

# BIRD'S EYE DALES TRIP... BACK IN TIME FOR TEA

**Emma Clayton** enjoys a helicopter flight over the Devonshire Estate and beyond

HAVE wondered, from time to time, what it would be like to arrive at a country hotel by helicopter...

I recently got to find out, when I was invited to a Highflyers Afternoon Tea at the Devonshire Arms Hotel & Spa in Bolton Abbey.

Available on selected dates over summer, the package offers a private helicopter flight over the Dales countryside, followed by a traditional Yorkshire afternoon tea. A perfect treat or celebration of a special occasion, it has been a sell-out success since its launch two years ago.

Arriving half-an-hour ahead of our scheduled flight, my niece Ellie and I were served coffee and shortbread on the terrace. Before long we heard a helicopter approaching, and watched as it descended to a landing area on the hotel lawn.

Feeling like VIPs, we were led out to it, along with a couple also booked onto the flight, and were met by a friendly young chap who helped us in.

Within seconds we were sitting in the helicopter, strapped in, headsets on. Then it was up and away, flying over spectacular Dales landscapes.

The first thing you feel, in a helicopter, is a sense of being lifted, as if a giant hand is picking you up from the ground. There's no racing at great speed down a runway to reach the air, as you would in a plane. Before we knew it, we were hovering above the ground, then rising higher into the sky.

With our friendly pilot pointing out landmarks, it was a fabulous way to see the stunning countryside; hills



and fields scattered below, looking like a patchwork quilt. Ellie, enjoying the thrill of her first helicopter flight, gazed wide-eyed at the views unfolding below.

We flew over pretty villages, as far as Gargrave, rolling hills, shimmering lakes, dense woods and dramatic moorland. Flying over a farm, we could see some pigs scratching around in a yard. Further on, I spotted a lone cow making its way leisurely down a country lane, while the rest of the herd grazed in a nearby field. They looked like animals on a toy farm.

Heading back, flying over Burnsall and the Bolton Abbey estate, we passed the mighty Simon's Seat then the Priory and abbey ruins, with the River Wharfe weaving through, like a strip of silver paper. While the scenes were breathtaking, our bird's eye view revealed the impact of the hot weather on the countryside. What would once have been deep, lush green was parched, yellow and dry. Not for the first time, I hoped a decent rainfall would come soon – although not while we were in up the air, naturally.



**FLYING HIGH:** Ellie in the helicopter over the Dales. Left: Bolton Abbey from the sky. Right: Enjoying afternoon tea

As we landed, right by the hotel, it felt like a 'Joan Collins moment'. It's not every day a girl arrives at the Devonshire Arms in a helicopter, and it's something I'll never forget. As if that wasn't decadent enough, we were shown to a table in the elegant conservatory and each served a glass of bubbly.

For Ellie, this was not only her first helicopter ride, but also her first afternoon tea. "It's gorgeous, I feel like I'm in Downton Abbey," she whispered, as we ordered a pot of Darjeeling tea. When it came to tea, we were spoilt for choice, with

Lapsang Souchong, Assam, Ceylon and fruit infusions among the varieties, as well as fresh mint tea, made from mint picked in the hotel's kitchen garden, sweetened with honey from beehives kept on site.

Afternoon tea, served on an elegant silver stand, was a delightful arrangement of sandwiches, with tasty fillings including cucumber and cream cheese, Wensleydale and pickle, smoked salmon and creme fraiche and honey roast ham and mustard. Next we tucked into freshly-baked buttermilk scones,

# Antiques expert brings her valuable advice up to date

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**Miller's Collectables Handbook and Price Guide**  
£24.99, in bookstores and at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

THE BBC's Antiques Roadshow and other popular programmes have opened our eyes to the potential worth of our keepsakes.

Over the years those who are keen to get rid of their clutter could literally be counting the costs having potentially thrown away a fortune disposing of memorabilia they perhaps thought wasn't worth keeping.

We've seen the programmes where purchases made for a few pence at car boot sales years ago are now worth a small fortune, making us far more conscious of the potential cash we could have tucked away in the sentimental stuff we store in our attics.

Such finds have prompted people to get their items valued, or at least checked, before making the decision to let them go.

The thrill and excitement of discovering a valuable find can also spark an interest in developing a skill and a technique for collecting.

Having that knack of knowing what to buy and what things are worth is essential if you are considering pursuing it as a pastime or a potential profession.

For those who are keen to know what things are worth, Miller's Collectables Handbook and Price Guide is the perfect place to start.

This interesting tome is packed with information and is the ideal companion for those with an interest in antiques.

Compiled by antiques expert Judith Miller, the latest guide for 2019-2020 brings readers up-to-date with the collectables market whether buying or selling.

Since she began collecting as a student at Edinburgh University, Scotland during the Sixties, Judith has honed her skills and expertise through international research and is now one of the world's leading experts.

In 1979 she co-founded the international best-seller, Miller's Antiques Price Guide, and has written more than 100 books including Mid-Century modern design which explores the most desirable furniture, ceramics, glass, metalware, interiors and textiles from the late 1940s to the early 1970s.

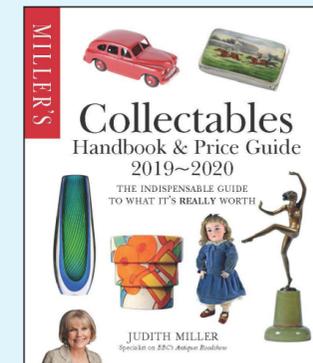
As well as writing, Judith is a familiar face on TV. She is an expert on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow and has co-hosted the popular BBC series The House Detectives, ITV's Antiques Trail, and Discovery's It's Your Bid. She has also appeared on The Martha Stewart Show and CNN. Judith's latest guide features more than 4,000 objects in full colour. It includes a detailed description and current price range as well as an



**AUTHOR:** Judith Miller. Below, Miller's Collectables Handbook and Price Guide

insight into how to spot rare and valuable objects. There are connections to Yorkshire too including Burmantofts Faience Pottery from Leeds; Studio potter Joanna Constantindis, from York; Studio glass

artist, Peter Layton, from Yorkshire as well as pieces from York in silver and sewing; some sporting and military pieces from the county and a teddy elephant which previously belonged to relations of the Ingilby baronets of Ripley Castle, North Yorkshire.



Readers will find the images change for every edition to reflect the collecting and buying trends. Sections are laid out comprehensively to cover advertising, books, ceramics, glass, metalware, pens and writing equipment along with plastics, Bakelite, posters, rock and pop, sporting memorabilia, teddy bears, toys and games and vintage fashion. In-depth features explaining how to value and become an expert along with biographies of designers and factories provide essential background information to help date and value objects.

An interesting and informative read, and perfect for those who are interested in collecting.

Sally Clifford

INSIDE OUT

**MEET THE BREWERIES**

## Former firearms officer's beers hit the spot



**WITH GAVIN AITCHISON**  
The brewery: Quirky Ales  
Where is it? Ash Lane in Garforth  
The story: Mike Quirk was a Chief Inspector with West Yorkshire Police's firearms unit, but he retired in May 2015 and decided to try something completely different. He had long been interested in beer and had dabbled in home brewing, and when his wife bought him a place on a brewing course he

became hooked. His first beers proved popular, so he decided to go into business with a friend and run the brewery commercially. There is a bar room and bottle shop on site, and Mike also runs lessons for other aspiring brewers who want to learn the ropes. The beers: The range includes the self-explanatory Blonde, Pilsner,

Porter and Bitter, as well as Intrigue (a black IPA), Hip Hop (contemporary IPA) and Classic (dark strong ale). Can I visit? Yes, the bar and shop are open 5pm to 9pm on Thursday, noon to 10pm on Friday, 1pm to 10pm on Saturday and 1pm to 8pm on Sunday. What else is new? The brewery's second birthday celebration is on August 18 from 1pm to 10pm, at the brewery.



**CHANGE OF DIRECTION:** Quirky Ales was set up by a former Chief Inspector