

Muppett's Rambles

Introduction

In the late summer of 2021 CNet managed to secure some funding from The West Yorkshire Combined Authority's CityConnect programme.

As part of its Community Grants scheme, CityConnect offered small grants to third sector and community organisations to support projects which encourage people to cycle and walk more.

So I put together a grant application to CityConnect proposing a series of guided walks aimed at different communities across the Bradford Metropolitan District and I was successful.

Then using the Community links I've built up over the years working with CNet, I made contact with a number of groups and organisations and put the idea to them and eventually I got 5 groups who were interested in getting involved.

These groups included; a group of Mums from the Ravenscliffe Housing Estate in the Eccelshill Ward of Bradford, who meet at the Gateway Centre on the estate; a group of Pensioners from the Idle and Thackley Wards of Bradford that meet at the Rockwell Centre on the Thorpe Edge Housing Estate; A mixed group (Age wise) from the 3 Keighley Wards, who I'd worked with on a previous walking project; A group of Parents, whose Children who attend All Saints Primary School in The Little Horton Ward of Bradford; and a group of neighbouring Pensioners from the Manningham Ward.

Where I could I wanted to take the groups as close as I could to their local neighbourhoods, but for the Manningham pensioners who had limited mobility this proved difficult. so the walks I chose for them were on level and relatively even ground and could be reached by public transport from their neighbourhood, within 15 – 30 mins. I also had difficulty in finding green walks (apart from the local park) for the All Saints group, so the walks I took them were also within 15 - 30mins from the school by public transport (though when showing them the walks we used the school minibus).

I Led 4 guided walks for each of the 5 groups, all of which were recce'd beforehand to check to their suitability and for any potential hazards. On the walks participants were given information about the local history of the walk area and about the local flora and fauna.

This Booklet contains descriptions of 14 of the 20 walks (some groups did variations of the same walk) that the 5 groups did, along with information of the local history.

As well as this, there is also details of what buses and trains are available in order to get to and these walks from the centre of Bradford as well as Shipley, Bingley and Keighley (And from Ilkley and Wharfedale).

The booklet also contains a number of recipes, of which the ingredients can be foraged whilst on many of the walks.

And in the final part of the booklet there are also links to numerous other walks that can be accessed within the local countryside.

I hope you enjoy the booklet and you able to try out some (if not all) of the walks.

Cheers
Muppett
CNet Development Worker
April 2021

Part 1

The Walks

1) Yeadon Tarn circular

History of the Area

Yeadon Tarn, also known as Yeadon Dam is located between High Street (Yeadon) and the runway of the Leeds / Bradford Airport.

The Tarn was originally a natural feature but was enlarged for industrial purposes and improved for leisure use in the early 20th century.

During the Second World War, where the airport is now sited, there was a factory known as Avro, which built Lancaster bombers (in fact at the time it was the largest Airplane factory in Europe) and because of this the tarn was drained to prevent enemy aircraft using its reflection as a landmark to locate this factory. An elaborate camouflaging operation also took place, masterminded by people who had previously worked in the film industry. The camouflage consisted of grass covering the roof of the factory, replicating the original field pattern. There were also imitation farm buildings, stone walls and a duck pond built in the area around the factory. Hedges and bushes made out of fabric were changed to match the changing colours of the seasons. Personnel moved dummy animals around daily to increase the camouflage. It worked because enemy bombers never detected the factory. At the height of its operation, more than 17,500 people, mostly conscripts, worked there (this included my ex partner's Father). The factory was an assembly plant that was in production 24 hours a day. Workers were bussed in from all over West Yorkshire and worked extremely long hours. Extra homes were also built in the surrounding towns accommodated the large workforce. Gracie Fields visited the factory to entertain the workers. More than 5,000 at a time crammed into the works canteen for concerts. Throughout the course of the war, Avro Yeadon produced almost 700 Lancaster bombers, 4,500 Anson's (a small twin engine Aeroplane) and several other types of aircraft.

The Walk

Distance – ¾ mile

This walk is a very gentle stroll and ideal for folk with limited mobility and is wheelchair and Pram / Pushchair Friendly, however the tarn is 682 ft (208 meters) above sea level and so can be a bit breezy even on a warm Summer's day.

There is a level tarmacked footpath around the perimeter of the Tarn and one lap round is just over three quarters of a mile and whilst walking round you can spot Mallards, swans and Canada geese, as well as a range of other visiting water birds, such as herons and gulls.

The tarn is used for sailing and fishing and in times gone by when the tarn froze over in the winter, it was a popular place to go Ice Skating.

Next to the Tarn is a park known as Tarn Field Park with a BMX bike track, a Children's play area, a bowling green & nature trail.

Close by in the town centre there are a number of café's, Pubs and shops to visit.

How to get there by Bus

From Bradford Catch the A2 or A3 Airport Flyer Bus from Bradford Interchange.

From Shipley (Keighley & Bingley) Catch the A2 Flyer Bus from Shipley Market Square.

From Ilkley catch either the Leeds or Bradford Train to Gueisley, then catch the 34 Leeds Bus outside the Gueisley Morrison's

For all these services then get off at Yeadon Morrison's and the tarn is a 5-minute walk away just off the High Street.

2) Northcliffe Woods / Park (Shipley) circular

History of the area

Northcliffe Woods (originally named North Clough) was formed as the water from the melting glacier above Cullingworth gouged out the deep ravines of this district at the end of the last Ice Age.

In 1911 the Rosse family, who were then major landowners in and around Shipley (hence the name of the Rosse pub in Saltaire), decided to sell up and concentrate on their family lands in Ireland. So the land was divided into development plots for housing and put up for auction. The plots that covered Northcliffe Woods and Northcliffe Park were not sold, but were later sold by private treaty. Sir Norman Rae MP, was the purchaser of lots 98 and 99, And then presented them to Shipley Urban District Council to be used as public playing fields.

Sir Norman Rae was a mill owner, with mills in Bradford and Batley (where he was born) and also had businesses in Australia. He used his wealth to support local schools and businesses, gave land to Northcliffe Golf Club and had the Norman Rae Nursing Home built as well as Shipley Hospital

Once the land was handed over, the Town Council did a lot of work to change the area from a farming and a mining area to make it suitable for use as a park. It was opened in 1920 with a grand ceremony and continued to be developed during the 1920s with Tennis courts, bowling greens, pitch and putt, hockey, football and cricket pitches along with bandstands for free concerts.

A plaque on the main gate on Bradford Rd. records the opening on 12th June 1920,

'The gift of Sir H Norman Rae MP, as an open space for recreation and benefit of the public, forever.'

He like the Earl of Rosse now has a pub named after him in Shipley (The Weatherspoon's one in the Market square)

The Walk

Distance

Route 1 – 1 ½ miles

Route 2 – 2 miles

Route 3 – 2 ¼ miles

Route 4 – 2 ½ miles

The walk begins at the car park in Cliff Wood Ave. Off Bradford Rd. In Shipley (BD18 3DD). From the Car Park follow the main tarmacked pathway past the metal barrier, into the woods, after several hundred yards the path passes a miniature railway owned by the Bradford Model Engineering Society. There are two railway tracks that stretch out for a quarter of mile or so into the woodland. The society is one of the oldest model engineering societies in Britain (founded in 1908) and operates the railways in summer for passenger's weather permitting. Just past the railway is a picnic area and just past here, Northcliffe Dike (A stream) appears on the left and the

tarmac area gives way to a pathway. From here continue along the path as it gradually climbs up the wooded valley. On the left hand side, every so often there are wooden seats and a series of smaller paths climbing up the hillside into the woods and to the parkland Area and allotments and are well worth exploring.

The main Path continues along the valley bottom for about three quarters of a mile till you arrive at a flight of steps both to your right and left.

Here you can either turn around and retrace your steps back to the car park (route 1) or turn left and climb the steps and then follow the tarmacked pathway through Northcliffe Park passing the playing fields, play area and allotments, eventually it'll take you back to Either the main Park Gates or the Car Park on Cliff Wood Ave. (route 2)

Alternatively, if you turn Right and Climb the Steps and extend your walk for a further 1 ¼ or 2 miles. (depending on which route you take) Here are the directions for the next section of the walk;

Climb the Steps, at the top, continue straight ahead following the path that goes between the golf course. Eventually the path emerges onto a road (Shay Lane) in between a row of cottages. Turn left here and follow the road. At the time of writing this guide (Spring 2022) the road had been closed to through traffic, however local traffic which includes farm vehicles still use the road, so keep an eye out for them as there is no pavement along this road.

After a quarter of a mile or so you come to the little hamlet of Heaton Royds and a collection of cottages. The land adjoining the cottages at one-time was home to a nursery, growing fruit and vegetables. It is said that around the mid-1900s a Salvation Army member, who lived in one of the cottages and ran the nursery, refused to trade on a Sunday, it being the Sabbath. It is said that to show his intentions, he made a cross from old floorboards with the words '*Six Days Only*' written on it. From then onwards the cottages were known locally as Six Days Only.

More recently Six Days Only is remembered for the sale of nettle beer and similar drinks. 'Nettle Nellie' sold this beverage in half pint glasses from her cottage. In fact, as a child in the 1960's I remember calling there and having a glass of Dandelion & Burdock.

Anyway back to the walk. From here you have a choice of routes to follow. There is a pathway that runs down the front of the cottages, called Heaton Royds Lane, and at the it's junction with Shay lane until recently there was a notice telling motorists to ignore their Sat Navs and not go down the lane as after several yards the Lane peters out and becomes a path passing through several meadows, before eventually emerging by a row of cottages at the Top of Redburn Drive, opposite the ruins of what was Heaton Royds School. From here you can follow Redburn Dr. down to its junction with Bradford Rd. and turn left and follow the pavement onto Cliffe Wood Ave. and the start of the walk (route 3)

Alternatively, (Route 4) at Six Days Only continue down Shay Lane, passing the site of the former garden Nursery. Here'll the road starts to drop down into Heaton Woods. At the bend at the bottom of the hill go through the gap in the wall on your left and down the steps to Red Beck. Cross the stone footbridge and continue along the path with the beck on your left. After a hundred yards or so you'll pass a spring on your left which is spouting orangey coloured water, this is caused by the presence of iron ochre being present in the soil. For purpose of this walk continue following the main path through the woods, although there a number of Paths branching off in all directions, which are worth exploring if you have the time. My childhood was spent playing in these woods. If you are lucky you may spot deer whilst walking the woods.

The main path eventually crosses the beck and leaves the woods via a metal gate. Where you then join a rough track at the back of the houses on Redburn Dr. At the bottom of the track you come onto Wilmer Dr. Turn left and follow it to its junction with Redburn Dr. then turn right and follow the Drive down to the junction with Bradford Rd. and Turn Left and Walk back to the start of the Walk at Cliffe Wood Ave.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch 622, 623,624,626 or 662, get off at Norwood Terr and walk towards Cliffe Wood Ave.

From Keighley Catch the 662, get off at Norwood Terr and walk towards Cliffe Wood Ave.

From Bingley Catch the 622, 623, 624 or 662 get off at Norwood Terr and walk towards Cliffe Wood Ave.

From Shipley and Baildon Catch the 626 get off at Norwood Terr and walk towards Cliffe Wood Ave.

From Ilkley and Wharfedale catch the Bradford Forster Square Train and get off at Shipley and either walk up Otley Rd (1/3 mile) To the junction of Bradford Rd. and turn left, then after a couple hundred yards right onto Cliffe Wood Ave. or catch the 626 bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Norwood Terr and walk towards Cliffe Wood Ave.

3) Chellow Dene woods (Allerton) Circular

History of the Area

The reservoirs in this wooded valley were built as storage reservoirs by the Bradford City Corporation after there was a water shortage in the city. The upper one was built in 1844 and the lower one in 1853. They no longer provide drinking water now though, having failed to meet safety standards in 1975. So now it is maintained solely for recreational use.

The lower reservoir is the only site in Yorkshire where the Rusty – back fern is known to grow. Although the reservoirs no longer provide drinking water to the city, close by to the woods is the Chellow Heights Water treatment Works. Here 20 million gallons of water a day is treated after passing through the Nidd Aqueduct. This Aqueduct pipes water from Scar House and Angram reservoirs at the head of Nidderdale near to Patley Bridge and passes through Wharfedale and Airedale on its 30mile journey to the treatment works. The water is then piped to all parts of the Bradford district as well as parts of Morley, Brighouse and Dewsbury.

The Walk

Distance

Route 1 – 1 mile

Route 2 – 2 miles

Route 3 – 2 ½ miles

All the walks the routes start outside the old Lodge at the end of Chellow Lane, in years gone by in the summer you could purchase ice creams and drinks from a serving hatch in the front of the Lodge.

Walk along the pathway with the lodge behind you, follow the path round the edge of the reservoir. At the end of the first reservoir, you can continue the follow the path round and follow it back to the lodge (Route 1) or follow the path as it makes a short steep ascent to the second reservoir (Route 2 & 3).

At the top of the hill continue along the path along the side of the reservoir till you reach the end of it, here you can follow the adjoining path and follow it back along the opposite side of the reservoir, which'll eventually take you back to the Lodge (Route 2), or continue going straight ahead (route 3).

Follow the path till just before you reach the car park (on your left) looking out for a wide footpath that joins the one you're on going back on the right.

Follow this path through the woods, it splits in places but meets up again. Keep the golf course (on the left close to you).

Eventually you'll reach a flight of steps going down to the top of the second reservoir, go down them, then turn immediately to your left and go down a longer flight of steps, then turn left and follow the path back to the Lodge.

There are a number of paths leading off the main routes also well worth exploring, these include routes that take you towards Allerton and a disused quarry, whilst others take you up past the West Bradford Golf course and into the Haworth Rd. Housing estate or onto Daisy Hill & Lynnfield Mount Hospital.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the 617/18 Allerton Bus and get off opposite Cranbourne Rd. (2 stops after Bradford Royal Infirmary), then cross over the road and turn left and walk along Pearson Lane till you reach Chellow Lane. Turn right and follow the road. The entrance to the reservoirs and the lodge is at the end of the lane, through a set of red gates.

From Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Baildon, Ilkley & Wharfedale, catch bus or train to Bradford then catch the 617/18 Allerton Bus and follow the same directions as above.

4) St. Ives (Bingley) Circular

History of the Area

Bingley St. Ives or the St. Ives estate is now a country park and owned by Bradford Council, but the land it now occupies has a long history and artefacts dating back to the bronze age have been found in the area and prior to the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 the land was owned by both the Monks of Rievaulx Abbey (Near Helmsley) and Drax Priory (near Selby), the land was then bought by Walter Paslew who lived in Riddlesden Hall and owned the Manor of Riddlesden. Later it was then owned by a number of other families and when the Milner Family owned the estate in 1616 the St. Ives Manor house was built on land which is not now part of the St. Ives estate (on the opposite side of Harden Rd.)

The next family to own the estate were the Ferrands and they moved into Harden Grange (built on the land now within the St. Ives country park) and over the next couple of hundred years the building was extended, then in 1858 the names of Harden Grange and St. Ives were swapped round and the new St. Ives (the one we know today) became surrounded by parkland with 4 Lodges, a walled kitchen garden, 2 ponds and stables.

One of the most notable owners of St. Ives was William Busfield – Ferrand, he was MP for Knaresborough and he was a leading member of the ten-hour Factory reform movement, campaigning to improve child labour conditions in the mills and factories.

Shortly After the end of the first world war, the estate was broken up and its farms sold off and in 1928 Bingley Urban Council bought the St. Ives Mansion and its immediate parkland for £39,500.

Other historical links with the estate include, in 1644 Robert Ferrand who then owned the estate, sided with the Parliamentarians during the civil war and he housed their Northern Commander Thomas Fairfax, during the siege of Skipton, whilst his troops camped on nearby Harden Moor. One night whilst the troops were camping on the moor, they were attacked by Royalists and up to 200 soldiers were killed. They were said to have been buried up on the moor, but no bodies have ever been found, however musket balls have been unearthed.

As well as a golf course, St. Ives is now also home to STRI, formerly the Sports Turf Research Institute.

This is a global design and consultancy specialist for the development of elite standard sports surfaces. They provide advice & consultancy to the All England Club for each year's Wimbledon Championship and have historically been advisors to the FIFA football World Cup, as well as the 2012 London Olympics.

The Walk

There is a network of paths around the estate you can follow and there are information boards and guide posts throughout the parkland, giving you further information and directions, but for the purpose of this guide I'll describe a walk that starts at the Harden Rd. Entrance (Bus Stop) and goes around the St. Ives Estate Boundary and finishes in Bingley, a distance of 3 ½ miles.

Walk up the main drive way, passing the bottom car park on your right. After a couple of hundred yards or so on your right you'll pass a hexagonal shaped house, this is known as Betty's Lodge. Here you can either follow a path on your right (which is muddy in places) or continue along the drive way. If you continue along the driveway, keep an eye out on the left for a small stone plaque, this marks where the 250year old, 12 ½ ton Ferrand Oak once stood. Following a devastating fire on July 8th 1984 that severely damaged the South transept of York Minister, an appeal was launched for oak trees to help with the renovation work, so in 1985 the mighty oak was felled and transported to York to assist with the renovations.

A little way passed the plaque on your left is a gateway and path way into the woods (Cuckoo Nest Woods), follow this pathway as it meanders through the woodland, passing the back of the St. Ives Mansion on your left. Eventually the path will bring you out onto a road, this is the main road through the estate, so keep an eye out for traffic. Cross over the road to reach Coppice Pond. This is a manmade lake, dating back to when the Monks owned the land, it was modified by the Ferrands and used as a boating lake. The pond has a wide variety of water fowl living there as well as fish. There is a pathway around it, for those that prefer a shorter walk and to the right of the pond and a few hundred yards along the road heading back towards the Mansion is The Ivy Kitchen Café.

To Continue on the walk from the pond go straight ahead along the main path, after a quarter of a mile or so the path veers to the right and starts to climb uphill. After a while you'll reach Lady Blantyre's rock (on your left). Lady Blantyre was the Mother in Law of William Busfield- Ferrand and she would often sit by the rock and enjoy the views and read (this was before the trees that are there now had been planted). Behind the rock and up a small flight of steps is the Ferrands Obelisk, dedicated to William Busfield -Ferrand.

From here go back onto the main path and follow it as continues up hill. After a third of a mile or so the path cuts between the golf course. A little beyond that you'll reach a gap in the wall. Go through it and you're on Alter lane, straight ahead, (on a clear day) you'll have panoramic views across the Aire valley. Turn right and walk down Alter Lane until you reach a gate way and also a cross roads of paths. Take a short detour here and turn left and follow the path through the bracken for a few yards till you reach an outcrop of rocks, the largest of which is known as Druid's Alter. Local folk tales tell of it being a place of Human Sacrifice in times gone by, but there is no actual evidence of this. Benjamin Disraeli, the Victorian Politician and Prime Minister, who was a frequent visitor to St. Ives and the Ferrand family, named the site in his Novel Sybil as meeting place for the Chartists.

From here again there are some panoramic views across the valley.

Once you have retraced your steps back to Alter Lane continue following the lane as it now starts to drop downhill, eventually joining Harden Rd. Carefully cross the Road and turn left and continue down the hill, crossing over Ireland Bridge and finish the walk on Bingley Main Street.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the 616 Eldwick Bus and get off at the bottom of the Harden Rd. Entrance to St. Ives.

From Bingley It's a Short Walk (about 1/3 mile to the entrance of St. Ives) along Harden Rd. or catch the 616 Bradford Bus and get off at the bottom of the Harden Rd. Entrance to St. Ives.

From Keighley either get the K17 Harden bus and get off at the bottom of the Harden Rd.

Entrance to St. Ives. Or get the 660 bus or train to Bingley and get the 616 Bradford Bus (bus stop opposite Bingley Train Station) and get off at the bottom of the Harden Rd. Entrance to St. Ives.

From Shipley, Bingley, Baildon, Ilkley & Wharfedale catch bus or train to Bingley and catch the 616 Bradford Bus (bus stop opposite Bingley Train Station) and get off at the bottom of the Harden Rd. Entrance to St. Ives.

5) Apperley Bridge Circular

History of the Area

The walk starts just a few yards from the Stansfield Arms Pub, which dates back to 1548. Though it wasn't known by its current name until 1754 when the Stansfield family acquired Esholt Hall (situated about half a mile or so from the pub) from the Calverley family.

Several decades later in the 1860's the family got into a legal battle with Bradford Corporation (the forerunner to Bradford Council) and William Rookes Crompton Stansfield served an injunction against the Corporation over the smell of the river Aire in Esholt. This was due to the fact that Bradford's newly laid sewers were pumping up to 50 tons of Lanolin (the grease from sheep's wool) from the mills every day into Bradford's becks, which in turn fed into the river. However, seeing as how he was a mill owner, the Corporation had little sympathy with him and to add insult to injury they tried to compulsorily purchase the Esholt estate in order to build a new sewage works. At the time Esholt lay outside the Bradford Boundary, so when the case was taken to the House of Lords, Stansfield won the Case and so in 1874 the new sewage works was built in Frizinghall instead, but it was soon evident that these works also could not cope with the amount of effluent being produced on a daily basis around the city.

Moving on to 1897 Bradford's boundaries were extended to include Esholt and so the idea of building a larger Sewage works was looked at again, in the meantime Stansfield had died and so in 1906, Bradford Corporation agreed to pay £239,742 to his Grand – daughters for the whole estate and work started on build a treatment works. It would though take another 20years to complete it and the Frizinghall works was finally closed in 1926 and the Esholt works managed Bradford's Sewerage.

The Walk

Distance – 2 miles

Please note – do not attempt this walk if it has been raining, as parts of the route are prone to flooding.

The walk starts and finishes at the junction of Harrogate Rd. & Apperley Rd. next to the Apperley Bridge Hand Car Wash.

Head along Apperley Rd and cross over the Old Apperley Bridge, this was built in 1602 but there has been a bridge on this site going right back to the 11th century. Just over the bridge is the George and Dragon Pub, like the Stansfield Arms, this building dates back to the 16th century, when it was originally a farm house. Until fairly recently it was famous for having a tree growing through the middle of the building.

Stay on the opposite side of the George & Dragon and walk straight ahead passing the buildings of Elm Tree Farm on your left (also several hundred years old). Continue along the road for a little further till you reach a footpath on the left. Go through the stile and continue ahead a few yards till you reach another stile, this then takes you onto a farm track. Follow the track for a hundred yards or so looking out for a stile on your right over the fence. Follow the path ahead as it goes up a slight slope, it then drops down to a little bridge over a stream, be careful here as it can be muddy, particularly when wet. You now enter a large field that is sectioned off by rope and generally has horses in them. The path runs through the middle of the fields and has a number of stiles separating them. The horses usually ignore you, but sometimes approach you for a stroke.

At the far side of the field you'll reach a gate with a small gap by the side of it, directly in front of a railway bridge. A hundred yards or so to the left, the railway passes over the river, via the Apperley Bridge viaduct here in 1866 a near disaster took place, let me explain;

November 1866 had been an extremely wet month and most of West Yorkshire suffered from several days of violent storms and very heavy rainfall. On Friday, 16th November the deluge continued and the river Aire was swollen to an unprecedented level and Within a short time the river had overflowed, flooding into the fields and giving the appearance of a huge lake, said to be half a mile wide. Many trees were uprooted, and from all accounts it sounded very similar to the devastation caused by the Boxing day floods of 2015.

The viaduct across the river at Apperley Bridge consisted of ten arches, the river bed was under the second and third arches. The remaining seven arches were seldom reached by the water, except in periods of high floods, on this occasion they were and early in the afternoon of Friday 16th November the water was flowing with great force against the buttresses and began to seep through the foundations.

The first indications of there being a problem started as the 4.50pm passenger train from Bradford was crossing the viaduct, the guard felt that the viaduct move and he immediately informed the Apperley Bridge station master. Roundabout the same time a railway worker was crossing the viaduct and discovered a large hole in the masonry of the stonework and almost fell into it. He saved himself by jumping and scrambling to safety on the other side. He then ran to the station to raise the alarm and his prompt action along with that of the station master, guard and points man most likely saved a number of lives. Danger signals were immediately put out, and the station master and others ran onto the bridge waving red lanterns to raise the alarm and stop an approaching luggage train, consisting of an engine, tender, two wagons and a guard's van, which was speeding through Thackley tunnel. As the driver saw the warning signal and the frantic waving of the Station Master he attempted emergency braking but there was not enough time and the train was partly across the viaduct before he could bring it to a halt. The weight of the train was too much for the viaduct & it began to sink by at least eighteen inches and so could neither go forwards or backwards. The engine driver, fireman and guard of the train leapt off and ran for their lives across the falling viaduct, reaching the embankment with seconds to spare. The station master and signal man also retreated as fast as they could to the opposite embankment. Scarcely had they done this when there was a tremendous crack and the red lights of the guard's van were seen to disappear followed by a mass of stonework that fell into the river below. This falling masonry completely blocked the river for a few moments, but soon it forced its way through, sweeping away the van and wagons downstream and they where they were smashed to bits and all that remained was the engine and tender dandling over the viaduct.

Thankfully no one was seriously injured or died, but it could have been more serious if it had been the earlier passenger train that had plunged into the river as this train was packed with passengers.

Back to the walk;

After passing under the railway you'll enter a large open field, turn left and in the distance you'll see the turrets of a suspension bridge over the river, Head towards it. As you get nearer, you'll see a fence, look out for the stile and head for it. Climb over it and head straight ahead a couple of yards or so and then climb over the second stile. You'll then Come to a path, turn left and follow it as it climbs up a short steep hill through a wooded area. (You can turn Right and the path will take you over the river via the suspension bridge and lead you into the Esholt estate where you can explore the many paths through the woods here).

After a hundred yards or so it comes out onto the towpath of the Leeds / Liverpool Canal. Turn left here and walk along the towpath. Just before you come to the railway bridge, you'll come to a swing Bridge over the canal, this is Idle swing bridge. If you cross over it there's a path into Dobson & Buck Woods, which are well worth a visit particularly in spring when the Bluebells are in bloom.

Back on the towpath pass under the railway bridge and after a quarter of a mile you'll reach Dobson Locks These 2 rise locks were built in 1777 and are Grade II Listed for their architectural and historic interest. Next to the locks are a collection of old warehouses, these used to house the cargo being transported along the canal. Lock gates were also made here and the buildings housed a Blacksmith's. This has been restored and is open to the public on open days and displays are given. The building now also houses the offices of the Canal & River's Trust.

Continue down past the locks and the Lock Keeper's cottages. A couple of hundred yards further along the towpath you'll reach Millman Swing bridge and Apperley Rd. be careful crossing here, as it can be busy at times, as it is often used as way of avoiding the busy Greengates Junction.

Continuing along the towpath you'll then pass the popular Apperley Bridge Marina and Apperley Bridge Playing fields and then You'll reach a bridge on which Harrogate Rd. passes over. Leave the towpath here and go up onto Harrogate Rd. and turn left and head down the pavement to where you started the Walk. On the way you'll pass the Bridge Café, if open why not pop in for a cuppa.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the A2 Flyer Bus to Harrogate from Bradford Interchange and get off at Apperley Rd. Opposite Rawdon Meadows Playing fields.

From Shipley and Baildon catch the 60 Leeds bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Greengates and Walk down Harrogate Rd to Apperley Rd (about a quarter of a mile) or catch the A2 Flyer Bus and get off at Apperley Rd. Opposite Rawdon Meadows Playing fields

From Keighley and Bingley catch the 60 Leeds Bus and get off at Greengates and Walk down Harrogate Rd to Apperley Rd (about a quarter of a mile) or catch the A2 Flyer Bus and get off at Apperley Rd. Opposite Rawdon Meadows Playing fields

From Ilkley and Wharfedale Catch the train to Gueisley and then catch the A2 Flyer bus to Bradford and get off at Apperley Rd. Opposite Rawdon Meadows Playing fields

6) Woodlands Circular via Apperley Bridge & Rawdon

History of the Area

This walk starts in the grounds of Woodhouse Grove School on Rawdon Meadows playing fields, next to the River Aire.

Bradford City Football club practise on these fields, however in the early part of the 20th century the fields played host to an airfield along with a hanger, which was owned by the Northern Aero Syndicate, formed by Albert House. The hangar was situated on what is now the playing fields car park and the aircraft took off and landed on a grass strip (now football pitches).

Albert purchased a Bleriot (The first person to fly the English Channel) Biplane. Albert's son, John, was the Syndicate's lead pilot. During one flight of this plane in 1910, the engine began to miss-fire and John lost control of the Bleriot and it crashed into a stone wall, damaging one wing and the propeller. Fortunately John escaped unharmed.

Whilst the Bleriot was being repaired, its place was taken by a biplane which had been constructed at Skipton by John Gaunt.

A few weeks after its arrival at Rawdon Meadows, a scheduled flight of the biplane drew a large crowd to the airfield. As the engine was being tested prior to take off, a spark from the exhaust lit petrol in the tank causing a large explosion inside the hangar. Several bystanders, including Gaunt were badly burned. The Bleriot suffered several more crashes and the Northern Aero Syndicate went bust and the airfield closed.

Woodhouse school which also uses these fields also has quite a history, Kingswood School, near Bath, in Somerset, served as the sole Methodist school in the country from 1748, but was considered inconvenient for those living in the North. This issue was raised at a Conference in 1781 and John Wesley suggested that another site should be found and so over the next few years possible sites were explored. This led to the purchase of Woodhouse Grove and the decision to found the school was made by ballot at the Wesleyan Conference of 1811. It initially provided an education for the sons of the itinerant ministers in service of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the north of England with the original name of The Wesleyan Academy. The school opened on 8 January 1812 under the headship of John Fennell as first master and with an initial roll of 27 pupils.

The school was re-founded on 21 September 1883 and boys from a wider spectrum of backgrounds were enrolled.

Traditionally a school for boys only, the school first admitted girls to the sixth form in 1979 and has been fully co-educational since 1985. And it has continued to expand, adding modern buildings as required almost continuously over its existence. It sat in a few acres of semi-rural land but now extends over 70 acres of playing fields, riverside and woodlands and now has over a 1000 pupils attending the school.

The Walk

Distance – 4 miles

This walk starts in the car park of Rawdon Meadows playing fields, next to the River Aire. Follow the riverside path as it skirts round the edge of the playing fields. Be careful as it can get muddy at times and it is narrow in places, so look out for folk coming in the opposite direction.

After a third of a mile or the path goes under a railway Bridge and then on the left passes a separate playing field, which is also owned by Woodhouse Grove School. Once you pass the playing field look out for a stile over the fence on your left. Climb over it and follow the well-defined path across the field. In Spring this is often filled with bouncing lambs. The path leads to a stile over a stone wall and enters a narrow double fenced pathway that runs alongside the playing field, you passed earlier on the river bank. Eventually after a short steady climb you'll reach Woodlands Drive. Turn right and follow the road till it bends to the right, straight ahead is a smaller road leading up to Acacia Farm, follow this road and you'll soon pass Acacia Cottage on your left, then ignore the track up to Acacia Farm, instead follow the walled lane on your left, after passing several bramble bushes, which attract a wide range of butterflies in summer, the track veers to the left and starts to climb uphill into a wooded area, here the walls on either side of the path double and even treble in height and it has become known as the Spite & Malice ginnel. It is said that the building of the ginnel came about after a dispute in the 19th century between the Ripley's who owned Acacia House (now demolished) on the left and the Briggs of Cliffe Cottage on the right and they were a result of each trying to build higher boundary walls to prevent the other from spying on them. Parts of both walls are now in disrepair in several places and the stones lay

strewn across the path, so take care whilst walking up here. Eventually the ginnel comes out onto Wood Drive. Cross over the Drive and head up the walled lane. After a hundred yards or so you'll come onto Cliffe Drive, turn right and walk down the Drive which is lined with Horse Chestnut Trees. This Drive way along with Wood Drive and Woodlands Drive (That run parallel with Cliffe Drive) were laid out in the 1850's by Nathaniel Briggs. They had lodge houses at each of the entrances and he created an estate of large mansion like houses on plots of land, each no less than 7 acres. The woods were landscaped and a network of paths were created through them. Many of these houses were occupied by Bradford's Wool Barons. A similar scheme was attempted across the valley in Calverley Woods but it didn't work out.

After walking along the drive for a quarter of a mile, you'll pass an example of one of these grand Mansions in the form of Buckstone Hall, it was also known as Little Windsor, due to its Castle like appearance and it's striking tower. William Dewhirst, a Bradford Mill owner, originally lived there, then in the 1920's Sir Arthur Croft bought the property. He owned Croft's engineering in Thornbury where Morrison's is now sited. The house became a country club & casino in the 1960s, but now is divided into 4 apartments.

After passing Buckstone Hall, the drive becomes unsurfaced and can be very muddy when wet. Continue along the drive way till you come to a T junction, straight ahead is a stile into a field, climb over it and follow the well -defined path as it crosses diagonally through the field. Be aware that cattle sometimes graze in this field, so if you are doing this walk with a dog keep it on a lead. At the bottom of the field climb over the stile and cross the road then go straight ahead and follow the path that runs down between a wall and fence next to a field. This can be overgrown in summer months, so be careful not to sting yourself. At the bottom of the field the path turns left down a flight of steps and after a few yards joins a track through a wooded area, after a short while you'll reach a crossroads, follow the surfaced road downhill. After a few yards you'll reach a house on your left, within a fenced garden. Here you'll come to a T. junction. Turn left and follow the path as it passes alongside the fence to the garden. Continue along this path till you are back on the riverbank and after half a mile or so you'll be back by the railway bridge. Retrace your steps now back to the start of the walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the A2 Flyer Bus to Harrogate from Bradford Interchange and get off at Apperley Rd.

From Shipley and Baildon catch the 60 Leeds bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Greengates and Walk down Harrogate Rd to Apperley Rd (about a quarter of a mile) or catch the A2 Flyer Bus and get off at Apperley Rd.

From Keighley and Bingley catch the 60 Leeds Bus and get off at Greengates and Walk down Harrogate Rd to Apperley Rd (about a quarter of a mile) or catch the A2 Flyer Bus and get off at Apperley Rd.

From Ilkley and Wharfedale Catch the train to Gueisley and then catch the A2 Flyer bus to Bradford and get off at Apperley Rd.

7) Ravenscliffe Woods Circular Via Woodhall Lake

History of the Area

The walk passes alongside Ravenscliffe Mills, which was built in 1872 by James Harper. The mill specialised in the manufacture of cloth for military uniforms, initially for the red tunics, the British army used in the Anglo Zulu wars and then When the nation entered the Boar Wars, production changed to producing Khaki uniforms.

The mill continued operating till 1957. It has now been converted into several Industrial units.

Ravenscliffe Road, from where the walk starts, is an old packhorse route and the main path that we follow through the woods is a continuation of the route and is locally known as the Jockey path (I've not been able to discover why it is called so).

Within Ravenscliffe Woods towards the Fagley end and straddling Fagley Beck is the site of a Medieval Iron works, there is also evidence of Charcoal (used to fuel the iron works) pits on the site as well.

The Walk

Distance – 4 ½ miles

The walk starts at the junction of New Line (Greengates) and Ravenscliffe Rd. Walk down Ravenscliffe Rd. till you reach a metal barrier at the end of the Road outside Ravenscliffe Mills, follow the footpath sign here and you'll enter Ravenscliffe woods. Follow the main track way (the Jockey path) through the woods for about ¾ mile. There are numerous smaller paths leading off into the woods and are worth exploring when you have time.

The track eventually passes at the side of a Lodge. This is one of four lodges built by the Thornhill Trustees in the area in the 1850's. Areas of Woodland had been acquired by the Trustees and the intention was that luxury dwellings would be built, similar to those built across the valley in the Woodlands Estate. Unfortunately, the scheme didn't take off and all that remains are 3 of the drive ways and 3 of the 4 lodges.

After passing the lodge on your left hand side, you'll see a sorry looking ruin of a building. This is what was the Blue Pig pub (formerly known as the Ravenscliffe Arms), the name is thought to have originated as a result of a former landlord who kept a variety of pig, known as blue pigs. It was also renowned locally around the time of the second world war for selling water cress, which grew in abundance in nearby Fagley beck.

After passing the lodge, cross the tarmacked road and pass the metal barrier and follow the trackway (Woodhall Rd). continue along the trackway for several hundred yards, till just before you reach the remains of a disused railway embankment. This is what remains of a branch line that connected Laisterdyke (and the Bradford to Leeds line) with Windhill (and the Aire Valley line) and had stations at Eccelshill, Idle and Thackley. The line was open to goods traffic in 1874, and to passengers in 1875. Passenger service on the line ceased in February 1931, but though goods traffic and excursions continued on the whole line until October 1964 and between Shipley and Idle until 1968.

As the trackway passes between the embankment, on the left is a footpath sign, follow it and you'll pass along a path alongside a hedgerow on your left which is full of blackberries, rosehips and hawthorn berries in the Autumn and good place to forage. Continue along this pathway as it gradually climbs uphill and ends at a gap through a stone wall. Go through the gap and you are now on a walled lane, turn left here and walk down the lane for a several yards, it can be muddy here when wet and overgrown in Summer months. As the walled track opens up, look out for the footpath sign on your right. Climb over the stile and enter an open field and follow the well- defined path through. Quite often there are horses grazing here and sometimes they'll approach you for a stroke. If you have a dog, please keep it on a lead so not to spook them.

Head for the stile in the wall at the far end of the field. Once over it you'll enter a wooded area, turn left here and follow the path through the trees, till you come to a sign for the lake, follow this path and it'll lead you to Woodhall Lake, locally known as *'The Blue Lagoon'*

The lake and the surrounding woodland forms part of the West Leeds Country Park nature trail, a 20-mile circular trail running from the city centre, through the green corridor of the Aire Valley around Calverley, south of Pudsey and into Armley and Wortley. Several Species of water fowl can be spotted on the lake and in Spring frog spawn is a plenty.

The lake was created in the 1840's by a Bradford Banker, merchant and Quaker, Daniel Peckover, who lived at the nearby Woodhall Grange (No Longer there). During a slump in the wool business

he redeployed his workers to build the lake along with a Summer house and a boathouse, (like the Grange they are no longer there).

Once at the lakeside, follow the path round the lake in an anti-clockwise way. At the bottom end of the lake you'll reach a bench and waste bin. Once here turn right and follow the path through the woods. After a couple of hundred yards look out for a path on your right, follow it and it'll bring you into a meadow with the grounds of a house to your right. Continue along the path till you reach the far side of the meadow and reach a trackway running left to right. Turn right and follow it for several yards, then turn left along a lesser defined path, this'll lead to a gateway and into a field. Follow the path down the edge of the field keeping the hedgerow on your right.

At the far end of the field pass through the gate and turn right and go through the gap in the wall and enter the Golf Course and carefully follow the path across it, looking out for golfers on the way. Eventually the path leads to a gap in the wall, go through and you enter into a wall lane in a wooded area, follow the lane for several yards, passing a disused quarry area on your right and a footpath sign. Turn left and follow the path down a narrow lane with brambles and Blackthorn bushes on either side. This is good place to collect Sloe berries and Blackberries. At the bottom of the lane go through a gap in the wall and onto a wide track, you are back on Woodhall Rd. Turn left and follow the track downhill and you'll reach the lodge you passed earlier on in the walk. Turn Right and go through the barrier and back into Ravenscliffe Woods and retrace your steps back along the Jockey path back to Ravenscliffe Rd. or go off exploring round the woods.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the A2 Flyer Bus to Harrogate from Bradford Interchange and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Shipley and Baildon catch the 60 Leeds bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Greengates and get off at the 2nd stop after the Greengates Traffic Lights (the one after Asda) and walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Keighley and Bingley catch the 60 Leeds Bus and follow the same directions as if you were coming from Shipley.

From Ilkley and Wharfedale Catch the train to Gueisley and then catch the A2 Flyer bus to Bradford and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

8) Calverley Woods Circular

History of the Area

The lodge at the beginning of the walk is one of four lodges built by the Thornhill Trustees in the area in the 1850's as part of a grand housing scheme. Areas of Woodland had been acquired by the Thornhill Trustees and the intention was that luxury dwellings would be built, similar to those built across the valley in the Woodlands Estate. Unfortunately, the scheme didn't take off and all that remains are 3 of the drive ways and 3 of the 4 lodges. 2 of the grand driveways that were built through the woods were named after Daughters (Clara & Eleanor) of Thomas Thornhill. The 3rd driveway was known as Calverley Cutting, which replaced an old pack horse track (parts of which can still be seen in the woods). A number of the locals at the time complained about the loss of the old route as the cutting was pretty steep and had the appearance of an inclined railway.

Midway round the walk are the remains of a series of buildings, they were built in the 1930's and used by our troops during their training for D-day and then briefly to house Italian POWs, who dug the drainage ditches for the Fagley & Ravenscliffe housing estates. Later in the 1950's (between 1953 & 1957) the buildings housed Guy's Firework factory for a number of years until 1957 when an explosion there killed 3 people & injured 4 others.

The Walk

Distance - 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles

The walk starts at the junction of New Line and Eleanor Drive outside the Lodge, across the road from the start of the previous walk. From here enter a wooded area by walking down Eleanor Drive, which is now an uneven wide track way. After a couple of hundred yards on your right hand side, another wide track joins the one you're on. If you have time, have a wander on here for a couple of hundred yards, as it'll lead onto the remains of an old, drained boating lake, that was in the gardens of Champion House (more about the House later in the Walk).

Back on the main path, follow it as it continues to gently climb downhill. There are a number of Beaches either side of the path and in Autumn, the dying leaves provide some vivid colours. At the bottom of the hill, Eleanor Drive joins the bottom of Calverley Cutting, here is the site of where Thornhill Lodge stood, which was known locally as the Needle's Eye, it was one of four lodges built to mark the entrances to the planned housing development of the 1850s. It was demolished in the 1960s after being derelict for several years.

Where the 2 tracks meet, turn right towards the start of Thornhill Drive, walk along it passing a couple of grand Victorian built houses. The tarmacked road ends as you enter the woods and becomes an uneven wide path. There are a number other little tracks joining this main path as you continue on and if you have time are well worth exploring, as they lead to several stone carvings, that a local artist has carved, but care is also needed as some do lead to a number of quarries which are around the woods.

After a quarter of a mile or so, the path slightly turns to the right and gradually start to climb uphill. Eventually you'll come to a T junction of paths. Turn right here and pass the ruins of the old firework factory, which can be seen in and amongst the brambles on either side of the path way. After a few hundred yards, you'll reach a metal gate and a stile, go through and enter Clara Drive. Although the Planned housing development failed in the 1850s, whilst walking along the driveway, you'll pass a number of houses, that were built at various times in the 20th century and will no doubt be valued at the high end of the Council tax table.

Talking of the failed housing development, after walking along the driveway for a third of a mile or so, on the right hand side, you'll pass the entrance of Champion House. This is the only one of the planned luxury houses that got built as part of the 1850's scheme. The house was originally built for the Garnett family, who were local mill owners (owned a mill at Apperley Bridge) and was set in several acres of woodland and included a walled garden, grottos, a number of pathways and steps and a lake (mentioned earlier) that also used as a swimming pool. Quite a bit of these grounds are now within West wood which is looked after by the Woodland trust and is open to the public.

Champion House itself is now a private care home.

Continue along the drive way for another couple of hundred yards or till you arrive back at the Lodge and the end of the walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the A2 Flyer Bus to Harrogate from Bradford Interchange and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Shipley and Baildon catch the 60 Leeds bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Greengates and get off at the 2nd stop after the Greengates Traffic Lights (the one after Asda) and walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Keighley and Bingley catch the 60 Leeds Bus and follow the same directions as if you were coming from Shipley.

From Ilkley and Wharfedale Catch the train to Gueisley and then catch the A2 Flyer bus to Bradford and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

9) Ravenscliffe to Calverley and back

History of the Area

A lot of the history of the area of this walk has been covered in walks 8 & 9, what hasn't will be shared at the appropriate part of the description of the Walk.

The Walk

Distance - 5 miles

The walk starts at the junction of New Line (Greengates) and Ravenscliffe Rd. Walk down Ravenscliffe Rd. till you reach a metal barrier at the end of the Road outside Ravenscliffe Mills, follow the footpath sign here and you'll enter Ravenscliffe woods. Follow the main track way (the Jockey path) through the woods for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. There are numerous smaller paths leading off into the woods and are worth exploring when you have time.

The track eventually passes at the side of a Lodge. This is one of four lodges built by the Thornhill Trustees in the area in the 1850's as part of a grand housing scheme similar to those built across the valley in the Woodlands Estate. Areas of Woodland had been acquired by the Trustees and the intention was that luxury dwellings would be built. The scheme didn't take off and all that remains are 3 of the drive ways and 3 of the 4 lodges (which we'll pass later on in the walk). Once past the lodge, turn left up what is Woodhall lane and is a Stoney uneven track. The track climbs uphill passing what was Woodhall (Fagley) quarry, long since abandoned and is now filled in. After several hundred yards (and next to a telegraph pole) look out for a small gap in the wall on the left, go through it and follow the path up a narrow lane with brambles and Blackthorn bushes on either side. This is good place to collect Sloe berries and Black berries in the late summer / early Autumn. At the top of the path you'll reach a T junction of paths in front of a site of disused quarry which lies within a walled wooded area. Turn left here and follow the pathway up to a gateway. Go through the gate and you'll come the Hamlet of Woodhall Hills. Although the buildings are now all residential dwellings, they date back to the 18th century and beyond and once included shops, a pub and a smithy.

After passing these houses. Cross over Woodhall Rd. and turn right and after a few yards go through the gap in the wall and into a field, here on a clear day, you'll have a panoramic view across the city of Leeds and beyond (including the power stations at Drax & Ferrybridge). There is a panel on a plinth with a photograph of the view and an explanation of what you can see. From here follow the path as it starts to climb gently down the hillside, firstly crossing a foot-golf course (a cross between Football & golf) and through a couple of fields. At the bottom of the field, go through the metal gate and along a short narrow path between a hedge and a garden fence. This then brings you out onto a wide trackway known as Priesthorpe lane. Turn left and follow the lane for just a few yards and then turn left down another lane, with laurel bushes growing either side of it. Follow it till you reach a crossroads (only a few yards). Head straight ahead here and follow the track as it passes a building on your right and dips downhill. This track is known as Shell Lane, seemingly the reason it has this name is that, the lane used connect Pudsey with Calverley and light weight coffins (called Shells) were carried along here to be buried in the graveyard at Calverley as for a while there wasn't one in Pudsey. Continue along the lane, along its undulating journey for about half a mile or so, till at the bottom of wooded incline you reach a metal gate and come out onto a residential road, also called Shell Lane, turn left here follow it onto the junction with Woodhall Road. Cross over the road. Here if you turn right after just a few yards on your left

you'll pass the front of Calverley Hall. Now a holiday let, parts of this Grade I listed building date from the 15th Century and it was the home of the Calverley Family. It was here that Walter Calverley lived in the early 17th century when he murdered his two sons William (aged 4 years) and Walter (aged 18 months), for which he was pressed to death at York Castle in 1605. The house and grounds were then reputedly haunted by Walter Calverley.

However, for this walk you need to turn left and then turn right down Thornhill Rd. The Thornhill's took over the manorship of Calverley after the demise of Walter Calverley and you'll see a lot of references to them throughout the village (in street names and the pub).

At the bottom of Thornhill Rd. cross over Leeds Rd. taking great care as this can be a very busy road. Then walk down Wood lane. Follow the lane down to the lodge. This is another of the remaining lodges that were built in the 1850's by the Thornhill trust as part of the grand housing scheme that never materialised. Turn left here and follow the wide track through the now wooded area for about a third of a mile until reaching a gate, go through it and onto Clara Drive and follow it till you reach its junction with Leeds Rd. and the end of the walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford catch the A2 Flyer Bus to Harrogate from Bradford Interchange and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Shipley and Baildon catch the 60 Leeds bus from Shipley Market Square and get off at Greengates and get off at the 2nd stop after the Greengates Traffic Lights (the one after Asda) and walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

From Keighley and Bingley catch the 60 Leeds Bus and follow the same directions as if you were coming from Shipley.

From Ilkley and Wharfedale Catch the train to Gueisley and then catch the A2 Flyer bus to Bradford and get off at the Nearest stop to Greengates Traffic Lights, then walk along New Line to the junction with Ravenscliffe Rd.

10) Morton Swing Bridge Circular via 5 rise Locks and Micklethwaite

History of the Area

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal was the first of the Trans-Pennine canals to be started and the last to be completed. The length and the complexity of the route meant that the canal took 46 years to build at a cost of five times the original budget.

In 1770 the first Leeds & Liverpool Canal Act was passed and in September 1773 the Skipton to Bingley section was opened, followed in 1774 by the Skipton to Gargrave section and the Bingley to Shipley section including the Bingley 5-Rise locks. Bradford was reached by the Bradford Canal, a branch off the main line at Shipley.

The five-rise locks were a major feat of engineering at the time and they are the steepest flight of locks in the UK, with a gradient of about 1:5 (a rise of 59 ft 2 in a distance of 320 ft). The intermediate and bottom gates are the tallest in the country. When they were opened on 21 March 1774, a crowd of 30,000 people turned out to celebrate. The first boat to use the locks took just 28 minutes.

The Walk

Distance – 3 ¼ miles

The Walk starts on the Towpath of the Leeds / Liverpool Canal next to Morton Swing Bridge (as Morton Lane crosses over the Canal). From here turn right along the Tow path, walking toward

Bingley. For the first third of a mile or so on your left hand side behind the hedges are the grounds of Crossflatts Primary School. These hedges are good for foraging in the late summer months and provide a good sources of Rosehips, Hawthorn berries and blackberries. Continue along the Towpath for about a mile till you reach the top of the world famous 5 Rise Locks. Cross the Swing bridge. Once over the Canal on your left is the 5 rise Locks Café, if you have time call in for either a snack, a cuppa or a meal.

As for the walk, well once over the canal, continue straight ahead along the road, be careful though as there is no pathway, so walk along the left hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic. After a couple of hundred yards or so you'll come to a crossroads, turn right here along Beck Lane. Again be Careful walking along here as there is no pathway.

After 2 or 3 hundred look out for a footpath sign and a narrow drive like road on your left. Go up the road, passing a small orchard on your right.

After a short distance go through a metal kissing gate, which is between the gateways to 2 houses. The path then continues to climb up, eventually coming out onto Gawthorpe Drive via a flight of steps and through a stile. Cross Gawthorpe Drive and continue straight ahead along the narrow path between various gardens until you come out onto Pinedal, which actually a Cul de sac. So walk up the pavement to its junction Oakwood Drive. Cross over the road here and re-join the footpath as it continues uphill through a wooded area. Several hundred yards into the woodland, the path splits, ignore the one on the right and continue straight ahead till you reach some steps, at the top of the steps go through the gate and you come onto Lady Lane. You are now at the highest point of the walk.

Turn left along the pavement, till you reach the road junction with Greenhill lane. Turn left and walk down Greenhill lane till you reach a bad bend in the road. Here carefully cross the road and follow a narrow walled footpath known as Wood lane. The first part of this path passes alongside the out buildings of Greenhill Mews and can be overgrown in summer, so be careful of the nettles.

The path runs along the hillside and after a while starts to climb bering left and then levels out again. If you are lucky you may spot a deer or 2 along this stretch.

Eventually after passing through a couple of gates the path comes out onto an access track along the back of Fairlady Farm. As you are passing the buildings, look out for a sculpture of a soldier on your left just off the track way.

Where the track turns sharply to the left, head straight ahead and head to the stile, you then go through a field and head for stile over a wall. You are now on a very steep hill (Carr Lane) on the edge of the village of Micklethwaite.

The name Micklethwaite comes from the Old Norse Mickle, meaning great or large and Thwaite, meaning a clearing in woodland, hence Micklethwaite literally means 'great clearing', The village originated as a Viking settlement in the 10th century and the Domesday Book gives the name as Muceltoit. The oldest dwelling is Micklethwaite Grange, probably built for Drax Priory in the 13th century and reconstructed in 1695

Back to the walk, head down the hill, going through this very pretty village, then turn sharp right to go down past the Methodist Church onto Beck Lane.

Methodists first held meetings in a cottage in the village and in 1851 moved to a larger room in the malt house at Croft House Farm, which also doubled as a Sunday school. In 1858 a library was established for the use of scholars and visitors.

It took twenty-one years of fundraising locally before work on the chapel on land donated by Henry Wright of Beck House began. It is said that during its construction the church's treasurer absconded and emigrated to America with £170 (worth over £30,000 today) of the funds, but an extra effort by the community resulted in the church opening in 1875 and it became the focal point of the community and folk from Crossflatts, Eldwick and Bingley came to worship there.

The tradition of baptising with water from a nearby spring still continues. A second chapel was built in 1854 and flourished for nearly 100 years in what is now Overcroft Cottage.

Just past the Chapel, turn sharp left in front of a gate leading to Rose Cottage. Follow the stone paved track downhill, after a short distance it bears right and comes to a gateway with a stile. Go over the stile and continue along the track way to the next gate and stile. You'll now enter a field. Follow the path that runs alongside a wall on your left, till you reach a stile at the bottom left hand side of the field. Once over the stile turn right on the opposite side and follow the fence line on your right for about 100 yards. Here the path divides, turn left through the stone stile into a field. Follow the path down to a stile at the bottom right hand corner of the field. Climb over it and you'll enter a wooded area, with Morton Beck on your right.

After a few hundred yards the path turns a sharp right and goes over a bridge over Morton Beck. Cross the bridge and continue along the path. After a short distance the path joins a surfaced path which crosses from left to right. Turn left along this surfaced path. Eventually the path reaches a stile in a wall and comes out onto Morton Lane. Be careful here and look out for any traffic. Turn left and carefully walk the last few yards along the road (no pavement) to reach Morton Swing Bridge and the end of the Walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford & Bingley Catch the 662 Keighley Shuttle Bus and get off at Keighley Rd./ Croft St. Stop (the stop after passing Crossflatts Cricket Ground), Cross the road and turn right and walk along the pavement till you reach the Tesco Store on your left, turn Left up Morton Lane and walk up the hill till you reach the Canal and the start of the walk.

From Shipley Catch the 60 Bus to Keighley and get off at Keighley Rd./ Croft St. Stop (the stop after passing Crossflatts Cricket Ground), Then follow the directions as above.

From Keighley Catch the 662 Bradford Shuttle bus and get off at the Keighley Rd. / Croft St. Stop (the stop after the roundabout to the Aire Valley Trunk Rd) and then follow the directions as above.

From Baildon, Ilkley and Wharfedale, Catch train to Shipley, then catch the 60 Bus to Keighley and get off at Keighley Rd./ Croft St. Stop (the stop after passing Crossflatts Cricket Ground), Then follow the directions as above.

11) Hainworth Bridge (Keighley) to Haworth

History of the Area

A short way into the walk, you'll pass over the Famous Keighley, Worth Valley Railway The line originally opened in 1867, funded mainly by local mill owners. It connected Keighley with the villages of Oakworth, Haworth and Oxenhope. The branch closed in 1962 under the Beaching Cuts. After which the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society was formed. The Society then reopened the branch line from Keighley to Oxenhope in June 1968, just weeks before steam finally ended on British Railways in August of the same year and since then it has been a very popular tourist attraction and is regularly used as locations for several Television series and Films.

The Walk

Distance 4 ½ miles

The walk starts in Keighley at the traffic lights at the junction of South St. & Hainworth Rd. (A few yards from the Hope & Anchor Pub). Head down Hainworth Rd, cross over the bridge that crosses

the river Worth, then start climbing the hill, passing over the Keighley Worth Valley railway, where you may spot a steam train chugging along either to Keighley or Haworth. Continue up the hill, till you reach some cross roads, head straight ahead, passing the Hainworth Wood Community Centre on your left. A few yards past the Centre, turn right and head up along a rough track that'll take you into Hainworth Woods. Continue Climbing up along this rough track. Small streams run down in wet weather conditions, making it slippery, so be careful. Eventually the track emerges out of the woods and passes Ingrow Cricket Ground on your right. And then joins a cobbled Rd (Hainworth Lane).

Turn left and walk up the hill. Be careful as there is no pavement, so walk on the left hand side, in single file, facing the oncoming traffic.

After a few yards you'll reach the picturesque hamlet of Hainworth.

The hamlet dates back to Saxon times, the evidence for this is in the origins of its name which means Hagen's Enclosure, taken from the Saxon personal name, Hagen and wuorde or worth, which refers to a fenced or possibly thorn enclosure. The earliest mention of Hainworth is in the Domesday Book of 1068 as Hagenewuorde.

Activity in Hainworth has historically been agriculture, but local involvement in the textile industry gathered momentum from as early as the 16th century. Many of the local farmers combed wool or wove cloth to supplement their farming income, and as time progressed money was accumulated. Some farming families specialised in this more lucrative activity, in some cases minimising farming to almost non-existent levels. The main packhorse route between Keighley and Halifax was conveniently close as it passed through Hainworth Shaw and Cullingworth, allowing convenient access to the cloth market at Halifax (later the Piece Hall).

The expansion of Hainworth was curtailed though by the introduction of steam-powered looms to the Keighley and the Worth Valley in the 1830s, but although Hainworth's involvement in the textile industry was at an end, it was by no means the death of the Hamlet. as it meant that farms could now enter more specialised ventures such as dairying, meat, growing hay for horse fodder or barley for the brewing industry, which were all unviable pre-industrialisation. It also facilitated an expansion in quarrying activity in the upland to the south and east of Hainworth, so the hamlet was a buzzing hive of activity. Now a- days though although there still are a couple of working farms, the rest of the dwellings in the hamlet are for residential purposes.

In the centre of the Hamlet there is a small green on the right hand side and a side road heading to what was a school (now a private dwelling), walk along here, passing several 18th century cottages. After a short while the tarmac gives way to a rough track, continue along it as it gets narrower for a while and it can be muddy when wet. The track continues for about a mile and then it Joins Bingley Rd.

At this junction, turn right and follow the road. Be careful though as there is no pavement, so walk on the right hand side facing the oncoming traffic. Continue along the road into the village of Cross Roads & Lees, until you come out onto Halifax Rd opposite the Cross Roads Inn. Seemingly this was one of Branwell Bronte's (Brother of the Bronte sisters) favourite drinking haunts.

From here walk up to the road junction and turn left up Halifax Rd. continue along the pavement for a couple of hundred yards, then cross over (be careful as it is a very busy road) and head along the track (there's a footpath sign on the side of the road for the Worth Way).

The track winds it way to the side of a cottage and then becomes a footpath.

Pass by the side of the cottage and start to climb up a steep hill for several yards. The path returns to a track way, outside a cottage, continue straight ahead for several more yards till it meets Brow Top Rd. Carefully cross the road and directly opposite the track you've just come up is a path, follow it as it crosses a stretch of open Moorland known as Brow Moor. The path is wide and easy to follow, though at times it can be pitted with puddles. When visibility is good there are some

panoramic views to be had, across Haworth and up onto the moors around Top Withins and heading over to Lancashire.

After half a mile or so, the path starts dropping downhill and eventually comes onto a road.

Turn right here, being careful as there is no pavement on this stretch. After a couple of hundred yards look out for a gap in the wall on your left, go through it and follow the path through the field. Be careful here as the path goes down a steep hill towards a wooded area. At the top of the wood go through a wooden gate. In the summer this part of the path can be overgrown with nettles, so choose your route carefully.

After a few yards the path comes out onto Hebden Rd. Cross over and almost opposite you'll see a footpath sign by a gate and stile. Head through the stile and follow the track way as it climbs steeply down the hillside. After a short while you'll reach a T junction, with a now ram shackled building on your right. I've sadly seen this building fall into decay over the past 30 odd years. Turn right at the building and follow the path as it heads down to the beck side.

After a short while the path crosses over a metal bridge, underneath is the remnants of a Goit, this is a manmade channel that carries water to a mill (the mill in this case can be seen at the end of the walk).

Over the bridge turn left and the path runs alongside the remains of the goit, through a couple of fields, till it finally goes through a little passage way and out onto the bottom of Brow Rd with Bridgehouse mill to the left. This was first water powered textile mill to be built in Haworth back in 1790 and was the largest. It produced Worsted yarn. The building now is split between manufacturing units and residential flats.

The walk finishes here, but feel free to explore the historic village of Haworth and try out its many eateries, tea rooms, cafes and pubs.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford, Shipley or Bingley, Catch the 662 Keighley Shuttle Bus and get off at Keighley Bus Station, or get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley then from Keighley Bus station get either the 67 Bradford bus, the B1 Stanbury bus, the B2 Oakworth Bus or the B3 Hebden Bridge Bus and get off at the traffic lights at the junction of Woodhouse Lane and South St. (stop after the Hope & Anchor pub)

From Baildon, Ilkley and Wharfedale get the Bradford Train and get off at Shipley, then get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley, then then from Keighley Bus station get either the 67 Bradford bus, the B1 Stanbury bus, the B2 Oakworth Bus or the B3 Hebden Bridge Bus and get off at the traffic lights at the junction of Woodhouse Lane and South St. (stop after the Hope & Anchor pub).

Coming back from Haworth get either the B1, B2 or B3 bus to Keighley and then catch the same service (bus or train) that you did to get to Keighley.

12) Keighley Train Station Circular via Park woods, Thwaites Brow and Dalton Mills

History of the Area

The walk starts and finishes outside Keighley railway station, part of which is the terminus of the Keighley Worth Valley railway, which runs heritage steam and diesel trains 5 miles up the Worth Valley to Oxenhope.

The station is regularly used as a film location for both Film and Television dramas and the past this has included the following films, the Railway Children and Yanks, and in the following

television series, Peaky blinders, Channel 5s All Creatures Great and Small, Brideshead Revisited, The ABC Murders and Downton Abbey.

The climbs up through an area of woodland known as Park wood. This woodland was once owned by the Duke of Devonshire, who also owned large areas of land both round Keighley and in the Yorkshire Dales (such as the Bolton Abbey estate). But in 1928 he gave the woods to the people of Keighley for recreational purposes. Parts of the wood have been classed as Ancient woodland, i.e. woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 (or 1650 in Scotland) and survey that was conducted on behalf of the friends of Park Wood, have shown that there a number of old wells and signs of small industries such as quarrying and charcoal making dating back to the medieval times.

The Walk

Distance – 3 ½ miles

With your back to the railway station, turn left, then left again down Low Mill lane, passing the station Car park on your left, cross over the river and go under the railway bridge, then cross over the road and start to walk up the cobbled hill, locally known as the Donkey Hill, after a few yards look out for a snicket on your left, the first few yards are quite steep and you go up several wooden steps that are in bad repair. There can be a number of nettles there in the summer months, so be careful. The snicket comes out onto Parkwood St. Cross over here (be careful as it's a busy street) and turn left then right up Tyne St. (A steep hill). At the top of the street head straight ahead to a gate and enter into Park Wood. Walk up the cobbled pathway, it can be slippery if wet, so be careful. Eventually the cobbled path comes to an end, but continue straight ahead up the hill following the well- defined pathway. At the top of the hill you'll reach the edge of the woods, continue ahead and along a snicket way and you'll come out onto Dale view. Cross over and continue straight ahead along another snicket. This'll bring you to Spring Ave. Cross over and follow another snicket way passing between a number of back gardens. This will bring out onto Carlton Rd. Cross over and follow the snicket that runs alongside the back of the grounds of the church. The snicket then comes out onto a back street, head straight ahead till you reach the main Rd. (Thwaites Brow Rd.).

Turn left here and head down the hill, passing the bus terminus and the park (built on what was once a small quarry). The road surface changes here, the tarmac giving way to Cobbles, this part of the road is locally known as the Twines and it becomes quite steep and has a couple of hairpin bends. There are good views across the valley to Riddlesden and East Morton.

At the bottom of the hill, the area becomes industrialised and you'll pass a number of industrial units. Keep on the main road and cross over the railway line continuing now down a more lesser gradient, till you reach the roundabout of the very busy Aire valley Trunk road, luckily though you don't have to cross over it. Instead turn left along the footpath and go through the underpass.

When come out on the other side head down AireWorth Rd. Cross over the river (Worth).

The houses here were severely flooded on Boxing day in 2015 when the Worth and the Aire burst their banks.

After crossing the AireWorth Bridge, turn left along AireWorth Grove. At the end of the Grove Follow the pathway under the Aire Valley Trunk road again and then follow the tarmacked path that runs alongside the river. Look out for what remains of a weir in the river, this was another victim of the 2015 Boxing day floods.

The pathway eventually comes out onto a road way, with a number of Industrial buildings alongside it turn left and walk along it till it meets Dalton Lane. Turn right here.

On the opposite side of the road is the historic Dalton Mills, which was once the largest textile mill in Yorkshire, employing over 2000 workers. It was built by Joseph Craven in 1869, replacing the original mill from the 1780's. In its heyday between 1869 and 1877 the mill provided jobs for workers all over Keighley and Worth Valley. However during the 20th century the textile industry demised and the mill became derelict, then in 2004, John Craven, the great-great-grandson of Joseph Craven, eventually sold the mill to Magna Holdings and a number of small business units were set up in the mill. It was also used as a film and television set for productions such as Peaky

Blinders and Downton Abbey. In March 2022 a fire broke out, engulfing and damaging the entire building and completely destroyed the interior as well as the roof and it was assumed that it would have to be pulled down but an inspection conducted by Historic England confirmed that the mill was stable and wouldn't need to be demolished, but as of April 2022 the future of it had yet to be decided.

Any way back to the walk, cross over the road and continue along Dalton Lane, passing Keighley College On your left and then at the Junction with Bradford Rd. turn left and walk the few yards up to Keighley Railway Station and the end of the walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford, Shipley or Bingley, Catch the 662 Keighley Shuttle Bus and get off outside Keighley Railway Station, or get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley.

From Baildon, Ilkley and Wharfedale get the Bradford Train and get off at Shipley, then get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley.

13) Cross Roads and Less to Red Holt

History of the Area

The hamlets of Bocking, Barcroft, Sugden End, Bingley Road and Lees comprise of what is now considered to be the village of Cross Roads and Less.

The joining of these hamlets into the single village, came about with the building of the Keighley to Halifax turnpike in 1760, when the existing Haworth to Bingley Road (East to West) combined with the improved north to south turnpike and created a crossroads, which is still there (the junction of Halifax Rd and Haworth Rd).

The Walk

Distance – 3 miles

The walk starts on Halifax Rd. opposite the Cross Roads Inn. Seemingly this was one of Branwell Bronte's (Brother of the Bronte sisters) favourite drinking haunts. From here head up Albert St. at the top of the hill look out for a footpath Sign, saying The Senior Way, follow it as it goes along a snicket at the back a row of houses, after a short way it opens up into open ground turn left and continue up the hill, this area can be overgrown in summer, so be careful not to be stung.

After a short walk you'll arrive at a driveway, turn right and head towards a series of buildings.

The driveway now becomes a farm track, but is still part of the Senior Way, this is a 9 ½ mile route that encircles the village of Cullingworth.

The route is named after the late Mr Ron Senior, who was a founder member of the Cullingworth Paths Association and whose idea the walk was.

Continue along the farm track as it climbs down the hillside. After around a 1/3 mile you'll reach a crossroads take the left track and it goes through a wooded area and after a few yards you'll pass a row of cottages on your left. Just past the cottages the track reaches a stile, go through it and you come out into a field and the track becomes a path, continue straight ahead, keeping the wall to your left, passing through several fields.

After ½ mile or so the path slopes downhill to a stream and to a wooded area and onto a walled track. Follow it to the road. Cross over the road and turn left and walk up hill on the road's edge as there is no pavement, be careful as it can be busy at times. Once you have passed a driveway on your left, look out for a small gap in the wall (on the left), go through it and enter a field and head straight ahead, keeping a wall to your left, till you reach a gate onto a drive way. There are sometimes horses grazing in the fields so take care.

Once on the driveway turn right and follow it, once you've passed the farm house on the left, look out for a gateway into a field (and a footpath sign), turn left then and walk up the edge of the field, keeping the wall on your right, at the top of the field go through the tight gap in the wall and enter the next field, continue up the edge of the field to the top and go through the stile and onto the road. Cattle sometimes graze in this field, so be careful and if you have a dog, keep it on a lead. On the road, turn left and walk along the side of the road, being careful as there is no pavement. Turn right up the farm track. Follow it up the hill till you reach a collection of farm buildings, here the track peters out and becomes a path. Here you'll have a good view across the Worth Valley to Bracken Bank, Laycock and Steeton Moor.

Be careful coming down the hillside as the path is both narrow (sometime not much more than a sheep track) and very steep in places. After a third of a mile or so, you'll meet a main track way running left to right (the path that runs from Hainworth to Cross Roads). Head straight ahead and continue down the hill. After a few hundred yards you'll meet another track running left to right. Continue straight ahead and downhill. Eventually the path turns into a track and passes a number of dwellings before finally coming out onto Halifax Rd. At a row of cottages known as Hermit Hole, seemingly in the dim and distant past a Hermit is said to have lived in the vicinity, prior to the cottages being built, hence the name.

Cross over the Rd (Careful it can be very busy) and walk down the hill a couple of hundred yards till you reach Damems Rd., turn left down this unmade road, As you walk down the road, you'll pass over a disused Railway, this is part of what was known as the Queensbury lines, they linked Bradford, Halifax and Keighley via Queensbury. The lines were built in the 1860s and 70's and for some time the network was busy, both for passengers and goods, but traffic declined steeply after the end of the 2nd world war and passenger services were discontinued in 1955 and Goods traffic ceased in 1974.

Continue down the road and at the bottom of the hill turn right and head along the track, passing a collection of small holdings on your left, usually with barking dogs (don't worry though they are behind high fences), This track can be very muddy even on dry days and can be pitted with puddles.

After a couple of hundred yards look out for a gap in the wall and a metal barrier on your left. Go through and follow the path as it goes through a wooded area and then along the riverbank. Further on the path leads on to Rye Street and you pass a number of houses. Continue along the road till you come back onto Halifax Rd. again. Here the walk Finishes and you can either walk into Keighley Town Centre (about a mile away), by continuing along Halifax Rd. / South Street or by catching a bus (the bus stop is just a few yards away from the end of the walk).

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford, Shipley or Bingley, Catch the 662 Keighley Shuttle Bus and get off at Keighley Bus Station, or get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley then from Keighley Bus station get either the 67 Bradford bus, the B1 Stanbury bus, the B2 Oakworth Bus or the B3 Hebden Bridge Bus and get off at the Cross Roads Inn

From Baildon, Ilkley and Wharfedale get the Bradford Train and get off at Shipley, then get the Skipton train and get off at Keighley, then then from Keighley Bus station get either the 67 Bradford bus, the B1 Stanbury bus, the B2 Oakworth Bus or the B3 Hebden Bridge Bus and get off at the Cross Roads Inn.

14) Judy Woods Circular

History of the area

If you had been in the area around this walk (The Low Moor area) a hundred and Fifty years ago, the surrounding countryside would have looked a lot different than it does now. It would have been littered with waste and smoke from the furnaces of the Low Moor Iron Works would have blackened the sky.

The Ironworks was a wrought iron foundry established in 1791 and were built to exploit the high-quality iron ore and low-sulphur coal found in the area. It made wrought iron products from 1801 until 1957 for export around the world. At one time it was the largest ironworks in Yorkshire and it consisted of a major complex of mines, piles of coal and ore, slag heaps, kilns, blast furnaces & forges connected by railway lines.

Distance of Walk - 3miles

The walk starts at the bus stop on Woodside Road, by St. Mark's Church, Low Moor. Cross over Woodside Rd and walk up Park Bottom and pass between the two large gates posts, here the road divides three ways. Head straight ahead through the gap at the left hand side of the field gate. Once through it follow the rough track as it heads gradually uphill heading towards the large electricity pylon. Just beyond the pylon as you pass Park Dam (or Royds Hall Dam) on your right. This was originally built as a holding reservoir for the Low Moor Iron Works which were sited close by.

From here continue following the track as it bears to the left still climbs up the hill. At the top you'll reach a gate. Go through the gap at the left hand side of the gate and you'll join a wide rough surfaced road which crosses from left to right. Turn right here along the rough road continuing straight ahead. After a short while the surface changes to tarmac as you pass between the buildings of Royd Hall Manor and Royds Hall Farm.

A building has existed on the site of Royds Hall Manor for 800 years and during that time only a handful of families have lived there.

The Rookes family were the first tenants in 1313. The family lived there for almost 500 years until Edward Rookes died 1788,

The Reverend Joseph Dawson then purchased the estate through the Low Moor Iron Company. He trained as a scientist and was the chief technologist of the company. During his time at the property, he invited his friend Joseph Priestley to stay at the property. He later went on to discover Oxygen and it is thought that he carried out many of his experiments whilst staying at Royds Hall.

Harry Sugden then bought the hall in 1932 from the Company.

Then in 1975 Sir Ernest Hall, who owned the Dean Clough arts complex in Halifax bought the place. He lived there till he sold it to the current owners in 2003.

Back to the walk, follow the short section of surfaced road to where it ends at the T junction with another road which crosses from left to right. Turn right here for only a yard or two before turning left off the road to go through the narrow stile in the stone wall on your left. Once over and into the field the path divides, follow the path that bears slightly to the right across the field heading for the stone wall which can be seen at the far end of the field. Cattle sometimes graze in this field, so if you are walking with a dog, please keep it on a lead.

At the wall go through the stile and into the next field and follow the path straight ahead now keeping the dry stone wall on your right.

After about 150yards or so the wall ends, here continue following the obvious path by crossing the foundations of an old wall and continue again straight ahead walking alongside a row of trees.

After about a couple of hundred yards or so (near to and old stone post) several well-worn paths

join together continue here straight ahead following the well-worn path as it starts its gentle descent the short distance down to a field and kissing gate to the back of the houses which can be seen ahead. When you reach the gates turn sharp left to walk along the well-defined path the short distance up the slight climb to the second field and kissing gate.

Go through the kissing gate and into Jagger Park Wood to follow the very wide level path straight ahead as it meanders all the way through the woodland beneath the trees for about a 1 mile.

For the purpose of this walk keep to the main path, although if you have time you may want to explore the many smaller paths which run parallel with or cross over the one you're on. Also be careful not to walk too near the edge where the path runs along the top of a steep ravine. Eventually the path bears left and continues again for a while before reaching the top of a long flight of wooden steps which lead down to a footbridge at the bottom near to a stream. Turn left across the footbridge and walk the short distance before climbing a few stone steps to the left hand side of the stone built bridge and out through a gap in the wall onto a rough surfaced road.

This bridge is known as Judy Brig and some say it is haunted by a Headless horseman.

Near to the Brig, back in the Victorian times, lived the North family, in a cottage now demolished, Which had a public garden and a shop where you could purchase homemade ginger beer, pop and parkin pigs. Postcards were printed depicting Judy Brig and the spot became a popular resort.

The most noted member of the North family was Mrs. North, better known as '*Gurt Judy*'. It is from her that the woods take their popular name.

Back to the walk, Turn left for a short distance up the rough road to where it divides at the top of the first steep incline. Here, take the left turn to continue steadily uphill following the rough road between old Hanna Wood on your right and the farmland to your left. Eventually the track joins another track which crosses from left to right, here turn right uphill for about a quarter mile until you reach the first track leading off to the right which is partially blocked by a large stone. Turn right here avoiding the large stone to walk along the path towards the two mobile phone masts which can easily be seen ahead. Just beyond the masts where the track starts to turn right, turn left crossing a broken down stone wall and into a field. Cross the field straight ahead heading slightly to the right of the large metal electricity pylon which can be seen ahead. Go through a stile through a stone wall and down a few old stone steps then head downhill across the field heading towards the pylon to re-join the track you walked up earlier. On reaching the track turn right downhill to go through the gateways at the bottom and back along Park Bottom to where you started your walk.

How to get there by Bus / Train

From Bradford, Bingley and Shipley catch the 622/623 Eldwick - Scholes service via Bradford Interchange and get off at St Mark's church yard, in Low moor opposite the walk start point. From Bradford you can also catch the x63 & 363 Bradford to Huddersfield busses and get off on Woodside Rd. by St. Mark's Church

From Baildon, Ilkley and Wharfedale get the Bradford Train and get off at Shipley, then walk up to the Market Square and get the 622/623 Eldwick – Scholes bus or continue to Bradford and get the bus there.

Please remember, whilst out on any of these walks or just out in the countryside please observe **The Country Code**, this;

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them

- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
 - Keep dogs under close control
 - Consider other people

Part 2

Foraging Recipes

The ingredients to the following recipes can be found at different times of the year on most of the walks described in the first part of this book,

Always be sure you can positively identify any plant before you pick it, and never eat any plant you are unsure of.

Also When foraging, ensure you leave plenty for wildlife, remember you can shop at the local food-store, the wildlife can't.

The following link is a good guide for beginners; [Foraging: A beginner's guide | BBC Good Food](#)

Spring recipes

Dandelion Cordial

Ingredients:

As many Dandelion heads as you can get,

1 ltr of Water

1 kg White Sugar

Method:

Rinse all the Dandelions in a bowl of cold water then pat them dry using some paper towel, try not to crush them when you do so.

Then you need to remove the petals from the bases, you could use a knife but I found that by peeling a little of the green away I could use my nail to free them from the base. Others just pull the petals out from the top, but I didn't think this was as fast as other methods.

Placing the petals into a saucepan add 1 ltr of cold water over them and stir. Then place the pan on the stove and heat till the water begins boiling, then remove from the heat and let the mixture steep overnight.

The next day sieve the mixture to remove all of the petals, press the Dandelion petals to remove all of the water. Then place the liquid back into the pan along with 1 kg of white sugar and place on a medium heat until the sugar has dissolved and the liquid has reduced by about a quarter, then remove from the heat and let the syrup cool. Decant the syrup into sterilized glass bottles for use later, you should have about a litre and a half in total.

Dilute the syrup to taste with cold water or soda water. Syrup is best stored in the fridge and consumed within two weeks.

Stinging Nettles Crisps

Pick carefully away from dog walking paths!

Ingredients

1 bowl sting nettles washed well
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp salt
1 tsp black pepper
1 tbsp. sesame seeds optional
other spices chilli flakes, cumin seeds (optional)

Method

Cut the top leaves of stinging nettles. Take care. You may want to wear gloves. Only gather nettles from safe areas.

Wash the nettles well

Mix the other ingredients

Coat the nettles in the oil mix

Spread out on a baking tray. No touching! Bake in a low oven. 130 degrees or so for 25 minutes. Turn once.

Remove, let cool and crunch! Really good on top of soup!

Stinging Nettle & Potato Soup

Ingredients

6 cups lightly packed stinging nettles
1/2 tbsp. oil
1 onion chopped
2 cloves garlic minced
4 medium potatoes cut into small cubes
5 cups veg. stock
salt and pepper to taste
1 cup of milk

Method

With rubber or latex gloves, wash and rinse stinging nettle.

Separate the leaves from the stems and keep both piles separately.

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat.

Add onion to pan and cook until starting to soften, about 2 minutes.

Add garlic and potatoes to pan, cook for 5 minutes over medium heat stirring every minute or so until potatoes begin to stick. Do not allow onion or garlic to brown.

Roughly chop stinging nettle stems and add to pan.

Add stock to pan, bring to boil and then simmer for 10 to 15 minutes until potatoes and nettle stems are soft.

Add nettle leaves and milk and cook until wilted, about 2 minutes.
Remove from heat.

Use an immersion blender to puree all ingredients into a smooth soup.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve.

Once cooked, the nettles lose their sting.

Wild Garlic Butter

Ingredients

250g unsalted butter, softened
flaky sea salt, to taste
50g wild garlic leaves, finely chopped
250g unsalted butter, softened
flaky sea salt, to taste
50g wild garlic leaves, finely chopped

Method

Mash the butter in a bowl with some sea salt – start with ½ tsp, then taste before adding more. Stir in the wild garlic. Using a piece of baking parchment, roll and shape the butter into a log, then twist the ends to form a cracker. Chill until needed. *You can freeze the log for a month and cut off slices as needed.*

Wild Garlic Pesto

Ingredients

100g Wild Garlic
50g grated Parmesan cheese
50g Pine nuts
Olive oil
Lemon juice to taste
Salt & Pepper

Method

Wash the wild garlic and place in food processor, blitz until well broken up.
Add the Parmesan and process further.
Add the pine nuts and process further, adding the olive oil to get your desired consistency.
Finally add salt, pepper & lemon juice to taste.

Summer Recipes

Elderflower Cordial

Ingredients

1 kg Granulated sugar
1 litre boiling water
50 g citric acid (you can buy this from the home brewing section of Wilko's)
or juice 2 large lemons
zest of 2 large lemons
5 elderflower heads, stalks removed

Method

Put the sugar in a bucket or basin with the boiling water and stir to dissolve. Add the citric acid or lemon juice and the lemon zest.

Shake the elderflowers to remove any insects and add the flowers to the sugar syrup. Cover and leave to stand for 1-2 days, stirring morning and night.

Strain the elderflower cordial through muslin and decant into sterilised bottles. It's now ready to use.

Add to water and ice for a refreshing, long drink or top up with Prosecco or Champagne for a summer fizz.

Autumn Recipes

Elderberry cordial

Ingredients :

500g of elderberries
500g of water
350g of caster sugar
1/2 lemon, rind
plus 1tbsp lemon juice

Method

Remove the berries from the stems using a fork then wash them, removing any bits of stalk or leaf. Drain the berries and place in a pan along with the lemon rind.

Cover with the water and simmer on a low heat for 30 minutes, until the berries have broken down. Skim away any scum that appears on the surface. Strain the juice through a colander lined with muslin cloth set over a bowl.

Gently press the berries to extract as much juice as possible. Return the juice to the pan and add the sugar and lemon juice.

Gently heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Taste and add more sugar or lemon juice to your taste.

Decant into a sterilised bottle and seal.

Rosehip Cordial

Ingredients

1kg wild rosehips, washed and roughly chopped
350g caster sugar

Method

Put the rosehips in a big pan and pour on 2 litres of boiling water. Bring the water back to the boil, then turn off the heat and allow the rosehips to infuse for 15 mins. Strain the mixture through a jelly bag or a double layer of muslin, squeezing out as much liquid as you can, then set aside.

Tip the pulp back into the pan, pour on 1.5 litres of water and bring to the boil. Then turn off the heat and allow to infuse for 10 mins. Repeat the straining process, then throw away the pulp that is left in the muslin.

Pour all the strained rosehip liquid into a clean pan and boil rapidly until reduced to about 1 litre. Skim off any scum that comes to the surface, then stir in the sugar until dissolved. Pour the syrup into sterilised bottles, ready to serve. The cordial will keep for up to three months, stored in the fridge.

Hawthorn berry ketchup

Ingredients

170g of Sugar
½ tsp of salt
Freshly ground pepper
500g of Hawthorn berries
300ml of Cider Vinegar

Method

to begin, remove the berries from the stalks and wash well with cold water. Add to a large pan with the water and vinegar, then bring to the boil. Allow to simmer for approximately half an hour, until the skins of the berries begin to burst

Take off the heat and pour the contents of the pan through a sieve to remove any stones and tough pieces of skin

Transfer the liquid to a clean pan with the sugar and place over a low heat, stirring often to dissolve the sugar

Once dissolved, bring to the boil and simmer for 5-10 minutes more, until syrup-like and reduced. Season the syrup to taste with salt and pepper, then transfer to sterilised bottles. The syrup is good to use for 1 year.

Acorn Coffee

Ingredients

A couple of handfuls of acorns, as close to 'perfect' as you can get (i.e. no black marks, bits growing out of them or splits)

Boiling Water

You will also need

An old saucepan

A coffee grinder or blender.

Method

Boil the acorns in their shells for about 20 minutes.

Let the acorns cool, and then peel off their shells. If the outer skin of the acorn remains intact (mine usually come away with the shells), remove that too.

Roughly cut them up, then lay them on a baking tray.

Put the tray in a warm place for 24 hours to allow the acorns to dry out

After 24 hours, grind the acorns in your coffee grinder or blender.

Place the ground acorns back on the baking tray and pop under the grill for a few minutes until they're dark brown. They are prone to catch so, if you prefer, you could put them in the oven. Either way, keep an eye on them.

Allow them to cool and then store in a jar ready for use.

How to prepare Acorn Coffee to drink

Put a couple of teaspoons of your acorn coffee in a small jug, pour on boiling water. You can leave the granules in your mug, but bear in mind they won't dissolve. So after a couple of minutes, you can strain them through a tea strainer into a mug or put the granules in a cafetiere. Then add milk if you like or you can drink it black. You can also add sugar to taste.

Part 3 **Ideas for other Walks**

You don't have to travel far from the centre of Bradford before you are in open country or Woodland. The District is blessed with acres of countryside and Woodland and numerous public footpaths, Bridleways and lanes on which we can explore the great outdoors and keep fit.

Many of these are right on our door steps, yet many folk don't realise they are there.

In this section I'll give you links to a plethora of walks that can be tried out within the Bradford District and surrounding areas. Most are easily assessable by Public transport and are suitable for the whole family and many are pushchair accessible.

Parks and Recreation grounds

Within The Bradford District there are 36 public parks, totalling an area of over two hundred and seventy hectares. Ten of the parks are on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

As well as this, Lister Park, Roberts Park (Saltaire) and Cliff Castle (Keighley) have undergone extensive refurbishment and are among some of Britain's Best Parks. Whilst Central Park Haworth, Peel Park and Harold Park (Low Moor) have received the Prestigious Green Flag Award.

Here is a link which gives further information on each of the 36 parks, this include their location, details of their facilities and in some cases also details of walks that can be done around them;

<http://www.bradforddistrictparks.org/sites/parks.php>

Woodland

Approximately 5% of the Bradford District is covered by woodland.

This includes Middleton Woods (Ilkley), Judy Woods (Wyke), St Ives Estate (Bingley). Buck Wood (Thackley).

Judy Woods, St Ives Estate and Northcliffe Woods have active 'Friends of' groups, who work with the service to care for and protect the woodlands. These woods are open to the public and have well defined footpaths through them and woods such as Middleton Woods have a spectacular display of Bluebells in the Spring.

This is a link to further information about Judy Woods in Wyke;

<http://www.judywoods.org.uk/intro.html>

This a link to further information on Buck Woods, Thackley;
<http://www.friendsofbuckwood.org.uk/introducing-buck-wood.html>

This is a link to further information and walks around Northcliffe woods, Shipley;
<http://www.friendsofnorthcliffe.org.uk/index.html>

This is a link for information about walks in and around Heaton Woods;
<https://shipleymums.com/discover-hidden-gems-in-heaton-woods/>

Green Mile routes

Green Mile routes are mile long circular routes aimed at encouraging more people to walk, jog or run around the city.

There are 6 of these routes in the district.

Bradford is the first city in the country to install these new accessible one-mile loops which are part of a national initiative to help people get active no matter what age you are.

They are marked out by distinctive green markers placed at regularly intervals with signs placed at certain points around the loop.

They can be used by the local community for buggy fit exercise groups, dementia memory walks, walking business meetings and lunchtime exercise routes.

Here is a link to the 6 routes, which includes maps of them all;
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/greenlinemile>

A selection of easy walks in the district

A walk around Saltaire and Shipley Glen, this walk can be split into smaller walks if needed;
<https://www.cravenherald.co.uk/daleslife/walking/10794145.saltaire-to-shipley-glen/>

This site gives you a selection of walks in and around Ilkley Moor;
<https://www.ilkleymoor.org/heritage-walks/>

This site gives you information on a number of walks in and around Ilkley; <http://ilkley.org/for-visitors-2/15-walks-a-trails/60-walks-a-trails.html#river>

This site gives you information on a number of walks in and around Bingley;
<https://www.bingleywalkersarewelcome.org.uk/walks/easy-self-guided-walks-bingley/>

These sites give you information on a number of walks in and around Baildon;
<https://www.baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/local-publications.html>
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/2084/baildonbankandbaildongreen.pdf>
<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/2085/baildon-moor-and-shipley-glen.pdf>

A selection of walks across the district for the more adventurous

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/sport-and-activities/walking/self-guided-walks-around-airedale/>

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/sport-and-activities/walking/self-guided-walks-around-haworth-stanbury-and-the-worth-valley/>

[Self guided walks around South, East and West Bradford | Bradford Council](#)

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/sport-and-activities/walking/self-guided-walks-around-wharfedale/>

<http://www.silstrolls.org.uk/>

A selection of easy walks a little further afield

The Yorkshire Dales;

<https://www.gorgeouscottages.com/blog/family-friendly-walks-yorkshire-dales>

Ideas of things to do with Children whilst out walking

Children can often get bored whilst outside, away from their home comforts. Below are links to websites which will give you some ideas to keep them entrained whilst out on a walk;

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/10-ways-to-get-more-from-walks-with-children/>

<https://jimmiescollage.com/100-nature-walk/>