

LIA BRADBURY

... was schooled in ...
... ere her mother was
... businesswoman. She
... several BBC television
... how part of the the
... am.

... st Yorkshire memory?
... ent in Harrogate at the
... re Fashion Fair as a
... mother is a designer and
... ular shop in Sheffield. She
... t the fair over several years
... e wholesale collection, and
... to help out. Not that I
... did a lot – my job seemed
... perpetual run to the local
... wiches, cakes and biscuits.

... ourite part of the county

... nsleydale, Swaledale,
... Witton. Just endless
... ing fields, ancient drystone
... int villages. It's picture
... could send a complete
... re with a rudimentary
... e or she would come back
... nning snaps. You just
... nsleydale is my dad's
... ese, as well.

... ea of a perfect day, or a
... nd, out in Yorkshire?
... choice, but I'm going to go
... ndswept coastal walk along
... s to Robin Hood's Bay,
... pie and a pint, or maybe
... chips. People often ask if I
... he walks that we show you
... he answer is yes, there's no
... ing in to a car or a helicopter
... next location. We do every
... nes we do it twice, if the
... hinks that he can get a

... a favourite walk – or view?
... s the Cleveland Hills. I love
... k Moors, they are more
... he Lake District, I think, less
... e Yorkshire Dales, but they
... iversity, and of course they
... he Jurassic Period dramatic
... And if you don't want to walk
... ors, there's always the
... ritage railway, where they
... ws to you.

... ire sportsman, past or
... ld you like to take for lunch?
... , because we could go dancing
... burn off some calories.

... ire stage or screen star, or
... nt, would you like to take for



OUTDOOR GIRL: Julia Bradbury loves the fresh air.

Dame Judi Dench – who in their right mind would not like to have dinner with M? She's a fine actress who has an incredible and varied career, everything from *Cabaret* (listen to her performance on the soundtrack of the original London stage version, and you'll hear that it is she who is the definitive Sally Bowles) to the classics and back again. She's done the lot – and she has a wicked sense of humour. If you could persuade Mr Alan Bennett to join us, that would be dandy.

If you had to name your Yorkshire "hidden gem", what would it be?
The Mount Grace Priory in Northallerton, a 14th century establishment that was run by the Carthusian monks, who lived the life of hermits. We filmed there when we were making the *Coast to Coast* series, and it is a beautifully serene spot. You just feel at peace with everything around you, and you lose track of time.

What do you think gives Yorkshire its unique identity?
The fact that you can find just about every geological and geographical configuration within the county – the really flat area to one side of Doncaster that was drained by the Dutch; the almost mountainous stretches of the North; the hills of Sheffield; a coast which goes from levels to the soaring cliffs. And the people of the place, who live in all that diversity.

Do you follow sport in the county, and if so, what?
I am a complete and utter duffer at sports, always have been, always will be.

But if someone patiently explains to me that a Yorkshire team, playing whatever it is they play, is doing well, I shall only too happily get out the white rose flag and wave it enthusiastically for them.

What about Yorkshire's cultural life?
When I'm back in the county these days it tends to be for work, and that means a pretty intense filming schedule, so I don't have much of a chance of getting out. But I am one for popping into local art galleries if I get a chance – and I'm constantly pleasantly surprised at what I find. I know that Leeds in particular, and also the Stephen Joseph theatre in Scarborough, take a lot of their shows to London, which is admirable.

Do you have a favourite restaurant, or pub?
The Blue Lion at East Witton in the heart of the Dales. Quirky rooms to stay over, and a great roaring fire in the flagstone bar in the wintertime. They've got tasty bar meals and also a full gourmet restaurant, with a menu that is game heavy (all local) and immaculate starched white tablecloths.

Do you have a favourite shop?
Issima in Boroughbridge. It's owned by a long-standing family friend, Sarah Lamb, who has amazing taste, and it is the perfect place to pick up gifts – everything from homeware bits and bobs like picture frames and candles, to beautiful objets d'art, and odd bits of clothing and jewellery too. As for a food shop, well, I can't resist the little local

markets that seem to keep going, no matter what.

How do you think that Yorkshire has changed, for better or for worse, in the time that you've known it?
There's a much greater awareness of conservation and preservation – English Heritage and the National Trust do some sterling work in that field. And there's much more discussion about green issues now, of course. That's all the good. What I love about Yorkshire is that it has a keen sense of the past while also looking to the future and generations to come.

Who is the Yorkshire person that you most admire?
Probably it would have to be Michael Parkinson, who has dealt with the ups and downs of his long career with modesty and grace. If it's a group of people, then there are a lot of walkers (and others) who are grateful to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for the work that they do – and also to the RNLI lads. Unsurprisingly, those people.

Has Yorkshire influenced your work?
So very much. I love making programmes in the county – you never know what you are going to see next and what characters you might find to have a conversation. I love that element of surprise in the programmes I do – TV is far too formulaic these days.

Name your favourite Yorkshire book/author/artist/CD/performer.
I adore David Hockney. I was lucky enough to interview him in 1995, when he was asked to design a BMW CSI A Car. He is such an accomplished artist, draughtsman, printmaker and stage designer and photographer. All those talents in one man. I love the modern feel of his work.

If a stranger to Yorkshire only had to visit one place, it would be?
Castle Howard. Set in fabulous landscaped grounds on the edge of the Howardian Hills, this is one of the grandest private residences in Britain designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, who designed that other comfy little retreat, Blenheim Palace. Great to visit, I think, and sublime to be a guest for a day or two. Live there? Not when your supper probably has to travel a mile and a half from kitchen to plate.

Julia Bradbury is hosting the inaugural Yorkshire Post Environment Award at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds on Thursday May 7.

NEXT WEEK: MALCOLM CREESE