

News release: 7th December 2009

Brontë Bonanza for Literary Fans in Pennine Yorkshire

New guide maps out the Brontë story for visitors

The life and times of the UK's most famous literary family has been brought to life by a new guide that takes Brontë fans on a tour of the region that inspired and influenced their lives and novels.

While Haworth is seen as the heartland of Brontë country, the family's story actually unfolds across a much wider section of the beautiful Pennine Yorkshire countryside.

The new 28-page guide, produced by Pennine Yorkshire – the destination marketing campaign, which covers the honeypot towns of Hebden Bridge, Haworth and Holmfirth - brings together for the first time the places and buildings across the region where Charlotte, Emily and Anne spent time and found inspiration.

Visitors following the *Brontës in Pennine Yorkshire Experience* can visit well known destinations in Haworth – from the Parsonage Museum, to the pub frequented by Branwell Bronte and the restaurant where Emily's ghost is reportedly sighted on the anniversary of her death each year – before progressing across Bradford and Kirklees to their parents' first home, their birthplace and the churches where their father Patrick was a minister.

The guide also encompasses some of the many grand houses that the Brontës spent time in and used as inspiration for their novels. These include Oakwell Hall, which inspired Charlotte's description of Fieldhead in *Shirley*; Red House, the home of Charlotte's lifelong friend Mary Taylor and Ponden Hall, generally thought to be the house Emily Brontë called Thrushcross Grange, home of the Linton family in *Wuthering Heights*.

Catherine Chrystie, marketing officer at Pennine Yorkshire, said: “Visitors come from all around the world to Haworth, to pay tribute to the memory of Charlotte, Emily and Anne. However, we were keen to showcase the other links with the Brontë family across Pennine Yorkshire to the many people who visit the entire region.

“In addition to highlighting the Brontës’ legacy, the guide will enable visitors to take in other selling points the region offers, such as its fantastic outdoor facilities and industrial heritage. With such a variety of attractions in the region it appeals to all tastes, making it the ideal short break destination.”

The *Brontës in Pennine Yorkshire Experience* brochure can be obtained by visiting www.pennineyorkshire.com or hard copies are available from all tourist information centres throughout the region. Amongst the highlights that Brontë fans should consider visiting are:

- Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth
- Oakwell Hall, Birstall
- Red House, Gomersal
- Bell Chapel, Thornton
- Shibden Hall, Halifax
- Ponden Hall, Keighley

For further information please visit www.pennineyorkshire.com

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- 1) Pennine Yorkshire is an initiative from the West Yorkshire Tourism Partnership, comprising five local authorities: Bradford, Kirklees, Calderdale, Leeds and Wakefield. The initiative is supported by Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency charged with improving the Yorkshire and Humber economy
- 2) Pennine Yorkshire is at the geographical heart of the UK, easily accessed by the M1, A1 and M62
- 3) Pennine Yorkshire provides something to do for all, from outdoor pursuits in moorland locations to cultural and educational museums and gardens. It boasts a diverse range of attractions from rural scenery and industrial heritage; to trendy market towns and local nostalgia

For further information:

Contact Nick or Kiran at Lucre on 0113 243 1117
or email news@pennineyorkshire.com