

PLaCeS

1. 1 ASPINALL STREET, SE013261
Ted Hughe's birthplace now owned by The Elmet Trust and available for writing retreats and holidays.
www.yorkshire-cottages.info/yorkshire-dales/bronte-country/teds-house

2. LUMB BANK, The Ted Hughes Arvon Centre SD977282
18th century mill owner's house, which once belonged to Ted Hughes. Now a writers' retreat.
www.arvonfoundation.org

3. CRIMSWORTH DENE AND LUMB FALLS SD992314

4. COLDEN CLOUGH SD978281

5. THE BEACON
Private house, previously belonging to Ted Hughes' parents, where Ted and Sylvia Plath spent the Christmas of 1960.
SD982284

6. THE STUBBING WHARF SD982271 www.stubbingwharf.com

7. FREE SCHOOL LANE SE086240

8. WARLEY SE057248
The Winterburn and The Maypole Inn

9. HEPTONSTALL CEMETERY SD985279
The Cross Inn, The White Lion and Towngate Tearoom & Bistro.

10. HARDCASTLE CRAGS AND GIBSON MILL SD973298
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardcastle-craggs
Gibson Mill café

11. SHIBDEN HALL, museum and gardens SE106257
(www.calderdale.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/shibden-hall/contact.html)
Coffee Culture in the Park
www.coffeeculturecatering.com

12. HALIFAX MINSTER
previously known as Halifax Parish Church
SE097252

13. MILLBANK. SE035213
The Alma Inn
www.almainn.com

14. RAIN STONE SD963192
www.stanzastones.co.uk
One of six stanza stones carved with poems written by Simon Armitage' White House Pub (www.thewhitehousepub.co.uk/)

15. LUDDENDENFOOT AND LUDDENDEN SE041261
Lord Nelson Inn

16. BARKISLAND HALL SE054199
Grade I listed building, privately owned
The Fleece and The Griffin

17. SOWERBY VILLAGE SE038232
The Rushcart Inn

18. ELLAND

19. LAW HILL HOUSE SE111237
Law Lane, Southowram, privately owned .
The Shoulder of Mutton and The Pack Horse

20. KILNHURST OLD HALL SD945239
Todmorden

21. ST JAMES CHURCH, Mytholmroyd SD984274
Hebden Bridge

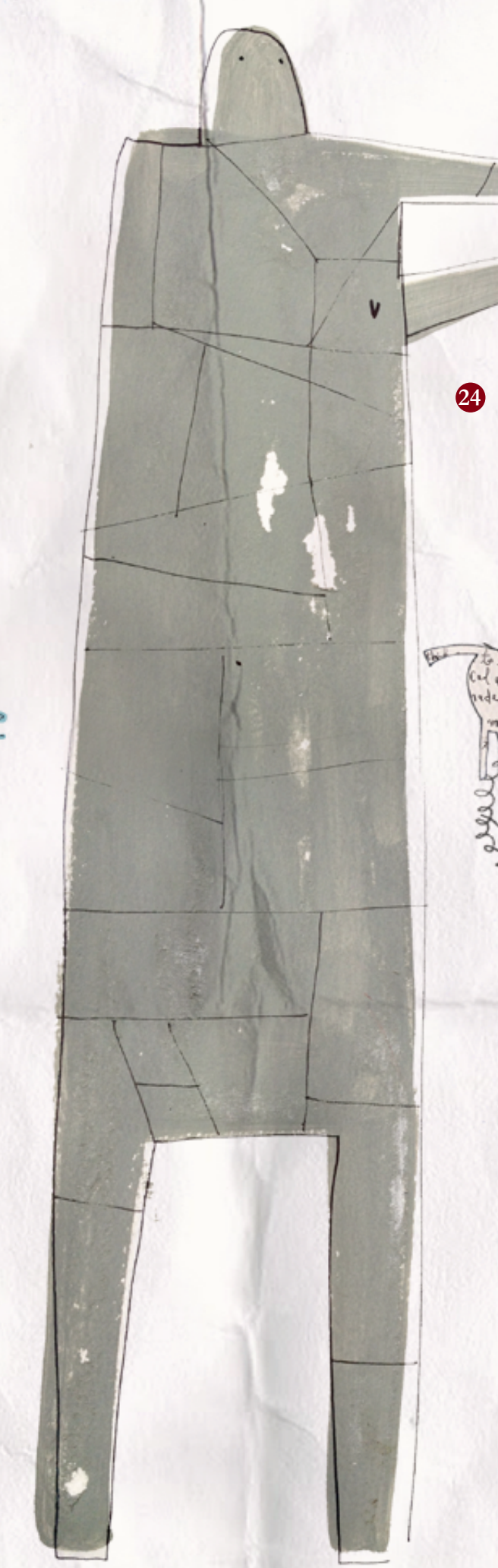
22. THE DUSTY MILLER, Mytholmroyd SE012260

23. CRAGG VALE SD999232
The Robin Hood and The Hinchliffe Arms

24. HURSTWOOD SD881313

25. THE VIADUCT THEATRE SE091257
AT DEAN CLOUGH.
www.deanclough.com

26. SUMMIT, ROCHDALE CANAL SD947188



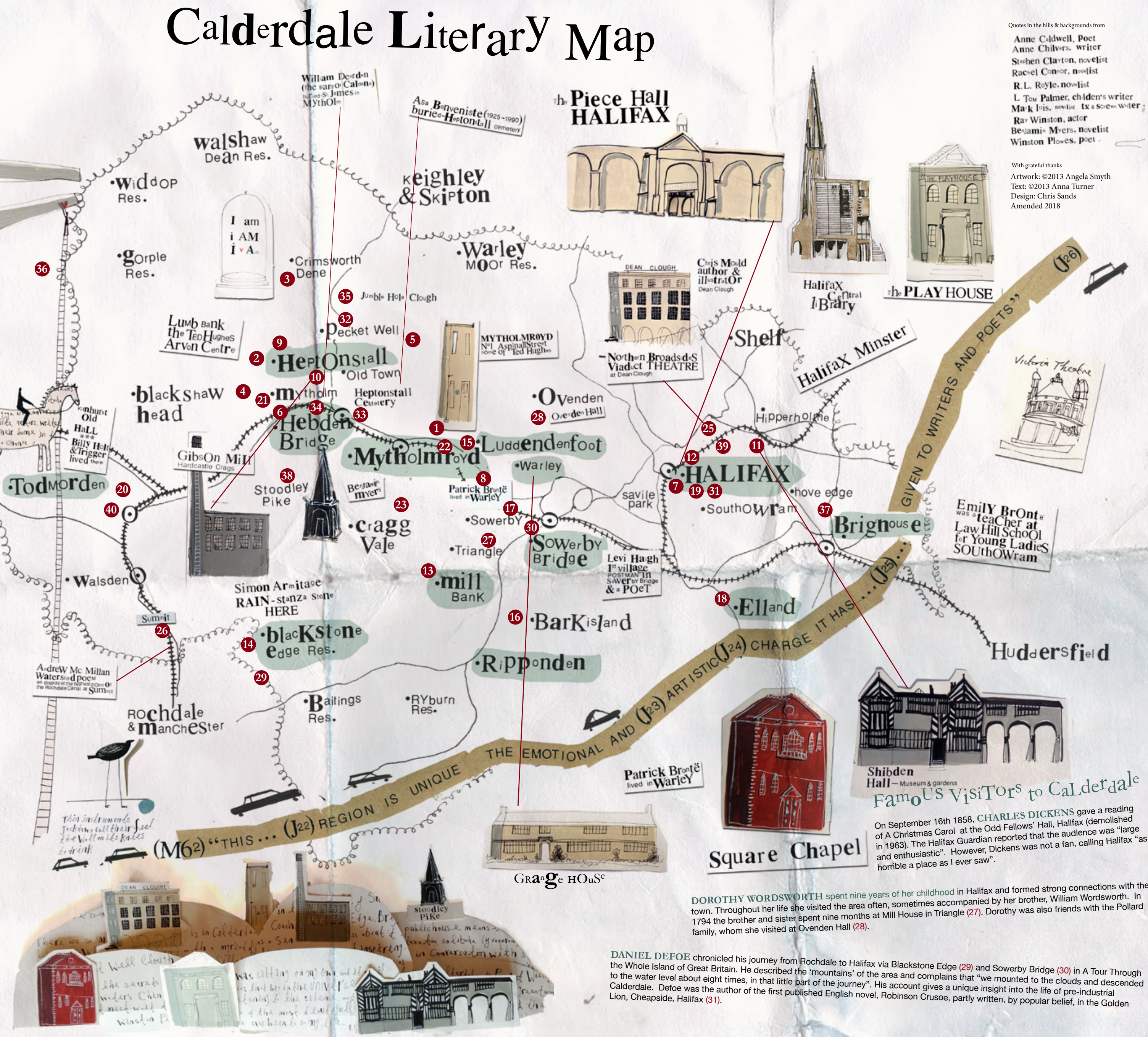
the Iron Man

OTHER WEBSITES OF INTEREST
The Elmet Trust – www.theelmettrust.co.uk
The South Pennines – www.southpennines.co.uk
Visit Calderdale – www.visitcalderdale.com

27. TRIANGLE SE043223

28. OVENDEN HALL, Grade II listed building, privately owned SE082270
Halifax

29. BLACKSTONE EDGE. SD973170
White House www.thewhitehousepub.co.uk



30. SOWERBY BRIDGE

31. THE GOLDEN LION
is now called The Cat & Fiddle SE092251

32. PECKET WELL CLOUGH SD994293
The Robin Hood Inn www.therobinhoodinn.com

33. NUTCLOUGH WOODS SD996276

34. ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, Hebden Bridge SD992273

35. JUMBLE HOLE CLOUGH SD965265

36. RESERVOIRS ABOVE TODMORDEN SD948224

37. HOVE EDGE, BRIGHOUSE SE130241

38. STOODLEY PIKE SD973242

39. THE PIECE HALL, HALIFAX
Magnificent 18th Century cloth hall
www.thepiecehall.co.uk

40. LYALLS BOOKSHOP, TODMORDEN

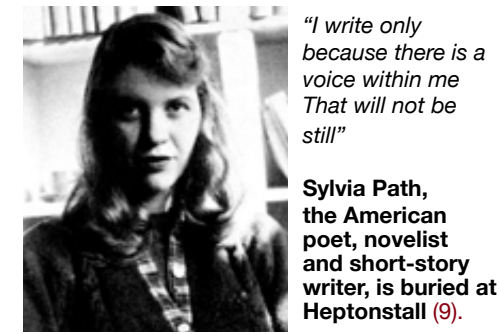
LUNCH. If you're going on a walk into the countryside, why not pick up a packed lunch from one of the many sandwich shops in our local towns.
WARNING!
This map is an artistic representation, so things may not be in exactly the place you may think. But it should go nicely alongside your O.S. Map!

Quotes in the hills & backgrounds from
Anne Caldwell, poet
Anne Chilvers, writer
Stephen Claxton, novelist
Rachel Connor, novelist
R.L. Royle, novelist
L. Tow Palmer, children's writer
Mark Ivis, novelist & screenwriter
Ray Winston, actor
Benjamin Myers, novelist
Winston Ploves, poet
With grateful thanks
Artwork: ©2013 Angela Smyth
Text: ©2013 Anna Turner
Design: Chris Sands
Amended 2018

THE GREAT BIG
Calderdale Literary Map



SYLVIA PLATH (1932 – 1963)



Although she never lived in the Calder Valley, Sylvia was a frequent visitor to the area with her husband, Ted Hughes. During a visit in 1956, Plath wrote to her mother "I never thought I could like any country as well as the ocean, but these moors are really even better, with the great luminous emerald lights changing always, and the animals and wildness".

A number of her poems are set in West Yorkshire, such as Hardcastle Crags (10), Wuthering Heights and Two Views of Withins.

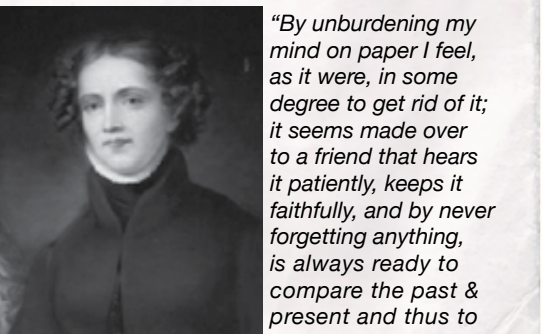
Sylvia Plath wrote poetry from the age of eight.

By the time she went to Smith College she had written over fifty short stories and published in many magazines. She excelled academically, and went on to win various prizes as well as working as an editor on literary magazines. In 1955 she obtained a Fulbright scholarship to Newnham College, Cambridge. It was at Cambridge that she met Ted Hughes and the couple married in June 1956.

Much of Sylvia Plath's work was published after her death, including her novel The Bell Jar and Ariel, the much acclaimed collection of poems written in the year before her death. In 1982 Plath was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, the first poet to win the prize posthumously.

Even amidst fierce flames the golden lotus can be planted

ANNE LISTER (1791 – 1840)



Anne Lister of Shibden Hall, Halifax (11) was fiercely independent. A landowner who took a keen interest in the running of her estate, she carried out ambitious alterations to Shibden Hall and landscaped the park. She was the first woman to be elected to the Halifax Literary and Philosophical Society. She read widely and travelled throughout Northern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and Persia. She made the first recorded ascent of Vignemale (3298m) in the Pyrenees.

Anne chronicled her life in minute detail in letters and journals, comprising twenty-seven volumes and over five million words. But she didn't intend that just anyone should read her most private thoughts, so one sixth of these words were written in code.

Her cousin John was the first to decipher the code, but he chose not to reveal the secret details of Anne's life. It was not until the 1980s that the diaries became fully accessible. They and about 900 surviving letters have attracted considerable interest, because of the social position which Lister occupied and because of her boldly stated lesbianism.

Anne Lister is the inspiration for the television series 'Gentleman Jack', written by Sally Wainwright, which is based on Anne's life and journals, and was filmed in Shibden Hall.

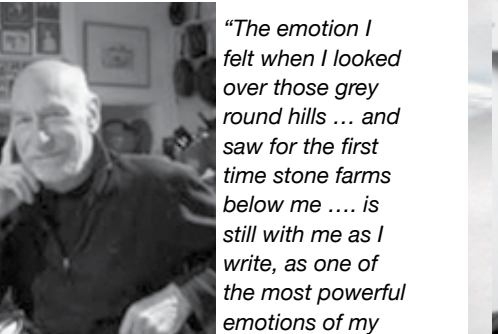
Anne died of a fever whilst travelling in Kutaisi, Georgia. Her remains were brought back to England by her companion, Miss Walker, and she was buried in 1841 in Halifax Parish Church (now Halifax Minster) (12).

Most of the books mentioned in this leaflet are held by Calderdale Libraries. Many of them are out of print – if you wish to find copies, try second hand bookshops such as Lyall's Bookshop, Todmorden (40).

* Bluemoose Books in Hebden Bridge and Arc Publications in Todmorden produce high quality books of fiction and poetry respectively.



GLYN HUGHES (1935 – 2011)



Glyn Hughes came to the Calder Valley as an adult in the early nineteen seventies and fell in love. He borrowed £50 and bought a dilapidated weaver's cottage which he renovated himself. This house in Mill Bank (13), near Sowerby Bridge, was his home for the rest of his life, and from its windows he found inspiration for his many novels and books of poetry.

Set in the industrial revolution The Hawthorn Goddess (1984) and its sequel Rape of the Rose (1987) tell the story of Anne Wylde, a local girl who held to the old ways in the face of progress and was persecuted for her beliefs. The connection Anne had with the land, the magic and mystery of the natural world and its effect on those who live within it, were themes which fascinated Glyn and recurred throughout his books.

Some have called him Yorkshire's Thomas Hardy.

The fictional Ladywell in these books is based on the village of Mill Bank, and the story of Anne Wylde is part of local mythology (also written about by Phyllis Bentley).

A prize winning novelist and a painter, Glyn began and ended his writing life as a poet. He also published the autobiographical Millstone Grit (1975) and Millstone Grit Revisited (1985) which relate his love affair with the land, and journeys on foot between Todmorden and Haworth.

SIMON ARMITAGE (b. 1963 –)



Calderdale. A keen walker and lover of the natural landscape, his travels have inevitably led him into the Calder Valley both on foot and in his writings.

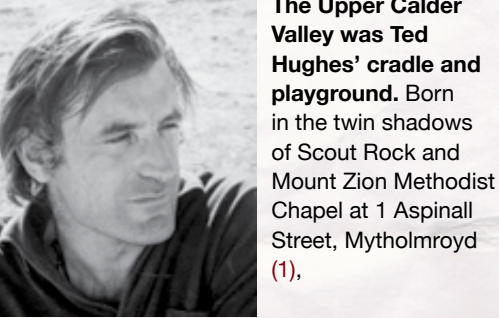
From 2010 and 2012 Simon worked with the Ilkley Festival on the Stanza Stones project.

Simon wrote a sequence of six poems In Memory of Water which were carved into stone by letter-carver, Pip Hall. These stones have been placed in the landscape between Marsden and Ilkley along a new Stanza Stone trail which passes through Calderdale. The Rain Stone is situated at Cows Mouth Quarry on the Pennine Way (14). A mystery seventh stone, sited in an unnamed location, has yet to be found.

Simon Armitage is an authority on Ted Hughes and cites him as a major influence, having first seen the poet read on a school trip to Hebden Bridge. He is the patron of The Elmet Trust and has performed at events in the area on numerous occasions. A number of his poems are set in the Calder Valley and a local favourite is his poem Luddendenfoot (15).

In 2010 Simon walked the Pennine Way, a journey recorded in his book Walking Home, and stayed overnight on 23 July at 1 Aspinall Street (1).

Ted HUGHES OBE (1930 – 1998)
POET LAUREATE 1984–98



The Upper Calder Valley was Ted Hughes' cradle and playground. Born in the twin shadows of Scout Rock and Mount Zion Methodist Chapel at 1 Aspinall Street, Mytholmroyd (1), Ted and his brother Gerald roamed freely, sharing a passion for hunting, mythology and the land, which imbued Ted's poetry throughout his life. The family moved away when he was seven years old, but the moors and the valleys had already claimed him. In 1969 he bought, and briefly lived in, a former mill owner's house at Lumb Bank near Heptonstall (2), now a creative writing centre. Remains of Elmet, inspired and illustrated by Fay Godwin's famous photographs, is his elegy to the changing landscape, vanishing industry and ancient traditions of the Calder Valley. The poems are sparse and bleak, like the land.

The area teems with landmarks from Ted Hughes' poems.

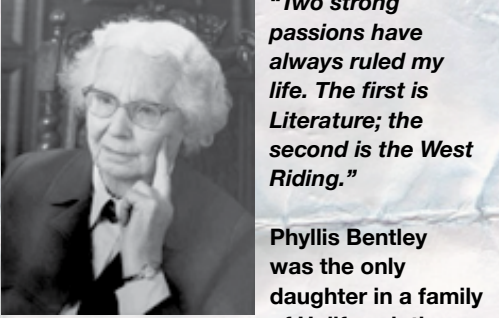
Take a walk to Crimsworth Dene, inspiration for The Deadfall and the spectacular Lumb Falls where there is a dedication plaque to the Six Young Men (3). Or walk up from Colden Clough (Chinese History of Colden Water) (4) to Heptonstall, past Lumb Bank and The Beacon (5), the house where he penned the poem Wind. When you return to Hebden Bridge rest at The Stubbing Wharf (6) which serves excellent food, and was both the inspiration for an eponymous poem and the setting for his story Sunday.

The Elmet Trust, based in Mytholmroyd, celebrates the symbiotic relationship between the Calder Valley and the poet, and organises an annual Ted Hughes Festival.

www.theelmettrust.org

Calderdale Libraries have a full collection of works by Ted Hughes.

DR PHYLLIS BENTLEY OBE (1894–1977)



Phyllis Bentley was the only daughter in a family of Halifax cloth manufacturers, and her first-hand knowledge of the industry formed the background to many of her books. Born in a time when there were few opportunities for women other than marriage, she nevertheless gained a first class degree from London University, and throughout her life followed a rigorous programme of reading and self-education.

She was a prolific writer, publishing forty-six books. She first rose to prominence in 1932 with the publication of Inheritance, a saga of the Oldroyd family set against the background of the cloth industry.

The sequels took the Oldroyds from the time of the Luddites up to 1968. The entire series became a Granada television serial starring John Thaw and James Bolam.

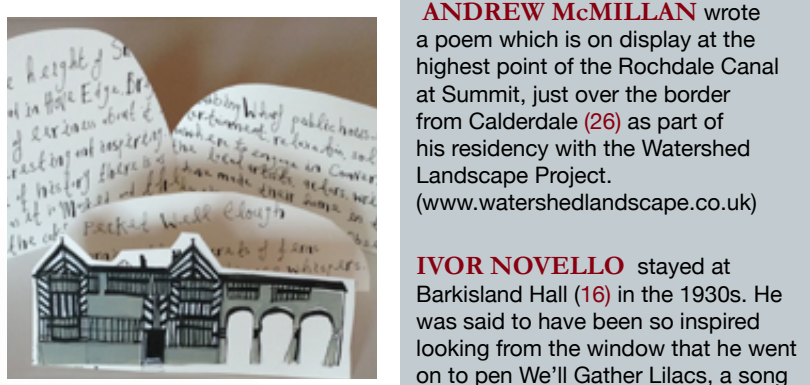
Phyllis was an active member of the community. Although she travelled and worked in London and abroad, her heart was always in Halifax. She lived at Heath Villas, Free School Lane (7) until 1963 when she moved to Grange House, Warley (8), her home for the rest of her life. She helped found the Halifax Thespians in 1927 and was their president until 1965.

Phyllis Bentley bequeathed all of her diaries and correspondence to Halifax Public Libraries. Her desk and chair are available to view at Akroyd Library, whilst her paperwork is available to view on appointment from Central Library & Archives.

Literary Connections

ASA BENVENISTE (1925-1990), New York born publisher and poet, lived much of his life in Hebden Bridge and is buried in Heptonstall cemetery (9).

BRANWELL BRONTË, brother of Charlotte, Emily and Anne, worked briefly as a booking clerk at Luddendenfoot Station. He lodged at the Lord Nelson Inn (15).



PATRICK BRONTË, father of the writers Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë, and of Branwell Brontë, lived for a time in Warley Town in a house called "The Grange" next to the congregational chapel (8).

JOSEPH SMITH FLETCHER (1863-1935) of Halifax was one of Yorkshire's most prolific writers, publishing a total of 237 books. Nearly half of these were crime novels and it was for these he was best known. Over half of his titles are available in the J S Fletcher Collection in the Reference department at Central Library, Halifax.



BILLY HOLT (1897–1977) of Todmorden was a writer, artist, humanist, world traveller, weaver, political activist, inventor, deck hand, stunt man, language teacher, newspaper correspondent and BBC broadcaster. With his white horse, Trigger, whom he bought from a rag and bone man, he travelled bareback through Yorkshire and Europe, often sleeping in the open air. He wrote a number of novels as well as books about his travels. He briefly ran a holiday camp at Hardcastle Crags in 1919 (10). Ted Hughes was an admirer and dedicated a poem to him (For Billy Holt). When he wasn't travelling, he lived at Kilnhurst Old Hall (20). Trigger is buried next to Kilnhurst Toll Road where there is a memorial stone in his honour. Much of his work can be viewed at Todmorden Library.

EDMUND SPENSER (1816-1861), the vicar of St James Church, Mytholm (21), was a close friend of Arthur Nicholls, and officiated at his wedding to Charlotte Brontë Haworth in 1854. The following year he presided at Charlotte's funeral. He is buried in St. James churchyard.

BENJAMIN MYERS: local author Benjamin Myers won the prestigious Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction 2018 with his novel The Gallows Pole, about the Cragg Vale Coiners. Myers' work of non-fiction Under the Rock takes its title from Scout Rock, the looming crag above Mytholmroyd that also influenced the poetry of Ted Hughes.

JOHN WAINWRIGHT (1921-1995), author of 83 books, was an Elland beat bobby (18).

SUTCLIFFE SOWDEN (1816-1861), the vicar of St James Church, Mytholm (21), was a close friend of Arthur Nicholls, and officiated at his wedding to Charlotte Brontë Haworth in 1854. The following year he presided at Charlotte's funeral. He is buried in St. James churchyard.

Drop in to one of Calderdale's many cafes, and the person scribbling in a notebook at the next table might be writing a chapter of their novel, a poem, a radio play or the next episode of Emmerdale. Writers' groups abound and the bookshops have a continuous supply of new books from local authors and publishers*.

So what makes the Calder Valley such a Cauldron of Creativity?

Is it the contrast between the valley bottoms and the tops?

The water cascading down steep slopes to join the River Calder, winding its way through the valley, joining the townships of Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, Elland and Brighouse?

Is it the shape of the land?

Or the hardworking, no-nonsense folk who live and work here?

The Calder Valley has a rich history veined with stories and remarkable characters. It has inspired writers as various as Daniel Defoe, Phyllis Bentley, Ted Hughes and Simon Armitage.

Follow in the footsteps of these writers and many others in this literary guide to the area.

You may even find you're tempted to put pen to paper yourself.

Thanks to: Anna Turner for researching and compiling the text for this beautiful literary trail. Angela Smyth for fantastic artwork & illustration by: www.angelasmyth.co.uk Design - Chris Sands