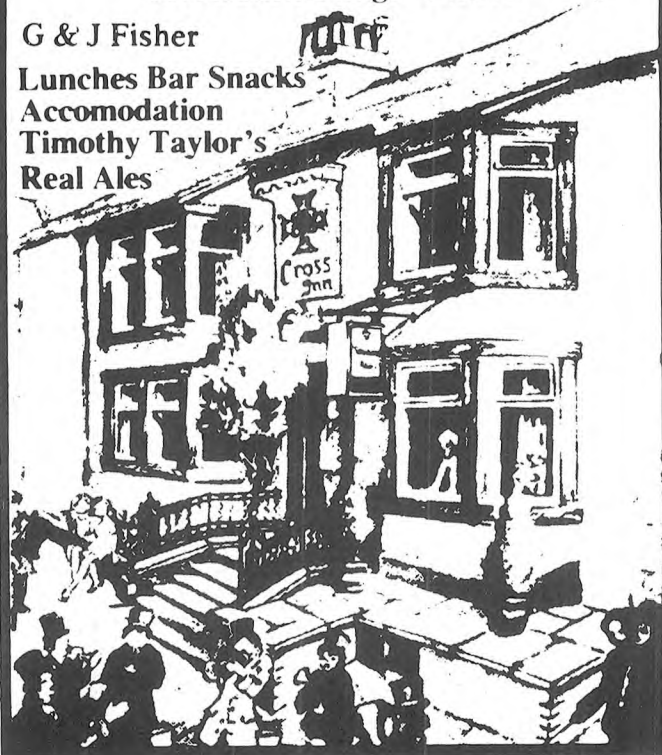
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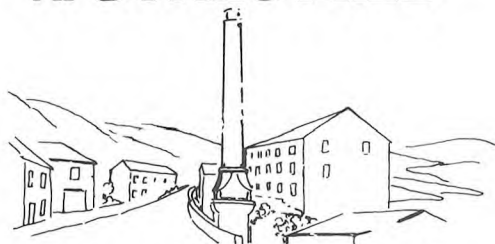
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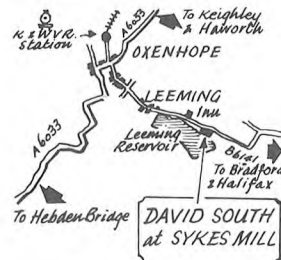
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As soon as they started to appear in the shops, the plastic robins, plastic yule logs, plastic holly, the spray on frost, cotton wool snow, the tinsel, fairy lights, all the trappings and trimmings of another ridiculously overblown Christmas, Jimmy Jackson felt it was time to hibernate.

And by the time Christmas trees appeared in front room windows and Christmas carols were being sung by rapacious infants on his doorstep, echoed in endlessly repetitive TV jingles and even provided on the rates via loudspeaker batted to the Town Hall wall, Jimmy was in open rebellion and would walk about muttering fearful blasphemies and wishing as fervently as Ebenezer Scrooge himself ever did that 'every idiot who went about with Merry Christmas on his lips would be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart'

A retired cotton weaver Jimmy lived alone with his dog Shep. He had a married daughter who let him keep himself to himself most of the time, but abandoned her good sense once a year, when she insisted he spend Christmas with the family. She wouldn't let him bring Shep because of his hairs and Jimmy felt like a source of contamination himself among the deep pile carpets and expensive looking furniture.

His grandchildren had long since grown into alien beings and his son-in-law, who came to pick him up in the new car, that each year seemed to get bigger and more luxurious, treated him with unruffled condescension. But his daughter would not hear of him being on his own on Christmas Day and was quite prepared to dissolve into tears at the very thought of it.

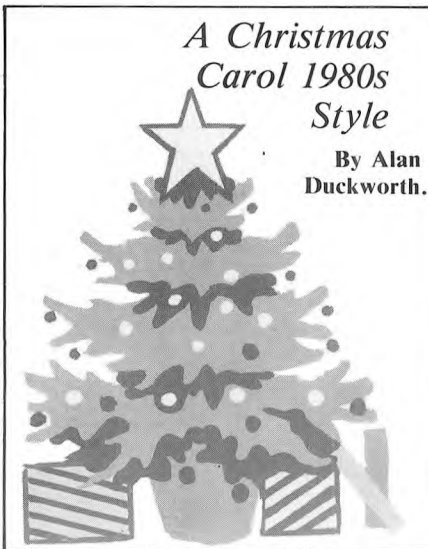
On a dull December day then, of all the good days of the year on Christmas Eve itself, Jimmy set off with his shopping bag to get a little something for his grandchildren. It was bitterly cold, with a chilling dampness that was congealing treacherously on the pavements and roads and flecks of snow on the wind, as harsh and sparse as the currants in a workhouse Christmas pudding.

He walked the mile to the town centre shopping precinct, congratulating himself on his thrift and fitness, but the crowds ebbing and flowing in the concrete and tiled mall soon got his bile blowing again. As he edged his way along, he began to mutter darkly to himself.

He queued up in the butchers to buy a marrow bone for Shep. The tills jingled and jangled with barely a pause and the drawers overflowed with blue, brown and purple notes. It gave him pleasure to hand over a few brown coins for his purchase. A plump woman, stuffing her bags with the mortal remains of a small farm gave him a pitying look.

"There'd be long faces if they had to make do with an orange and a slate like I did," he thought to himself, recalling the long ago Christmas mornings, when all that could be heard was the squeal of gritting chalk on slate board.

He turned away, knowing that whatever he bought them would receive scant attention on Christmas Day when his grandchildren would quickly be lost in a sea of wrapping paper, opening present after present.



He marched along at a fierce pace, his shopping bag with its bony content banging against his leg. The town hall clock had only just struck two, but the brief Winter daylight was already on the wane. There were flurries of fine snow quickening on the wind and the pavements were glistening sullenly with ice. Jimmy strode along recklessly.

The Salvation Army band was in the Town Hall Square playing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen". Jimmy flung them a glance of contempt. As he did so the whole of the town centre lurched through 90 degrees; blazing shops, bustling crowds, crawling traffic, brass band and all, twisted away and sent the pavement rushing up to giving him a stunning crack on the back of the head.

For some time he lay there, the focus of the orbit of a miniature garland of stars, then he became aware of the babble of shoppers gathering round him and with an effort and a blasphemy he sat up. One glance at his left leg which was twisted away from him at an impossible angle persuaded him to lie down again. A policeman, who looked all of 12 years old was bending over him and asking questions.

"I'm alright," Jimmy heard himself saying "I'm alright. Just give me a minute and I'll be alright". He heard the policeman say something about an ambulance and hospital.

"Get us a taxi," he said, beginning to feel faint with panic, "I can pay. I've got to get home to see about my dog.

He'll be fretting. I've got a bone." He reached out for his shopping bag, but the infant policeman had taken charge of it and was making reassuring noises about looking after the dog. The man dressed as Father Christmas, who had been selling balloons outside Woolworths' came over and looked down at him. "You ought to take more water with it," he advised. As a handy personification of Christmas and all it stood for, Jimmy would dearly liked to have punched his head.

In the ambulance he realised he would no longer have to make his annual visit to his daughters and the thought rallied him so much that he could joke with the ambulance men about where they kept the brandy. The light relief however was quickly replaced by anxiety about his dog.

By teatime, when it was dark outside and fat snowflakes were pressing themselves against the windowpanes, Jimmy was sitting up in bed in ward 5 of the Royal Infirmary. His left leg growing hot in a plaster cast that was still damp.

There was a Christmas tree twinkling prettily by the nurses' desk. Jimmy scowled at it and then stared out of the window, past the shadowy face in the glass of the old man with haunted eyes and the skinny neck emerging from hospital pyjamas that were several sizes too big for him.

He was worrying about Shep, imagining him padding about in the darkness and stopping every now and then with his head cocked for the sound of familiar footsteps. There was a sudden rattle of trolleys and the smell of food; the evening meal was on its way.

Later when the visitors came in, Jimmy turned his back on the ward.

"How's the leg?" a voice demanded. Jimmy looked round to see a smiling young man.

"Do'nt you remember me? I was on duty this afternoon, when you had your fall." Jimmy recognised the infant policeman.

"I've been round and got your dog, so you've nothing to worry about. He can stay in the kennels at the station until you're out and about. Me and the lads'll see he's fed". Jimmy was choked with emotion, wells of feeling inside him that had been dried up for years were brimming.

"Sit down lad," he said gruffly

"No, I can't stop," the young man said, "but I though I'd come and put your mind at rest. You get yourself better. I'll call again. Merry Christmas."

"Merry ...." Jimmy started, but he couldn't say it, "Thanks, lad. Thanks a lot" His eyes shining with emotion, he watched the young man until he was out of sight.

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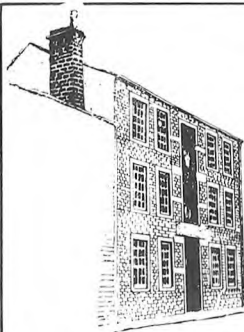
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Whilst the traffic on the M62 thunders past at Milnrow's Junction 21 half a mile away, Newhey village is an oasis of peace & calm. 'Almost off the beaten track you might think' but initiative and enterprise of two local housewives is bringing a surprising number of visitors to the village. Their brainchild is Good Heavens - a clever play on their names which they describe as an Emporium!

**'I can't sit still'**

After working as a secretary and then a PA, Gillian Gooder left full time work to raise her two sons - but at they approached school age, she explained 'I can't sit still - I want something to do'. Friend Pat Evans (yes have you got it?) added 'Don't do it without me' - and so they embarked on their venture - with the idea being a shop - or more than a shop - to sell quality hand crafted goods of all descriptions.

**Stock to delight**

Hand crafted quality merchandise is their secret. This ranges from the most expensive items in the shop - Victorian style rocking horses from £499 through to the exclusive hand decorated pottery, Balinese jewellery, English glass 'daisy chain' necklaces, Bolivian ponchos, locally knitted oiled aran



**Mike Newbould has an 'out of this world' experience in Newhey Village.**

sweaters, hand printed kimonos, to the cheapest item - a scoop of herbs for pot pourri at a mere 20p per scoopful. The stock is unusual, and uniformly top quality. 'If you share our taste - then you'll love the shop' said Gillian as she showed me the soft toys, pink mice (£8.50), Victorian style 'happy & sad' upside down dolls - with two bodies and reversible skirts - and her favourite a large clown. Hanging from the ceiling are terrariums - made in Chester to

19th Century designs and retaining the leaded glass construction and on the well stocked shelves I saw 'Lampes Berger' from France, giving the Aromatic fragrance of fresh flowers to a room. Haslis - modelled on slave collars from the Third World mingle with Good Heaven's own Harrogate Treacle Toffee and Fudge in a delightful assortment of gifts for all pockets & purses.

**For someone special**

Naturally, Good Heavens con-

centrates on gifts for girls. I challenged Gillian to recommend some gifts on a total budget of £25. Her first selection was a glass daisy chain choker at £6.90, with matching earrings at £1.99. Then a Scottish Christmas theme leaded glass decoration with a cheeky robin at £5.99, a Sue Pritchard hand applied purse bag in water marked satin at £4.99, a dish for pot pourri at £3.50, and two scoops of their aromatic herbs at 40p. Finally, three beechwood 'nuts' impregnated with essential oils at 99p for three, and a top up bottle of oil - and still change from my £25. 'I promise you that there is nowhere - either side of the hills - where you could get all this in a single shop' said Gillian.

**Late night wine**

Good Heavens is open from 9.15 through to 5.30 every day of the week, except Sunday when it is 11 - 4.30. There are special late opening nights for Christmas, on 12/13th December and 19/20th December 'with a complimentary glass of wine for our customers' said Pat. Naturally, all major credit cards are acceptable and Gillian & Pat look forward to meeting old and new friends at their surprising Emporium. ■

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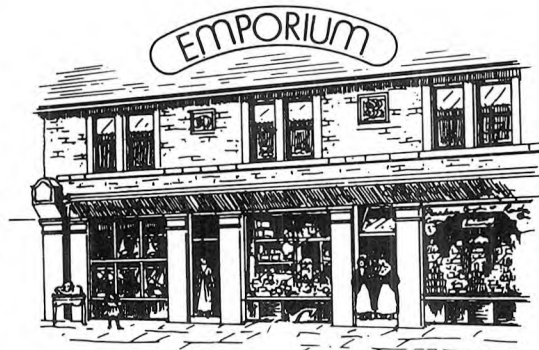
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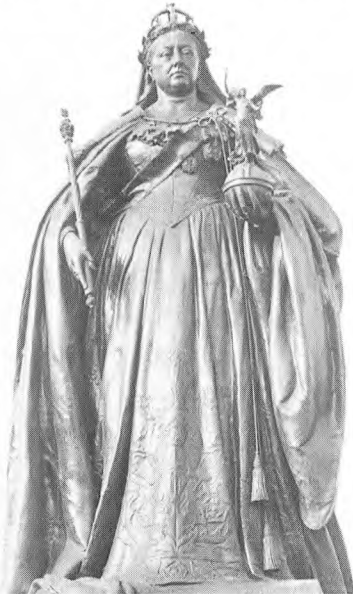
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*We look forward to welcoming you  
Gillian & Pat*

Looking down the vista between so many of Bradford's new tall buildings and the old familiar Florentine City Hall clock-tower is an imperious figure - straight-backed, girded in long robes of state and carrying a sceptre and orb. Behind a thin widow's veil and beneath a simple crown and laurel is the unmistakable face of the woman who presided over a larger and greater empire than any other of her sex before or since.

Queen Victoria stands and stares at the urban landscape which became a city only four years before her long reign ended; and which though now much changed is still in many parts the creation of the period to which she gave her name.

The 12-foot-high bronze of the diminutive monarch, situated between the Alhambra Theatre and the new National Museum of Photography, is one of the sculptor Alfred Drury's (1859-1944) finest civic and artistic



achievements. Her Majesty has now weathered the storms for 80 years, standing fast and looking on unamused as other eminent Victorians have been moved around the growing, changing city.

Richard Oastler, the "Factory King", at length found a home in Northgate. The bronze statue shows him holding out a kindly hand to a small boy and girl - wearing the clogs and hempen of the factory - whose lot he laboured so hard to improve.

In 1869, he had been placed commandingly at the Kirklees end of the busy Market Street, in front of the Midland Station, fittingly sited in the West Riding centre of the Ten Hours' Movement and abundantly subscribed for by local people.

In the city's Victorian heyday, he was an imposing figure - particularly by

## BRADFORD IMMORTALS



ANDREW LIDDLE looks at the famous people of yesteryear who still gaze out on the Bradford Scene.

*Photos: John Smithson.*

night when, illuminated by four gas lamps and towering above the waiting horse-drawn cabs, he was inescapably the first sight of anyone coming out of the station. Many visitors must have had him among their strongest recollection of Bradford.

In 1920, however, he had become sufficient a disturbance to traffic in Forster Square to necessitate removal up the hill to Rawson Square; and in 1968 he was given his present garden setting.

The sculptor was John Birnie Philip (1824-75) whose excellence and dedication made him much in demand, and who is best remembered for his 8-year labour of love, creating the frieze of great architects and sculptors, for the Albert Memorial in London.

Lister was present at the unveiling of his statue by W.E. Forster. The sculptor was Matthew Noble (1818-76), who was one of the best and most prolific of his day.

In 1898, Lord Marsham of Swinton, as Lister by then was, had provided for a

large public museum and art gallery. The splendid baroque building, finished in 1904, stood on the site of the old Manningham Hall, in Lister Park. It was called Cartwright Hall, in memory of the man to whose inventive genius Lord Masham had acknowledged his debt. In it is to be found the white marble embodiment of Edmund Cartwright, by Henry Charles Fehr (1876-1940).

The man who gave his name to Bradford's best known square was William Edward Forster, the author of the democratising 1870 Elementary Education Act. At the time of his death, in 1886, he had been Bradford's Liberal MP for a quarter of a century.

The fine, bearded figure shown in declamatory mood, with arms raised and chest swelled, had been captured in bronze by J. Harvard Thomas (1854-1921).



He stood, from 1890 onwards, on a island, in front of the Post Office; and across the square he could clearly see Oastler, who was unoblingly looking in the other direction. In the 1950s and '60s, Forster suffered the indignity of being out of the public gaze, while the city was being "modernised". In 1967, when his Square was quadruple in name only, he was re-erected near the station - in a position rather less prominent that he might have wished. ■

*Photo left; Queen Victoria  
Photo centre; W.E. Forster  
Photo above; Richard Oastler.*

● This article first appeared in the magazine of Bradford Grammar School.

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**REAL ALE  
 FOR REAL PUBS**

**STEVE LAWTON looks at the work of the campaign  
 for real ale and why Manchester is a beer drinkers  
 paradise.**

Whatever the vagaries of the weather in the North West, Greater Manchester remains firmly at the top of the "wet" league when it comes to choice and availability of real ale. Only the country's capital can boast more licenced premises but, when it comes to variety and price, the County of Greater Manchester is the place to be!

With nine operating breweries, from the tiny one-man Failsworth Brewery to the giant Watney-Mann subsidiary just down the road at Wilsons' Newton Heath Brewery, we are guaranteed a choice of real ales which is the envy of the country. Of course not all these breweries show the same commitment to real ale.

The local independent brewers have long since nailed their colours to the mast of real ale - though it must be said that some of them did tend to list to starboard slightly during the keg beer storm of the 1960's.

So far as the national combines are concerned, they see traditional beer as a minority market, preferring to concentrate their efforts and advertising budgets on promoting their more profitable pseudo-lager beers.

**COMPETITION**

In addition to the county's nine breweries, many more beers are available from brewers outside the area. It is this fiercely competitive market



which has helped to keep prices down in the region. Pub-goers in, for example, Brighton, could come to Manchester and drink twice as much beer for the same outlay!

The greatest threat today to the future of real ale lies in the frantic promotion of lager.

This drink is the advertising man's dream. It is bright, clear and golden. It is cheaper to produce than most traditional draught beers. It has a longer 'shelf life' but, what is more to the point, it can be sold at grossly inflated prices to an unsuspecting public.

Its lack of strength and character is hidden behind exotic sounding Germanic and Nordic names, belying the fact that the vast majority of these lagers are



brewed in this country. The average Belgian drinker would be horrified to see his national drink bastardised in this fashion.

Of course the older drinker has seen all this before. Back in the 1960's the same advertising hype was used to describe the latest brewers' dream - keg beer. Remember the Red Revolution and Double Diamond?

**REAL ALE**

It was in 1971 that four Mancunians, fearful that these fizzy tasteless apologies for beer would sweep the country, banded together to form the Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale - later to become the Campaign for Real Ale - CAMRA. Within five years the membership stood at 20,000 and keg beer was in retreat. The battle was won ... or was it?

Brewery takeovers continued apace, always eventually leading to reduced consumer choice. Remember Bents & Gartsides, Threlfalls, Manor, Cornbrook and many more? Sadly now just memories. Architects were perpetrating horrific acts of vandalism on priceless Victorian pub fittings, only to replace them with modern tat and formica. Lager was in the ascendancy. No, CAMRA still had a lot to do!

Currently there are seven branches active within Greater Manchester who between them, are responsible for monitoring the 2,800 pubs in the county, of which around 1,800 sell real ale. No easy task in an ever changing market place.

In addition to promoting real ale as the best value for money, tastier drink, CAMRA also involves itself in the wider issues affecting today's pub-goers. Such things as flexible licencing hours, pub preservation and the promotion of mild beer all received the Campaign's attention.

CAMRA has established itself as a watchdog, highlighting rip-off prices, short measure and the increasing trend towards bland-tasting beer.

Why should a pint of beer cost 70p in South Manchester, but only 60p in Oldham when both are brewed by the same company at the same time and travel similar distances to the pubs?

Why should a law passed at the outbreak of the First World War, designed to prevent munitions workers in Carlisle from becoming too intoxicated, thus jeopardising the war effort, now be used to prevent a licensee from opening his pub when trade demands it?

Why should a customer not always get a full pint of beer when he orders just that?

Is it right that once renowned beers appear to us to have become merely shadows of their former selves?

CAMRA have said so much only to be met with bland replies. Whilst breweries such as Joseph Holt and Timothy Taylor continue to produce their truly distinctive beers, there can be no excuse for this drift towards mediocrity.

**TAKEOVERS**

The takeover mania of the 1960s has again gathered momentum, with some of our local breweries at the forefront.

Boddingtons took over Oldham Brewery a couple of years ago and have now swallowed Higsons of Liverpool. Robinsons have taken over the Cumbria brewery of Hartleys and Matthew Brown have grabbed Theakstons. Fortunately such local acquisitions have not led to brewery closures - not yet anyway!

The attitude of some of our local breweries to pub alterations leaves much to be desired. Whilst the withdrawal of real ale from a particular pub is not to be welcomed, the decision can be reversed, whereas the demolition or insensitive 'modernisation' of a pub is irreversible. It is a fact that a gutted pub can never be restored to its former glory. Whilst CAMRA is not opposed to all pub alterations - it has to be admitted that there are some awful dingy, dirty hovels masquerading as public houses around Manchester - it feels that such alteration should be carried out with feeling and thought.

We only need consider the brewing giants, Whitbread and Grand Met's subsidiary Pennine Host (Wilsons' managed houses). The former have inflicted irreparable damage on some magnificent pubs in what has become known as the "House of Horrors" treatment.

This involves filling the places with junk and bric-a-brac - in one case a stuffed horse - and treating the unsuspecting customer to a "Sound and Light Experience"!

Heaven forbid such atrocities. The Pennine Host Group are currently altering pubs at a feverish rate in an equally distasteful fashion, imposing "themes" on their outlets which are ridiculously artificial and totally alien to the building, its location and clientele.

Some of our independent brewers, whilst not causing pub desecration on such a large scale, are by no means innocent. Certainly Boddingtons, Robinson, Holts and Lees have, in the past, employed architects who seem to have gained their design experience in a Lego factory.

If all this paints a rather gloomy picture, remember that there are almost 2,000 real ale pubs in Greater Manchester, so there is bound to be at least one which is your idea of heaven. I, for one, wouldn't swap it for anywhere else in the world.

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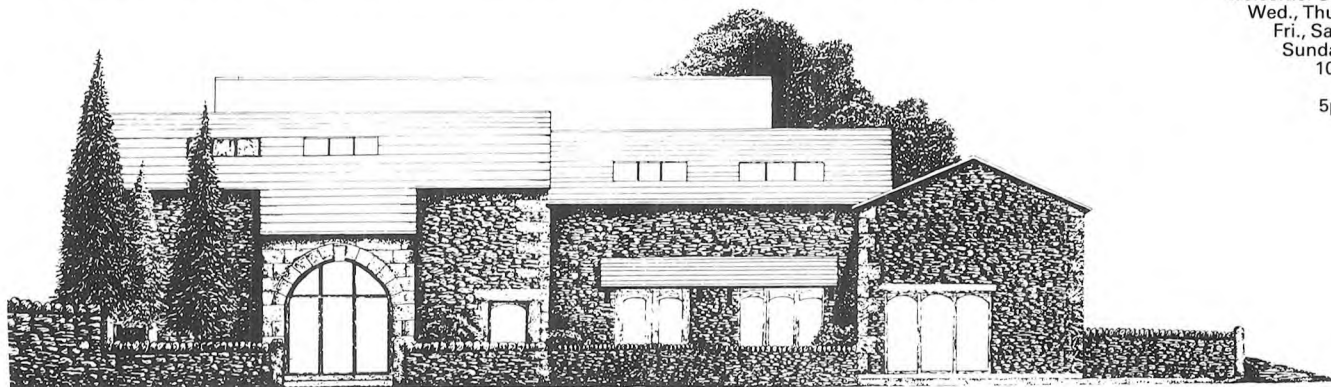
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Recently restored and utilising what was originally several farm buildings set into a courtyard, and used earlier this century for the weaving and processing of woollen goods, these fine old buildings, carefully restored, retain the many interesting features that have intrigued visitors to this area over the centuries.

With free admission, Cove Centre is a place to spend a tranquil morning or afternoon exploring its many hidden facets. A look round the Craft Annexe is a must, this large, naturally illuminated and stone-faced area features a wide selection of locally-made craft items and pottery, set amidst a profusion of house plants. A browse through The Great Outdoors Department reveals all the leading brands, the innovators of high quality footwear and clothing, and the discerning outdoor enthusiast would be prudent to look here before buying elsewhere.

For the more traditionally minded a look through the Country Lifestyle Department will confirm that pure wool still takes some beating for garments which complement a true rural outlook on life.

On the first floor is a 40-seater Buttery which specialises in freshly prepared dishes, cooked on the premises, and the Gift Gallery, adjacent to the Buttery, features a vaulted, beamed ceiling, and contains a wide selection of quality gifts and kitchenware.

It would truly be a shame to visit The Dales and miss the opportunity to experience the unique aura that, although difficult to define, reflects within the Cove Centre the delightful characteristics of The Dales.

Cove Centre is open to the public 5 days a week (closed Monday/Tuesday).  
Coach Parties are by appointment - Please telephone - Airton (072 93) 432.

# Merry WAKEFIELD

By Henry Clarkson,  
Illustrated by Henry Clarke.

This book was first published in 1887 and went into a second edition in 1889. Since then it has been an invaluable source of local history and its republication is most welcome.

Included in this new edition are illustrations sketched in the early 1890s by Henry Clarke, resident surgeon at Wakefield Prison from 1876 until 1908. These may have been drawn to illustrate the book as they depict many of the buildings and scenes noted in the text, but they were not 'discovered' until Henry Clarke's daughter bequeathed a copy of the second edition, into which they had been bound, to Wakefield Corporation in 1960.

The decision to re-publish these together was an excellent one; the drawings themselves are delightful but also add to the interest of the text. The illuminated initial letters of the chapters and the decorative panels which head and end each chapter make this a very attractive book to handle.

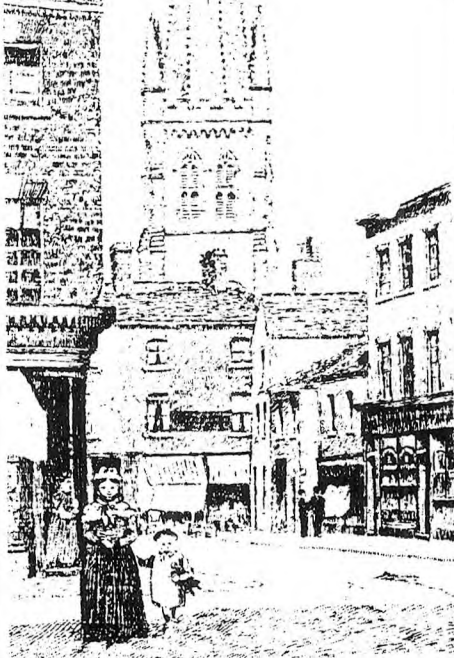
The book itself is neither a history of Wakefield nor an autobiography, though something of Clarkson's life does emerge of course, but, as he says in Chapter 1 "These little records of a long life have been noted down from time to time, as the recreation of leisure hours in the bright summer days, and cheerful winter evenings"

The author doesn't follow a chronological order; he starts off in Chapter 1 with "Old Wakefield", entitles Chapter V "Old Wakefield Again" and discusses the changes in Wakefield in Chapter XI.

Longevity must have run in the family for Henry Clarkson lived to be 94 years old and his father lived until he was 91.

In his second chapter, the son notes some of his father's memories which span the latter half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th. His father was born in August, 1752 just before the change was made to the calendar and he used to say he had been cheated out of 12 days!

Chapter 1V "Mercantile Wakefield", concerns the industry of Wakefield, the building of Cloth Halls, the fortunes of the Milnes and Naylor families, but is especially interesting to read of his own father's contact with the Luddites.



He had recently erected some spinning mules and received a threatening letter from "General Lud" Discretion was thought to be the better part of valour, the machinery was dismantled and set up again without further trouble after the disturbances were over.

His own life story starts with his school-days in Chapter III. He attended a Dame School before joining his brother at a private school run by the Rev. Benjamin Rayson, an Independent Minister.

A fellow pupil was Titus Salt and Henry Clarkson remembers him coming to school on a donkey from his home, a small farm at Cropton, four miles away. Titus was not a genial companion though, spending his lunch breaks alone in serious thought. "To improve the morality of the boys", the schoolmaster let them out of school early to watch the regular public floggings!

His working life is covered in Chapters VI - X. This includes his being articled to a Mr Pilkington, a commissioner for enclosing open and waste lands, after a false start in the office of his uncle Benjamin, a solicitor. He showed an aptitude for drawing up plans rather than deeds.

The many readers interested in railway history will particularly enjoy the chapters describing his survey work for lines constructed under the direction of "The Engineer" of the day, George

Stephenson, in the early days of what he calls 'Railway Mania' beginning in 1835.

The valuation part of his work meant he was often called to appear on the Company's behalf in the long court cases which arose over the purchase of land.

The penultimate chapter deals with the local political scene, while the last, entitled "A Thing of Shreds and Patches", covers various topics from the cost of postage, salt and window tax to the acquittal of Queen Caroline.

This is never a dull book, being spiced throughout with amusing anecdotes: how Mr Naylor sold his horse at a fair in the morning and was deceived into buying it back in the afternoon for a much inflated price, for instance.

Another tale tells how Henry left the coach, taking him on an important mission to Manchester, to stretch his legs while the horses were rested and fed. Unfortunately, the driver, not realizing this, left without him and he had to run and walk after it for four miles before the driver, arriving at Manchester, found he had no passenger and thinking he must have fallen out, set off back to look for him

As he says at the beginning of the book "the memories of long past days have crowded so quickly into my mind, with a vividness and delight that the young may sympathise with, but none except the old will fully understand". Fortunately for us he has managed to convey that "vividness and delight" to the printed page to give us a very readable book, as well as an informative one, which can be enjoyed by all whatever one's literary taste. ■

Julia Smith

Illustration : Cross Square

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# CYCLE OF THE SEASONS



*JULIA SMITH looks at a group bringing the ancient art of mumming back to life.*

“It’s just like that Mumming thing, do you remember that Mumming thing when we were little?”

This comment, by an elderly lady to her friend was overheard by Ross Moore when he was performing in the streets of Leeds last Christmas. Well, it’s not strictly accurate but it sums up the general idea behind Ross’s work with the Glassworks Theatre Company which he started with his wife, Jan, four years ago.

“It’s re-kindling something before it’s completely lost”, he told me. Alex Helm in “The English Mummers’ Play” defines the play as “a mens’ seasonal ritual intended to promote fertility, expressed basically in terms of an action of revitalization, in which the performers must be disguised to prevent recognition”, To be recognized broke the luck.

As Ross explained, it is very hard to get over this cycle idea to someone living in Hunslet, or Barnsley, or wherever, so it becomes necessary to modify it.

Thus “Michaelmas Spectacular”, performed at various outdoor venues in the region last winter, comprised a Spring figure, a Summer figure, a Winter figure and a human element to co-ordinate the three. Summer died, Winter took over and was then laid low, Spring revived Summer. The cyclical theme was there but was presented in such a way as to make an entertaining street performance.

The performers are not men only but include women, and sometimes even children, the latter, as usual, stealing the show whenever they appear.

Speech is used during the performance, including some topical references

and jokes, but it is kept to a minimum in order not to lose the essence of the play. Ross, with the background of a trained artist, likes to start with the visual image and go on from there.

As he explained, when he had made a mask or large figure and then spent a couple of hours in front of a mirror with it, it begins to suggest its own movements, what it can or can’t do, what is funny or what is serious with it.

The company is financed by small grants from groups such as Yorkshire Arts, but the majority of the support is from the County Councils, so they are expecting to be hard hit when these are abolished. The work, and the pay, tends to be seasonal. With the reviving interest in summer festivals and carnivals, there is a great demand for street entertainment. Many cities have also found this is a profitable way of enticing people to their shopping centres during the Christmas period.

An indoor show requires a greater amount of money, time and effort and it is now becoming harder to get the returns necessary from the smaller venues, while the larger ones are themselves being squeezed financially.

The name of the company intrigued me, it seems it is the result of a combination of ideas, glass and works. They wanted something quite industrial, having some connection with work, while glass symbolizes the visual aspect, of seeing, of reflecting; so Glassworks developed and stuck. It has caused some complications though, they have been confused with the Gas Works, or found they were expected to entertain by blowing glass!

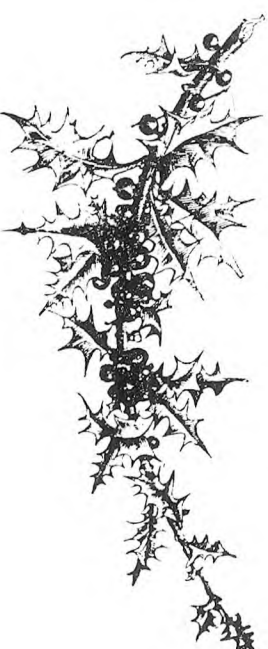
The shows now generally develop from a story into which the traditional folk-lore elements have been introduced in some form or other, rather than vice versa. In the new show for Christmas there will be music, masks and magic, there will be fun and laughter, but somewhere in it, someone or something will still die and be magically restored to life.

The performers hope that if at least some of their audience recognize the deeper significance of the underlying traditional ideas they will have helped to preserve this important part of our heritage for future generations.

As Margaret Dean-Smith said in her paper “The Life-Cycle or Folk Play”, as long as a character died and was restored to life, the ceremony lived on. With people like the Glassworks Theatre Company about, the ceremony will continue to live on.■

*For dates and venues see ‘Pennine What’s On’, centre pages.*

# The Art of Christmas

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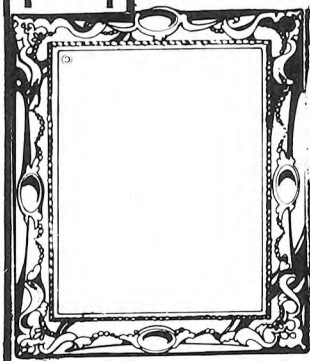
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*Local artists and craftsmen will demonstrate their skill in many different media.*

### CONTACT PENNY MCKINLAY

The Rutland Gallery, Airedale Buildings,  
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Telephone Keighley (0535) 680388

**Closed all January 1986.**



WAKEFIELD'S 3-star Swallow Hotel celebrates its 20th birthday this year — a year that has seen the modern, comfortable hotel becoming even more popular.

Although the hotel opened in December 1965, it wasn't taken over by the national company Swallow until ten years later. Swallow has 33 hotels all over the country, from central London 3-star hotels to quiet, country houses but all with the same emphasis on comfort and helpfulness.

Wakefield's Swallow has attracted business people and commercial guests for many years and now tourists, using Wakefield as a base for exploring Yorkshire's variety, are finding the hotel just as convenient.

The 64 bedrooms all have private bathrooms, televisions, tea and coffee making facilities, telephones and radios; there are two well-stocked bars and an al la carte restaurant offering a choice of delicious English and French cuisine.

Parties of up to 120 can be catered for in the banqueting and meetings suites and there's ample car parking outside the hotel and nearby.

"Our policy of promoting the hotel outside the region is attracting more people here," said Mr Malcolm Peel, Manager. "Like West Yorkshire County Council, we are doing our best to bring tourists in to the area."



# Robin Hood Rides Again

BARBARA GREEN, author of a book setting a Robin Hood story in Yorkshire, tells what happened when she took it to Nottingham.

**R**obin Hood and Maid Marion certainly had their troubles back in the Middle Ages but, believe it or not, their problems are still not at an end in 1985.

Robin's latter day conflicts with authority began shortly after the publication of "Marion's Christmas Rose" - the story of Maid Marion (Merlin £1). Part of the book promotion scheme involved visiting local galas and fêtes with a Robin Hood display featuring the book, and with myself and a friend wearing appropriate medieval costume.

Unfortunately none of the men we knew were brave enough to don the green tights and feathered hat of the famous folk hero, so Ruth, my friend, stepped into the "breech" while I took the part of (a somewhat middle-aged) Maid Marion.

This event caused quite a stir in the press and on television and, a little later, the news that Robin Hood has been outlawed from his own graveyard at Kirklees Priory, made the headlines also. Quite understandably the organisers of the annual Kirklees Fête had feared the publicity would attract vandals to the estate.

Nothing deterred, Ruth and I now set our sights on Nottingham, the heart of Robin Hood lore and legend. En route we called in the Sherwood Forest Country Park Robin Hood Centre to see how 'Marion's Christmas Rose' was faring on the bookshelves of the souvenir shop.

Imagine my chagrin to find no sign at all of my little book among the ranks of Robin Hood literature (all telling exactly the same story) while the shop assistant suggested that it had either sold out or been withdrawn because it did not sell.



Seething with anger and frustration Ruth and I - true to the enterprising spirit of our hero - donned our regalia and proceeded to stroll through the leafy groves of Sherwood Forest, selling "Marion's Christmas Rose" to the tourists at the rate of one a minute.

The next day we set up our Robin Hood exhibition in Nottingham Market Square where the annual Medieval Market was being held. Our maps, posters and books provoked a lot of lively argument and banter from the locals, many of whom were ignorant of the fact that several of Robin's adventures (and certainly his death) took place in Yorkshire.

In the middle of the afternoon a very belligerent looking gentleman with two men at arms (bodyguards?) at either side of him, came to view the stall and it soon became apparent that he was not at all impressed by our display.

He was, we soon gathered, the organiser of the Medieval Market, and he considered our stall an absolute scandal. Robin Hood had never visited Yorkshire in his life, and it was a crime to say he had - especially in Nottingham town centre!

The Sheriff, continued the glowering official, was furious and demanded that all reference to Yorkshire be withdrawn forthwith!

Not knowing whether to laugh or cry at the absurdity of the situation, and fearing we might end up in the dungeons of Nottingham Castle, Ruth and I did as ordered, knowing exactly how poor persecuted Robin and Marion must have felt in similar circumstances.

After all - we were dressed for the part!

## Open Fell Hidden Dale

Photographs by John and Eliza Forder.  
Text by Arthur Raistrick.

Published by Frank Peters Publishing Ltd, Kendal

**T**he wonderful colour pictures of the Yorkshire Dales in the best-selling book by James Herriott and Derry Brabbs is a hard act to follow.

But this book has achieved just that.

So good in fact, are the photos I strongly recommend the book as the



ideal present for any Dales lover. Readers can view the 93 photographs on display at Halifax Piece Hall until January 5th and see for themselves the shots of everything from gnarled Dales farmers, to dramatic scenes inside caves and pot holes.

Some of my favourites are the waterfall scenes, which catch the silky flow of the tumbling waters.

The text by Dales historian Arthur Raistrick makes this more than just a visual treat.

**Richard Catlow**



**T**his ancient three-storey, waterpowered corn mill complete with period cottage, barn, mistal, mill race and waterwheel stands alongside Darley Beck in eight acres. Dating from the 17th century this fascinating property has been fully restored and converted to provide an interesting, pleasurable day out for all the family.

Enjoy traditional Yorkshire fayre in the well-appointed restaurant, benefit from good old-fashioned value in the home linen, craft and gift shops or simply soak up the history and tradition of Yorkshire.

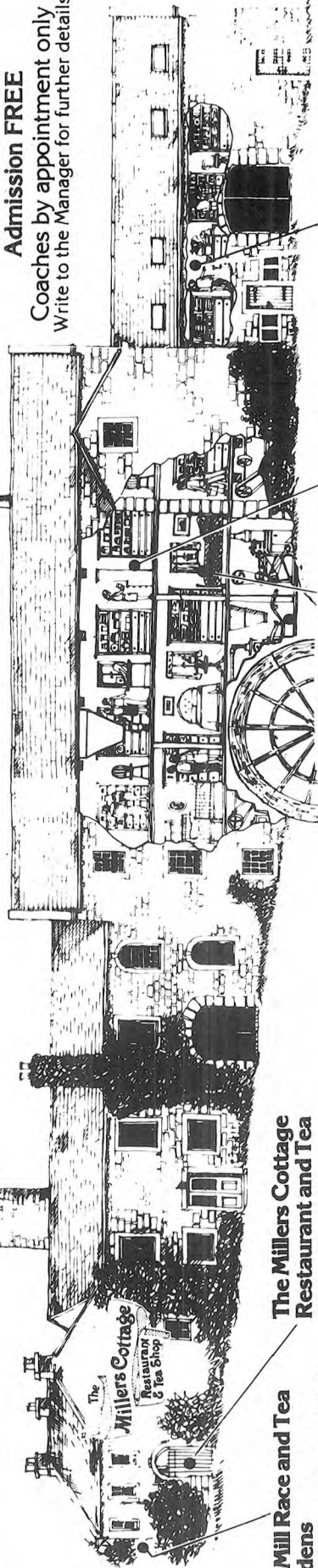
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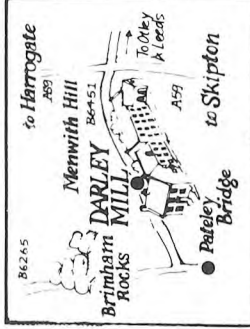
This floor once housed 5 sets of millstones, now you will find one of the finest selections of co-ordinated bedlinen in the country, all the top brands, latest designs, beautifully displayed.

#### The Grain Store (Crafts & Gifts)

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#### Old Barn Mill Shop

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# BOOK REVIEWS

## Along the Cut

"The Leeds - Liverpool Canal in Old Picture Postcards"

By Gary Firth

Price £12.50

**N**orman Walls spent a lifetime working and enjoying life upon the Leeds and Liverpool canal, as no doubt did his father and grandfather before him.

Prior to his death in 1973, he created a collection of photographs and postcards of life on the canal over the past 100 years. Dr Firth has harnessed this collection and blended it with his personal knowledge of the canal's history to produce an attractive and interesting insight into the canal and its users

The book is excellent value and is recommended to both armchair travellers and canal addicts.

**Frank Starr**

## In Wainwright's steps.

WALKS IN WHARFDALE

Paul Hannon

Hillside Publications

Price £1.95

**P**aul Hannon, whose Wainwright-style walking guides (hand-written and hand-drawn) are becoming a feature of local book shops has produced another excellent little book. And this time he is rather nearer home than his previous Lakeland wanderings.

In its own protective PVC cover (very handy if you want to use it rather than just read it), the book covers 18 circular walks in Wharfedale.

## New look for an old friend.

A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain.

Volume 8. South and West Yorkshire

David Joy.

Published by David and Charles

Price £12.50

**F**irst published in 1975, the new volume has been revised and extended.

The original was purchased for me as a Christmas present and has proved to be

an excellent source of interest and information about the railway centred on the industrial conurbations of Yorkshire.

It is also a valuable reference source for those people who, like me, want to find out the details of every railway, alive or dead, which they come across.

Minor reservations apart, the new volume represents a first class account of railways in the areas of the title and if a couple of the illustrations have been changed, it is relatively unimportant.

New illustrations, indeed, remind the readers of improvements which have taken place on our railways, the opening of stations and the introduction of lightweight diesel rail-cars, very important innovations at a time when railways are obtaining ever wider support as a means of travel.

David Joy's book is a reminder of how much of value has been discarded. It may well help to prevent further erosion of the rail network and will itself remain as an enduring source of information on railway lines once used and the lines which are happily still in the land of the living.

**Bob Cryer**



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**Unsolved Murders most**

**Bloody**

The Murders at Bill's o' Jack's by James Davenport 84 pages

A local history publisher, Neil Richardson has this year published a fictional account of the murders at the Moorcock Inn, Saddleworth, in 1832.

Many Pennine bookshops will have copies of the booklet available at £2 each. The cost seems a little steep for only 84 pages, but the author packs a great deal within these pages. Alternatively, copies can be obtained at £2.25 each from Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M37 2AY.

Nothing quite catches the public imagination like a bloodthirsty crime or an unsolved mystery and the Bill's o' Jack's murders were both.

The site of the Moorcock Inn is pinpointed by a contemporary arrow on a map on the book's centre pages. This map is based on the One Inch Ordnance Survey first published in 1843, with railways added in the 1880's. The Inn, itself, was demolished about 40 years ago.

James Davenport describes the landscape of Saddleworth and gives an overview of various murders and tragic accidents in the area over the past 150 or so years. He also introduces a few Saddleworth legends and explains: 'The following narrative is part-conjecture, part-fact; the conjecture based on the rumours and the theories current at the time among the villagers of Saddleworth, who were much more searching in their examination of the evidence than was the inquest, which was remarkably cursory'.

The start of Chapter 2 captures the flavour of the book very well:-

"The stir and excitement of the fair, the exhilaration of the bull-baiting and the evening dancing and merry-making in the inns seemed to carry over into the Sunday, and even the Moorcock Inn some way up the moorside was thronged by mid-morning. The inn had once been Jack Bradbury's, was now his son Bill's and was best known as "Bill's o' Jacks".

"There was a great circle of spindle-back chairs before the blazing fire in the massive wide hearth, and all were full. Lawyer, butcher, labourer, carter and shopman sat in close once-a-week companionship, pint pots, and tankards already "well seasoned" and pipe smoke blued a little the sub-bright, plain, bare-wood taproom."

Jennifer Little

**Pennine House**

A real labour of love is "Rural Houses of the Lancashire Pennines, 1560-1760" by Sarah Pearson and costing a hefty £16.95 in paperback!

But this magnificent piece of research, with some fine colour and black and white illustrations, is the definitive account of the homes built by the prosperous farmers and small-scale gentry of this period.

Richard Catlow

**Flowers & Ferns**

Botanists in the Huddersfield area will want to pick up a copy of "Flowers and Ferns Around Huddersfield", published by Kirklees Libraries price £2.95

It's the fruit of 27 years' work by authors Jill Lucas and Jack Middleton and has more than 100 line drawings by Derek Toms. A really excellent publication.

The same praise can be given to the "West Yorkshire Waterways Guide" newly re-published by the Calder Navigation Society which makes the ideal companion for anyone boating or towpath walking along these canals and is full of interesting information.

# Ascold Mill Shop

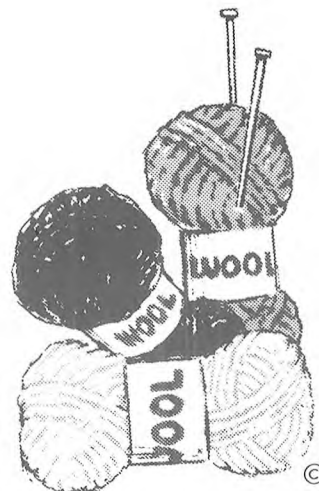
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# There's more to Kirklees than "Summer Wine"

Holmfirth, famous as the setting for BBC Television's "Last of the Summer Wine" is just one of the fascinating places to explore in Kirklees, West Yorkshire.

On the South Pennines and close to the Peak District

National Park, Kirklees has outstanding countryside and excellent shopping, sporting and recreation facilities.

\* Travel back in time by visiting the Elizabethan Oakwell Hall at Birstall and Georgian Red House Museum at Gomersal (both well known for their Bronte connections).

\* See how Weavers lived and worked in the perfectly restored Colne Valley Museum, Golcar.

\* Enjoy the panoramic view from the historic Iron Age Hill Fort of Castle Hill, above Huddersfield.

\* Visit the historic Huddersfield Narrow Canal and see the entrance to the longest canal tunnel in the U.K. at the Visitors Canal and Countryside Centre at Marsden.

\* Ramble the Pennine Way and other superb walks throughout Kirklees.

\* Find a bargain at one of the many mill shops and art and craft galleries.

\* And of course don't forget to visit Holmfirth for a taste of "Summer Wine."

To find out more about Kirklees telephone the Tourism Officer on: 0484 22133 Ext. 598 or return the coupon to the Tourism Officer, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, High St. Buildings, High Street, Huddersfield HD1 2LT.



Please send me further details and accommodation guide.

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P

**KIRKLEES**  
*West Yorkshire*

# HOLMFIRTH

## FAR MORE THAN A TV LOCATION

THERE'S so much more to the town of Holmfirth than the "Last of the Summer Wine".

It was Compo and his friends, plus of course the terrible Norah Batty in the long running BBC TV series who brought fans flocking to this pleasant spot in the Holme Valley. It also led to Holmfirth's development as a fascinating shopping centre.

With the tourists came a number of individual, privately-owned, retail outlets, among them galleries, craft and antique

stores, potters, and clothes stores all offering unusual and high quality goods.

It is an ideal shopping centre for that "something different". In addition to shops there are ever-popular mill shops, and of course the full range of food stores.

There's the added attraction of shopping in TV land. You can visit "Sid and Ivy's Cafe", see "Norah Batty's house" with its back steps and visit the scenes of many an adventure by Compo, Clegg and Foggy.

Holmfirth is also nearer than many people think.

If you are going by bus there is a direct service from Wakefield bus station to Holmfirth.

After 8.30 in the morning from Monday to Saturday the 484 service runs every hour starting at 9.30pm through until 5.30. There's a tremendous cost-saving on the normal fare of £1 if you travel between 9.30am and 3pm on weekdays and all day Saturday, when prices are 30p for adults and 15p for children.

An added bonus is that OAPs travel free of charge during this off-peak period.

If you are travelling by car

Cattle Market (River-side) Tuesdays 12.30 to 4.30pm.

Craft Market (Crown Bottom) Saturdays 9am-4.30pm.

Half-Day Closing — Tuesdays.

If you venture out into the countryside around Holmfirth you'll see some of the most spectacular views in the region — and probably drop in at one of many welcoming inns for a

lunch beside a roaring fire.

Also worth a look, if you are combining a shopping trip with a day out, is:

- Bamforth and Co., famous for comic post-cards. They were also pioneers of early motion pictures.

- The village of Holme, which nestles under the 725ft high Holme Moss TV and Radio mast.

- Honley, an interesting village where you'll find the Coach and Horses Inn. It was here in 1812 that Benjamin



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**Nora Batty's cottage**

Walker and Thomas Smith, two Luddites, spent the night drinking after murdering a Marsden mill owner called William Horsfall.

● Hepworth, with its fine examples of weavers' cottages.

● Wooldale, which possesses some of the oldest and most interesting buildings in the district.

Crown Bottom, off Huddersfield Road — 110 spaces.

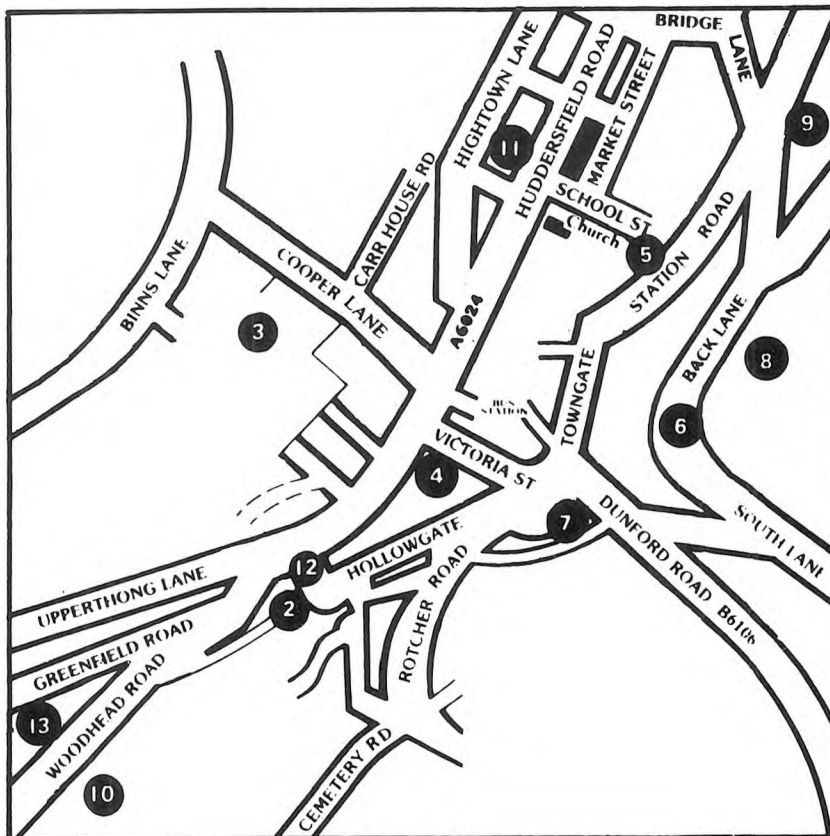
Garside Estate, Station Road — 61 spaces.

Huddersfield Road — 21 spaces.

All car parking is free of charge.

### Market Days

General Market (Crown Bottom) Thursday 9am to 4.30pm.



- Information Centre:** Telephone 684992. Hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. April — September, Saturday and Sunday 1pm to 5pm.
- Scarfold:** Home of Nora Batty and Compo.
- Shelter in Victoria Park.** The stone was taken from Yateholm a village mentioned in the Domesday Book.
- Oldest remaining retail business:** Established 1834 and still run by the same family, James Haigh & Co.

- T'owd Genn Memorial:** In Towngate. It commemorates the peace of Amiens 1801 and height of the flood of 1852 when Bilberry reservoir burst.
- Sid and Ivy's Cafe:** Outside the parish church. Used in "Last of the Summer Wine" scenes.
- Higgin Brig:** Known as Back o' t' Nook said to have been the original main road through Holmfirth.
- Church steps:** Leading to the Owd Towser. In the early days

- a mortuary and prison. It is said to have housed the horse drawn fire engine underneath.
- Bamforth & Co:** Famous for comic postcards. They were pioneers of early motion pictures.
- Prickleden Dam:** Scene of the watery adventures of Compo, Clegg and Foggy.
- Civic Hall:** Parking facilities opposite.
- Old Toll Bar:** Now a book and coffee shop.
- Compo's Cafe.**

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A windswept rendezvous somewhere on the 1000ft contour. Not a tree or a house in sight. Just a sweep of brown hills and grey water. The only touch of colour, bizarre scarlet lifebelts at the side of a newly-marked path. Welcome to the Brontë Way and I hope you've got your vest on.

The Brontë Way, from Haworth to Wycoller, has made it through its first full walking season. So what, you might say. But as you follow its modest nine miles, remember that this is no ordinary route. Years of talks, tea and buns, not to mention gritted teeth have been the price paid to inch the path over the summit.

Over more tea and buns (well, a Cumberland sausage actually) I asked Countryside Officers Les Morgan of Bradford Council and Phil Bennell of Lancashire County Council why this walk was so special.

"Just for a start, it's the only path to cross the watershed east-west in the whole of this part of the Pennines. Nothing else from Hebden Bridge right up to Kildwick. The reason is quite simple - grouse shooting."

A swathe of private grouse moor runs for miles down the Yorkshire-Lancashire border with no public access. "It's big business. So no gamekeeper would thank you for routing Sunday strollers through his young chicks."

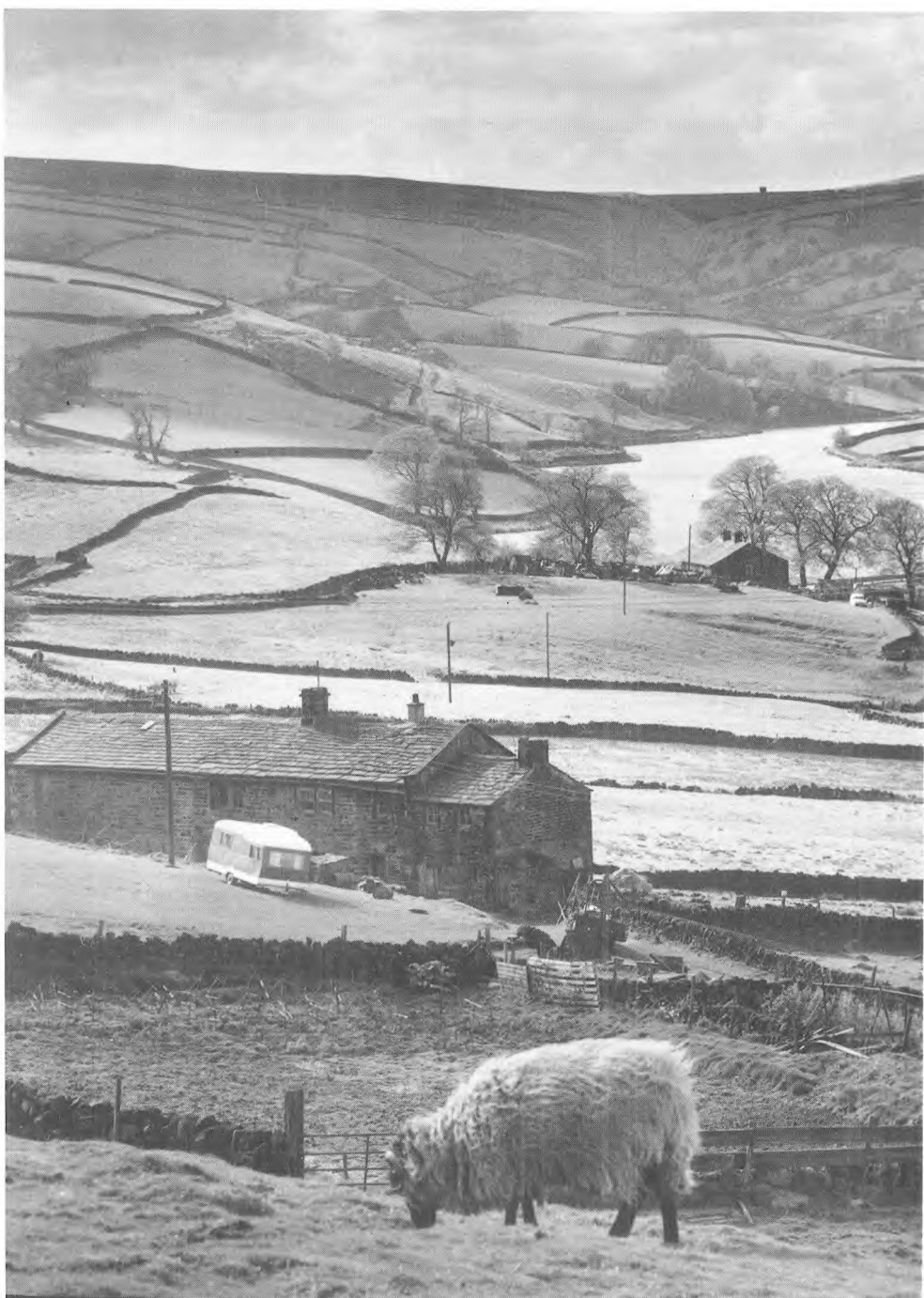
Ramblers for years had cast covetous but impotent eyes upon these forbidden summits. In the late 1970s, the idea of a watershed walk gained momentum and in 1981, a working group was set up under SCOSPA (Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities) to look at the possibilities.

Routes were worked out from Haworth along the Worth valley and over the border to Wycoller in Lancashire. Mostly they ran on existing footpaths, only to come to a halt at the line of "No Entry" signs stalking down the county boundary.

During 1983, the debate on the central section narrowed to four possibles:

- a skyline route across Crow Hill summit.
- a moorside route on a glacial overflow channel.
- along the edge of Watersheddles Reservoir
- a tarmac stretch on the Haworth-Colne road

"It's no secret that we wanted the high-level route. Crow Hill's the summit, the watershed. The natural choice from a walker's point of view. But it's also the heart of a grouse moor. We had to respect that and look for a compromise."



Enter the Watersheddles route, skirting the grouse moor and crossing the country boundary on the pass below Crow Hill.

This in its turn caused problems. The Yorkshire Water Authority had fears not only of pollution in a catchment area, but also for unwary ramblers rambling into the reservoir. Only County Council intervention (and those scarlet lifebelts) saved the day.

Talking over, the digging began. The draining and the flailing. Bridge and stile building. And marking of the route with jaunty yellow arrows.

"It only took a matter of months, although pretty hectic ones. Anyone who was anyone was running about up there. Private contractors, countryside wardens, Pennine Heritage."

To The Great Opening Day, July 14th 1984. Champagne and buns all round. (So I'm told. I wasn't invited, but never let it be said I bear a grudge).

I asked Les and Phil what kind of customer they had had in mind as the route took shape. "Well it's not a fell tiger's walk. Not meant to be. It's for your ordinary countryside visitor looking for a bit of a challenge. Even you could do it."

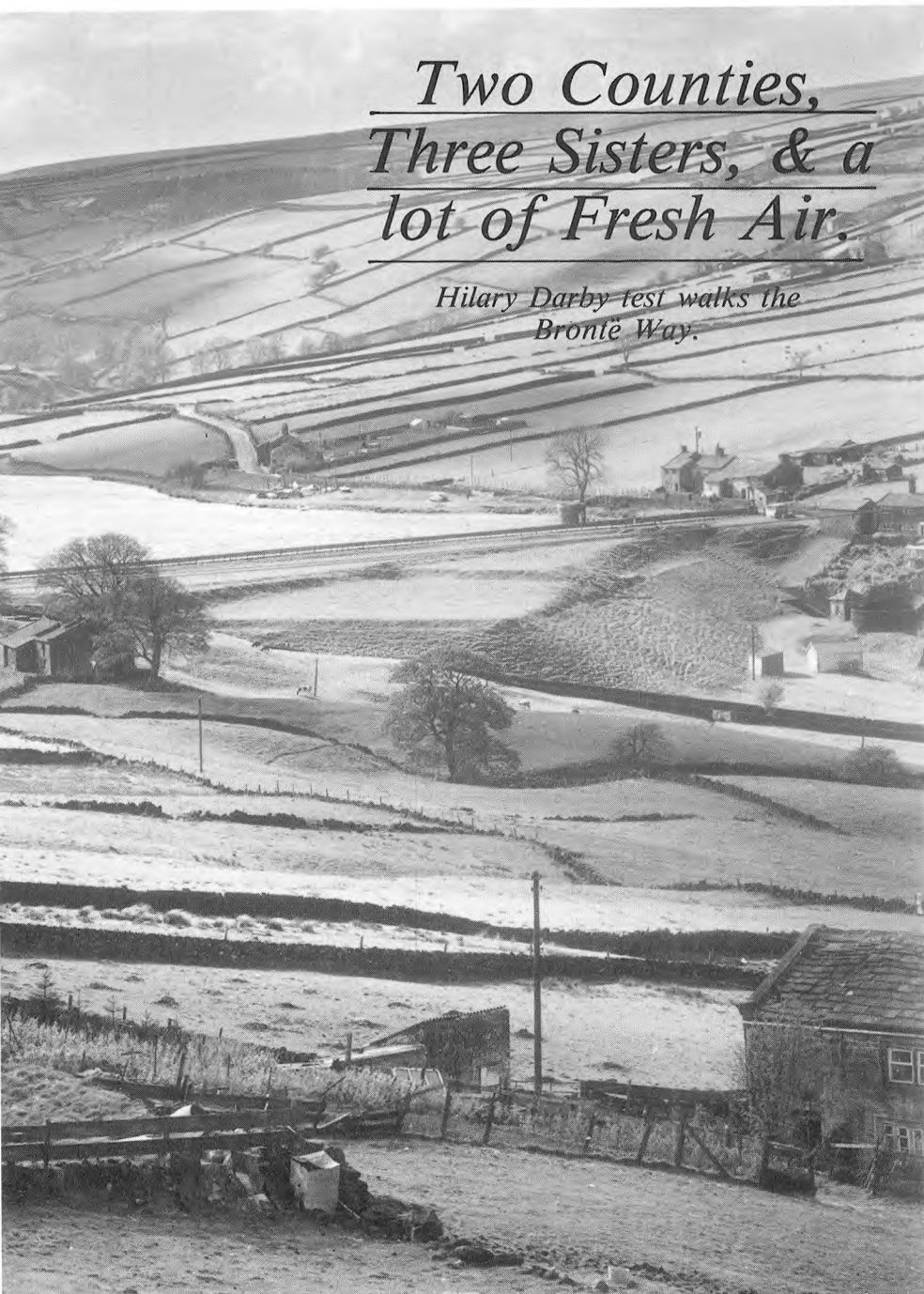
Unfit and ageing, I must be prime "average visitor" material. I wouldn't say I'm looking for a challenge, (just for Mr Right), but dutifully I set off for Haworth.

Who hasn't heard enough about Haworth? But plain, grey, defiant, it remains atmospheric still. First stop, Tourist Information to ask for the free



## *Two Counties, Three Sisters, & a lot of Fresh Air.*

*Hilary Darby test walks the  
Brontë Way.*



Brontë Way leaflet. A glossy, coloured job with route map, directions and an outline of the landscape and its history.

Starting point, Haworth churchyard. The path runs out to the moors between grey stone walls, as it did for the Brontës who often walked this way. (No catcalls please, they really did.)

I climbed the path up to Penistone Hill. This was once a quarry, and is now a country park.

From here, brisk yellow arrows marked the way, west along the track to Brontë Bridge. Tradition has it that this pretty wooded clough was a haunt of the Brontës. But, warned my leaflet, "there may be no genuine literary connection." I insist upon a pale grey ghost dreaming on a rock by the waterfall.

The track to the bridge runs along, the edge of Haworth Moor. It clearly marks the divide between green "in-by" pasture and the open moor. This was always marginal land. Below in the Sladen Beck bottom, a line of abandoned intake farms.

In search of the next arrow, I was overtaken on the inside by my first fellow Brontë Wayfarers. Two ladies in breeches, deep in debate. "I liked 'Jane Eyre' but I had no time for 'Shirley'." Took her back to the library. Such a namby pamby heroine." Forgive me but I quailed to interrupt for opinions on The Way and they yomped out of sight.

North now on a moorland spur towards Ponden, briefly sharing the path with the Pennine Way. I noticed PW in faded letters on a stone. None

of your fancy engraved wooded signs in the good old rambling days.

There were wide windy views from here. East over Lower Laithe Reservoir and the dotted farms of the Worth Valley. And up in the west, the brooding skyline of Crow Hill. The route skirted Ponden Reservoir and under the nose of Ponden Hall itself.

Leaving civilisation now and gaining height, the track climbing on a soft green land. A sense of the valley narrowing below as the path leapt up and out on to the hillside. Now this is the stuff. Curlews crying and a wet blue sky.

I liked this bit best. And the next stretch. The narrow little valley below the Watersheddles dam. Hidden, lonely, a bracken-red and green haven untouched, legally at least, by rambler's boot. For this is the brave new world, the two mile zone of precarious concessionary footpath, taking the route over the pass into Lancashire.

Coming along the stream my next Brontë Way-ites. Had I seen any yellow arrows, were they right for Haworth? They were in from Nelson, on the hill before I'd even faced that morning's boiled egg and soldiers. So what did they think of it all?

"Grand on the pass cutting through the wild stuff. Pity it didn't go right over the tops." No, they didn't know blood had been sweated to get it this far but thought it "a grand stroll".

At the valley head, the path reaches Watersheddles Reservoir and edges along the banks. A wide bare plateau under low summits. THE WALK'S HIGHEST POINT. (Away on the left, dank Crow Hill which might have had that honour. I don't mind a bit. You can sense the bog from here.)

Describing the moors after the death of her sisters, Charlotte Brontë wrote. "When I go out there alone, everything reminds me of the times when others were with me, and then the moors seem a wilderness, featureless, solitary, saddening." She might have been writing it here.

I followed a newly-flailed track through the bracken, one small dot on a large brown landscape. What a relief and a contrast as Wycoller's valley opened below. Trees. Cows. A patchwork of sunny fields.

On the crag above, The Herders inn, where I got talked into this. I still vouch for its Cumberland sausage.

I'd reached the end of the concessionary path. Just a couple of miles. But such a rare and important example of public and private interests compromising to make things happen. ■

*Photo; Haworth Moor.  
By Simon Warner.*

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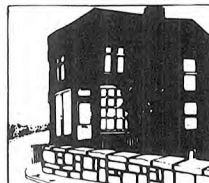
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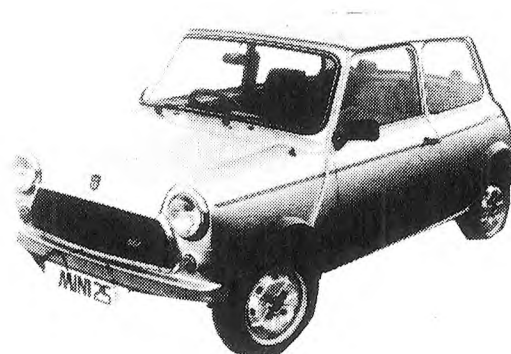
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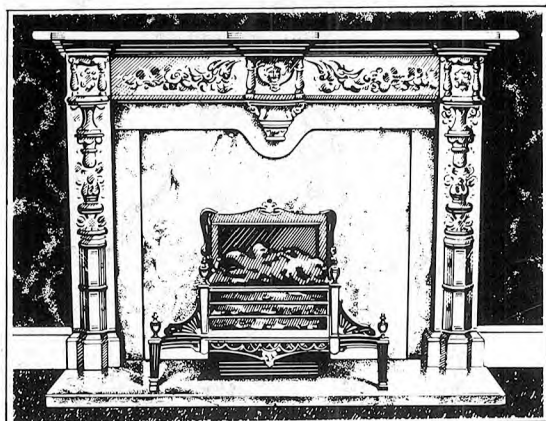
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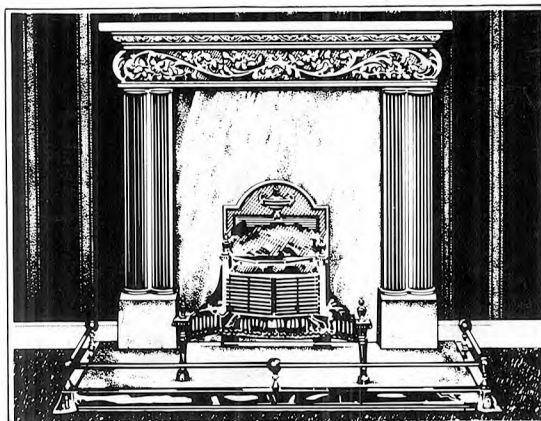
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