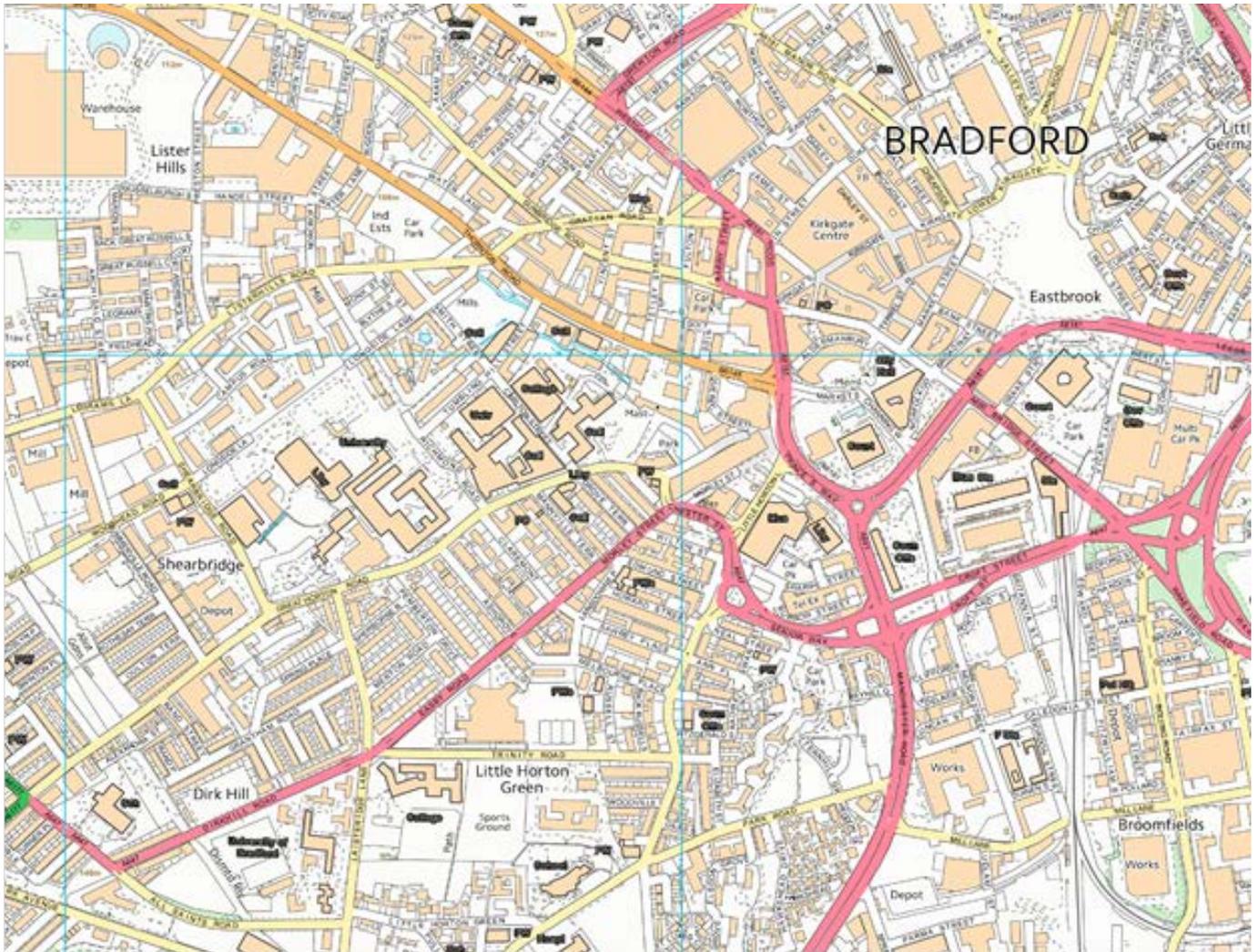


Knowing Bradford Script

This script has been developed to support the '*Knowing Bradford*' project. It will help students to explore the history of Bradford places and people.



This script has been developed by Irene Lofthouse to support the 'Knowing Bradford' project. The aim of the project is to explore the history of Bradford places and people with students, through the mediums of drama, literacy, art, historical enquiry and presentations.

To do this, a creative script has been developed which covers aspects of Bradford's industrial past, buildings, and people associated with them; of arts and culture both past and present; of sport development in Bradford; and of the people who designed the buildings.

The script is designed to be inter-active, so that when performed in schools, students are able to become one of the characters. It is also designed to enable students to perform it themselves, or to use it as a template to create their own versions. Pictures mentioned in the script are included at the end of the script, along with a rating card for students to express their feelings about each scene.

There is also an accompanying [PowerPoint](#) and [Activity Pack](#) to further explore Bradford's history, with images and activities linked to scenes in the script as part of the [Teaching Activity Knowing Bradford: How can buildings tell a story?](#)

‘Knowing Bradford’ - The Cast

Introduction: Town Crier

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Scene 1: City Hall

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Lockwood – Architect who designed City Hall

Mawson – Architect who designed City Hall

Lord Mayor - Lord Mayor Thomson

Scene 2: The Alhambra

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Chadwick – Architect who designed the Alhambra Theatre

Watson – Architect who designed the Alhambra Theatre

Francis Laidler – Theatre owner and creator of ‘It’s behind you’

Sunbeam – A member of the theatre’s junior dance troupe called the Sunbeams

Scene 3: Midland Hotel

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Charles Trubshaw – Architect who designed the Midland Hotel

Maid – A maid at the Midland Hotel

Scene 4: Bradford Playhouse

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Winnie Priestley – Secretary of the Playhouse and sister of author JB Priestley

Scene 5: The Wool Exchange and Salts Mill

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Titus Salt – Owner of Salt's Mill and creator of Saltaire

Amelia Salt – Eldest daughter of Titus Salt

Margaret McMillan – Social reformer

Scene 6: Manningham Lane and Drummond Mill

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Julia Varley – Mill worker and campaigner for worker's and women's rights

Scene 7: Sport

Town Crier – Town Crier who narrates throughout the whole play

Bradford Reporter – Sports reporter for Bradford Daily Telegraph

Female Footballer – Female Footballer who used to play in Bradford

Julia Varley – Mill worker and campaigner for worker's rights

'Knowing Bradford' - The Script

Introduction: Town Crier

Fame

Hear ye, hear ye!

Here I lie, once a Town Crier
walking around Bradford
wielding such power.

A repository of news, of famine and war.
Of stage and circus, murder and more.
Informing people, opening a door.
But not alas, above nature's law.

Now I repose in a briar-covered bower
listening to the voice
of a power much higher.

Repository – a place where things are stored

Famine – no food available anywhere

Opening a door – letting people know what's happening

Briar-covered bower – rose covered grave

Power much higher - God

Scene 1: City Hall

Town Crier; Lockwood & Mawson; Winston Churchill; Queen visit; Lord Mayors;
City Park

Town Crier Hear ye, hear ye! Today we are here to explore the City of Bradford, discover its fine buildings and fair places, meet some of its people, uncover hidden histories and surprising spaces. Let us start at its beating heart, City Hall (Picture 1). Let me introduce you to its architects, Mr Lockwood and Mr Mawson, who will tell us about this magnificent building. Say hello to the people.

Lockwood

& Mawson (Together) Hello.

Lockwood In 1869 we won the competition to design the Town Hall, beating thirty other entries.

Mawson Bradford was made rich by the woollen trade, and we thought the Town Hall should be big and showy, but beautiful too.

Lockwood Our model for the clock tower was the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, Italy (Picture 2). Can you see any likeness? The tower has thirteen bells, one of which weighs seventeen tons.

Town Crier That's two and a half times heavier than an elephant!

Mawson There are thirty-five stone statues. The stone was quarried at Cliffe Wood. They're seven feet high, (Picture 3) and are the kings and queens from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria. She was on the throne when it was built. Some of the country's rulers are missing – that's a mystery for you to solve.

Lockwood Work started in 1870 and cost £100,000. That's £8,322,100.00 in today's money. It was opened three years later on 9 September by Lord Mayor Thomson (Picture 4).

Lord Mayor I was the ninth Lord Mayor of Bradford, and there've been 149 since then. You know, anyone can be Lord Mayor. We've had men, women, Muslim, Jewish, German and Pakistani Lord Mayors. One day, perhaps one of your names might be on that list.

Lockwood It became known as City Hall in 1965. It's been visited by many well-known people. Like Winston Churchill (Picture 5), Prime Minister in 1942.

Mawson I think the Queen's better known. She came for lunch in 1997.

Lockwood

Today it's used as a TV set for Emmerdale, Coronation Street and other soaps, and films too. More for you to find out about.

Lord Mayor

And there is the wonderful Mirror Pool and City Park next to it (Picture 6). How many of you have paddled in the Mirror Pool? Lovely place to cool off on a hot day isn't it? City Hall is a protected building.

Town Crier

Meaning it can't be messed about with.

Lord Mayor

Yes. There's so much to see inside; pictures, glass, the courtroom. I could talk about it for weeks.

Town Crier

You could, but we must move on, there's so much to find out about Bradford. But let's have a quick break to think about what we've heard so far. On your cards, there are faces: happy, sad, 'not interested' faces. Were Mr Lockwood and Mawson, the Lord Mayor and their stories interesting, a bit interesting, okay, or not interesting. Circle a face on your Rating Card. (Pause for a minute) You might have a question about what you've heard. Write this down on your Question Card before you forget it. We'll come back to these questions later.

Scene 2: The Alhambra

Francis Laidler; Performers; Sunbeams; Pantomime; Architecture/Granada; Chadwick and Watson architects; first to show moving picture in Bradford; location for films (The Dresser); Churchill visit in 1914; Kimberley Walsh

Town Crier Walking through City Park, we find ourselves at The Alhambra, (Picture 7) named after that wonderful palace in Granada, Spain (Picture 8). Bradford's Alhambra Theatre, a place full of stories was designed by Mr Chadwick and Mr Watson.

Chadwick & Watson (Together) Hello.

Town Crier Mr Chadwick, when was The Alhambra built, and why?

Chadwick In 1913, at a cost of £20,000 for Frances Laidler, who owned several theatres (Picture 9). That's £161, 436 in today's money. It opened in March 1914. Remember, at that time, there was no radio, TV or computers. So Music Halls were very popular with people because they were places full of song and dance. (Picture 10)

Watson Mr Laidler already had some music halls, but wanted something a bit special, larger, and that could offer lots of different entertainments, one type in particular.

- Francis Laidler** Yes I did.
- Francis Laidler** Wrong question. 'Where is it?' is the question?
- Town Crier** Where is it?
- Francis Laidler** It's behind you!
- Town Crier** (Looks behind self) Pardon?
- Francis Laidler** 'It's behind you' – a pantomime catchphrase. I more or less created what we in the UK now know as panto. It started at the Prince's Theatre, and ran there from 1917 – 1930, then I brought the pantomime to the Alhambra.
- Town Crier** Has anyone in the audience been to an Alhambra pantomime? And who did you see there? (Give audience time to reply)
- Francis Laidler** I also introduced the Sunbeams in 1917.
- Sunbeam** Yes, you did. My Gran was one, then my mother, then me. Me and my friends (Picture 11) were desperate to be one. It meant we got to dance on stage, but even better, to meet the 'Stars', the celebrities of the day.

- Town Crier** And who did you meet?
- Sunbeam** Some of the same ones already mentioned. And now my grand-daughter dances in the pantomimes, and she's met Billy Pearce. I've got lovely memories of the place.
- Francis Laidler** The Alhambra didn't just do pantomime though.
- Everyone** Oh yes it did!
- Francis Laidler** On, no it didn't! It was the first place in Bradford to show 'moving pictures' in 1914, very soon after they had been developed. Mr Churchill came to visit, and said how advanced we were in technology.
- Sunbeam** Lots of plays at the theatre too, with great actors, like the Royal Shakespeare Company. So many marvellous musicals now too.
- Francis Laidler** Some 'movies' were partly filmed here, like 'The Dresser' (Picture 12). And from this theatre, we can see the Science and Media Museum, that opened as the National Museum of Film, Radio and Photography in the 1980s.

Sunbeam

And of course, singers from Bradford performed here too: Kiki Dee, Gareth Gates, Kimberley Walsh (Picture 13). Maybe in the future, one of you will be acting and singing there too.

Francis Laidler

Maybe they already have. Perhaps I should audition some whilst I'm here...

Town Crier

We can't start doing auditions now, Mr Laidler. We've got so many other places of historic interest to discover. I think you and Sunbeam should start planning the next Panto, while we move on.

But I think we need another break to think about what we've heard about The Alhambra. Look at your rating cards again, and circle a face – happy, sad, 'not interested', like you did for City Hall. Don't forget to write a question about something you'd like to know on your question card. We'll come back to these questions later.

Scene 3: Midland Hotel

Bram Stoker, Sir Henry Irving; some residents; PMs stopped there; architect Charles Trubshaw; railway importance.

Town Crier We're moving on to the Midland Hotel, that imposing building at the bottom of Cheapside, opposite The Broadway. Many of the stars who performed at The Alhambra stayed here.

Charles Trubshaw Delighted by my wonderful design and opulent interiors.

Town Crier And you are?

Charles Trubshaw Mr Charles Trubshaw at your service. I designed the hotel for the Midland Railway Company, isn't it magnificent (Picture 14). Took five years to build, as we wanted it to be as luxurious as possible.

Town Crier When did building start?

Charles Trubshaw 1885. It was to be the biggest and best hotel for the company, as it was very successful.

Town Crier Could only rich people stay there?

Maid That's right.

Charles & Crier (Together) Who are you?

Maid Me. No-one.

Town Crier No one?

Maid Yes. I'm just one of the girls who had to clean that massive hotel. I could never afford to stay there.

Charles Trubshaw Perhaps not. But it gave you a job.

Maid Yes it did. All those Burmantoft tiles, the glittering chandeliers, the decorative plasterwork and ceilings. Do you know how hard they were to dust, clean, mop and sweep? Reet hard work it were. But I did enjoy seeing the Music Hall stars who stopped there, like Henry Irving (Pictures 15 & 16). He did look different off-stage.

Town Crier Isn't there a story about him?

Maid Aye. He was at the Theatre Royal in 1905, just up the road. After the play, he got a cab – the type with horses – back to the hotel.

He'd just started climbing the stairs when he dropped dead! And do you know his manager was Bram Stoker who wrote 'Dracula'. And they say that Irving's ghost still haunts the hotel!

Town Crier

Well, he might have died here, but other stars who stayed there didn't. Like Laurel & Hardy, The Beatles, the Rolling Stones (Pictures 17 & 18) and lots more.

Charles Trubshaw

Many of the mill owners and the woollen barons stayed here too, or came for dinner after being at the Wool Exchange.

Maid

And Prime Ministers, right up to Harold Wilson in the 70s.

Charles Trubshaw

Did you know part of the hotel on Lower Kirkgate is protected, like City Hall? I'm very proud of that.

Town Crier

Well, you should be. And like City Hall it's been used as a film location. In fact, many parts of Bradford have been seen in films and on TV. We're going to wander to Little Germany in a minute, to see some more places where film-makers have been. That's after our little break for circling faces and writing questions. You'll be getting good at this now! I'm looking forward to hearing your questions. Okay, we're moving to Bradford Playhouse.

Scene 4: Bradford Playhouse

JB Priestley; birth of Independent Labour Party (ILP); Barbara Castle; Little Germany

Winnie Priestley Well hello. Welcome to Bradford Playhouse, here on Chapel Street (Picture 19).

Town Crier Excuse me. I do the introductions.

Winnie Priestley There's been too many men talking so far. I was secretary here in the 1930s, so I know more about it than you.

Town Crier You may be right.

Winnie Priestley Of course I am. Originally it was a Temperance Hall – that means a place with no alcohol. Then it became a cinema.

Town Crier I thought it was a theatre?

Winnie Priestley Hold your horses. I'm getting there. At the time, there was no theatre for amateurs in Bradford. So in 1929, a group created the Bradford Playhouse Company and rented the Hall. Then three years later, 1932, we became independent.

- Town Crier** Did you put on lots of plays?
- Winnie Priestley** Oh yes. Lots from popular writers of the day and some of my brother's.
- Town Crier** Your brother's?
- Winnie Priestley** Our Jack. Well, that's what we called him. His real name's JB Priestley (Picture 20). Became well-known, all over the world and President of the Playhouse from 1932, to 1984 when he died.
- Town Crier** Even I've heard of him.
- Winnie Priestley** So you should. His 'An Inspector Calls' is on school curriculums and performed all over the world.
- Town Crier** Describe the theatre for us.
- Winnie Priestley** In 1935 we had to rebuild it after a fire. Jack donated money, and we decorated in a style popular at the time called art-deco. We added a cinema, renamed it The Priestley and re-opened in 1935. It's much smaller than the Alhambra, only has 290 seats.
- Town Crier** Did you close during the Second World War?

- Winnie Priestley** Only if we had to. Our heydays were in the 1950s-80s.
- Town Crier** Why was that?
- Winnie Priestley** Lots of writers, actors and directors who became famous started here, though many have been forgotten now. There was another fire in 1995. But it's still open.
- Town Crier** It's famous for being where The Independent Labour Party met isn't it?
- Winnie Priestley** Yes. Jack supported them. There's a mural, a painting, on the gable end of The Playhouse. The ILP met at The Temperance Hotel, Albion Place too, you know off Kirkgate. There's a plaque there (Picture 21).
- Town Crier** Of course, Bradford's been important for politicians, especially Barbara Castle (Picture 22). They called her the 'Red Queen.'
- Winnie Priestley** Not just because of her red hair. She went to Bradford Girl's Grammar School, where she was head girl. Very important woman and politician she was.
- Town Crier** Little Germany's important too, isn't it?

Winnie Priestley

Yes. It has one of the highest numbers of protected buildings in England, mostly built between 1860 to 1874 (Picture 23). All except one, by Bradford architects. Our Jack worked in a woollen business in Market Street and used to meet the woollen barons at the Wool Exchange.

Town Crier

That's where we're going next. Thanks Winnie, I've learned a lot.

Gosh, Winnie told us a lot there, so let's have a break and have a little think about it. Using your cards, decide how you feel about Winnie's stories. And if you have a question, write it down.

Let's move on to the Wool Exchange, a really important building to Bradford's history.

Scene 5: The Wool Exchange and Salts Mill

Henry Ripley, Samuel Lister, Titus Salt; Salts Mill: Margaret McMillan; Edward Forster, Richard Ostler; Jonathan Silver, David Hockney; UNESCO

Town Crier The Wool Exchange on Market Street was where Bradford bought and sold wool across the world, and made Bradford rich (Picture 24). It was famous in its day for the number of millionaires who traded there.

Titus Salt But now it's not as well-known as my Mill in Saltaire.

Town Crier Titus Salt!

Titus Salt The very one, designer and creator of Saltaire and Salt's Mill (Picture 25). Provider of the finest Alpaca costume for Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Town Crier You'll have known the Wool Exchange well.

Titus Salt Oh yes. Came here often to find out about wool, textile and shoddy prices. Met all the major wool barons here, like Henry Ripley and Samuel Lister (Picture 26).

Town Crier Why did you build at Saltaire and not in Bradford ?
(Picture 27)

Titus Salt

There were already lots of mills here. The air and streets were filthy, and Bradford Beck was so full of muck it set itself on fire. It's why it was called the Mucky Beck. I wanted to be somewhere with cleaner air. The site I chose was next to the canal so I could get goods to the mill easily, and it was right next to the railway (Picture 28).

Town Crier

Saltaire – your name and the name of the river. You built all those houses, a canteen, school, laundry, hospital and so much more. Why did you name the streets after your children?

Amelia Salt

So that when we were all dead, our names would live on. Not that we lived there, but we weren't too far away, at Milner Fields. I'm Amelia, the eldest daughter. The one that helped father with his business, his accounts, his ideas and in looking after his workers.

Town Crier

Mr Salt, you said Bradford's air was filthy and the water dirty. How bad was it?

Margaret McMillan

Very bad. When I came to Bradford in 1892, I saw sewage in the streets; children living in damp hovels, covered with lice, bitten by fleas; open sores on their skin; they had rickets and were dying from measles, mumps and more. It was terrible.

- Amelia Salt** Yes Margaret McMillan. That's why father built Saltaire. To improve health and conditions for both children and adults.
- Margaret McMillan** And he opened the school so that both boys and girls could learn. It took a long time to get better conditions, like free school meals and health inspectors.
- Titus Salt** Many philanthropists helped, and I'm glad I did my part.
- Margaret McMillan** Mr Oastler and Mr Forster had to campaign to get reduced working hours for children with the Factory and Education Acts.
- Amelia Salt** Shipley College now use what was the canteen, and Saltaire Stories Archive is in the Exhibition Building, where you can find out all about us and the village.
- Town Crier** Although there's no longer mill workers at the Mill, there are still thousands of feet up and down the stairs aren't there?
- Amelia Salt** Thanks to Jonathan Silver (Picture 29) who saved the Mill from dereliction back in the 1980s.

- Titus Salt** He saw how the shell of my great Mill could be changed into a big shop, with art, books, music, events, performances and plays.
- Amelia Salt** Having artist David Hockney's paintings, a local lad who's really famous, brings people from all over the world to see his work.
- Titus Salt** Now the Mill and Saltaire have become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. That's a United Nation's Education, Science and Cultural Organisation. There are 1,092 of these sites across the world.
- Town Crier** Why was Saltaire chosen?
- Titus Salt** Because, and I'm quoting, "It is a complete and well-preserved industrial village of the second half of the 19th century." There aren't many of those left any more.
- Amelia Salt** But over 2,000 buildings in Bradford have protected status.
- Town Crier** Blimey, that's a lot.
- Margaret McMillan** Many have disappeared. Like Drummond's Mill in Manningham. You should head over there to continue your tour. It's a fascinating area.

Town Crier

Thanks for the suggestion. We'll go there next.

Time for a breather! So many interesting places and people we've heard about. Before all the facts about Saltaire get jumbled, pick up your card, and circle a face – I know you know what to do. I've got some questions I want answers to, and I'm sure you have. Let's write them down.

Now, back to our journey through Bradford's history.

Scene 6: Manningham Lane and Drummond Mill

Immigration/textiles/demise; faith buildings

Town Crier Manningham Lane, named after the Norman name de Manningham. Many of the buildings here once housed mill owners, doctors, Lord Mayors, head teachers and campaigners for women's votes.

Julia Varley Glad you've mentioned women. So many of us worked in the mills, like Drummond's Mill (Picture 30), also designed by Lockwood and Mawson. It was hard work, even after the Factory Act was passed.

Town Crier Julia Varley. Fancy seeing you here.

Julia Varley I pop up all over. Fighting for the rights of workers, who came from all over the world to work in Mills and to build the canals and railways. From Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Italy, France and Poland.

Town Crier I heard from Queen Victoria's Empire of India, Africa, Canada too.

Julia Varley And people were invited in the 1960s to come here from the Caribbean, Pakistan and other places to work in the textile mills. That's why there are so many faith buildings around Manningham.

Town Crier Faith buildings? What do you mean? Like churches?

Julia Varley Yes, churches for Christians, like The Cathedral. But Bradford has many faiths. There are Synagogues for the Jewish community; Mosques for Muslims; Gurdwaras for Sikhs; Mandirs for Hindus, and more. All offering spiritual support to immigrants and Bradfordians.

Julia Varley Textiles in Bradford declined before and after World War Two. Many mills became derelict. Some were demolished for new developments or lost to fire, like Drummond's Mill (Picture 31).

Town Crier Have all of the mills gone?

Julia Varley No, many have become apartments. Others have new businesses developed by recent migrants which are really successful.

Town Crier Well, Julia, we've heard a lot about work, about entertainment, about the buildings of Bradford, but what about sport?

Julia Varley Not far from Drummond's Mill you'll find Valley Parade, home of the Bantams.

Town Crier Bradford City, our football club.

Julia Varley

Check out the first footie match that happened there, you'll be surprised.

Town Crier

Oh, we will. I've already been surprised, so I'm looking forward to another one. Time for another breather! Julia's told us some new facts about Bradford's history, which I found fascinating. What about you? Which face are you going to circle on your card? What question will you write down? We're heading to Valley Parade now, our last stop on this journey.

Scene 7: Sport

Valley Parade; Bradford City; female footballers; Zesh Rehman 1st South Asian Player & captain; other Bradford sports.

Town Crier Valley Parade, Home of Bradford City (Picture 32). A legend in its own lifetime.

Bradford Reporter A legend maybe, but cricket, rugby and hockey were popular before City came into being. Get yer facts right.

Town Crier Who are you?

Bradford Reporter Sports reporter for Bradford Daily Telegraph. It was a game at Bradford Park Avenue (Picture 33) in 1882 that got football in Bradford going.

Town Crier Park Avenue? That's not where Valley Parade is.

Bradford Reporter No, it's the other side of the city. The first football match in Bradford was between Blackburn Rovers and Blackburn District to show the difference between rugby and football. That was the start of proper football in Bradford. Here's a question. What were City known as, before they became City?

Town Crier Bantams?

- Bradford Reporter** Nay, that's a nickname. Manningham FC, started in 1880 (Picture 34). City didn't get going until 1903 (Picture 35). Another question, what was the first game played at their ground?
- Town Crier** Erm. City vs Park Avenue?
- Female Footballer** Wrong! It was a women's football game in 1895.
- Julia Varley** Said you'd be surprised. Not that the crowd (mostly men) took it seriously, and the press even less.
- Bradford Reporter** Aye, well it was a bit of fun, a way to raise money. Not just for the club, but for charity.
- Female Footballer** You made fun of how we played and dressed. Nothing changes.
- Town Crier** Were there many female football teams?
- Female Footballer** Several. Some got up by the breweries & the mills, others as an entertainment to raise money for charities (Picture 36). Some toured the country. And during the Great War, right through to 1921, we kept playing – after all, most of the men were at the front.

- Town Crier** What happened in 1921?
- Female Footballer** Powers that be stopped us playing on associated football sites. By 1925 most female teams had fizzled out. Wasn't till fifty years later the ban was lifted.
- Bradford Reporter** Aye, but what about City, and sport in Bradford? Isn't that what you want to know about Town Crier?
- Female Footballer** Women's football is sport. Thousands of women support City, and cricket, hockey, rowing, rugby as well as playing it. Bradford's had a lot of success in all those areas, and canoeing too.
- Bradford Reporter** City's won lots of trophies and the League, you can find that out on the Internet. Zesh Rahman was the first South Asian Player and captain of the team (Picture 37).
- Female Footballer** Canoeists from Bradford & Bingley Sports club paddled at the Olympics. Harvey Smith won lots of medals for horse riding. Not forgetting cricket – the oldest sport played in Bradford. It created sporting legends like Sir Leonard Hutton, Ray Illingworth, Brian Close, Andrew Gale and Adil Rashid (Picture 38).

Town Crier

I thought I knew about Bradford, its places and its people. But it seems I've got a lot more to learn.

Last time for your face cards. What did you think of the sports stories? What question do you have? Don't forget to write it down.

Well, it's been quite a journey through Bradford's history; discovering all the buildings and their designers; uncovering almost forgotten stories, realising how Bradford's population, residents old and new, have shaped the City, and are still shaping it for the future.

Which bit of the future YOU will shape? Which Bradford building or location will be part of your history? Whose story can you uncover that you can share with friends, family and Bradford?

Let's finish by seeing which buildings and their stories you liked best. If you have more than one smiley face, you need to choose which one is the best one. After three. One, two, three – go!