

PEOPLE HEADINGLEY



Alan Bennett
Author and Playwright

'Headingley and its Trams'

"After the war we moved to Far Headingley, where Dad, having worked all his life at the Co-op now has a shop of his own just below the tram-sheds opposite St Chad's. We live over the shop, so I sleep and wake to the sound of trams: trams getting up speed for the hill before Weetwood Lane, trams spinning down from West Park, trams shunted around the sheds in the middle of the night, the scraping of wheels, the clanging of the bell.



To be on a tram sailing down Headingley Lane on a fine evening lifted the heart. I went to school by tram, the fare a halfpenny from St Chad's to the Ring Road. A group of us at the Modern School scorned school dinners and came home for lunch, catching the tram from another terminus at West Park.

We were all keen on music and went every Saturday to hear the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra in the Town Hall, and it was on a tram at West Park that another sixth-former, 'Fanny' Fielder sang to me the opening bars of Brahms's Second Piano Concerto."

From Alan Bennett, *Writing Home*, Faber & Faber, 1994
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