

A collection of scientific specimens including a bird skull, a fossil, and a map.

Darwin in Yorkshire

**Darwin in Yorkshire
is a celebration of
the work and legacy
of Charles Darwin**



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How Darwin came to be in Yorkshire

After spending 15 months writing *On the Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin finished his book on 1 October 1859. He was completely exhausted, but managed to take the train from London to Leeds and the coach from Leeds to Ilkley on 4 October. This was to be the beginning of a two-month stay in Ilkley, during one of the most prestigious times in the history of science. Darwin had come to take the water cure at Ilkley Wells House, a hydrotherapy centre run by Dr Edmund Smith, a pupil of the therapy's founder Dr Gully. He arrived with a swollen leg and eyelids, but also developed rashes and boils during his stay.

From Ilkley he was to send out the advanced copies of his book, published on 22 November 1859, and to prepare for the publication of a second edition, due to the complete sell-out of the first edition on the day of publication.

Darwin leaves Ilkley

The Darwin family left Ilkley on 24 November 1859. An early winter made one daughter describe it as 'frozen misery'. Charles, in rented rooms for their stay, moved back into Wells House after they left, no doubt enjoying the billiards, if not the bowling, with his swollen leg. He too left on 7 December, with the book he had feared to publish already on its way to international success.



The Darwin celebration events

Bird Paintings

4-30 September at Bradford 1 Gallery Studio

Continuing the Darwin theme, Liverpool artist Chiz Turnross brings his collection of 1,000 bird paintings, created in one year, to Bradford. They were first exhibited as part of the Liverpool Biennale 2008. See www.bradfordmuseums.org/bradford1gallery

Darwin poem sequence

(Various dates)

A 14-poem sequence, which begins with Darwin in Ilkley then goes back to follow his voyage on the Beagle, will be read live in Centenary Square, broadcast from the BBC Big Screen and form a literary voyage around Ilkley. The poems, which form 'a voyage of ideas', are the work of locally born poet Andrew Mitchell and are illustrated by Mary Kuper.

International Darwin Conference at the University of Bradford

24-26 September

Hosted by the University of Bradford, this international conference will bring together researchers in natural and social sciences, along with the humanities, to provide an investigative forum for different aspects of Darwin's thought. Leading the international list of speakers will be:

- Medicine Nobel Prize-winning Professor Gerald Edelman of The Scripps Research Institute/Neurobiology, USA
- Professor Jonathan Hodge, History and Philosophy of Biology at the University of Leeds
- Geneticist Professor Steve Jones of University College London
- Philosopher Professor Anthony O'Hear of the University of Buckingham and Director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, London
- Professor Denis Walsh, Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Biology at the University of Toronto

Steve Jones will also deliver a special lecture on "Nature, Nurture or Neither: The View from the Genes".

For details see www.bradford.ac.uk/darwin2009

Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley

(On display until January 2010)

A display case at Cliffe Castle explains how Darwin came to make the world voyage on HMS Beagle and shows, using local specimens, how his early education in Edinburgh making comparative examination of marine life fired Darwin's imagination. There is also a letter, with his signature.

See more at www.bradfordmuseums.org/cliffecastle

The Manor House, Ilkley

1 September to 1 November

See what Darwin thought of Ilkley from the facsimile and transcript of a letter he wrote soon after his arrival. Other information in this display case concentrates on his stay in Ilkley, focusing on the man, his long-term ill health and his penchant for eccentric and quack cures. See www.bradfordmuseums.org/manorhouse for further events.