

EMLEY CC

# DOWN YOUR WAY

## MONKS, MINERS & & MASTS

### The Village

As one writer points out, the village of Emley ‘had its origins in very early times’ and this certainly comes across when walking through the village and surrounding countryside. Although no precise dates can be given for Emley’s earliest settlers, evidence of Ice Age hunters, Iron Age earthworks and Roman coins have been found close to the village.



**The name Emley (meaning Emma's field), however, dates from the seventh or eighth century when it was settled by Angles. (After the Romans left Britain in the fifth century invaders known collectively as Anglo-Saxons but which were actually separate groups, arrived in the country. Whilst the Saxons populated Sussex and Essex, the Angles had the good sense to settle in places like Huddersfield). There is also evidence from names like Gilcar and Skitterick that the Danes, who came to England in the ninth century, also settled in Emley. The Danes appear to have lived peaceably with the Angles.**

Like many areas in the north, Emley suffered a setback in 1069 when it was destroyed by Norman soldiers to quell the rebellious northerners who objected to William the Conqueror taking the English throne. It took the village over a century to recover but Emley's revival was helped along by the arrival of the Cistercian monks from North Yorkshire in the twelfth century. Not only did the monks breed many sheep thereby increasing the village's woollen trade but they exploited the rich seam of ironstone that ran beneath much of Emley and Flockton. The remains of the monks' industrial activity – bell pits – can still be seen in Emley today.



**In the thirteenth century another development paved the way for Emley becoming the area's largest and most important settlement. In 1253 Henry III granted a royal charter authorising the local lord, Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam to hold a market each Thursday as well as an annual five-day fair. The remains of Emley's market cross (the upper part of it was destroyed during the English Civil War) serve as a reminder of this weekly event. The acquisition of a market not only increased prosperity and enabled the enterprising monks to trade their wool and smelted iron but also increased the village's population.**

Unfortunately for the monks and Emley's other residents, after the boom inevitably came the bust. In the mid fourteenth century the Bubonic Plague (also known as the Black Death) struck; it reached the Dearne Valley in 1350. The monks in Emley along with many other villagers suffered at the hands of the plague and the village was reported to be 'lying waste for lack of tenants, owing to the pestilence'.



**The village and the monks did eventually recover from this huge setback but this event, along with the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536) ordered by Henry VIII, along with the emergence of Huddersfield as a textile centre (Huddersfield had something that Emley did not – an inexhaustible supply of soft water for treating wool) meant that Emley’s growth was thwarted and the village has since been referred to as ‘the medieval town that never grew’.**

The villagers remained heavily focused on agriculture and the iron industry at Bentley Grange (this eventually closed down in 1775) until the late eighteenth century when the Industrial Revolution brought changes. Although Emley did not have the water supply to lure mill owners to the village, there was industrial activity in the form of coal mining. There had been several small mines in the area since 1597 but these small mines could not cope with the increased demand for coal that the machinery of the Industrial Revolution required. Emley thus became home to two collieries: Emley Park (also known as Park Mill) and Emley Moor.

**Today, as is the case in many Yorkshire towns and villages the collieries are no more: Emley Moor was one of the many collieries that ceased production during the Thatcher government’s onslaught on the**

**mining industry (closing its doors in December 1985 after over 135 years of production). The monks and miners have gone, as has Emley Football Club – the team that brought fame to the village in the late 1990s when on reaching the third round of the FA Cup they were drawn against the mighty West Ham United.**



Although the writer cannot claim to have seen the match, Emley FC, wearing their shirts with the logo ‘By ‘eck who’s Emley’ on them, apparently came within a whisker of taking the Premiership club to a replay. Emley have since merged with another club and are known as Wakefield & Emley FC, playing their games at the home of Wakefield Wildcats.

**What a shame that before Emley relocated to Wakefield, they did not have the opportunity to host Arsene Wenger’s French Arsenal stars in the shadow of Emley mast, one of the few structures in Europe to surpass Paris’ famous Eiffel Tower.**

# PARLIAMENT & PLEDGES

## Emley: 4 Key Things

### FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE

In the nineteenth century it was difficult if not impossible to get a divorce (it was only obtainable by a personal Act of Parliament). So one John Turton of Emley decided to take matters into his own hands and sold his wife, Mary, for two half crowns to William Kaye of Scissett. This buying and selling, like much of the buying and selling in Emley over the years, took place at the market cross. Unfortunately, or fortunately for Turton, when Kaye died his erstwhile wife returned home where they lived together happily, or unhappily, for a further thirty years.



### THE STRINGER AND ADDY MOTOR COMPANY

If it hadn't been for the intervention of John Kaye, the so-called King of Clayton West, the Emley and Clayton West we know today might have been very different. In 1879 Edward Stringer and Daniel Addy built a steam motorcar which travelled at 20 mph. This speed caused problems and John Kaye told Stringer and Addy that for safety reasons they must have a man

walking in front of the car waving a red flag to warn people of the approaching vehicle. Kaye also told the pair that the car was a waste of time and no-one would want one! They therefore abandoned the scheme. One can only imagine their regret if they were still around to witness Henry Ford's success.

## **THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT**

**The Temperance Movement was a powerful political and social force in Britain in the nineteenth century. It set out to tackle the problems they believed were caused by alcohol and to encourage people to give up drinking. The group did this by various means, including the use of propaganda, by demonising drink and by encouraging men to 'take the pledge'. The movement spread all over the country and reached Emley in the 1830s. The Emley branch attempted to attract people out of public houses by providing an alternative – Parker's Temperance Hotel and Refreshment Rooms. The Temperance Hotel is long since gone, but there are still two pubs in Emley, a testament perhaps to the enduring appeal of a pint and a chat.**



## EMLEY MAST

- Emley Mast is the tallest free-standing structure in Europe.
  - If you are lucky enough to be allowed inside the mast it apparently takes seven minutes by lift to reach the viewing balcony near the top of the mast.
- The first Emley Mast was taller than the present one standing 1,264 feet 10 inches tall.
- In January 1967 the Independent Television Authority (ITA) offered to rehouse residents and rebuilt the Methodist Chapel close to the mast after people had expressed concerns about ice falling from the mast. Nothing happened as none of the residents wished to move. We all know what happened two years later!
- The week that Emley Mast fell down there were worries that a similar structure in Lincolnshire would also collapse.
- It is said that on a clear day the White Horse at Sutton Bank can be seen from the top of Emley Mast.

# BANDS & BOUNDARIES

## Key Dates in the History of Emley before the Birth of the Cricket Club

**600/700 AD** First settlers in the area.

**10-69** William the Conqueror's troops visit Emley and destroy much of the village.

**1086** Emley, or Ameleie as it was then known, is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

**c.1100** Cistercian monks from North Yorkshire arrive in Emley.



**c.1200** Ironstone mining commences at Bentley Grange.

**1253** Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, the local lord, is granted a royal charter to hold a weekly market and an annual five-day fair in Emley.

**1350** The Bubonic Plague (Black Death) reaches the area.

**1597** Records show that there are several small mines in the Emley area.

**1607** Kirkby Grange is built.

**1643** Parliamentarian troops raid Emley Church, as well as the Old Hall.

**1673** A grammar school is built by John Wigglesworth.

**1798** A room in a cottage in the village is licensed for Wesleyan preachers.

**1811** A chapel is built in Emley.

**1822** White's Directory refers to four working coal mines in Emley; three of them owned by the Jagger family and the fourth by one John Bedford.



**1830** Emley's population is estimated to be 1,445.

**1842** The village's population is 1,575.

**1847** Emley Grammar School is demolished.

**1863** Emley Boundary Walk, which first began in 1559 and had lapsed by the 1700s, is revived.

**1870** Emley Band is formed.

**1872** Emley National School opens.

**1874** Restoration of St Michael's church begins.

# 180 NOT OUT!

## KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN KIRKLEES

1825: Lascelles Hall Cricket Club founded.

**1842: Dalton play Sheffield for £30.**

1867: *Huddersfield Examiner* publishes scores or reports on 209 matches featuring 107 different teams.



**1868: Fartown ground leased by Huddersfield St. Johns C.C.. Savile Ground, Dewsbury, hosts game between All England XI and United All England XI.**

1873: Batley legend Louis Hall makes Yorkshire bow.

**1883: Lumb Cup and Heavy Woollen Cup born.**

1886: Huddersfield Cricket Association is formed.

**1887-9: Dewsbury Savile C.C. win hat-trick of Heavy Woollen Cup titles.**

1892: 10 Clubs take part in inaugural Huddersfield & District Cricket League competition.

# LOCAL RIVALS!

## OTHER NEARBY CRICKET VILLAGES



**Flockton**



**Lepton**



## **Skelmanthorpe**