

## Thursday June 20

After breakfast we left for Harrogate or Boroughbridge to do a Town Trail, the final decision being made en route depending on the weather as we crossed the hills. The day had started overcast and rain was forecast and we figured that Harrogate would provide more sheltering places if necessary. We did drive though a few showers so we ultimately decided on Harrogate as our destination and arrived there about 11am.

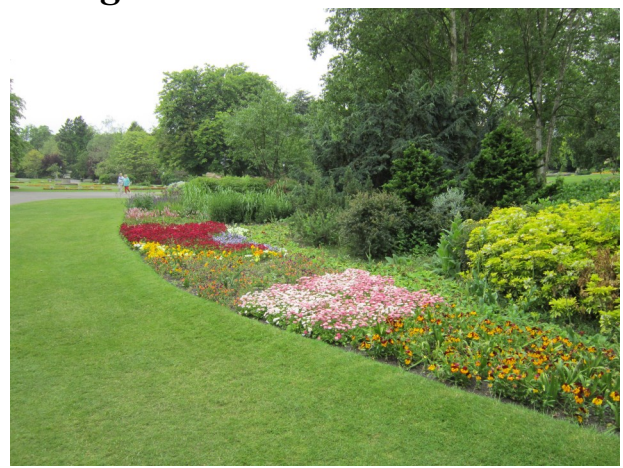


# Harrogate





## ***The Gardens of Harrogate***



We parked and then followed most of the walk in our Town Trails book. This took us from the cenotaph, past the Royal Baths and Pump House, several of Harrogate's large hotels and the Exhibition Centre and into the Valley Gardens. As it turned out, there was no more rain and the weather improved as our walk continued and by the time we had finished and had a light lunch, there was a lot of sunshine and it was quite mild. We coincidentally met Dorothy in town who had been doing some shopping and was herself just about to go for a cup of tea. We were leaving town and heading for home but the weather was so pleasant that we decided on a drive through Nidderdale (via Pateley Bridge and Hebden) to Bolton Abbey before returning home.

We stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening and had dinner in the flat.

### **Friday June 21 (Our 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

We decided on another town walk – this time it was Skipton's turn. We actually ate breakfast in Skipton before beginning the walk and seeing the various points of interest mainly along and near the High Street. The walk had a little added interest since it was market day and we had the contemporary distractions of food and clothing as well as the historic points of interest.



### ***A little Yorkshire humor in Skipton***



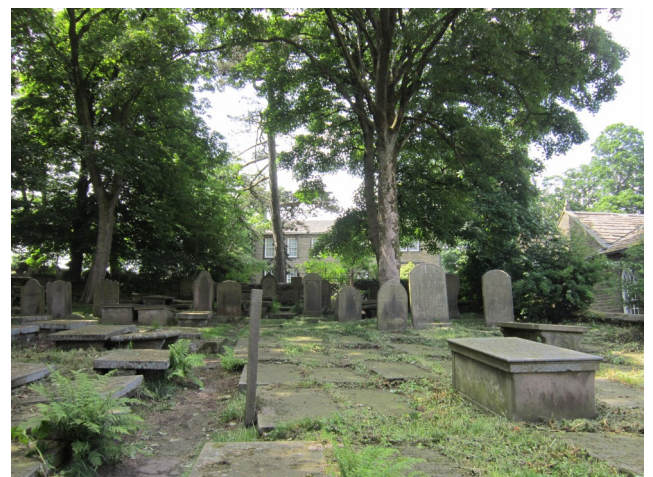




# *S K I P T O N*



Once again the weather got better after a misty start and it was still fine after we had finished our walk and a coffee so we chose to go on to Haworth as Robert had never seen this town. We drove across country, mostly based on my memory with occasional glances at the map, and eventually made it to Haworth where we spent a pleasant 1 ½ hours doing the Bronte Thing and taking in the beauty of the steep main street and the surrounding countryside.



*The Vicarage and Graveyard, Haworth*





INCUMBENTS HAWORTH PARISH CHURCH	
J. COLLIER. Expelled.	1634
E. GARFORTH. Puritan.	1634
R. TOWN. Puritan.	1635
J. COLLIER. Reinstated.	1662
E. MORE.	1675
R. MARGERISON. A. B.	1684
T. ELLISONNE. A. M.	1702
W. CLIFFORD or CLIFFE. M. A.	1705
J. JACKSON. A. M.	?
T. SMITH. A. M.	1726
W. GRIMSHAW. A. B.	1742
J. RICHARDSON. M. A.	1763
J. CHARNOCK. M. A.	1791
S. REDHEAD. M. A.	1819
F. BRONTË. B. A.	1820
J. WADE. M. A.	1861
T. W. STORY. M. A.	1896
G. A. ELSON. M. A.	1919
J. C. HIRST. M. A.	1925
W. T. DIXON. B. A. (CANON)	1947
E. A. BARTON	1959
C. MANCHESTER. B. D.	1961
R. T. HUGHES. B. A.	1967
B. F. ASHDOWN. M. A.	1974
C. SPIVEY	1985
P. J. SLATER. M. A.	1995
J. A. SAVAGE. DIP. THRS.	2002
P. MAYO - SMITH. B. A.	2009

THE  
BRONTË FAMILY  
VAULT  
IS SITUATED BELOW  
THIS PILLAR,  
NEAR TO THE PLACE WHERE  
THE BRONTË'S PEW STOOD  
IN THE OLD CHURCH.  
THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS  
OF THE FAMILY  
WERE BURIED HERE.  
MARIA AND PATRICK.  
MARIA, ELIZABETH,  
BRANWELL,  
EMILY JANE, CHARLOTTE.



BRONTË





Following this visit we drove back to Ilkley, once again relying mostly on my memory and sense of direction which took us via Bingley and Eldwick. I went for a 5 mile walk around Ilkley before we all got ready for our evening out.

We had purchased tickets for a concert by the City of Bradford Brass Band at Christchurch on the Grove and had late dinner reservations at Martha and Vincent. The band concert was excellent – probably the best brass band music I have ever heard – and the director has taken them to the national level in a little over two years. He is an extremely charismatic and energetic person and it is easy to see how he has managed to get the best out of the 25 or so members.

Dinner at Martha and Vincent was also very good and it was surprising to see that there were still several tables occupied as we left at almost midnight.

### **Saturday June 22**

After breakfast at home we took Robert to the station in Ilkley for his train to Leeds and then home to London. We had really enjoyed the short break here with him. We had coffee in town, returned to the flat and did a few jobs around the house as the weather was alternately wet and sunny. At 2pm I decided to go for a walk and get wet if it turned out that way (it did). I walked across the river to the Middleton side and climbed to a level about the same as that at the Cow and Calf Rocks on the Ilkley side. Most of the walk was via narrow lanes but I did have about a mile of cross-country terrain in the six miles covered.

At 7pm Dorothy and David picked us up at the flat and we drove down for dinner at The Farsyde. It was the usual very good meal and we had a nice long chat together. Being a Saturday evening, the restaurant was packed and rather noisy so we had a little difficulty hearing each other across the table – but we managed to get into some heated discussions ourselves so all turned out well! It was about 11pm when we got home.

### **Sunday June 23**

We were awakened just before eight to a chirping noise which soon developed into a full scale fire alarm sound right outside our apartment door. We hurriedly got dressed and vacated the building via the fire escape as there was no power for lifts or even for lighting inside the apartments. When we got outside (actually in the underground garage) we saw that there were no lights on anywhere in the neighborhood so we guessed that there was a local power outage. Why this would necessarily set off the fire alarms is a mystery and it is also surprising that the alarm system does not inform the fire department directly. In fact it was left to a couple of residents to work on the main control panel – which no-one seemed to fully understand – and they managed to silence all the alarms except one in some poor lady's flat. It was quite some time later before she could return home.

As a consequence of lack of power our key fobs to re-enter the building didn't work and we were lucky to be let back in (when we were convinced that there was no danger - except perhaps from deafening - via a ground floor annex apartment. The system obviously leaves a lot to be desired but we eventually had power and silence so we got fully dressed and went out for breakfast. We had also lost our enthusiasm (and quite a lot of time) for going to church so we lingered over breakfast before returning to the flat.

I went for a walk over the Moor to Keighley via Keighley Gate. It was extremely windy and there was one decent shower en route but otherwise it was a very pleasant six mile hike which seemed very easy. I returned on the bus and Molly and I went down to Caffè Nero for afternoon coffee. Tonight we went to a concert by the Airedale Symphony Orchestra at the King's Hall and then had a very late dinner at Aagrah. The Symphony Orchestra and the tenor and soprano soloists were excellent as they sang and played popular arias and orchestral music from a dozen different operas.

### **Monday June 24**

After breakfast downtown, we returned to the flat where I spent some time looking at maps to decide on my walk. I finally set on doing a little of the Spenn Valley Heritage Trail on the outskirts of Bradford. I had read about this trail and the items of interest that are a part of it – much of it related to the industrial past of this area – and had been intending to do it for some time.

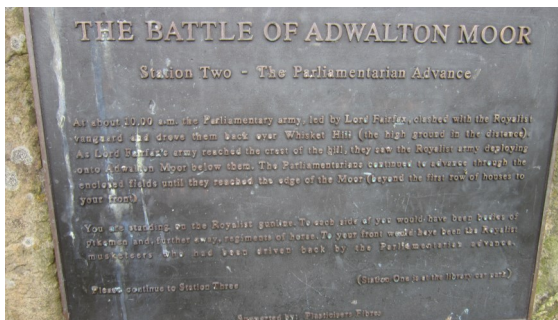


The whole trail is over 20 miles long so obviously I had to select a portion that I could manage in a few hours, and that was circular.



***Oakwell Hall was built by John Batt in 1583 and is now run as a 'living museum' furnished as the Batt family home in the 1690s. The Hall offers visitors a real insight into a post English Civil War household. Charlotte Bronte was so inspired by the house during her visits in the 19th century that she featured it as "Fieldhead" in her classic novel Shirley.***

found a place to park near Oakwell Hall in Birkenshaw and started by covering about ½ mile within the countryside park that surrounds the hall. The house on the estate (over 400 years old) was featured in one of Charlotte Bronte's novels and the park around it seems to be a very popular area for families to enjoy, essentially in the middle of a large city. The route then took me along several footpaths and across a small moor on which had been fought a Civil War battle in 1643.



## ***Plaque commemorating the Civil War Battle of Aldwalton Moor - and how The Moor looks today***



On the 30th June 1643 in the battle of Adwalton Moor the dogged resistance of parliament's heavily outnumbered Northern Association army was finally broken. But Lord Fairfax's small, mainly infantry force had come close to a stunning victory.

This was the year of great royalist advances across England and in the North it was Adwalton Moor that was the deciding engagement. With this victory much of the north of England fell to the king. After Marston Moor this was the second most important action fought in the North during the Civil War.

The landscape has changed somewhat since 1643, with the enclosure of further parts of Adwalton Moor. Despite this, a substantial part of the moor is still unenclosed common, though encircled by housing, while a large part of the enclosures of 1643 still survive undeveloped.

There are many questions about exactly where particular elements of the action were fought and exactly which enclosures existed in 1643, but it is a well documented battle and the battlefield has a high archaeological potential to allow these questions to be answered. It is also a battlefield that is well worth visiting, for aspects of the terrain can still be grasped very clearly and there is good public access across much of the area.



I then had a long walk across a field but had to re-trace my steps and take an alternative route as the last section of the field was covered with cows and calves. There have been too many incidents (including a recent death) where cows have been overly protective of their young so I have become very hesitant about going across fields like this. Later on during the walk I was fortunate to see another group of walkers take a short detour (climbing two gates en route) to avoid another large group of cows with calves who were certainly inquisitive, if not aggressive. I followed the detour!

The whole walk (over 8 miles) was interesting and had some good views of the Pennines at times and had a huge number of public footpaths despite being in what is primarily an urban area between Bradford and Wakefield. I didn't see as many points of interest as I expected, although that was due in large part perhaps that I only did a short section actually on the Spen Valley Trail. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the different experience in an area that I had not visited at all in the past.

I got home shortly after 4:30 and we stayed home for the rest of the afternoon and evening. The weather had been mild (low sixties) with more clouds than sunshine but there had been no rain all day. We ate dinner at home and watched a little TV.

## **Tuesday June 25**

We had breakfast at home and then Molly and I prepared for our routines for the day. She walked to Ilkley to do some shopping and make a hairdresser appointment and I decided on a bike ride. It was forecast to stay dry all day with only a modest breeze and temperatures were to reach about 65 by afternoon so I set off in shorts and short-sleeved shirt. As usual, the first few miles I was cold as there is very little pedaling required but I did warm up once I had to do some work.

I had decided on a "Round the Mountain" ride along the main roads which would take me to Burley, Shipley, Bingley and Keighley, after which I could decide on returning to Ilkley via Silsden or Skipton depending on how I felt (Skipton adds a few miles). My first stop was in Bingley where I had a snack sitting outside in the warm sunshine and then I continued into the wind (which was more than a breeze by now) as far as Skipton where I had a coffee. From there it seemed like a very easy 10 mile run back to Ilkley – with the exception of the last  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile up to the flat. I covered 38 miles and was gone just over four hours.

Molly and I went for coffee together at Caffè Nero and then we stayed home until Keith and Zena came over at 6:30. This was the first time we had seen them on this trip so we had a lot to chat about, both in the flat and later at the Wheatley Arms over dinner.

## **Wednesday June 26**

After breakfast and some shopping I decided to see if I could re-set the alarm system that had caused us the problems on Sunday morning. Unfortunately all I succeeded in doing was to set the alarm off again and cause another gathering of bewildered residents at the main control panel in the front vestibule of the building. I finally called the person who had installed the system years ago and he was able to talk me through the process of getting the noise stopped. We plan to have him stop by sometime and see what we should do long term.

I went for a walk via Panorama Woods and then down to the river in the late afternoon and we went for dinner later at Bistro Saigon.

## **Thursday June 27**

Around 9:45 the technician who had helped me on the phone with the security system came as we had requested and re-set the alarms. He also gave me a better understanding of the system and how to deal with it in the future – if we decide to use it at all.

About 11:30 I set out on a walk via White Wells and the Cow and Calf Rocks to the Moor and then crossed Hangingstone Road to drop down through farmland to Menston. It started to rain as I approached Menston so I got the train back to Ben Rhydding and walked home (still in the rain) from there. Despite the weather it was a very pleasant walk.

Tonight we drove to Green Hammerton to meet Geoff and Christine for dinner at an Asian restaurant called Sweet Basil. It was a rather nice restaurant and the food and service were good so we had a very pleasant three hours together before the



drive home.

### **Friday June 28**

It was raining steadily as we got up this morning – memory says that this was the first morning like this for several weeks. Consequently we had a very lazy day, only venturing out for a walk into town for coffee during a relatively dry spell. We did have a wonderful evening meal, however, celebrating our anniversary a week late by dining at the Devonshire Arms at Bolton Abbey. We both had the seven course tasting menu which was excellent in every respect, as was the impeccable service. We were there just a little over three hours and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

### **Saturday June 29**

We were up a little late (after nine) and drove into town for a Caffè Nero breakfast. The weather was much brighter than yesterday and the sun was trying to shine – but not warming things up too much against a stiff breeze.

Around mid-day, Molly walked into town again and I got ready for my walk. I actually arrived at the station (for my train to Guiseley) just as Molly was about to board her bus home. From Guiseley I walked down via Esholt to the River Aire and then on to the canal bank near Thackley. Then it was a flat and pleasant walk all the way to Bingley (a total of eight miles from Guiseley), from where I got the train home. In Saltaire I stopped briefly at Roberts Park (filled on a nice warm afternoon), heard the band playing at the Saltaire Fete and watched some sculling races on the river. There certainly was a lot going on on a beautiful, warm summer afternoon.

Tonight we stayed home for dinner and watched a little TV before retiring for an early night.

### **Sunday June 30**

It was a bright and sunny morning, but with a stiff breeze, as we had breakfast at home and then went to church. This was followed by a drive into Ilkley for coffee and then I started the studying process for my walk. I decided to get the bus to Silsden and walk back via the north ridge of Ilkley Moor, which I estimated as starting about a two miles climb out of Silsden. What I did not foresee was a field full of cows with calves who seemed determined to keep me off their land – so I obliged. This caused about a 1 ½ mile (about an hour with frequent references to the map) so it was after 4:30 before I finally reached the edge of the moor. From here it was a short but very steep climb followed by about three miles of relatively flat path across the north ridge – with fantastic views over the Wharfe Valley.



***An interesting public footpath: someone has to maintain those walls!***

***And, making good use of the natural rock in a wall***





***Clockwise from Top Left:***

***The Wharfe Valley; Ilkely Moor; Cow and Calf in sunlight; The path to home***

It was after 6pm by the time I got home which gave me time to clean up and catch my breath before driving into Ilkley for dinner at Piccolino.

### **Monday July 1**

We drove to Skipton for breakfast and then did an hour's shopping before returning to the flat.

It was another of those on-and-off showery days so I debated for quite some time before setting out on a walk. In the end I did the "Top of the Moor" walk (White Wells to the cairn and back via Keighley Gate) and, although my time didn't seem to reflect it, I felt as though I was considerably fitter than the first time I had done this same walk on this trip.

***Moorland Cotton***





I don't recall having seen this "Moorland Cotton" on previous trips to England but apparently it is reasonably common in boggy areas on moors in the north of England. From a distance it looks as though the area is covered with snow or, as I had thought, lime, but the white is indeed very similar to cotton. The flower grows at the end of a long grassy stem and creates a very pretty sight, both close-up and from a distance.



*Eriophorum plants, known commonly as Cottongrass, are found throughout the Northern Hemisphere in acid bog habitats and are perfectly happy to grow in extreme conditions like the Arctic Tundra. The seed heads are covered in a fluffy mass of cotton which are carried on the wind to aid dispersal. At the moment, Ilkley Moor is liberally scattered with these small tufts of pure white.*



*Another innovative use of the natural surroundings*



Molly and I went for coffee when I got back and then at 6:30 we drove to Dunkeswick to meet up with Joanne and Robert. They took us for a very good meal in Harrogate at an Asian restaurant called Orchid where we shared eight dishes of various ethnicities, every one of which was excellent. They drove us back to their house and we left for home immediately as it was already about 10:30.

## **Tuesday July 2**

We had breakfast at home and, after checking the forecast (which was for sunny skies and near 70F), I decided on a bike ride. Unfortunately as I was leaving there was a shower and the wind got up a bit but I was already dressed warmly and in a rain jacket so I set off. I had picked the "Round the Mountain" route again and set off towards Burley and Shipley. The rain continued for some time but it wasn't very heavy; however, the rain jacket was welcome for the wind protection. By the time I reached Bingley the rain had stopped so I removed the rain jacket but it still felt cool enough for me to don my fleece instead.

The winds were generally favorable and I just kept going at what felt like a good pace until I reached Skipton, where I stopped for coffee. From there the ride was into the wind, which was particularly strong on the high ground near Draughton but the ten miles back home went quickly nevertheless. I got home about 2:30 after a very pleasant ride but there had been no sun and the temperature only barely topped 60F. With the wind against me I felt quite cool so it was nice for us to drive into Ilkley for a cup of coffee before staying home for the rest of the day.

## **Wednesday July 3**

We had breakfast at home and Molly did her daily walk into Ilkley to do some shopping. I took another bike ride; this time via Bolton Abbey to Embsay and then on to Gargrave via Hetton. This first 21 miles was into a strong wind and there were a few short but steep climbs so it was a challenging ride. The return via Broughton and Skipton (stop for coffee) was much easier, however, as there were fewer hills and I had the wind at my back. The trip was almost exactly the same length as the one I did yesterday but it seemed much harder. At least there was no rain.

We had coffee on my return and ate tonight at The Farsyde.

## **Thursday July 4**

We had breakfast at Caffè Nero and, as we walked in town, it seemed to be significantly warmer than it had been of late. That's what the forecast had indicated also; after early morning showers, getting brighter and warmer. So, a walk was called for! I caught the train to Baildon and began walking toward the village and then on to Baildon Moor – and soon had to put on my rain jacket! As I started up Ilkley Moor from Dick Hudson's, the rain had stopped but I still felt a need for my fleece in the biting wind. Later, the rain came and I needed both fleece and rain jacket for comfort. So much for the forecast.

I got pretty wet as I walked and I would swear that there was sleet on top of the moor, but by the time I was in sight of Wells House, the sun came out and I was essentially dry when I got home after my eight mile trek. It was very sunny and warm as we went for coffee so perhaps the heat wave promised is actually on its way. We'll see what tomorrow brings.

Tonight we ate at Panache and enjoyed good Indian food with excellent service.

## **Friday July 5**

Today was the start of the "Heat Wave" when we were to get temperatures near 80F and light winds, with no precipitation so I had planned a longer bike ride, aiming for Wetherby. I left soon after 10am but had long tights on over my cycling shorts and I was also wearing a fleece to start. The wind was a little stronger than predicted but it was to be essentially at my back all the way to Wetherby. I did cast the fleece after about four miles but was never too warm to simply wear shorts, even towards the end of the ride when we did hit 70F.

My route took me on the roads north of the River Wharfe to Otley and then to Pool where I crossed the Harrogate Road to wind round to Weeton and then Dunkeswick. I had a couple of hundred yards on the busy A61 but then turned on to country



lanes to Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and then to Wetherby. It was a very pleasant ride with no real challenging hills and with the wind at my back I seemed to cover the 25 miles rather quickly. I looked for somewhere likely for a light lunch in Wetherby but didn't see anywhere so I set off back.

My return route was via Collingham, Harewood, Arthington, Pool and Otley – all relatively busy roads and, of course, the wind was now in my face. Despite this I again felt like I maintained a good pace and was back home by shortly after 2:30, having covered just over 48 miles. My longest ride of the trip.

Tonight we went to a concert by the Leeds Symphony Orchestra and the Ilkley Choir at St Margaret's Church – our local. The two hour concert was excellent and was filled with favorites throughout. We finished the evening with a late dinner at Martha and Vincent.

### **Saturday July 6**

This morning was calm and the temperature was in the mid-sixties when we were in Ilkley for breakfast. I decided it was too good to miss so at 10 I set off on another bike ride "Around the Mountain" – Burley, Shipley, Keighley, Skipton and home. It was sunny and hot the whole time (the first time I have been in shorts and short-sleeved shirt and felt comfortable) but the wind did pick up some. Fortunately it was behind me as I did the final ten miles from Skipton so I felt pretty good by the time I arrived home after another 38 mile ride.

We went for coffee and to Edinburgh Woolen Mill and then sat on the Grove for a while in the warm (80F) sunshine before driving home and getting ready for dinner with Geoff and Christine at Monkmans. As usual the meal was excellent and we had a good long chat about their upcoming trip with us as well as many other topics.

### **Sunday July 7**

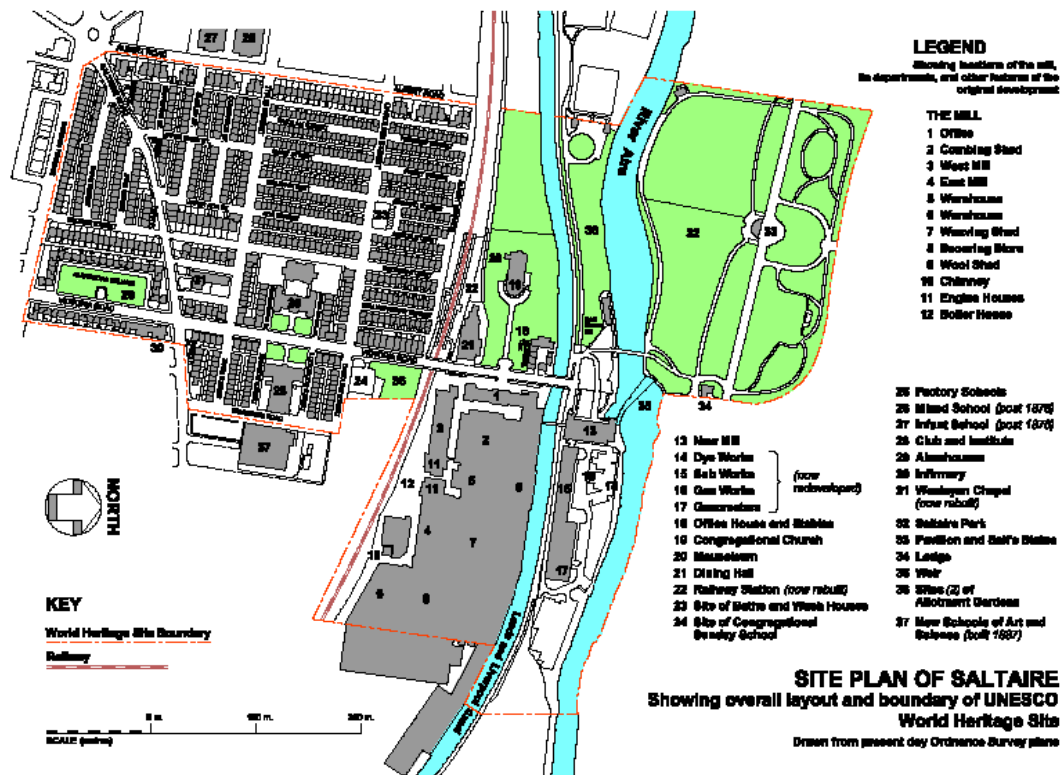
Today was the hottest and calmest day so far and by mid-afternoon the temperature was about 82F. We walked to church, drove for coffee and I went for a walk from Baildon to Saltaire and back in the afternoon. It was by far the hottest I have felt in England on this visit. As is obvious from this and other journals of our England trips, I have visited Saltaire on my walks and bike rides a number of times, so I thought it useful to provide a little of the citation that was used in the nomination and acceptance of Saltaire as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*Saltaire was built as a single, planned model industrial village between 1851 and 1876. It was consistently constructed from natural materials - a warm coloured local sandstone and Welsh slate, generally in the Italianate style. The Mill was built before the houses, as it would take time for it to be fitted out and become operational. Immediately after its official opening in 1853, work began on the rest of the village and continued until 1876.*

*The concept was devised and realised by Titus Salt, who was a man of high ideals and advanced social consciousness, as well as a successful businessman. The plan of Saltaire and the design of its buildings were the responsibility of the architects, Henry Lockwood and William and Richard Mawson, who were experienced in civic and industrial design. Salt's engineer, William Fairbairn, was accepted as one of the finest engineers available.*

*Saltaire was built on a gridiron plan, with its roads named after Queen Victoria and her consort, Albert, after members of Salt's family, and the architects, Lockwood and Mawson. The first phase of road construction saw the streets organised on a north-south orientation. The latter phase was constructed east-west, so that the external appearance of the village from the Bradford to Bingley road was enhanced. Almost all the grand public and community buildings were built in Victoria Road, which led to the Mill. Most of the housing was built in the west of the village.*





I was back in time to see Andy Murray take the Wimbledon Championship and at 7 we left for dinner at Stefano's in Silsden. Another very good meal – and the place was packed on a Sunday evening.

### Monday July 8

We had breakfast at Caffe Nero and then came back to the flat to do our final washings, cleanings and packing. We left for Manchester around 1pm and had one final visit to Caffe Nero before heading over to Lancashire. The journey took just a few

minute under 1 ½ hours and we were checked in the airport Marriott in Manchester before 3:15. We relaxed with our wine and fruit tray, had a nap, showered and then went for our usual farewell dinner at the Plough and Flail pub in Mobberley. We were in bed by 10:30. The temperature today registered a maximum of 29C (84F) – certainly a record!

### Tuesday July 9

Our flight to Atlanta was scheduled for an unusually late departure (12:45pm) so we had plenty of time for breakfast in the hotel before returning the rental car (Hertz inefficiencies notwithstanding) and checking in at the airport. Both flights (good view of Greenland over the Atlantic) were on time and we arrived in Cincinnati to be greeted by Elizabeth who drove us home after another great trip.

