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Wainhouse Tower, Halifax
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Gledhow Valley is a suburb of north-east Leeds, West Yorkshire. It has a mixed deciduous wood, with a beck and lake.
As summer turns to autumn the days get both shorter and colder. The summer green leaves fade into magnificent yellows, reds, gold and purple. These autumn colours are a spectacular sight in Yorkshire. So take this opportunity to go out to local parks or to the woods, because you are not going to get a better display of beautiful colour all year. There are thousands of woods to visit all over Yorkshire too many to mention here and they make an enjoyable autumn walk.

In the Autumn issue:

- **Wycoller Hall and Jane Eyre by Sarah Harrison**, pages 4-9
  The lovely small picturesque village of Wycoller is situated near the borders of Lancashire and West Yorkshire. Wycoller Hall is at the centre and thought to be the inspiration for Ferndean Manor in Charlotte Brontë’s novel ‘Jane Eyre’. Sarah also looks behind the story of Jane Eyre and why Charlotte was almost sued over it.

- **Tunny Fishing in Scarborough by John Stuart**, pages 10-13
  In the early1930s big game anglers turned Tunny fishing into a sport at Scarborough. This attracted the rich and famous but it was not to last for long. In the 1950s the tuna disappeared. However John discovers that during its heyday there was a bitter argument as to who caught the heaviest fish.

- **A Visit to Kirkham Priory in North Yorkshire by Jean Griffiths**, pages 14-21
  The ruins of Kirkham Priory are located near Malton, and are a peaceful tourist attraction. Jean recalls her first nostalgic visit to Kirkham Priory which played a secret but vital role in the preparation for D-Day during the late war.

- **Wainhouse Tower, Halifax by Paul Adams**, pages 22-25
  Wainhouse Tower was originally built as a chimney to disperse the smoke from the nearby Washer Lane dye works. But in fact it was never used as a chimney. Paul explains the true history of the Tower and the reason for it being there.

  Collecting old picture postcards is one of the pleasant pastimes available and postcards of the1960s to the 80s have now become vintage picture postcards and collectible. Graham takes a look at a postcard of the Yorkshire Dales and discovers how the views have changed since the postcard was published.

But there is much more to these articles, please read and enjoy them. We welcome your comments.

*Andrew Simpson*
Wycoller Hall and Jane Eyre

By Sarah Harrison

The small village of Wycoller is situated near the borders of Lancashire, West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire just inside Lancashire. The village is a conservation area, and is closed to outside traffic. At its centre are the ruins of Wycoller Hall thought to be the inspiration for Ferndean Manor in Charlotte Brontë’s novel ‘Jane Eyre’.

The Brontë’s lived in the nearby village of Haworth which is about 11 kilometres east of Wycoller, and both Charlotte and her sister Emily are thought to have frequently visited Wycoller on their many walks around the area. Wycoller Hall was even used to illustrate the cover of the 1898 edition of ‘Jane Eyre’.

Charlotte describes the house on her way to look after blind Rochester, a character in her novel.

“...The manor-house of Ferndean was a building of considerable antiquity, moderate size, and no architectural pretensions, deep buried in a wood. I had heard of it before... To this house I came just ere dark on an evening marked by the characteristics of sad sky, cold gale, and continued small penetrating rain. The last mile I performed on foot, having dismissed the chaise and driver with the double remuneration I had promised. Even when within a very short distance of the manor-house, you could see nothing of it, so thick and dark grew the timber of the gloomy wood about it. Iron gates between granite pillars showed me where to enter, and passing through them, I found myself at once in the twilight of close-ranked trees.” Taken from Chapter 37.

The History of Wycoller Hall

Wycoller Hall is a stone manor house, which dates back to the end of the 16th century, and may have been built on the site of a house occupied in 1507 by Piers Hartley. By the late 16th century a substantial house had been built, replacing Piers original house. The estate then came into the possession of the Cunliffe family, after the marriage of Pier’s daughter Elizabeth to Nicholas Cunliffe in 1611. They had five children, one of whom, John, married Grace Hartley in 1628. After the English Civil War the Cunliffes settled at Wycoller in 1723, after losing their ancestral home ‘Hollins’ to debt. The estate then passed through several brothers, before passing to the grandson of one of the Cunliffe sisters who was named Henry Owen, on the condition that Owen took the name Cunliffe. He was just 21 when he took the name Henry Owen Cunliffe, and became the new squire. He embarked on a large building project for the hall, to create a home that he felt would be worthy of his position, and that would attract a new wife.

The building project took 18 months to complete, during which time Henry moved out and lodged at the nearby Red Lyon public house. The work included the fitting of a new porch, a large range of mullioned windows, and the modernisation of the interiors. By the time it was complete Henry had married Mary Oldham the daughter of a wealthy hat manufacture in 1775 and the couple moved into the hall to enjoy their new lifestyle. Henry was a keen sportsman and gambler, he enjoyed shooting and fishing, but most of all cockfighting, which later became his passion.
There is evidence of a cock-fighting pit in what had been the garden of Wycoller Hall, now the picnic area next to the pond. However Henry’s lifestyle became beyond his means and he ran up heavy debts. On his death in 1818 the property passed to his nephew, Charles Owen (alias Charles Cunliffe Owen), but Charles could not afford to pay off the debts, and the estate was split up between creditors. The hall passed to a distant relative, John Oldham, and then to the Rev. John Roberts Oldham who later sold the doors, windows, roofing timbers and some stonework to support the building of a cotton mill at Trawden.

Despite this, much of the hall survived into the late 19th century, though it was unoccupied and steadily deteriorating, with considerable amounts of the stonework being removed for local buildings. The ornamental porch went first to Trawden and then to Fourlridge and flagstones and steps were used in local walls.

The entire village subsequently passed into the ownership of the local Water Board, but continued to decline. A local conservation group, ‘The Friends of Wycoller’ was founded in 1948, and began a campaign to conserve the historic village, in particular the Hall which included the restoration of the fireplace in the 1950s. The entire area was sold in 1973 to Lancashire County Council, which declared the entire village a conservation area, and the surrounding 350 acres as a Country Park. The ruins of the hall were designated as a scheduled monument and are Grade II listed. An exhibition about the history of the hall, the village, and the surrounding area was established in the aisled barn close to the ruins.

**The Design of the Hall**

The stone-built Wycoller Hall had a grand two storey porch, which was removed in the 1870s. The porch led into a great hall; dominated by a large open stone curved fireplace with a coved back, round inside with a stone bench. Guests would have sat on this stone bench inside the fireplace and viewed the goings on in the hall.

*Right: Drawing of Wycol1er Hall, 1819*

![Modified Plan of Wycoller Hall](Reproduced from the Victoria History of the County of Lancaster 1911)

On the right of the fireplace there is a key hole shaped wall recess, the function of which is still unknown. Although one explanation was that it was a cupboard for powdering wigs.

Charlotte also refers to the fireplace with Mr. Rochester ‘leaning over it with his head supported against the high, old-fashioned mantelpiece’

*Taken from Chapter 37*
Left: *Christmas at Wycoller Hall.* This engraving is one of a series featured in *Fishers drawing room scrap-book* (1835). Captioned *Christmas in the Olden Time,* the Victorian image portrays a whimsical and romantic view of festive celebrations as they might have taken place at Wycoller Hall in 1650.

Letitia Elizabeth Landon, a popular poet at the time, composed a poem entitled *Christmas in the Olden Time* to accompany this engraving, and she prefaced her poem with the following quotation—allegedly from a Cunliffe family manuscript—describing a festive feast:

At Wycoller Hall the family usually kept open house the twelve days at Christmas. Their entertainment was a large hall of curious ashlar work, a long table, plenty of furmenty like new milk, in a morning, made of husked wheat, boiled and roasted beef, with a fat goose, and a pudding, with plenty of good beer for dinner.

Right: Well worn steps leading to an upper storey, possibly above the great hall

To the left is a doorway leading to an entrance lobby which runs behind the fireplace and a flight of stone steps to the first floor above. The south west wall of the hall has a twelve light stone mullioned window, the north east wall has two doorways to the kitchen and offices, one with a spandrel shield bearing the date 1596. It formerly had a bay window, now removed and re-erected in Trawden.

The south east wing is of three storeys, much altered in the 18th century. To the north east were the 16th century kitchens and offices, later converted into a farmhouse. The original north-west wing was small, but it was considerably enlarged later, probably during the 17th Century and was widened in the 18th century.

Beyond the main building of Wycoller Hall was a courtyard with coach-house and stables. Gardens were laid out in Henry Owen Cunliffe’s period of occupancy, as was a cock fighting pit. During the last years of occupancy the house was divided into two and lived in by two different families.

Adjacent to the ruined Hall is the Aisled Barn visitors centre used for exhibitions about the history of the surrounding area.
Behind the story of Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre is a famous and influential novel by Charlotte Brontë. It was published in London in 1847 by Smith, Elder & Co. with the title *Jane Eyre. An Autobiography* under the pen name “Currer Bell.”

*Left: Charlotte Brontë 1816–1831*

Jane Eyre is divided into 38 chapters and most editions are at least 400 pages long. The original was published in three volumes, comprising chapters 1 to 15, 16 to 26, and 27 to 38; this was a common publishing format during the 19th century.

The novel goes through five distinct stages: Jane’s childhood at Gateshead, where she is emotionally and physically abused by her aunt and cousins; her education at Lowood School, where she acquires friends and role models but also suffers privations and oppression; her time as the governess of Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with her employer, Edward Rochester; her time with the Rivers family during which her earnest but cold clergyman-cousin St John Rivers proposes to her; and the finale with her reunion with and marriage to her beloved Rochester.

In the earlier described sequences, where Jane is sent to Lowood, a harsh boarding school, are thought to be derived derived from the author’s own experiences. Helen Burns’s death from tuberculosis (referred to as consumption) recalls the deaths of Charlotte Brontë’s sisters Elizabeth and Maria, who died of the disease in childhood as a result of the conditions at their school, the Clergy Daughters School at Cowan Bridge, near Tunstall, Lancashire. Mr. Brocklehurst is based on Rev. William Carus Wilson (1791–1859), the Evangelical minister who ran the school, and Helen Burns is probably modelled on Charlotte’s sister Maria. Also John Reed’s decline into alcoholism and dissolution recalls the life of Charlotte’s brother Branwell, who became an opium and alcohol addict in the years preceding his death. Finally, like Jane, Charlotte becomes a governess. These facts were revealed to the public in *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* (1857) by Charlotte’s friend and fellow novelist Elizabeth Gaskell.

*Right: Painting of the three Brontë sisters by their brother Branwell. From left to right are Anne, Emily, and Charlotte. In the centre of portrait is the shadow of Branwell Brontë, who painted himself out*

*Left: Branwell Brontë, self portrait, 1840*

In Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë saw an opportunity to get her own back on the teachers who had made her life a misery, at the Clergy Daughters’ School at Cowan Bridge, Lancashire. She recreated it as the legendary Lowood School. This was a place where the physical abused young Jane endured “without a reason” led her to conclude that “we should strike back again very hard; I am sure we should, so hard as to teach the person who struck us never to do it again.” Recent letters have revealed that, despite the novel’s acclaim, Charlotte Brontë’s furious headmaster did not take the attack lightly and threatened to sue his most famous former pupil.
The school’s founder and head, the Rev William Carus-Wilson, was the inspiration for Mr. Brocklehurst, Lowood’s autocratic head. The fearsome Brocklehurst was “little liked here; he never took steps to make himself liked”. His real-life counterpart was no different. Having taken great exception to the portrayal of himself and his school in Jane Eyre when it was published in 1847 he took legal advice. Court action was only avoided after Charlotte Brontë wrote an apology, pointing out that she had used literary licence to exaggerate the details. Charlotte Brontë gave her old headmaster permission to publish the manuscript in order to set the record straight about the school but he refrained to do so and the matter never came to light.

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Charlotte Brontë's biographer Elizabeth Gaskell, began tackling it. Mrs Gaskell had to re-write one offending passage in her biography, toning down accusations that Cowan Bridge’s harsh regime and inadequate food was responsible for the premature deaths of the elder Brontë sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, and for the ruin of Charlotte’s own health.

However, Alan Bentley, the Brontë Parsonage Museum’s director, said that since Jane Eyre was originally published under a pseudonym, it was difficult to determine whether Carus-Wilson knew whether Charlotte Brontë, his former pupil, was the author.

The Gothic manor of Thornfield was probably inspired by North Lees Hall, near Hathersage in the Peak District. This was visited by Charlotte Brontë and her friend Ellen Nussey in the summer of 1845 and is described by the latter in a letter dated 22 July 1845. It was the residence of the Eyre family, and its first owner, Agnes Ashurst, was reputedly confined as a lunatic in a padded second floor room.

The school remained a controversial subject when Charlotte Brontë’s biographer Elizabeth Gaskell, began tackling it. Mrs Gaskell had to re-write one offending passage in her biography, toning down accusations that Cowan Bridge’s harsh regime and inadequate food was responsible for the premature deaths of the elder Brontë sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, and for the ruin of Charlotte’s own health.

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Wycoller Hall may provide the setting for Ferndean Manor to which Mr Rochester retreats after the fire at Thornfield. Parallels have also been drawn between the owner of Ferndean, Mr Rochester’s father, and Henry Cunliffe who inherited Wycoller in the 1770s and lived there until his death in 1818. Also of note is that one of Henry Cunliffe’s relatives was named Elizabeth Eyre (nee Cunliffe). Since Haworth is only a short distance across the moors from Wycoller and Elizabeth Eyre would have lived there at the time, it seems likely that she and the Brontes would have met.
Charlotte Brontë continued her education at Roe Head, Mirfield, from 1831 to 32, where she met her lifelong friends and correspondents, Ellen Nussey and Mary Taylor. During this period, she wrote her novella *The Green Dwarf* in 1833 under the name of Wellesley. Charlotte returned as a teacher from 1835 to 1838. In 1839, she took up the first of many positions as governess to various families in Yorkshire, a career she pursued until 1841.

In 1842 she and Emily travelled to Brussels to enrol in a boarding school run by Constantin Heger and his wife Claire Zoé Parent Heger. In return for board and tuition, Charlotte taught English and Emily taught music. Their time at the boarding school was cut short when Elizabeth Branwell, their aunt who joined the family after the death of their mother to look after the children, died in 1842. Charlotte returned alone to Brussels in January 1843 to take up a teaching post at the boarding school. Her second stay at the boarding school was not a happy one; she became lonely, homesick and deeply attached to Constantin Heger. She finally returned to Haworth in January 1844.

Charlotte Brontë began to write *Jane Eyre* when she accompanied her father to Manchester for an eye operation to rid cataracts in the 1840s and was published in London in 1847. Both Charlotte and Ann visited their publishers in London in 1848 and revealed the true identities of the “Bells.” In the same year Branwell Brontë, died, and Emily died shortly after. Ann died in 1949 now Charlotte and her father were left alone together.

In view of the enormous success of *Jane Eyre*, she was persuaded by her publisher to visit London occasionally and began to move in literary circles, making friends with Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Gaskell, William Makepeace Thackeray and G. H. Lewes. In 1851 she visited the Great Exhibition in London, and attended a series of lectures given by Thackeray.

Her book had sparked a movement in regards to feminism in literature. The main character, Jane Eyre, in her novel *Jane Eyre*, was a parallel to herself, a woman who was strong. However, she never left Haworth for more than a few weeks at a time as she did not want to leave her ageing father’s side.

In June 1854, Charlotte married Arthur Bell Nicholls, her father’s curate and became pregnant soon after the marriage. Her health declined rapidly during this time and Charlotte died, along with her unborn child, on 31 March 1855, at the young age of 38. Her death certificate gives the cause of death as phthisis (tuberculosis), but many biographers suggest she may have died from dehydration and malnourishment, caused by excessive vomiting from severe morning sickness. Charlotte was interred in the family vault in The Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Haworth, West Yorkshire.

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Tunny Fishing in Scarborough

By John Stuart

In the early 1930s huge blue fin tuna (tunny fish) lived in the North Sea but they were not easy to capture so big game anglers turned this into a sport at Scarborough which was at the centre of the action, attracting the rich and famous. This was a useful sideline for the local fishermen who took visitors out on trips. Trawler men would point out the location of tunny in return for a crate of beer, and the anglers would then be dropped off in 14 or 15 foot rowing boats to do battle. The fish would often tow anglers for miles.

The tunny is a giant member of the mackerel family, a powerful streamlined fish. A good sized fish would measure six feet in thickness, the primary source of food for the tunny appears to be herring. Tuna (tunny fish), had been known to North Sea fishermen for a long while before the 1930s. As far as the trawler men were concerned, tuna were a gigantic nuisance, because they chased the herring right into their nets, punching enormous holes through them as they left. The occasional tunny fish was taken, but they had little commercial value, the real market for tuna being in the late 20th century in the UK.

The tunny fish were hunted using rods and lines to the standard of the day using the herring and mackerel for bait on five inch hooks on wire traces. In fact the tunny fishing season lasted less than three months and generally only through August and September.

The tunny were often seen beside herring drifters who followed the herring shoals down the coast on their annual migration and also near to trawlers when they hauled their nets, with the tunny feeding on the fish that spilled out of the nets, so one of the requirements of the sport was to hire a boat to get out to the offshore fishing grounds where the commercial fishermen earned their living. The actual angling was done from a small boat, either a rowing boat or a Yorkshire Coble, an open boat about thirty feet long usually towed to the grounds behind a motor boat or a larger keel boat. The hiring of these was expensive and costs could be shared by more than one angler. Herring drifters fished at night when the herring rose off the seabed and hauled their nets to come to port in the morning while trawlers could fish at all times of the day, weather permitting.

Left: A Yorkshire coble

Above: Fred Taylor waiting for the fish to show in a rowing boat

Henry Stapleton-Cotton was credited as being the first person to fish for the tunny and although he hooked two, they both got away. The real start to the big game fishing started on August 27 in 1930 when L. Mitchell Henry made history by landing the first tunny ever caught on rod and line weighing 560 lb. He made this catch some fifty miles out to sea and this gives an idea of how far the anglers were prepared to go to find the fish. In the same year Mr Fred Taylor captured a 735 lb tunny off Scarborough.

Lorenzo Mitchell Henry with his 560 pound tunny caught on 27 August 1930. In the photo Henry is holding the rod and line used to catch the tunny fish.

The methodology was to find the drifters and trawlers out at sea and ask if tunny were about, or to ask when the boat was hauling their nets and to either wait for this to occur or move on to another boat. Often a trawler would give the anglers a blast on its whistle to let the anglers know if tunny were about. Once the fish were sighted, anglers would get into the rowing boat some of which were fitted with a seat and harness for the purpose. The ideal bait was mackerel, but herring was also used and herrings either whole or cut up were put into the water as a "rubby dubby" to attract the fish.
Once a fish took the bait then all hell broke loose. The fish would ‘run’ up to 300 yards and were allowed to do so with a reel that was slightly braked to prevent it over running. When the fish had run far enough, the angler would tighten the line and ‘strike’ the fish to pull the hook in and then the fight started, which was a gruelling business. The fish would tow the boat as it was being played and with each rush, the angler would get as much line back as possible until the fish either ‘sounded’, (went to the bottom stone dead), or came alongside exhausted to be gaffed aboard. Fighting a tunny was exhausting and required stamina, in August 1932 it was recorded that a Mr Harold Hardy of Cloughton Hall had a momentous struggle struggled with a tunny. He was within an ace of hauling it aboard when, in its dying struggle the fish snapped the line and escaped. It was a thrilling fight witnessed by Alec Penman, the skipper of the Dick Whittington. Onlookers described it as the biggest fish they had ever seen at around 16 feet long. It certainly put up a marvellous fight as the struggle lasted for 7 hours 10 minutes.

Four visitors were aboard the Dick Whittington, which was a trawler, an unusual boat to use for the sport fishermen to use; but it was an early season experiment. The visitors were thrilled as they watched the momentous struggle. They later described it as the greatest fight they had ever seen in their lives.

In 1931, only one fish was landed by Mitchell Henry weighing 560 lb again, in fact 1931 was a bad season and many hours were wasted searching for the elusive fish. 1932 however was a glorious season, which made angling history. During the first few weeks twenty-one fish were landed with an average weight of just under 600 lb and Colonel E. T. Peel landed an excellent fish of 798 lb. A certain Mrs Sparrow, not to be outdone landed her own fish weighing 469 lb that showed, that ladies could hold their own in what was then a largely male dominated environment. Another account of a lady angler is Dr. Bidi Evans, who came to the Yorkshire Coast in her father’s yacht for the tunny summer season of 1947. She caught a tunny weighing in at 714lbs this fish and Bidi still hold the British Women’s Record.

A World Record and a Feud

In 1932 at Scarborough a tunny weighing 851lb was caught by Mitchell Henry a pioneering aristocrat and a professional big game hunter. This large fish broke the world record, and was the largest fish ever to have been caught off the British coast on rod and line.

*Left: Mitchell Henry with his World Record Tunny of 851 lb*

However, as in all sports, tunny fishing was very competitive and in 1949 a Lincolnshire gentleman farmer, John Hedley Lewis, caught one weighing just one pound more than Henry’s fish at 852lbs, thereby setting a new record. Henry’s record was beaten by just one pound; he lodged a complaint that the weight of the rope holding the tail of the winning fish was too heavy as it was wet! Apparently a bitter argument broke out that continued for some time, some pointed out that Henry’s rope was thicker, in the end Henry was beaten and that was that!

The wealthy aristocrats and military men that pursued the blue fin Tuna in the 1930s at Scarborough, which was at the centre of the sport included; Lieutenant Colonel Henry Stapleton-Cotton, E. Horesfall Turner, Major G. S. Rowley, Colonel E. T. Peel and Mr L. Mitchell Henry. These were associated with the record breaking catches of the large fish.

*Right: On board Baron Henry de Rothschild’s yacht whilst tunny fishing off Scarborough*

By 1934 word had spread and the sport attracted Baron Henri de Rothschild who visited in his 1000 ton yacht ‘Eros’. He had Edwin Mann on board throughout his stay. When the hunting began this local trawler skipper would show the Baron the fishing grounds. The yacht was anchored 2 miles off shore and was beautifully, freshly painted in white with a yellow funnel. It had harpoons on board capable of striking a porpoise. They also had on board two powerful motor boats capable of 50 miles an hour.
Scarborough also became the headquarters of the British Tunny Club formed in 1933, with its headquarters in the town. It was established to govern the sport, which approved records and sparked a controversy; and tunny fishing even developed its own elder statesman, the extraordinary Lorenzo Mitchell Henry, who took much of the credit for discovering the sport. The club was just off the busy Sandside and in its heyday entertained many famous visitors including John Wayne, Errol Flynn, David Niven and Charles Laughton. Now the once famous Tunny Club is a fish and chip takeaway or meals can be eaten in the seating area.

Above left: The Tunny Fishing Club, Scarborough taken in March 1945

Right: Inside the Scarborough Tunny Club. Fred Taylor is on the right

Left: The Tunny Club now as fish and chip takeaway

These were the great years of tunny fishing, when dozens of fish, averaging 600lb, were caught and the public paid 3d (1d for children) just to see the giant fish. After the war, there was a tuna revival, and 45 were caught in 1949. The tunny fishing sport was definitely for those with adequate financial resources and Scarborough was once a mecca for big-game anglers, but the newly revived tunny phenomenon was over almost as soon as it had started. The glory days at Scarborough lasted barely a decade, although the fishery was technically active from 1930 until 1954.

The Decline of the Tunny

In the 1950s the tuna disappeared from the North Sea, it seems that tuna migration altered following the sharp decline in herring due to over fishing. This hastened the decline and with no herring to eat, the tunny moved on. Although the sport on this coast has now passed into history and partly into obscurity, tunny are reported to be off the West Coast of Scotland and there are rumours that they may make a comeback in some way. Adrian Molloy is a professional tuna angler who goes in search of the tuna and its feeding grounds in the North Sea. Most of the fish Adrian catches are tagged and released to be tracked by satellite as they tour the oceans for food. Adrian considers that these giant fish are heading back to Yorkshire waters.

Left: Tunny fish caught by Eric Horsfall Turner on show at Scarborough Harbour in 1949.

Right: This photo shows Mr Weatherley with four tunny caught during the early hours of 25th August 1949.
Left: This photo was taken on 16th September 1949 and shows Mr John Hedley Lewis a Lincolnshire gentleman farmer of Corby with the heaviest caught tuna fish in British waters up to that date. It weighs 852lbs just one pound more than Mitchell Henry’s fish at 851lbs and thereby setting a new record. Fittingly of course Henry was furious and a poor loser.

On the right is Tom Pashby the skipper of the coble ‘Good Cheer’ from which the fish was caught.

Above: A life size cast of John’s 852lbs tuna fish housed in the basement of the Scarborough Museum trust at Woodend

Right: Two tuna fish caught off Scarborough by Mr. H.E. Weatherley and were exhibited on the lighthouse pier Scarborough in 1952.

This catch was one of the last to be made before the tuna disappeared due to the decline of herring from over fishing and hastened the decline of the tuna fish on the Yorkshire Coast.

After decades of few tuna sightings, spot (lookout) fishermen in Donegal, Ireland are now reporting big fish again. In 2001 two boats met 15 blue fin tuna and a new Irish and European record was set by Adrian Mulloy, fishing with skipper Michael Callaghan who caught an amazing fish of 968 lb. Most of these sport fishermen now fish on a catch and release basis, providing vital data on tuna fish sightings. Today the blue fin is one of the most valuable fish in the world; but unfortunately the commercial fishermen are not on catch and release, with the resulting decimation of the once great species.

Right: Adrian Mulloy with the 960 lb tunny he caught in Donegal, Ireland, setting a new Irish and European record.
A Visit to Kirkham Priory in North Yorkshire

By Jean Griffiths

Kirkham Priory is located between the city of York and the town of Malton and the priory ruins can be seen from the York to Scarborough Railway. I used to travel on this railway line twice a week from York to Malton and most of the time got good views of Kirkham Priory. The best views, that I will always remember, were in winter when the priory ruins were covered in snow, then they really looked picturesque. Although the railway line snakes its way around Kirkham Priory there is no longer a station there.

Kirkham Priory is easily visited and well signposted on the busy A64 road between York and Scarborough. After turning off the A64 road to Kirkham, it crosses the railway line, then Kirkham Bridge over the River Derwent. There would have been a medieval bridge here built for the priory, but the present 3 arched bridge was rebuilt in 1806.

The ruins are situated beside the River Derwent, by a weir, in the beautiful Derwent valley, about 5 miles south-west of Malton on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds and today they are a peaceful tourist attraction.

Kirkham Priory was originally founded in about 1122 by Walter l'Espec, Lord of nearby Helmsley, who also built Rievaulx Abbey, for the Canons of St. Augustin. Legend has it that Kirkham was founded in remembrance of l'Espec’s only son who had died nearby as a consequence of his horse being startled by a boar.

Left: Kirkham Bridge over the River Derwent, the smaller arch on the far left may be part of an older construction. The railway gates have been closed across the road to allow the York to Scarborough train to pass on its way. The Kirkham signal box can just be seen on the other side of the railway line.
Augustinian canons were not regarded as monks and were ordained as priests. The first prior was William, rector of Garton and the founder’s uncle. He was also canon of Nostell, which suggests that Nostell Priory was where the canons came from. The Augustinians lived a life of service to the local community and took over the running of the parish churches. The number of canons at Kirkham may have been around 26. When Rievaulx Abbey was built some twelve years later in the 1130s, it was much closer than Kirkham to his castle at Helmsley. The founder, Walter l’Espec, then attempted to convert the priory to a Cistercian rule, this was between 1135 and 1139. The canons had to fight for their survival, as it was suggested that they move elsewhere and let the Cistercians take over Kirkham. They managed to come to an agreement with the Cistercians that permitted them to stay, but it is not known under what terms this was allowed. After the death of Walter l’Espec in 1155, the priory passed to the de Roos family of Helmsley.

The main layout of the priory is the church and other buildings arranged around the cloister court. The buildings were set within a small walled precinct and the entry was controlled by a porter who lived in the gatehouse. As well as the great church there was a large complex of buildings which included a chapter house, dormitory, refectory, kitchen and a west range for the storage of provisions. There was also the infirmary hall and the prior’s lodgings. The area between the church and the gatehouse also contained buildings such as a guest hall and stables. The site slopes considerably towards the river and this means that some of the buildings stand on man-made terraces that are supported by retaining walls.
Above: Plan of the Kirkham Priory showing six phases of construction from 1140 to the 15th century and later © English Heritage

Today the most extensive, standing remains include the 12th and 13th century priory church, the east front is still partly upstanding and forms the north cloister range. The late 13th century chapter house and dormitory form the east range and the refectory is located to the south. The west range is made up of the guest house and kitchen. To the south of the east range is a complex of late 13th and 14th century buildings comprising the kitchen, prior’s lodgings and the infirmary. To the north-west of the precinct is a line of three fishponds.

The Church

The church was the most important building of the priory and was originally a small, cruciform, stone building, which was rebuilt in 1170. It was further extended in the 13th century with the addition of a large presbytery. Piers for a new crossing tower had been built but financial difficulties meant the scheme was abandoned. The existing crossing tower was retained and the new presbytery simply butted up to its eastern side. The choir stalls were moved into the new presbytery where the canons assembled for their services.

Left: The remains of a tall window at the east end of the church
The Cloister and Laver

The cloister was a rectangular court which had covered alleys on each side and was used by the canons for study and writing. The cloister alley roofs were probably supported on arches carried on twin shafts, but all trace of them has now disappeared. Set in the west wall corner of the cloister are the remains of the laver, which was built in the late 13th century. The laver has two arched recesses that are decorated with geometric tracery panelling on the rear wall and retain faint traces of painted figures. This was where the canons washed their hands before meals and entering the refectory through the elaborate 12th century doorway on the left.

The laver had a piped water supply with taps that were probably set over a lead-lined or pewter-lined washing trough. In the corner a circular stair led down to a vaulted undercroft beneath the refectory. In the 19th century the cloister was used as a tennis court and wooden benches were set within the arches of the laver.
To the north-west of the Priory stands the front wall of the late 13th century Gatehouse, which formed the main entrance into the Priory. It has a wide carriage arch and is perhaps the most impressive part of the Priory remains. The elaborate carvings on the front wall include a series of shields bearing noble patrons with which the priory was associated. There are also sculptures of George and the Dragon, David and Goliath. The heraldic shields are made to look as if they are hanging on hooks fastened to the wall and amongst them are the arms of Walter l’Espec and De Roos. The De Roos family built most of Helmsley Castle following the death of Walter l’Espec. Originally the figures and shields would have been painted.

On either side of the gatehouse and in a chamber over the gate passage was a series of rooms both on the ground and first-floor thought to accommodate guests. Each room had its own fireplace and separate latrine.

Right: The gatehouse from the south-east
Kirkham Priory had a Prior and 17 Canons at the time of its Dissolution in December 1538 by Henry VIII. Then the Priory was stripped of all its valuables and sold in 1540. Stone was taken from the buildings to build Howsham Hall, nearby and the buildings gradually fell into ruin.

**Recent History of Kirkham Priory**

The ruins of Kirkham Priory become overgrown, but in the 19th century a tennis court had been laid out in the cloister, with benches for visitors. After the First World War, Kirkham Priory was taken over by the Office of Works (now English Heritage). Conservation work of the remaining walls began, as well as excavations to clear the debris of collapsed buildings and expose buried walls. In the 1920s and 1930s Kirkham Priory was a busy tourist attraction and the river was much used for recreation.

Kirkham Priory played a secret but vital role in the preparation for D-Day. Nestled as it is between a tree-lined hill and the Derwent, the site was the perfect, secluded place for the British army to test its landing craft. Soldiers climbed the priory’s ruined walls to gain practice in using the clambering nets they would need to use in the destroyed towns and villages of France, while the Derwent itself was used to test the waterproofing compounds for tanks and other vehicles. The 11th Armoured Division was just one of the many units stationed there. Kirkham was so important that it was visited by both King George VI and Winston Churchill.

![Two lithographs circa 1855 by William Richardson showing the overgrown ruins of Kirkham Priory](image)

![Left and above: These two 19th century photos show the cloister being used as a tennis court with benches in the laver arches for spectators](image)

![Right: This photo was taken on the other side of the river and shows Winston Churchill during one of his visits to Kirkham with the Priory in the background](image)

![Left: Remains of a 14th century cross set on a stepped base with quatrefoil plinth in front of the entrance to the Gatehouse](image)

![Overleaf: top The Gatehouse, bottom The remains of the Chapter House](image)
Although Kirkham Abbey railway station closed on 22 September 1930 British Railways (North Eastern Region) produced a poster in a series called ‘See England’ titled ‘Yorkshire’ and one is a picturesque view of Kirkham Priory. The nearest train station is Malton about 6 miles to the north-east. The poster shows the ruins of Kirkham Priory with the stone bridge over the River Derwent, which leads up to the impressive ruins of the gatehouse. The poster dates to c1947, by Freda Marston, but it was not issued as a poster until 10 years after her death.

Above: British Railway poster dated to c1947, by Freda Marston, but not issued until about c1956

Right: A view from the cloister through the vaulted entrance looking towards the River Derwent with the stone arched bridge spanning it which leads up to the impressive gatehouse

Left: A view from the Infirmary Kitchen across the Chapter House and Cloister
Wainhouse Tower
Halifax

By Paul Adams

Wainhouse Tower looms over every other building around it and dominates the Halifax skyline. The ornate tower was built by John Edward Wainhouse who owned the nearby Washer Lane dye works. It was built in the late 19th century and stands 253 feet tall and is one of the most prominent landmarks in Calderdale. Visitors can walk up its 403 steps in order to see magnificent views of the district.

However not many know its true history or the reason for it being there.

The original inspiration came from John Edward Wainhouse who owned the Washer Lane Dye works, which he had inherited from his uncle in 1856 at the age of 39. It is probable that Wainhouse worked in his uncle’s Dye works. Halifax was a prosperous rapidly expanding industrial town dependent on coal which was the cause of smog. For weeks on end this blanketed the town and reduced the sunlight. Sir Henry Edwards, a successful, wealthy neighbour and J.P, made complaints about the smoke nuisance of the Washer Lane Dye works. A feud between Sir Henry and Wainhouse rapidly developed.

Above: Wainhouse Tower some 350 metres up the steeply rising hillside from the former dye works

Left: Wainhouse Tower looming over every other building around it and dominating the Halifax skyline
In 1870 Parliament passed an Act to curb pollution, consequently Halifax urgently tried to implement measures to control the amount of smoke in the atmosphere. As the dye works was contributing to the pollution problem Wainhouse came up with an idea of building a chimney some 350 metres up the steeply rising hillside from the dye works, linked by an underground flue or tunnel leading to the chimney. Built high on top of the escarpment the chimney would disperse the smoke effectively. Wainhouse had a good appreciation of architecture, and insisted that the chimney be an object of beauty.

*Left: Upper section of the Tower surmounted by a lantern dome and finial*

It is thought that Isaac Booth, an architect and surveyor, designed and built the mill chimney. His design was of a conventional circular mill chimney with a brick flue surrounded by an outer octagonal shaped stone casing with spiral stairs between the two and square based. It is not sure why a staircase was built. Maybe Wainhouse intended to stand on the balcony with smoke belching out of the flue. However, this led to the deepening feud between Wainhouse and Sir Henry who claimed that from no house on the hills around his estate at Pye Nest could a view be obtained of his private grounds. Wainhouse said he would alter all that by constructing an observatory at the top of his mill chimney.

Wainhouse appointed Richard Swarbrick Dugdale (who later became the Borough Engineer for Huddersfield). Dugdale re-designed the upper section of the Tower which incorporated a lower corbelled and balustraded balcony which was surmounted by columns 20 feet high which in turn supported two upper balustraded balconies. This was surmounted by a lantern dome and finial. An interesting feature of the tower is the few stone window seats, obviously provided to rest weary legs.

*Left: A cutaway section showing the inner brick chimney, the spiral steps and the outer stone casing*

*Above: Inner brick chimney and spiral steps leading to the balcony*

*Left: The square base of the Tower*
Work began in building the tower in 1871 and the total cost was around £15,000. There are over 403 steps and the height of the tower is 253 feet. The tower was completed on 9th September 1875 but it would never be used as a chimney for the dye works because in 1874 Wainhouse sold the works to the works manager, Mr. Henry Mossman. The sale did not include the tower because it was unfinished and Mossman considered it to be a liability. Although Sir Henry and Wainhouse continued to quarrel it is reported that the two men made their peace with each other before Wainhouse died on 26th July 1883.

When the Tower was leased to Joe Brook Carrier, at a rent of £15 per annum for the sole purpose of permitting persons to ascend the tower. In 1918 the Tower was bought by public subscription for the town of Halifax and for many years the Tower has been open to the public for two days, both at Spring Bank Holiday (formerly at Whitsuntide) and September Break. Since 1975, the Tower’s Centenary Year, it has also been open for two days during the school summer holiday period.

The Tower has been illuminated to show off all its glory by coloured lights on several occasions. The first time was the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Then during its Centenary year in 1975, and again in 1977 on the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen’s Silver Jubilee. The panoramic views from the viewing platform, on a clear day can be stunning overlooking the Calder Valley.

However, Sir Henry’s estate at Pye Nest has now gone and it has been replaced with a housing estate and the Washer Lane Dye Works are now an Industrial Estate.
Above: Panoramic view of King Cross from the viewing platform of Wainhouse Tower

Below: The same view as above with the names of buildings and places marked on the diagram

Left: Wainhouse Tower built high on top of the escarpment
1960s-80s Vintage Picture Postcards Remembered

By Graham Taylor

In the early 1960s to the late 1970s, on sunny warm Sundays and Holidays my mother and father used to take me out for a run in the car. The places we went to were always interesting with lots to see and do, like Knaresborough and York. Sometimes they took me to the seaside on the east coast for a day out. In the afternoon we had tea and cakes in one of the local cafés, which were usually full with other day visitors. Invariably we would stop off on the way back home at Harry Ramsden’s for fish and chips.

In the late 1970s to the mid 1980s before my marriage to Gillian, the position was reversed. It was me taking my mother and father out on Sundays and Holidays. It was during these visits that I first became attracted to the colourful picture postcards showing the town and multi views of the area, along with other postcards that depicted views of nearby places of interest. These postcards were usually displayed on stands outside souvenirs shops. I began to buy cards at all the places we visited, not to collect, but just as a reminder of our visit. In those days my hobby was collecting British commemorative stamps. These picture postcards were then put away in a drawer and seldom seen again, until gradually they got thrown away.

These 1960s and 80s postcards have now become vintage picture postcards and collectible, although at that time they were being collected as a hobby by other people. In fact deltiology is the official name for postcard collecting and it is thought to be one of the three largest collectible hobbies in the world along with coin and stamp collecting. Postcards are popular because of the wide range of subjects, with just about every subject imaginable being at some time, portrayed on a postcard. History itself can be tracked on postcards, from historical buildings, famous people, art, holidays and more.

On a recent visit to an antique fair with my eldest son, he went through some cardboard boxes on one stall that were full of old black and white postcards. One box contained coloured postcards, and it was not long before we came across postcards like the ones that I used to buy of the same places that I visited on my Sunday outings. We were very surprised that they were less than one pound each. I bought a number of the ones in good condition just for memorabilia. Now whenever we go to a car boot sale, antique market or second-hand shops I always look for this particular series of postcard for my own personal enjoyment. I have also noticed that some of the same views and designs used on these earlier 1980s postcard are still being produced today.

**Collecting Picture Postcards**

Collecting old picture postcards is one of the most pleasant pastimes possible. They are readily accessible and there are a multitude of areas that you can collect from topographical views of your home town to the comic cards that are still as popular today as they were over 100 years ago. You don’t have to break the bank when collecting either with many postcards currently undervalued that you can find for a pound or less at car boot sales, fairs, antique markets and the second-hand shops on the high street.
One piece of advice for would be collectors, which I have learnt from collecting stamps, is never collect purely for financial gain! Not only does it take away the personal joy out of collecting but you could also become unstuck financially. In fact this has happened to me with my British commemorative stamp collection. Over the years I paid out over £230 for my collection. When I decided to stop collecting stamps, I then wanted to sell them, thinking that they must be now worth over £300. I got a shock when I went to dealers in an attempt to sell them. The highest price I was offered was just £70! This was because the stamps I was collecting were over valued in the first place and had been devalued over night only a few months earlier. Just like collecting picture postcards, there is no guarantee that postcards doing fairly well in the market now, will continue to become popular in the near future.

One of the best reasons for collecting anything is for personal attraction. You find a particular postcard of interest, you purchase it and then the hunt begins to find similar cards on the same subject or from the same series or artist etc. As your collection starts to build then you have something of real value, maybe not in financial terms but a collection that is very rewarding to you. Nothing can beat the sense of excitement when searching for postcards to add to your collection.

If you become a regular at the specialist postcard fairs then you become part of the scene. You get to know the dealers and other collectors. Everyone has their own reasons for collecting what they do, mine is memorabilia of my Sunday outings. Postcard collecting is a fascinating hobby that sadly so many people will never experience. My wife also agrees that the series of Yorkshire picture postcards that I collect are indeed colourful and meaningful.

Yorkshire 1960s-80s vintage picture postcards

This is the first in a series of 1960s-80s vintage Yorkshire picture postcards remembered. In each issue we will discover if and how the views have changed since the postcards were published. Also one postcard leads to others of the same area to give a fuller picture of just how picturesque Yorkshire really is. These include stunning views of Yorkshire’s lush green dales, the coastline and the seclusion of open spaces of moorland, which show just how wide and diverse the outstanding natural beauty of the landscape of Yorkshire is. The bustling resorts, quiet bays, quaint villages, ruined castles and abbeys. These and much more have been captured amazingly on professional postcards for us all to enjoy.

A Yorkshire Dales Postcard

Left: A 1980s vintage postcard of the Yorkshire Dales, it shows top left to right, Harrogate and Knaresborough, below, left to right Ripon and a Dales Scene. The card was printed and published by E.T.W. Dennis and Sons, Scarborough.
The postcards on the page above show, top left Harrogate’s Prospect Gardens. It is a popular view used on many different postcards. In the distance is the war memorial and to the right is The Yorkshire Hotel. The layout of the gardens does not seem to have changed over the years.

Left: This 1970 postcard of Harrogate shows bottom, left to right views of Prospect Gardens and the war memorial

Below: A 1952 black and white postcard of Prospect Gardens, showing parked vintage cars

Now compare the postcard views of Prospect Gardens with the two recent photos, nothing much seems to have changed, except for the cars!

Left and above: Recent photos of Prospect Gardens, Harrogate

Knaresborough - Boating on the River Nidd

The next view is of Knaresborough which is adjacent to Harrogate, showing boating on the River Nidd. Views of boating on the river Nidd taken at different angles are also very popular, used on many different postcards and calendars. In the distance is the elegant stone viaduct over the River Nidd. It was designed to blend in with the architecture and character of the town and was completed in 1851. Knaresborough is still a place where you can go boating on the River Nidd, look around the Castle and visit Mother Shipton’s Cave and Petrifying Well. In fact I bought a petrified clay pipe which I still have! Since this postcard was produced the boating facilities have been much improved with riverside cafes.

Compare the postcards with a recent photo of the River Nidd showing boating facilities with riverside cafes.
Ripon’s Obelisk in Market Place

On the bottom left of the postcard is Ripon’s Obelisk in Market Place, which is a notable feature. The 93 feet (30 metres) high stone Obelisk was built in 1703 to replace an earlier market cross and half paid for by the then Mayor of Ripon John Aislabie. A replica of the Wakeman’s Horn and a star are featured at the top of the Obelisk which was remodelled and restored in 1781. The Ripon obelisk is said to be the earliest surviving free-standing monumental obelisk in Great Britain. Ripon’s market day is held on a Thursday and there are around 120 stalls in total. The tradition of the Ripon Horn blower continues today at 9.00pm, every day the horn is blown at the four corners of the obelisk.

Ripon’s Market Place does not seem to have changed over the years. Compare the old black and white postcards with the recent photos of the Ripon’s Market Place.
A Dales Scene

The last view on the postcard, bottom right is of a Dales scene of sheep being led across the road. Harrogate is situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales; this is why it has been included in the postcard. It is a typical scene that can still be found driving around the Yorkshire Dales today. During this period a number of multi view postcards were produced of the Yorkshire Dales depicting views of the rural countryside, villages, rivers and bridges. Some postcards were dedicated to a particular theme such as Waterfalls and rivers in the Dales.

The above postcards are general multi-views of the Yorkshire Dales and the two postcards on the left feature Waterfalls and Rivers in the Dales.

The Yorkshire Dales is an area of great natural beauty, a large part of which has been designated as a National Park. It has long been a place for sightseers whether driving around or walking, taking in the beauty of the surroundings. Throughout the dales are valleys, hills, rivers and waterfalls. Fields and pastures are bounded by distinctive dry stone walls which criss-cross the hillsides in elaborate patterns. They were originally built by sheep farmers and look almost as natural a part of the scenery as viewed today. Britain’s most famous long distance footpath, the Pennine Way passes through the Yorkshire Dales, as does the Dales Way footpath.
Two views of the Yorkshire Dales: above in Summer covered in lush green, below in Winter covered in snow
The Lake at Gledhow Valley in Autumn

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