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1999 - Review of the  
Year

Review

of the Year

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THE first civil marriage to take place at Ilkley's Winter Gardens proved ground-breaking in more ways than one.

Mark Ayres, 44, and Lesley Marshall, 37, eschewed traditional speeches in favour of a breathtaking stage show by illusionist Craig Kidd and assistant Caroline Dixon.

About 240 well-wishers took their seats in the stalls and balcony to witness tricks ranging from sleight of hand to the spectacular.

Bride Lesley, who is a teacher and lives in Ilkley, got up on stage where she watched in amazement

as the live snake she was holding turned into a rabbit. 26/1/99

She said: "I really enjoyed it, although waiting to take part in the trick was probably the most nervous I had been all day. We thought it would be a great way to start married life and everyone seemed to be having a good time."

Mr Ayres, a local government officer from Huddersfield, said: "We didn't set out to be different. Perhaps we just don't think all the traditional things are necessary. There was no best man, no speeches and no cake.

"We wanted to make it a real party atmosphere, and as the

Winter Gardens is a proper theatre with a stage, it seemed a shame not to put on some entertainment."

The show was peppered with illusions and even a spot of escapology as Mr Kidd freed himself from a pair of handcuffs, but he saved the best for last by putting his neck on the block for a guillotine finale.

The drama was captured on film by children attending the wedding who were all given disposable cameras to record the day for posterity.

Father Andrew Nunn, a friend of the bridegroom, said: "I thought the magic show was a lovely touch - it has certainly been a day to remember."

The couple were the first to wed

at the Winter Gardens after they lobbied Bradford Council to grant it a marriage licence last year.

Mr Ayres said: "We had been to the Winter Gardens a few times and realised what a lovely place it would be to have the wedding."

Because of work commitments, the couple did not go on a honeymoon straight after the wedding.

# MPs debate the Hydro 50 Years Ago

21/1/99

THE future of Wells House Hydro at Ilkley, vacant a year after its conversion into a hostel for foreign textile workers, was the subject of a question in the House of Commons raised by Sir Malcolm Stoddart Scott in 1949. He asked whether the Ministry of Labour would offer the hydro to the local authority to help relieve the housing situation. In reply the Ministry said it was hoped to recruit textile workers from Germany and Belgium and in this case the accommodation would be needed to house them.

by Paul Langan

14/1/99

THE developer wanting to build houses on the campus of Ilkley College has released initial plans for the site.

Harrogate-based Crest Homes (Northern) Ltd also outlined its vision for the area to representatives of civic bodies at a meeting this week.

But the number of houses Crest wants to build has not yet been finalised. The firm is waiting for public reaction before completing its proposals.

The concept plans will be on display in Ilkley Library from this coming Monday for a week. Crest is also sending out a questionnaire to 800 people who live near the campus to canvass their views of the future of the land.

Initial proposals for the site are to clean and restore Hillside and Wells House and convert both buildings into flats. The northern part of the site will have crescents of town houses and semi-detached homes.

On the western side, detached executive-style homes are planned, with open space and trees in between.

Tony Vincent, managing director of Crest Homes, said: "We have spoken to a number of groups within the town and there seem to be two main concerns - one that we will remove trees and build intensively. I know when people see our concepts, they will realise nothing is further from our minds."

Crest Homes has established some principles for the site and its development. These include:

- Using materials and designs for new homes which reflect the town's Victorian heritage
- Removing all modern accommodation blocks
- Building new homes to suit a variety of family types and budgets.

Mr Vincent said: "We believe this development will be good for the town. It will mean restoring one of Ilkley's great heritage features, attracting families to local schools and generating

income for the town's traders, which experts believe will be far more than any losses occurring from the college closure."

Ilkley Civic Society chairman Bob Tilley attended the Crest Homes meeting this week and was impressed by the research the company was doing.

Mr Tilley said: "All I can say is they are trying to communicate their thoughts and thought processes with the local community and local organisations. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. They have done their research in an extremely professional way."

Ilkley Parish Council chairman Alec Henderson was at the meeting when Crest Homes showed a video outlining its intentions.

He said: "I thought it was well-presented - I am quite happy with it. We have just got to wait and see. Basically I have nothing against the scheme. At the end of the day it will be a good complex."

But Coun Henderson said he had been concerned about increased heavy traffic on narrow roads leading to and from the college site while construction work was being carried out.

Council clerk Miggy

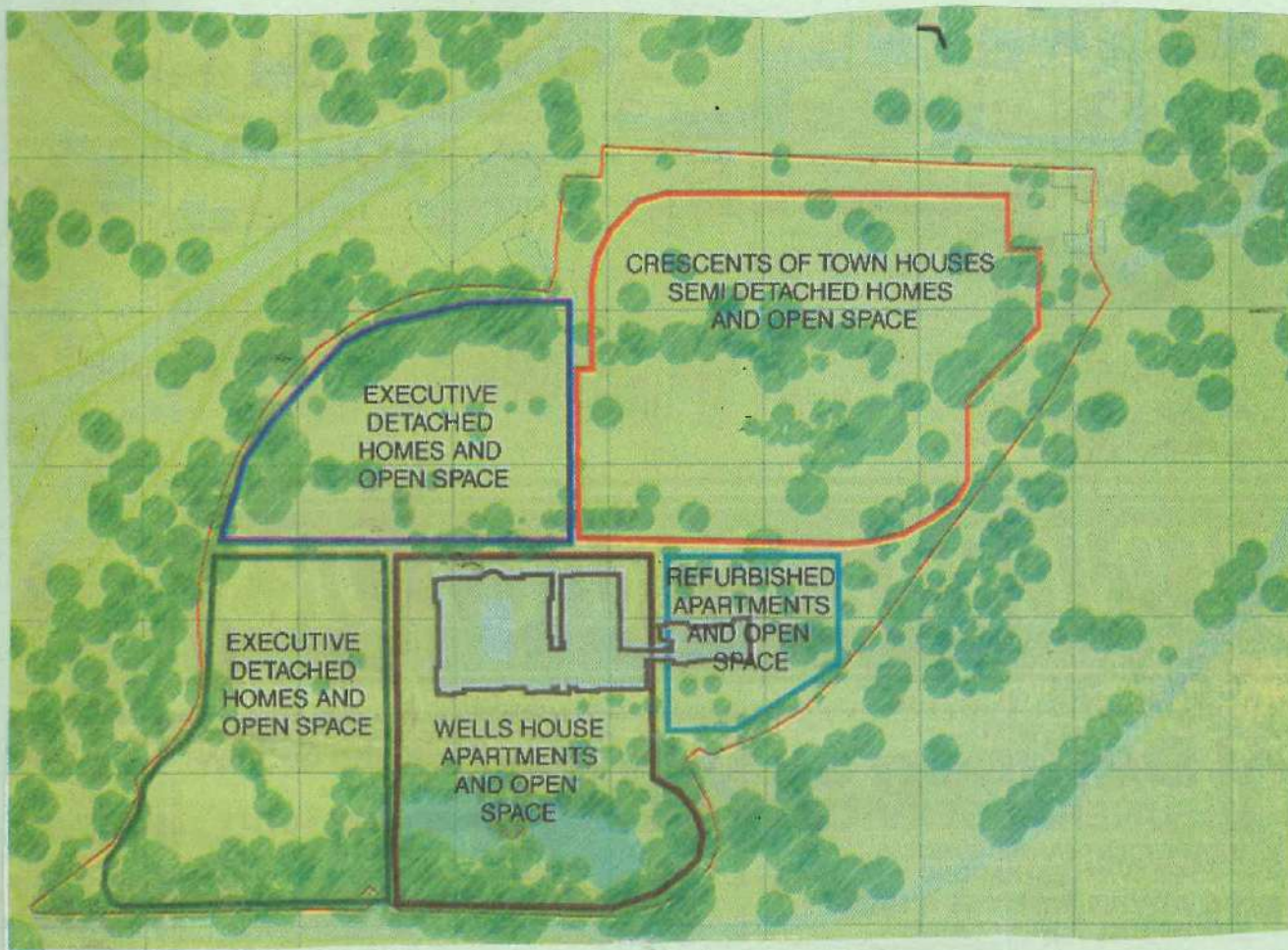
Bailey was also impressed: "I think they (Crest Homes) are quite keen to be part of the community and want to do the job right."

"They are not just going to come in like some large firms and do whatever they want to do. I think they are concerned they are doing their best for Ilkley."

The last lessons will take place at Wells House in June this year when the campus will close. From September, adult education classes will continue at the new venue of Bolton Bridge Road, Ilkley.

When the college was first offered for sale, the owners, Bradford and Ilkley College Corporation, hoped a leisure company would step in and buy it, but no serious offers were received.

'I'm quite  
happy  
with it'  
- parish  
council  
chairman



TWO Ilkley councillors have been attacked after trying to block a proposal to build cheaper homes on the college campus site.

In response to an offer from Crest Homes officials, Tory district councillors Martin Smith and Anne Hawkesworth said they would not be happy for 'affordable' housing to be included in the campus development.

As part of Bradford Council's planning policy, all new developments over a certain size must contain a percentage of 'affordable' housing.

But Couns Hawkesworth and Smith told developers that affordable housing would not be appropriate for the site which is surrounded by exclusive detached homes.

Coun Smith denied he was being elitist and said the plan was totally inappropriate to the style of houses within the vicinity.

He said that because the site was three-quarters of a mile from the town centre and not by a bus route it would not be a good place for cheaper houses. "It is for quite sensible reasons. It is not a matter of not wanting them there," said Coun Smith.

He also said that residents living there could be likely to object to having cheaper homes built on their doorstep. Coun Hawkesworth said: "The portion of the college site indicated by Crest Homes for affordable housing was on the edge of the moors. Affordable housing to be affordable has to be relatively high density buildings. I believe high den-

By Paul Langan 21/10/99

sity buildings on the edge of the moor would be too obvious a building mass."

But the councillors have been condemned by Ilkley parish councillor Roy Fox (Lab) who described the reasons for their decision as 'ridiculous'.

He said that the lack of affordable housing in Ilkley had resulted in steady exodus of young people from the town to places like Otley, Silsden, Addingham and Burley-in-Wharfedale, where property was cheaper. "Not everyone is wealthy and not everyone has an executive job. People who work in shops, cafes, restaurants and bars are not on fantastic wages but they have to have somewhere to live," said Coun Fox.

Coun Fox said that Ilkley's Parish Council planning committee had passed a resolution that affordable housing should be built on the site.

"I think it would be fantastic up there for first time homes," said Coun Fox.

Councillors Hawkesworth and Smith told Crest Homes officials they would prefer them to build affordable houses at an alternative site owned by the council at Ashlands Road, off Leeds Road.

But the practicalities of this exercise would be complicated, with Bradford Council having first to advertise the land and sell it to the highest bidder.

Another alternative is for Crest Homes to provide a 'Commuted Sum

Payment' to Bradford Council's housing department for affordable housing elsewhere in the town.

But the lack of a suitable site could result in the affordable housing being built many miles away from Ilkley in any other part of the Parliamentary constituency.

Affordable housing usually involves housing associations and residents entering into agreements to buy the house between them.

But Coun Fox said that the Crest Homes offer would result in guaranteed houses for first time buyers in Ilkley. "That site on Leeds Road could be three or five years away. We have got a site with around 100 houses on it. If you are talking that amount of houses they definitely should be in there," said Coun Fox.

Tony Vincent, managing director of Crest Homes (Northern) Ltd, said: "We have met with groups of interested parties to hear their concerns about the development of the college site. Among these, we've met with local planners and councillors, who were concerned to know what our plans for affordable housing were. A number of ideas were tabled including possibilities on-site and elsewhere in Ilkley. The discussions focused on finding the best place in Ilkley.

"Crest Homes is happy to accommodate either option, including building affordable homes in partnership with a housing association. We will be discussing this in more detail with the planning department."



PEDESTRIANS felt free to walk in the middle of Cowpasture Road, Ilkley, to negotiate deep snow when this picture was taken in the early part of this century. It was a time when Tower Buildings stood majestically at the bottom of Cowpasture Road with its castellated tower visible in the centre of the picture. The site is now occupied by Leonfield House.

## Splendidly Victorian centre aims for an April re-opening

THE new owners of the Glenmoor Centre on Ilkley Moor are hoping the new conference and training venue will open its doors in April this year.

Paula Hunt and Tim Edwards, of Nantwich, Cheshire, bought the centre from Bradford Council and reverted the building to its original name Westwood Lodge.

Mr Edwards said that workers were busy also restoring some of the other features inside the building to their original Victorian splendour by pulling out unnecessary decoration and cement work.

Mr Edwards said that work being carried out through the winter will include fitting en-suite bedrooms and transforming the cellars into a bar and leisure facilities.

He added: "We will continue very much as before, with both day and residential conference facilities. We hope guests will make the most of our location on the side of Ilkley Moor and take every opportunity for some fresh air.

"Our aim will be to offer a small, family-run, comfortable and relaxing venue for groups up to 60 during the day and 18 overnight.

Private groups and functions, charities and other organisations will be as welcome as companies and small groups running management development sessions."

Mr Edwards, his wife and their baby Alice, will live in one of the adjoining cottages while another will be available for holidays.

The couple received good news this week with Ilkley Parish Council's planning committee deciding to approve the plans to refurbish the centre, members feeling the outside of the building would not be affected by the changes.

## Charity shops are 'posing threat to prosperity'

ILKLEY needs to think long and hard about its commercial future or face the prospect of becoming swamped by charity shops, it has been claimed.

Two parish councillors have glanced fearfully down the road and do not like what they see.

Coun Roy Fox said: "What has happened in Otley could happen in Ilkley." He was speaking at a meeting of Ilkley Civic Society, where the issue of charity shops was discussed.

"I am not against charity shops, I use them myself," said Coun Fox. However, he said there was a danger of going too far. "I would hate to see

Ilkley lose its character. It is a difficult problem. When do you actually say enough is enough?" he said.

Coun Fox said charity shops appealed to landlords who were attracted by the prospect of regular rent, rather than risking leasing out a shop to a small independent trader who would be a bigger financial risk.

What Coun Fox did not approve of was the move by charity shops to start selling brand new items to attract shoppers. Coun Barbara Cussons said she was also not against charity shops, but there had to be a balance. She said the number of charity shops now in Otley did

nothing for its shopping image.

Civic Society chairman Bob Tilley said: "This is a complicated issue. Charity shops have moved on significantly in recent years. They are an important source of income for charities, they are professionally managed but compete with other retailers for prime sites paying high rents and offering strong covenants."

Mr Tilley said Ilkley was slightly unusual in its commercial make up. "You have very few national stores and a quality core of independents."

Coun Cussons said a town needed a shopping 'focus'. Charity shops did not provide one.

15/3/99

# Piece of town's history is lost for ever

ILKLEY has been deprived of the smallest listed building in the country after it was damaged beyond repair.

The historic red and gold pillar box in Denton Road was removed by Royal Mail on Tuesday after it was damaged by a car at the weekend.

The company has said the Victorian octagonal pillar box, one of only two surviving of its kind, is too badly damaged to return to its roadside position.

It dates from 1855 and originally came from Bradford's Peel Park. It had been standing in Denton Road since the 1930s.

A campaign to keep the box in Ilkley was led by parish councillor Rowland Hill, about 20 years ago.

Coun Hill, who is named after the inventor of the Penny Black, was initially horrified at the removal of the box and dismissed the Post Office claims that the box was beyond repair.

He said: "I'm absolutely horrified that they won't restore something as historically important as this. It should be put back where it belongs."

Coun Anne Hawkesworth was also disgusted at the removal and very unhappy about the 'temporary' replacement.

She questioned exactly how 'temporary' the replacement box would be.

"Losing the box will be losing a piece of Ilkley's character. Surely there must be some way to repair it," she said.

Coun Hawkesworth said she had spoken to concerned Bradford Council conservation officers who wanted the box repairing.

Initially, the company said the box would be replaced by another 'old' box but following pressure from Coun Hill, Royal Mail has promised to replace the box with a replica of the 1855 version.

A Royal Mail spokesman said: "The replica Penfold box should take about eight weeks to build. In the meantime, we have to have a safe box in place for security reasons."

Coun Hill said he would be seeking the Royal Mail assurances in writing.

4/3/99

# Bottle put in college foundation

## 125 Years Ago

A BOTTLE containing various newspapers including the Ilkley Gazette and the Ilkley Free Press, together with coins of the realm, was deposited in a cavity when the foundation stone of an extension to Ilkley College was laid in March, 1874. The proceedings began by a procession of the ministers, masters, students and friends to the site.

11/3/99

# Wooden structure 'a failure'

## 125 Years Ago

TO give residents an opportunity of judging what a railway bridge across Brook Street would do to Ilkley's village centre a wooden structure was erected, crossing at the point planned in March, 1874. It was constructed by a number of inhabitants at their own expense but the Ilkley Free Press commented: "It appears to us to miserably fail in its object." It was impossible to form any idea from the structure as to what the bridge, if constructed for the proposed extension of the railway to Skipton would be. "All kinds of questions have been asked by the curious as to what the black substance drawn across the street was intended for, and in one instance the interrogation 'Is the Vicar dead?' was put with the greatest earnestness and concern," said the Free Press.

18/3/99

# 125 Years Ago

THE model bridge placed across Brook Street in March, 1874, to give residents some idea of what the proposed railway bridge would do to the village was treated with a fair amount of scorn and both the Ilkley Gazette and the Ilkley Free Press thought the model was a long way from achieving its purpose. The Local Board held a special meeting to consider a memorial asking that the scheme to extend the Ilkley railway to Skipton should be opposed in Parliament with a view to removing the objectionable features but not opposing the extension proposal in its entirety. After some discussion in which it was maintained that the special meeting was not in order, the Board carried a resolution "that this Board present a petition to Parliament as requested by the public meeting against the Skipton and Ilkley Railway." The Gazette regarded as the least objectionable line, one to start from Ben Rhydding station on its western side, pass the low side of Rhyddings Grange and Little Lane, across the highway near the gas works, and skirt along the hillside behind the church.

18.3.99.

# Middleton land sold

## 100 Years Ago

IT was believed £55,000 was paid by a syndicate of Ilkley and Bradford for the purchase from the Middleton family of a large area of land between the River Wharfe and Middleton Woods, Lodge Hill and Carters Lane in March, 1899. The Holmes and the new cricket ground were included in the purchase but the lease of the cricket ground was not to be interfered with. There were fears about the future of Middleton Woods. A new and more convenient road was expected to be built.

## Is Ilkley really Olicana?

It was recently suggested that was the name of the fort at Elslack, and Ilkley was called Verbeia. Where does name Verbeia come from - could it have been named after the river Wharfe, at that time called Verbiae?

15.4.99

It seems unlikely as the fort at Ilkley was more important and wouldn't have been omitted from Roman maps where a smaller fort like Elslack was included.

On balance historians favour Olicana as the Ilkley site.

BAGS of dog muck are being slung into the River Wharfe at Ilkley, according to an Ilkley parish councillor.

18/3/99

Coun Lexa Robinson says several people have complained about plastic bags of dog dirt which have been spotted in the area leading from Beanlands Parade to the river. And she claims that bags which have become entangled in branches of trees have been left hanging by the river.

Now Coun Robinson, who is concerned for the safety of children playing by the river in the summer, has issued an urgent plea for the problem to stop.

She said: "It can be a very real health hazard if people are throwing it in the river, and a lot of infections can be picked up by children from it."

Bradford Council acted swiftly to clean up the area last month, but the problem reappeared only a day later, according to Coun Robinson. She fears that a sign which was recently put up urging dog owners to clean up after their dogs may have encouraged them to simply throw it in the river.

She added: "I can only presume that instead of carrying it to the nearest bin, the easiest way of getting rid of it has been to throw it in the river. It's pollution."

"It's just not on. We must look to the safety of children who play down by the river bank in the grass, especially when it's coming to summer. The river is not there for people to throw their rubbish in."

"It could be quite horrible if it's floating around." A spokesman for Bradford Council said there had been no complaints about dog dirt in the river.

He said dog owners were responsible for cleaning up after their dogs on council-owned land,



Coun Lexa Robinson next to a plastic bag of dog dirt caught up in a tree.

including roads footpaths and grass verges open to the public. And he warned that people who refused to clean up safely after their dogs could face fines of up to £1,000.

The spokesman added: "They are being totally irresponsible. I would remind dog owners that the offence is failing to clean up by disposing of it in such a manner that still complies with the rules."

## Future of Kings Hall lies in residents' hands

THE chairman of Ilkley Civic Society believes a brighter future for the Kings Hall/Winter Gardens complex lies with the town's residents.

Bob Tilley is irritated at the length of time being taken to sort out a Lottery package for the buildings.

John Botteley, Bradford Theatres manager, hopes to hear next month if Bradford Council's application for funding has been successful.

The council submitted a bid last year for Arts Council funding for a feasibility study for the Kings Hall.

The money will allow for a study to be carried out to decide how best to improve the Victorian building.

Mr Botteley has said he is committed to the Kings Hall and understands the frustration of Ilkley residents who feel little progress is being made.

At a public meeting last November he said he was determined to see the building restored to its former Victorian glory, but improvements had to be paid for.

Mr Tilley said: "I think if the decision is bad news, the emphasis has to be moved to a local level. The people of Ilkley will have to examine the way forward."

He said a trust could be set up to take control of the buildings, with all

the regular users of the facilities playing their part. "It would take a lot of imagination and effort. We are talking a five-year scheme here," he said.

Mr Botteley said if the Arts funding decision did not go in the Council's favour, the option of obtaining Lottery Heritage funding would be examined.

He has said he would love to pump cash into the Kings Hall but his budget meant he had to perform a difficult juggling act with limited finances. "We have to rob Peter to pay Paul," he said.

He said: "The older the building gets, the more we have to spend to keep still."

Groups using the facilities have complained about the cost of hiring the two venues, a situation Mr Botteley has defended.

He said: "The lettings revenue no way covers the cost of keeping that hall open. We receive £46,000 a year. It costs vastly more than that," he said.

The Bradford Theatre's manager said the council had approved his recommendations all the way to date, and was confident councillors would come up with the necessary money for the council's share of a study or any future Lottery funding.

ILKLEY'S heritage co-laced und

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THIS picture of ice floes on the River Wharfe in the 1930s provides a reminder of how harsh some winters can be. The ice presented some spectacular views in the Wharfe Valley, especially this one looking upstream from Escroft.

# Town's heritage facing stricter safeguards

ILKLEY's environment and heritage could soon be set to be placed under even tighter controls.

It has been revealed the town is among the first 10 conservation areas of 56 in the Bradford district to have its conservation area guidelines reviewed.

The review will aim to enable the special characteristics of Ilkley to be more clearly defined and the control of development within the conservation area to be improved and updated.

A Bradford Council planning spokesman said: "We are reviewing conservation practice in Ilkley and are in discussions with a number of organisations including the civic society and the parish council.

"This may include design guidance for owners and developers and the introduction of more stringent controls in relation to distinctive features of the town's heritage.

"The latter would only be introduced if there was local support." Councillor Anne Hawkesworth,

By Alistair Walton

as Conservative Planning spokeswoman in Bradford, said that the issue had long been one of concern to her.

She said: "Ilkley town centre, particularly The Grove, needs reviewing as to the retention and conserving of its original ethos and design.

"As in certain other towns, such as Oxford and Chester, we have a duty to ensure that certain streets in Ilkley are not only conserved, but improved. These areas are of worldwide importance.

"I call for special control and specific guidelines for future shop front replacements. Not particularly of uniform design. Uniformity can be boring. However, guidelines of appropriate designs would be advantageous. These obviously should be included into a policy document. There could also be a case for preferred colours of paint."



Anne Hawkesworth

Coun Hawkesworth added that an additional issue in Ilkley was the preservation of the library annex at Ilkley College, and said she was surprised by an 'apparent disregard' for it by the civic society.

Ilkley Civic Society chairman Bob Tilley welcomed the news of the review and attributed it to co-operation between the civic society, Ilkley town planning department and Bradford Council.

Mr Tilley said: "It is good news, it is a real partnership. The problem with the conservation area policy at the moment is that it is a big area. Anne Hawkesworth has

picked up on one particular part of it and The Grove is probably the most important part of the conservation area."

He added that the civic society had expressed interest in the future of the library annex at Ilkley College to Crest Homes, the company hoping to develop the site, and that a conclusive response was yet to be made.

The spokesman for Bradford Council said on the issue: "No decisions have been made regarding the future annex at Ilkley College. Crest Homes has bought the site but has not yet submitted a planning application. The council would wish to preserve and improve the special architectural and historic character of the listed college buildings - including the library. Demolition would need special consent and the council would seek the views of English Heritage and national conservation organisations, as well as local opinion before making any decision."

18/3/99



A NEW link road between Ilkley and Ben Rhydding was under construction in September, 1945. The Ilkley Gazette said at the time "Not the least valuable development associated with the new housing scheme at Ilkley is that at long last it will provide the road link between Little Lane and Valley Drive. That this road would come one day has been clear for over 20 years but it has taken longer than most people expected. There has been a footpath link for some time - a way used more or less unofficially by cyclists. The greater portion of the new houses will be built between this new road and the main road." German prisoners of war from a camp at Otley were engaged in the construction of the road. This picture shows preparations being made looking towards Ilkley with Brook Cottage on the right and in the distance are the houses at the eastern end of Little Lane.

22/4/99



ILKLEY Savings Week in October, 1949, was marked by the raising of the standard at the top of Brook Street by the Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council, Coun M E Midgeley. Figures of national savings during that year showed that withdrawals were outstripping the amount of new savings and it was because of this that a Savings Week was held. Coun Midgeley said they must adjust their outlook to changed conditions. There was a much smaller margin available for saving than there was a year or so previously. Prices had risen, wage rates had risen slightly less than prices and for many people incomes had remained unchanged, he said. Charles G Hodges, headmaster of the Ilkley Church of England School in Leeds Road, and chairman of the Ilkley National Savings movement can be seen in the foreground.

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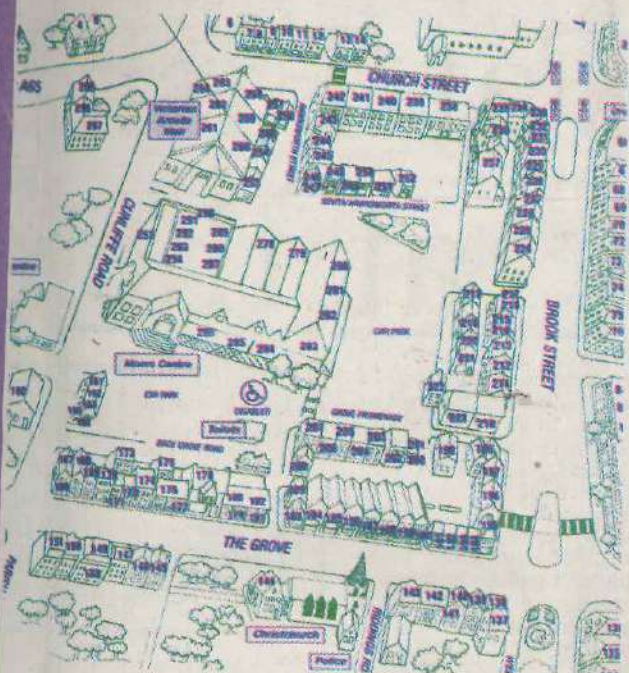


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## Reprint is needed as street map sells out

22/4/99



ADVERTISERS are needed to produce thousands more street maps for Ilkley.

The town's Tourist Management Committee responded to a growing number of requests for a street map of the town centre by producing 2,000 copies.

Kathleen Pinder, tourist officer for Ilkley, prepared and drew the map, numbering every shop - but the committee decided to go for a more ambitious move and went for a specially designed plan of the town centre.

Traders were asked to advertise on it and the printer's graphic artist spent many hours drawing the centre. Since it was published last month all 2,000 copies have been snapped up, and now more advertisers are needed to pay for another print run.

Adverts for local businesses are printed around the border of the plan but the reverse side (containing the key to all the shops and businesses) also needs to be completed.

Mrs Bailey said that advertisers would benefit because their display would be seen by the thousands of tourists finding their way around using the free street guide.

Copies will be available at the Tourist Information Office and on the counter at local shops. Adverts will cost £50 each and anyone wanting more information should call Mrs Bailey at Ilkley Town Hall on 01943 436212.

## Moor rich in history

29/4/99

### 75 Years Ago

ILKLEY Moor was described by Ludovic M Mann, FSA, as being probably the richest district in England in astronomical markings at a lecture on 'Geometrical and Astronomical Rock Sculpturings, Observatories and Sites near Glasgow' in 1924. He said the Swastika rock on Ilkley moor had long been discussed, but the curious carvings on it had remained an enigma. By means of the application of certain keys, however, he read the rock in the most precise manner. The Swastika cut upon the rock represented the Sun's annual path in the heavens so accurately that it demonstrat-

ed incontrovertibly that those who cut the design about 2,000 BC were fully cognisant of the inequalities of the sun's motion, the discovery of which was usually attributed to Hipparchus, but was now known to have been common to knowledge before his day. The cups and winding Flycot (or Swastika form) carved on the rock at Ilkley demonstrated by the most ingenious manner that ancient sculptors portrayed the inequalities of the sun's motion, he said.

22/4/99  
OLICANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The Society's Annual General Meeting on April 15 was enlivened by a vivid and humorous talk on the Woodhall Moated Manor Project, by excavation director Simon Thompson. The Woodhall site is rich in archaeological finds dating from pre-Norman times, up to the 20th century. The lecture was followed by the business section of the meeting, when the following officers were elected: - Chairman - Pat Hudson, Vice-Chairman - Phillip Allon, Secretary - Maureen Johnson, Treasurer - Helen Marshall.

Ilkley was one of the most important towns in the area in Roman times.

For example, its size of population in the first century AD was greater than it was in the industrial revolution. The first census taken in 1801 revealed Ilkley to house 426 people, compared to a population of approximately 1,200 in Roman times, rising to over 1,500 on occasions.

It was the winter of AD79-80 when the Romans came to Ilkley in force and stayed for around another 300 years.

British Governor Agricola planted his fort on the banks of the Wharfe, a strategic point in the Roman road system in the north.

At the Ilkley crossroads' at least three roads intersected, connecting York with Ribchester (to the west) and Manchester with Bainbridge and Aldborough (to the north).

He re-named the Celtic town of Llecana as Olicana. The name is taken from the Latin meaning, "Ol", a cliff or a station and "ceann" meaning a headland or rocky outcrop, thus Ol-y-ceann, the station by the rocky headland, referring to the location by the Cow and Calf rocks.

The Roman fort was centered around the area where the parish church now is.

Indeed, the mediaeval builders were fond of using Roman remains for quarries to gain dressed stones, and Ilkley's church contains many stones from the fort.

The fort had a garrison of about 500 men, although at the height of its power the numbers were raised to more than 1,100 men and approximately 150 horses.

Its position was determined by the steep drop of Ilkley moor at the rear and two streams to the sides, all of which provided good strategic defence. The fort was set atop a 15 foot rampart made of turf over stone.

But following the reign of the Emperor Hadrian and his ambitious plans for the northern frontier, the Ilkley garrison was dismantled and the troops sent north as he judged the area surrounding Olicana suitably peaceful.

Evidence suggests a strong rebellion by the Brigantes around AD154 and this led to the eventual return of the garrison, and the construction of a second fort dedicated jointly to the leaders M. Aurelius Antoninus and L. Aurelius Verus.

The new Antonine fort was set directly on top of the old fortification and survived for some 30 years (approx).

A conflict for overall power in Rome

led to the fall of the Ilkley fort.

Clodius Albinus was governor of Britain and took most of his troops stationed in the UK to Gaul (France) to fight with Septimius Severus.

It is widely known by many that the Scottish hordes subsequently overran Hadrian's Wall and took all the Roman fortifications (such as Vindolanda) in the north.

It is around this time that the Ilkley fort was burned, it still being occupied (probably by a small caretaker force), in AD196.

A third fort was constructed in the



A Roman alter re-cut for use as a window head at Ilkley Parish Church.

Severan period, the first in Ilkley to be made of stone.

By this time a town was growing around the fort as the local Celtic population saw the benefit of trading with the Romans. They brought produce and livestock and traded for manufactured goods such as tools and pots.

This created a strange combination of Celtic and Latin populations living in harmony. While technically they considered each other the enemy, they saw the benefit of mutual co-operation.

The end of this fort is unknown. The Romans left peacefully to fight on the continent and the fort was used by civilians, the Brigantes, who for the period had been trading with the invaders, who then came down from the hills to make use of the Romans' expertise. The fort was not their only lasting legacy as they also created a comprehensive road system, drainage systems and, of course, the bath house.

The community of Ilkley is proud of its connections to Roman times, and the town has made full use of the history it has to offer.

By the river where the location of the fort is to be found, a series of information boards and imaginative

sketches of the buildings layout are on display. These are produced in connection with the Manor House Museum in the same locality.

Ilkley White Wells is the home of the modern Roman Baths.

Although the original baths were further in the town (where the Rose and Crown/the parish church now lies?)

The spirit of the idea was recreated by the Victorians who saw the value of the town's natural springs and set up their baths at the source.

● Today parts of the fort can still be seen by the river (behind the Manor House Museum) and the museum itself holds many artifacts from the period.

15.4.99

## Otley in Roman Times.

In Roman times there is little evidence that Otley held any major significance as a settlement.

It lay between the two Roman garrisons at Ilkley and Adel (known to the Romans as Burgdunum) - the two forts being some 11 miles apart, and although Roman coins have been found in and around the town, its significance at the time was mainly as a refuge for Brigantes, particularly the higher grounds of the Chevin (a fact supported by Earthenware pottery found in the area).

There was a claim that Otley was the town of Campodonum, a Roman station alluded to by Antonine in the second century AD.

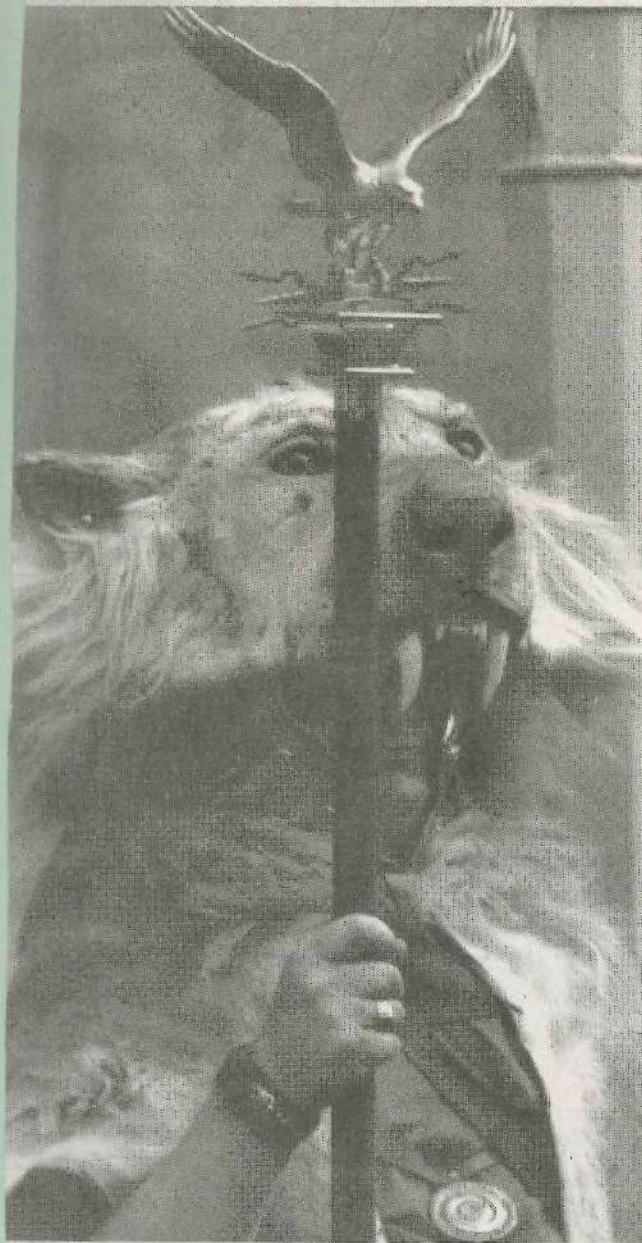
He said that Calcaria was nine miles from York (in Roman times called Eboracum) and Campodonum being 20 miles from there. This coincides with the distances from York to Tadcaster and then onto Otley but it has been since proved that Campodonum is now in the neighbourhood of Wakefield.

Besides, it would seem foolish on the Romans behalf to have a station so close to that of Ilkley as Otley is.

By the 5th century the Romans had become practising Christians. It was Constantine the Great who introduced the teachings of the Bible as the State religion of the empire. His mother (the empress Helena) was reputed to have discovered the original cross and her name was lent to many holy-wells in the Wharfedale valley, including one at Adel and one in Denton, Otley.

However, Otley was to gain its position of prestige when the Romans left Britain in the fifth century and, after a period of turmoil, the area eventually passed into the hands of the Saxons....

# Brigantes fall to the might of Rome...<sup>25.4.99</sup>



Initial forays have already been made by the Romans into Britian but the main invasion of this area took place in AD71 when the Roman general Petilius Cerialis began his campaign.

Pictured is one of the participants in Ilkley's Olicanian Day.

There is good evidence of a substantial population residing in Otley and Ilkley in the years leading up to and around the birth of Christ.

## Ilkley

According to the Roman historian, Ptolemy (writing in AD150 approx), Ilkley had become one of the nine capital cities of the Brigantes, the Celtic war-like race who were led by people like Boadicea, the famous warrior queen.

These people had come over to Britain before it became an island (after the ice-age 10,000 years ago) from places like Ireland and Scandinavia.

Evidence of these people can still be seen today on Ilkley moor. Stone features such as the '12 Apostles' (a 50 foot circle of 12 standing stones) were used by the population of the time for many possible reasons, maybe as a place of worship or sacrifice, or possibly as is suspected with Stonehenge, as a calendar or timepiece.

In the years leading up to the turn of the first millennium, the Romans started to show an interest in Britain and began moving towards making it part of their expanding empire.

It is said to be in BC55 when Julius Caesar, Holy Roman Emperor, made his initial forays into our island.

By AD53, the tribes of Brigantia had always supported the Romans but a dispute between the Queen-regnant Cartimandua and her consort Venutius led to a strong anti-Roman faction building in the tribe, and eventually civil war.

While he was a brave and fearless leader, his wife fawned and toadied to the conquering hordes of Romans.

The feud between Cartimandua and her consort got so bad that the Roman legions had to kidnap her and carry her to safety to protect her from her own tribes-

people.

It was around AD71 when the Roman general Petilius Cerialis began his invasion of these parts in earnest. Venutius made a brave stand against them, there are reports of residents burning their own houses in fury in an attempt to defy the on-rushing Romans, but it was all in vain and Venutius was eventually betrayed when his queen handed the Romans one of his bravest chiefs, Caractacus, as a token of good faith.

Eventually, the Romans won through with overwhelming numbers and the governor general of the area planted a fort in the town of Ilkley. At the time the town was known to the Celts as 'Llecan', but the Romans changed its name to a more familiar sounding 'Olicana'.

## Otley

There is evidence Otley boasted a sizeable population for pre-historic times.

The attraction of the Chevin as a defensible site (called Cefin (Celtic) in pre-Roman times) combined with the river and the valley floor, which at the time was densely wooded and teeming with animals such as wild boar and bears, created a local populace from tribes which had previously been Nomadic.

These people were nature worshippers and laid down tracks which would eventually become the Roman roads of the area. The Roman historian Gildas spoke of how they (the Romans), "repaired those ruinant causeys laid down by the Ancient Britons."

Celtic ruins and stone circles in the area testify to the dwelling of these people in the vicinity and the town formed part of the great Brit-Welsh province of Strathclyde, which stretched from the Mersey in the south, through Lancashire and Yorkshire to the Cheviot

2

branch would be likely to remain closed on Thursday and scaffolding would be put up at the bank. In the meantime, customers were being advised to go to TSB in Otley and Lloyds in Keighley.

A Health and Safety Executive inspector visited the site, and a spokeswoman for Lloyds said a report on the incident was being compiled by structural engineers.

29/4/99



ABOVE AND LEFT: Firemen use heat-seeking equipment to check the rubble.

TOP LEFT: The site in daylight.

1

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1 ENGINEERS and safety experts have been inspecting the premises of Lloyds Bank in Ilkley, after a large chunk of the historic building collapsed into the street.

Emergency crews launched a major operation after a side wall and gable end of the town centre building collapsed at 9.20 on Tuesday night.

Bradford and Ilkley firefighters scoured the site, situated between Brook Street and the central car park, for anyone who may have been trapped, but no one was hurt.

Editorial staff at the UFO Magazine, which has offices on the top floor of the building, said it was a miracle that no-one was killed.

Graham Birdsall, editor, said: "I missed it by two minutes. I don't know what would have happened if this had happened during the day - we see hundreds of people who walk down this path coming from the car park.

"Just look at some of those chunks of rock. It's a miracle no-one was killed, and it's a lucky escape for those of us that go into the back where 95 per cent of the rubble came down."

Mr Birdsall revealed that fears had been raised over the building's state before the company moved in nine months ago. He said: "We spoke to a structural engineer from the estate agents before we moved in but we were assured it was safe. The chimney had a huge bulge three-quarters of the way up it, but we were told it was safe."

Eye-witness Matthew Trinnell, 18, who was in a near-by premises, said: "We heard a rumbling sound like either a lot

of glasses smashing or a small earthquake. I came to the window and we saw bricks just come down into the centre of the road which was quite dramatic."

Senior Divisional Officer for West Yorkshire's fire service Allan Hughes, said: "We were called to what we thought was an explosion but it was a collapse of the gable end of the building. I have no idea what caused it.

"Fortunately it was a quiet night. If it had been a busy Friday night there may well have been casualties."

Most of the rubble fell on to a rear outbuilding and demolished staff toilets, but heavy bricks had also plunged onto the pavement on West Street.

Staff from surrounding businesses, who were waiting yesterday morning to be given the all-clear to enter the sealed-off area, expressed relief that the incident had not happened during the day.

Holly Flather, who works at Travel Management Team on Brook Street, said she and her colleagues used a narrow alleyway next to the site to get into work every day.

She said: "This is our only way in. I don't believe it. It's just a relief that nobody was injured - if it had been earlier on when people were leaving work, it would have been awful."

David Roberts, bank manager at the branch, said the incident had damaged the branch's computer system but there had been no risk to the bank's safe.

He added: "There was some talk that the heavy rain may have caused some of the problem."

Mr Roberts said that the



LEFT:  
Graham  
Birdsall.



RIGHT:  
Matthew  
Trinnell.

24/4/99

by Jonathan Ritson 20.5.9

GREEN belt land on the banks of the Wharfe is again under threat - two years after a scheme to turn it into a holiday village was thrown out by planners.

The important washland at Hollin Hall Farm, Cocking End, has been advertised for sale as 'Riverfront Development Land' by a Leeds-based company acting on behalf of the owners.

A surveyor for GVA Grimley, Michael Hardman, said: "The bottom line is that we see it a potential caravan park with chalets, but we are selling it unconditionally."

But anyone interested in buying the land to develop it into a caravan park is likely to get short shrift from planning bosses.

Ilkley planning officer Martyn Burke said: "It is green belt land and washland - development potential is extremely limited."

The Hollin Hall scheme has spanned more than a decade with the initial planning permission for a holiday park scheme being granted in the 1980s. But the outline application expired.

A new plan was submitted by Vincent Dobson, of Wharfe Valley Developments two years ago, but it was refused after a flurry of objections from planners, sports clubs, environmental groups and others.

At a public meeting in Ilkley, Mr Dobson told objectors that he wanted planning permission to prevent ruthless developers building on the site and stated that he had no intention himself of going through with the scheme.

Objectors feared that flood prevention work which needed to be done if the 6.5 acre site was developed would lead to flooding further down the river in Ilkley.

This would put sports fields and other facilities under threat of being inundated. Other objectors worried that erosion of the riverbank would result, forcing the reconstruction of Ilkley Golf Club and spoiling the

4 river banks for anglers. Mr Hardman said his company had marketed the site on behalf of Wharfe Valley Developments.

"There is a lot of work to be done on it but we have been marketing it for two weeks and we have had a lot of interests," said Mr Hardman.

Planners said that since the original planning permission was given, green belt policy had been tightened and the only possible development which could be considered was one which provided sports facilities only on the land.

Ilkley Parish Council planning chairman Kate Brown said: "We were very concerned to see the sign and wondered what 'development' land meant. I understand that outdoor sports might be feasible but leisure uses such as a caravan park could not be because it is in the green belt."

Objectors to Mr Dobson's original scheme also felt that it was out of character for the area and traffic problems would result from cars and caravans going in and out of the site.

● **BELOW:** Medieval soldiers spectacularly fire their cannon during a thrilling display in the main arena.

Pictures: Andy Horner

6/5/99



## 50 Years Ago

20.5.99

A BRIEF history of the Wells House Hotel (the building has served in more recent times as Ilkley College) was given in 1949 when it was derequisitioned by the Ministry of Works because there were not enough European Volunteer Workers to fill it. Built more than 90 years previously, Wells House - including the large annexe - contained 130 bedrooms. Before the end of 1938 it had changed ownership several times. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war in September, 1939, Wells House was requisitioned by the Wool Control and was used as a centre for finance, statistics and rationing departments until the end of 1946. Since that time it had been unoccupied though never derequisitioned and was taken over by the Ministry of Works as a hostel of European Voluntary Workers.

ILKLEY may be forced to go it alone in a bid to refurbish the Kings Hall/Winter Gardens complex after news that lottery funds have dried up.

Theatre bosses in Bradford were hoping last month to get the thumbs-up on their application to the Arts Council for lottery cash to carry out a feasibility study on the down-at-heel complex.

But theatres manager John Botteley told the Gazette the only news they had heard so far was that the Arts Council has no cash to spare.

The saga has been going on for more than three years while the building, on Station Road, has deteriorated even further, according to Ilkley district and parish councillor Anne Hawkesworth.

"I am not expecting anything - I think the lottery money looks like it has gone for the present time," said Coun Hawkesworth.

by Paul Langan 1/6/99

Mr Botteley said the bid for the feasibility study cash had been in the pipeline for about 12 months.

"There was a delay for the re-organisation of the Arts Council. Now we have heard that money is severely restricted," said Mr Botteley.

Bradford theatres has agreed to spend around £30,000 to refurbish the toilets and foyer area at the complex. Work should begin in September.

"We have got fed up with waiting. We now feel we want to go ahead and start some work ourselves," said Mr Botteley.

He said that lack of Arts Council cash could mean that a scaled-down refurbishment, carried out piecemeal, could be carried out by Bradford Council, but he promised the search for lottery cash would continue.

"Whatever happens we will

not let the thing die and we will pursue whatever options are available to us," said Mr Botteley.

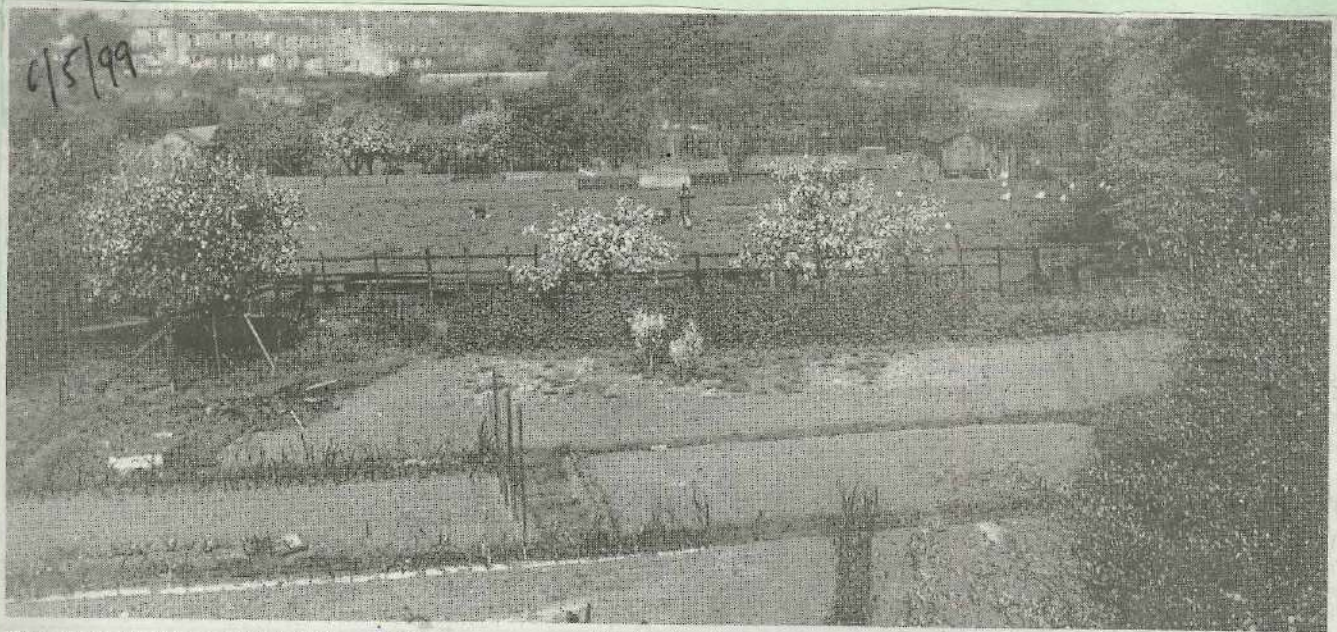
Coun Hawkesworth said the time had come for Ilkley to examine other methods of applying for lottery money, rather than waiting for Bradford Council to cash in through the Arts Council.

And next week parish councillors will discuss a community plan for the buildings which could attract cash from other sources.

Ilkley Parish Clerk Miggy Bailey said: "There was a suggestion at one of the open consultation meetings about getting more community involvement. That is an option for the new parish council to look at.

"We were waiting to see what happened with the Arts Council - if they got the go-ahead then fine, but now this has happened, I ought to put it to the new councillors."





THE riverside Memorial Gardens at Ilkley now occupy this land which once served as allotments and hen runs. Looking from New Brook Street in May, 1946, this picture shows top left the Ilkley Moor Hotel, in Skipton Road which was demolished following a disastrous fire in 1968 in which two guests and two staff members died. By a majority of 162 in a total vote of 2,566 the Memorial Gardens scheme between the Old and New Bridges on the south side of the River Wharfe was chosen for Ilkley's War Memorial. A British Legion scheme for 12 houses and Memorial Close for disabled ex-servicemen gained second place and a Memorial Hall scheme third. When the scheme for the Memorial Gardens was put forward it was estimated costs would be in the region of £10,000 to £12,000. The schemes were selected by the War Memorials Committee after much discussion and following public meetings in which residents showed little interest.

A MAJOR storm is brewing in the Ilkley district as the dark menace of the wheelie bin looms on the horizon. Nobody likes rubbish and we want it off our hands as quickly as possible - whatever type of bin we have dumped it in. Once again Bradford Council has been held up as the Great Satan for daring to meddle with a tried and tested system.

10/6/99

A certain amount of hysteria appears to accompany this subject. Certainly, wheelie bins will not add to the natural beauty of Ilkley, Addingham, Burley-in-Wharfedale or Menston.

However, the sight of a plastic bin is far more pleasing on the eye than empty crisp packets and half chewed takeaway remains - items all too easily ripped from flimsy black bags by hungry rats and other unpleasant creatures.

It is difficult to argue with the council's view that any move to reduce landfill is a positive one. Increased recycling (if indeed that is what the scheme leads to) should also be encouraged/welcomed. However, those so outraged by the prospect of wheelie bins are correct to highlight the potential security problems.

A wheelie bin 'parked' outside a house all day does scream 'come in and help yourself' to would-be burglars. It may be that a wheelie-good neighbour scheme needs to be introduced. Some community spirit should ensure that bins can be wheeled back up drives by friends and neighbours if they know someone is at work.

There is also some justification in fears for the elderly. Nobody wants to see elderly people struggling with large bins up and down steps and long drives.

However, will Bradford Council really force such people to struggle with bins? Such a policy would rightly see them condemned as heartless, uncaring and arrogant. We shall wait and see.

17/6/99

## Reservoir discovered

### 75 Years Ago

THE discovery of an ancient reservoir behind the White Wells on Ilkley Moor in 1924 provided a good deal of speculation as to its use. It was suggested that perhaps it served as the first reservoir for the town, but prior to the formation of the first private water company in 1851, water in the village was obtained from private wells and three principal springs. One of these was at the bottom of the old cricket field, known as Susan Well, another behind the Old Star Inn, known as Pollard Well and the third well, known as Dropping Well, was on Skipton Road.

10/6/99

## 100 Years Ago

THE provision of a refuse destructor was an urgent need for Ilkley, said the Ilkley Gazette in June, 1899. Calling to mind the unsightly appearance of the refuse tip on the riverside towards the bridge and the unpleasant odour arising from the burning of refuse on Saturday afternoons at the tip a little beyond Sunset View, the need was most apparent. The Gazette referred to other towns of similar size to Ilkley which had the advantage of a destructor and supported any suggestion on the part of the local authority to obtain one.

NANT Cottage, The Grove and South Parade, Ilkley, were bought by Joseph Crowther, of Burley-in-Wharfedale, at an Ilkley property sale for £2,200. A plot of land with frontages to The Grove and Wilton Road and used as a kitchen garden, was sold to Mr B Nussey, at 4s 9d (24p) a yard. There were 2060 square yards. Another plot of land, 4022 square yards with frontages to The Grove, Eaton Road and St James Road was bought by Mr J W Ackroyd, of Bradford, at 6s per yard. The former steam laundry building at Burley-in-Wharfedale with machinery and together with a neighbour-

24/6/99



ILKLEY'S former bandstand which stood in West View Park on the edge of Ilkley Moor provided the platform for many enjoyable performances by a popular Ilkley orchestra in the first half of this century. The Municipal Orchestra - as it was known - played twice daily, morning and evening at the band enclosure under the conductor of a talented musician. By 1914 West View Park had become the general rendezvous of the visitors who derived great pleasure from the music provided for them. It was said: "There was nothing more agree-

able after a day's ramble about the moors than to sit in the cool of the evening and listen to the strains of delightful music, discoursed by the orchestra." At that time it was intended to light up the bandstand and shelters at West View Park with coloured fairy lamps. Band performances continued at West View until the thirties and for several years after the 1939-45 war the bandstand served as a reminder of those Sunday evenings when one could say: "Oh! Listen to the Band."

ILKLEY'S landlords are pushing for a bylaw to end the alarming amount of drinking on the town's streets.

The Pubwatch group is fed up with drinkers congregating outside pubs and wandering off with pint glasses and bottles.

However, there is no immediate prospect of an end to the problem as police have highlighted difficulties which could lie ahead.

Tracey Mallows, licensee of The Station Hotel, and chairman of Ilkley Pubwatch, said: "It is something all the pubs feel very strongly about."

"There are two main reasons why we want something doing - the cost in lost glasses and the safety aspect. People are walking

By Jonathan Ritson  
10/6/99

off with a loaded weapon," she said.

Mrs Mallows said there were cases of people wandering out of one pub with a drink in their hand and then trying to drink it in another pub.

"Nobody wants to see people drinking in the streets, it certainly doesn't do anything for the town's image," she said.

"Drinking outside can lead to glasses being smashed on the ground and in the road. This causes problems for motorists," she said.

Mrs Mallows said the call for a

bylaw to prevent drinking on the streets might seem 'drastic' to some people, but it was a step which would make life so much easier for the town's landlords.

"Ilkley Carnival day was a nightmare," she said. Many people stayed behind after the festivities, with drinkers spilling out of the town centre pubs onto the streets.

She said landlords did their best to cope with people wandering outside their particular pub but the only real answer to the problem was to give police officers the power to stop people drinking outside.

Mrs Mallows and her colleagues believe a bylaw would make the rules very clear for drinkers - if

you want a drink, drink it inside.

The Ilkley Pubwatch team meets regularly with Inspector Alison Bennett of Ilkley Police.

Insp Bennett said: "We have discussed this and I realise it is a concern. There is a lot of drinking on the streets."

"In the better weather people sit outside on the grass and we have limited powers to stop it," she said.

However, Insp Bennett said the problem with introducing a bylaw was how to define 'drinking on the streets.'

She said: "A bylaw would have to be very carefully worded so not to preclude people enjoying a glass of wine with a picnic down by the river."

by Jonathan Ritson

POSTMAN Pat and his black and white cat never faced the problem of 'shrinking' post boxes during their exciting adventures.

The fictional postie, created by Ilkley resident and children's author, John Cunliffe, would find life a bit more stressful in Ilkley than in his usual haunts.

It seems the town cannot cope with the ever-growing size of envelopes residents are posting.

Ilkley's post boxes are just not up to the task of taking late 20th century designs, it has been claimed.

Two Ilkley parish councillors believe they have stumbled across an obvious yet rarely publicised problem.

This 'discovery' comes as Royal Mail prepares to spend £4,000 restoring the town's oldest Penfold post box, a listed building which dates back to 1855.

Coun Anne Hawkesworth and Coun Amanda Clarke believe Royal Mail could think about spending a little more money to end the frustration of residents who find their mail simply will not fit in their local 'red box.'



Postman Pat, created by Ilkley author John Cunliffe, does not have the problem of large envelopes on his rounds.

Coun Hawkesworth said: "I am sure this is not something unique to Ilkley but it is certainly something which needs to be looked at."

She said the post boxes in Station Plaza could take larger envelopes, as did the post office itself, but it was not convenient for everyone to take their post to that point in the town.

"Parking restrictions mean it is

difficult for people to use the boxes in Station Plaza," she said.

The Gazette, intrigued by this problem, hit the streets of Ilkley to see if residents really did have a problem.

Six post boxes were visited (those in Parish Ghyll Road, Cunliffe Road, Skipton Road, Grove Road, Westville Road and St James Road) and all but one proved too small to

swallow an A4 size envelope. Coun Clarke said: "This is a major problem, particularly for people who work from home."

She said the removal of the Victorian post box had highlighted the problem. Coun Clarke said her husband had remarked how much easier it was to post items in the temporary box. However, she was keen to see the original box returned and unaltered.

Coun Clarke said it had made her realise the need for more post boxes able to cope with large envelopes.

A spokesman for Royal Mail said: "If there is a formal request we would listen sympathetically but it does need to come from more than one person."

He said boxes of particular historical significance could not be replaced with modern post boxes.

Coun Hawkesworth, said the return of the historic Penfold post box was excellent news - provided there was no attempt to widen its opening. "That is one box we don't want changing," she said.

She would like to see new boxes to complement Ilkley's traditional designs. "We want to keep the best of the old but also live in the present," she said.

ILKLEY'S youngsters have a questionable record when it comes to policing their own facilities, it has been claimed.

Coun Lexa Robinson is furious that the town's Riverside Gardens is again being mooted as a possible site for a skating park.

Although Coun Robinson supports the idea of a skateboard park in Ilkley, she has vowed to fight any scheme in the Riverside Gardens every inch of the way.

Speaking at Monday evening's meeting of the parish council's finance and general purposes committee, Coun Robinson said the skaters should not have their way at the expense of the rest of the community.

"I do not think any town can provide more for its youngsters

By Jonathan Ritson

than Ilkley does," said Coun Robinson.

She reeled off a long list of clubs, organisations and activities on offer in the town, from soccer to the sea scouts.

Coun Robinson also called in question that young people would respect the facilities. She said the back of the town's youth club (the Warehouse) was covered in graffiti - hardly a good example of young people treating facilities with respect.

"I feel skating is a sport, whereas the Riverside Gardens is for recreation. It is enjoyed by young children, the elderly, disabled people and families having picnics," she said.

"It should not be forgotten, these are memorial gardens," said Coun Robinson.

She said the area needed to create skating facilities could be the size of a tennis court, an unacceptable loss of Riverside Gardens greenery, she said.

Former parish councillor Roy Fox is heavily involved with the Warehouse set up. He said there was graffiti on the back wall, some of it rather unpleasant. However, he said it was out of sight to most people and was largely confined to this one wall in town.

"I feel the Riverside Gardens would be a good site for skating facilities, at the road end, furthest away from the hotel," he said.

"I appreciate that it is a memorial gardens but these people fought and died for children," he said. "They should be able to play in a play area."

Two of Coun Robinson's colleagues said there was a danger of 'picking' on youngsters and alienating them.

Coun Bob Jones said: "If you have a out of sight out mind policy then you could get trouble."

He said it would not be sensible to push the youngsters into an area where their activities could not be seen openly.

Coun Gary Shipley said: "We have to be seen to approach this in a positive way, not negative."

"We have to compromise in a community," said Coun Julia Collington.

# School looks at name change

DEBATES over the future of Ilkley Grammar School will include a possible change of name, the chairman of governors has confirmed.

Under the Bradford school reorganisation from a three to a two-tier system of education, Ilkley Grammar will undergo a massive upheaval.

Already discussions have taken place about the future of the school, and the extra teachers and buildings needed to accommodate around 500 more pupils.

Governing body chairman John Cockshott said: "We are very much focussing on the fact that it is a new school. The name of the school is part of that debate - it will be on the agenda during the next academic year."

Mr Cockshott said that the name issue will be raised at governors' meetings in September or October but nothing will be decided without local consultation.

Mr Cockshott said at the moment governors were mainly concerned with producing plans for the new buildings which will be needed from September 2000. He said there will be a meeting next week to discuss what was needed.

In preparation for the changes, teachers who will be working at the new school have spent a joint training day.

Teachers from Addingham, Ilkley and Burley-in-Wharfedale middle schools - which are to be abolished - who have been appointed to the new school and its present staff met to discuss the organisation of the school.

Head teacher Peter Wood said: "Although the school doesn't come into existence until September 2000, we have a great opportunity in this area to begin our planning early. Virtually all the new staff have been appointed from our local middle school. Because we have worked with them within the Ilkley Pyramid of Schools for years, we already know each other well and they are familiar with the way we work."

Mr Wood said it was important to begin detailed planning for the new school early.

He added: "There's going to be a lot more work going on next year so that when September 2000 comes we'll be ready and prepared."

24/6/99  
SIR, - It is a sad day for The Kings Hall/Winter Gardens, Ilkley.

Praised by Presner in 1957 for its style, grace and beauty, loved by generations of Ilkley people since it was first built at the turn of the century, lovingly preserved and maintained over the same period until 1974 when Ilkley lost control over its own hall.

Now it stands virtually derelict, but still used by Ilkley people who have no wish to see it disappear - its toilets a disgrace.

If it had been privately owned it would have been shut down years ago by the health authority. Its sole use now seems to be by film and TV companies, who want to depict the depression of the 1920s and 30s, which is exactly what it looks like - a stopping off point on the Jarrow March.

How could Bradford Met have possibly allowed it to get like this unless it was deliberate? It is a cultural shock for the people of Ilkley, who attend functions at the Hall, to then pay a visit to either The Alhambra Theatre or St George's Hall, Bradford.

The staff are decked out in splendid uniforms, there are thick carpets under your feet, expensive wallpaper covers the walls, gilt lamps and chandeliers dazzle your eyes.

You leave after the performance in a state of shock, wondering how it can be possible for some halls to receive such glittering treatment, while Ilkley is totally ignored and treated like Cinderella.

How a loyal and faithful servant of more than 20 years like caretaker Ian Powell has to dust down his evening dress and bow tie for an 'Ilkley function' while in Bradford at the Alhambra, even the latest recruit is filled out with a smart begilded uniform.

After spending £9 million on the Alhambra and a like sum on St George's Hall, Bradford can't seriously believe that we would think it any more than a joke to to apply for lottery money.

HARRY TOLSEND

Roxsleigh,  
The Drive,  
Ben Rhydding.

# Fears for wheelie bins are rubbish

4/7/99  
FEARS that Ilkley people will have wheelie bins imposed on them in unsuitable places have been rubbished by one resident.

Andrew Dundas, who lives at The Pines Cottages, Parish Ghyll Drive, received a pleasant surprise when he rang Bradford Council to suggest that the location was not suitable for pushing wheelie bins around.

An inspector from City Hall arrived this week to examine the area.

Mr Dundas said: "He said that slopes here are far too steep and steps are far too many and numerous. We won't be asked for wheelie bins to be used."

He added: "This shows the council does send out people to inspect where things are difficult and they don't impose wheelie bins."

The council inspector agreed that all six properties could continue with their bagged rubbish collection.

He also told Mr Dundas that there were several other locations in the steep area where wheelie bins were not practical.

Mr Dundas praised the inspector's attitude towards his job and the professional

and polite way he dealt with the problem.

The introduction of wheelie bins has led to vociferous protests in Ilkley with many residents afraid they would be unable to manoeuvre the larger containers on sloping and difficult ground.

Former Ilkley dustbinman Brian Clark, 65, and his wife Margaret, 60, made a five-foot wide sign saying No Wheelie Bin Here and hung it outside their Sunset Drive home.

The Gazette letters page has been deluged with protests about wheelie bins but residents in nearby Menston are reportedly content with their introduction.

A spokesman for the cleansing department, which feels the new bins would be a bonus, said: "We have always accepted that for a variety of reasons it would not be possible for every household to have a wheeled bin and that we would look at people's individual circumstances."

"Anyone who has concerns about the new system is urged to contact us so we can assess their situation and, as Mr Dundas has found, if a wheeled bin is not appropriate we will make alternative arrangements to collect their rubbish."

15/7/99  
PLANS to open another charity shop in Ilkley have sparked fears that the town's charms could suffer if the trend continues.

Visitors flocked to Ilkley at the weekend when the sun hit the town.

But many warned that the town's image could deteriorate after they spotted the new British Heart Foundation shop on Brook Street - due to open on August 3.

Margaret Morton, of Dewsbury, who comes to Ilkley every few weeks, said: "I think that they can take over, but having said that, I always look in them."

"I sometimes think the prices are not that much lower than in the other shops."

"We have always come to Ilkley, and I have liked it for the good shops, but it has gone down and it has lost some of its character."

"If it gets taken over by charity shops, it will no longer hold interest for a lot of people."

Doreen Stokes, of Keighley, backed her comments. She said: "People get a bit fed up of seeing charity shops."

"I think that a town can only take so

many charity shops - particularly a small town like Ilkley."

Ilkley resident Geoff Marshall, 73, who lives on Castle Gate, said: "We are getting a lot of charity shops now."

"There are still too many, but they say that Otley is even worse than Ilkley."

But he added: "It's like anything else - within a year, it will be part of the scenery."

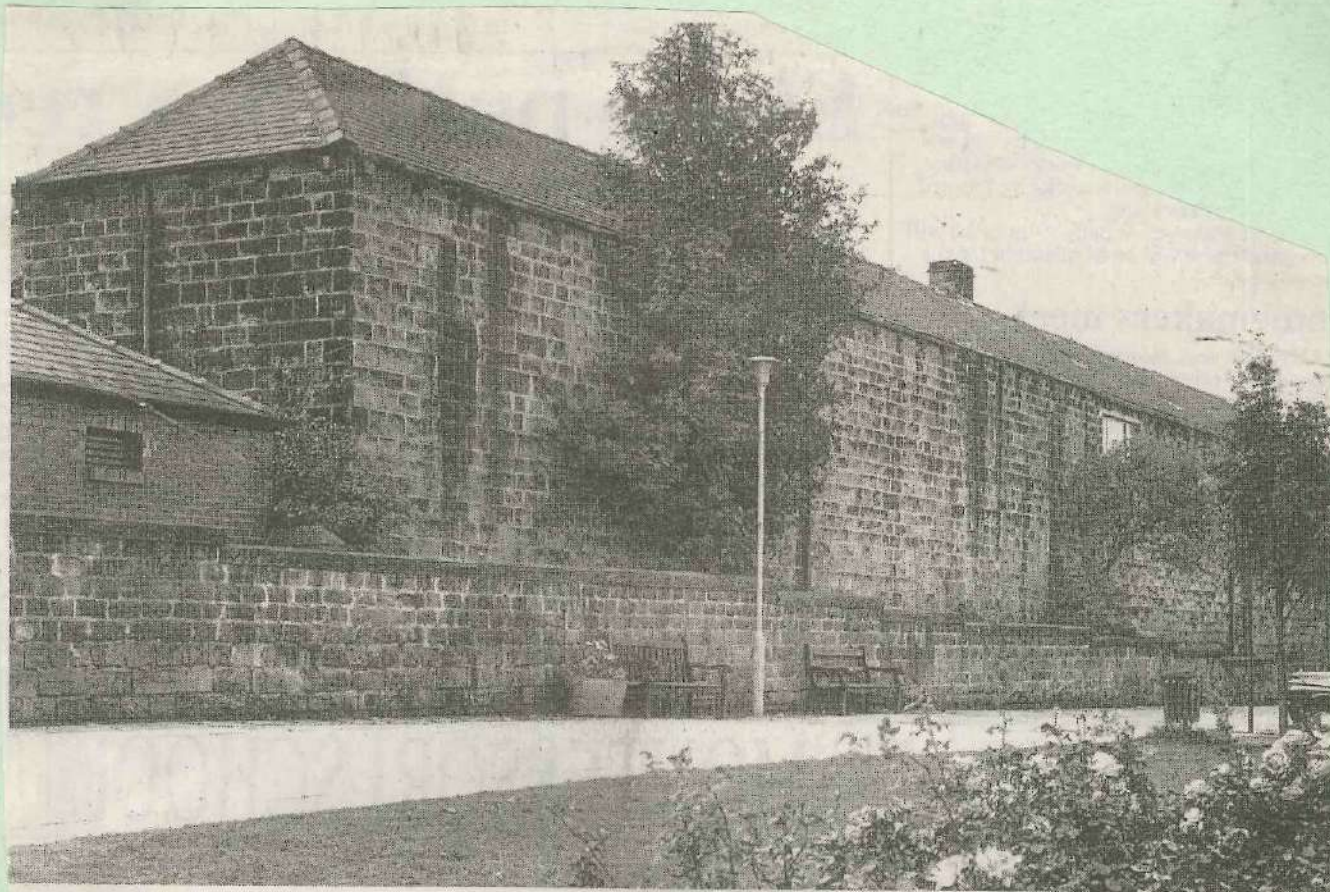
"As long as they are decent charity shops, I don't think there's anything wrong at all."

A spokesman for the British Heart Foundation said: "We think that our shops provide a service for the community wherever they are based."

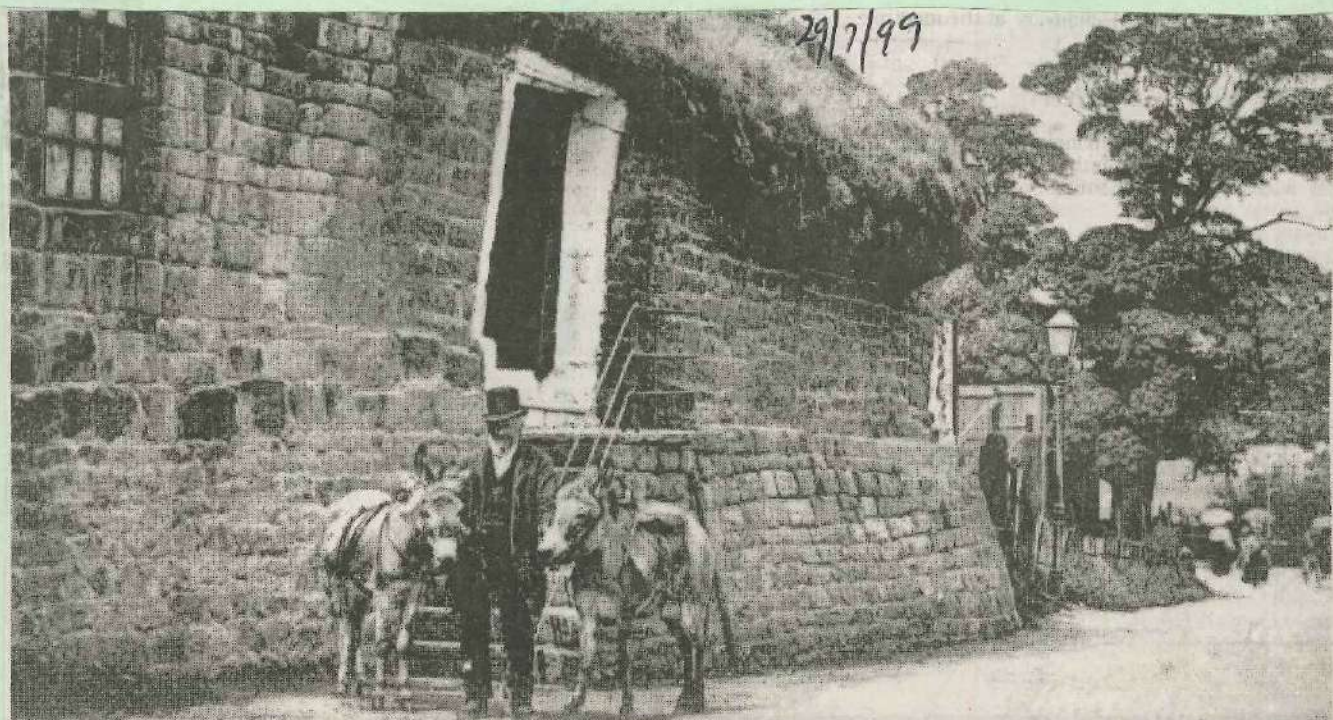
"We do spend quite a lot of money fitting out the shops to make them look as as professional as possible."

"We spend between £30,000 and £40,000 on each shop. That is recouped within the first year's trading, and after that profits go to fight heart disease."

He added: "In the broadest sense, everyone can suffer from heart disease. It's doing a service for everyone."



THIS warehouse, pictured from Brook Street, Ilkley, which once served shops in The Grove, was converted to a row of shops to become what is now the Grove Promenade. The land in front of the building formed the base of an embankment which carried the railway west of Ilkley. 8.7.99



'Donkey' Jackson, of Ilkley, was one of the town's likeable characters at the turn of the last century who could perhaps be regarded as a pioneer for providing a form of transport for residents and visitors alike. From his thatched cottage in Bridge Lane he would operate his donkey hire business and today the stone steps leading to his front door still stand on the west side of the lane. It was the partial collapse of the old building when part of the roof fell in, that forced him to move into Castle Yard where he continued his business until 1906. John Jackson, for that was his full name, died in 1907 at the age of 81 and Ilkley lost one of its best known and much photographed local characters.

# Tributes pour in for television's Compo

15/7/99

BILL OWEN made his final public appearance in Ilkley and one resident has paid a glowing tribute to the popular actor who died on Tuesday after losing his battle against cancer.

Leslie Simpson, a member of the team behind the British Watercolour Society's seasonal exhibitions in Ilkley, revealed how the actor, best-known as Compo in BBC television's *Last of the Summer Wine*, was not a man to break a promise.

Mr Simpson said: "Bill opened the summer exhibition on June 5.

"He had been filming in France the day before and was due to be filming in Holmfirth (the setting for the comedy) on the Sunday.

"He was really too ill to open the event but he was determined to do so."

Mr Simpson said everyone connected with the British Watercolour Society was very upset about the actor's death.

"There are two sorts of people in life, those who grab everything and those who don't. Bill was a very popular man," he said.

Mr Simpson revealed such was the affection for the man, that two of those connected with the summer exhibition



Bill Owen is pictured at his last public appearance in Ilkley. (T&A).

had driven Mr Owen to Leeds for a surgeon's appointment and later taken him shopping.

"Apparently, Bill was very quiet during the start of filming for the new series of *Last of the Summer Wine*, yet sprang into life when he got into the character of Compo," he said.

The 85 year-old actor had a special affection for Yorkshire, despite being a Londoner by birth. He was the only non Yorkshire member of the Yorkshire Society.

Two years ago he revealed that his wish was to be buried in Holmfirth, a place he had come to think of as home.

# Boundaries debated

26/5/99

## 100 Years Ago

A MOVE in 1899 to extend the boundaries of the Ilkley Urban District by including Nesfield with Langbar, Middleton and Denton was to be considered by councillors. The council's street and drainage committee believed preliminary steps should be taken to achieve this but it was agreed that a special meeting of the council should be called to discuss the question. The committee's recommendation followed a report of the deputation appointed to consult with the Wharfedale (Ilkley) Estate Company which had indicated that it was desirous of making arrangements for the treatment of sewage and that it was the intention to extend Brook Street to the River Wharfe and build a new bridge over the river. Coun J C Naylor thought these proposals were grave matters and needed careful consideration. It would be a costly business and there

# Town Hall future 'under threat'

5/7/99

ILKLEY residents have been warned not to be surprised if they find themselves without a town hall in the not-too-distant future.

A number of changes at the town hall has left the chairman and parish clerk uneasy about its future status.

Indeed, both have said the situation over the building's future is of 'grave concern.'

The very future existence of the town hall itself is being questioned, although this has been rubbished by Bradford Council.

Coun Kate Brown and Miggy Bailey are unhappy with plans

to reduce the level of staff at the building, which they say could lead to its eventual demise. The council does not agree.

A council spokesman said: "The revenues and housing departments at the town hall are to share offices to provide a more cost effective service. Details are still being worked out but we aim to maintain the existing level of service."

The council said there has been a decline in the use Ilkley cash office, mainly because more people are using direct debits. In the first three months of this financial year

there were 9,700 transactions compared with 11,400 in the same period last year. This is the busiest time of the year and at quiet times Ilkley staff handle as few as 30 transactions a day.

"Because the cash revenues department is currently in a separate office two cashiers are needed for health and security reasons. When the offices are merged only one cashier will be required," said the spokesman.

Coun Brown and Mrs Bailey are not impressed. In a letter to the council, they said: "With the exception of planning

every department in this town hall has had its services reduced. In the case of education the service was cut to the bare bones so that at the end of the day the inevitable happened - the department closed. We would expect the same to happen with the council tax service."

Mrs Bailey said the move made a mockery of the government's commitment to local government. A recent white paper emphasises being 'in touch with the people,' and Mrs Bailey said the current proposals flew in the face of such guidelines.

## Use Dales bus or lose it

5/8/99

ILKLEY residents have been urged to make use of a Dales bus service to ensure it continues.

Parish councillor Tracy Keeley said: "I would like to bring to people's attention the fact that Ilkley is lucky enough to have a daily bus service that will take people into the Dales."

The bus travels from Ilkley bus station through Addingham, Bolton Abbey, Grassington and Kettlewell before reaching Buckden.

Coun Keeley said: "This is the first time in 17 years that Ilkley has had such a service."

"The present contract is due to run until January 2 next year. It would be a shame for the bus to be underused and for us to maybe wait another 17 years for it to be reinstated."

Bus times can be obtained at the information board at Ilkley bus station stand 'C'.

THESE  
demo

ILKLEY  
week'  
Museum

19/8/99



THESE buildings in Station Road, Ilkley, which were once part of Bolling Farm, later to be known as Sedbergh House, were demolished in 1897 for the development of a new library. The buildings (left) were known as Tower Buildings and were pulled down more than 70 years later to make way for Leconfield House.

26/8/99



ILKLEY Castle by 1874 had become a dwelling of all the squalid wretchedness and poverty in the village, as recalled in this week's feature. The building (pictured), donated to the local authority by Percy Dalton, is today known as the Ilkley Manor House Museum and Art Gallery after being restored in 1961. Its history dates back to the 15th century and it is believed the name 'Ilkley Castle' came about from its association with the Roman fort.

5/8/99



Kate Henry, six, and Tessa Redshaw, four, enjoy the soaring temperatures at Ilkley's Lido. (T&A)

## Sun brings flocks of visitors to Ilkley

THE scorching temperatures have seen Ilkley Lido under siege from residents and visitors desperate to cool off.

Record numbers have headed into town to enjoy the outdoor swimming pool as the country baked in the summer heat.

More than 8,000 people have poured into the pool since the weekend, which has recorded the highest number of visitors since 1995.

Queues have built up outside the Denton Road-based Lido as sun seekers look to relax in the cooling waters.

Staff have been rushed off their feet catering for the thousands of visitors, many of whom have arrived

armed with picnics and refreshments.

Ilkley's Lido is one of the few remaining Lidos left in the country. It opened to the public in 1936.

The rush of visitors is in complete contrast to the same week last year.

It was deserted as Ilkley endured a miserable spell of weather.

The Lido opens every year at Spring Bank Holiday and remains open until September. After that, swimming enthusiasts have the option of visiting the town's indoor pool next door.

It is open from 10am to 7.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 5.30pm on Saturday and Sundays.

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A CONTROVERSIAL plan to site a bathroom fittings factory in a residential area of Ilkley may be thrown out before it reaches the planning committee stage.

Planners have already received a 413-signature petition and between 30 and 40 separate letters of objection to the plan put forward by Ilkley resident David Harrison.

Mr Harrison has run his manufacturing, storage and distribution business, Cavalier Marketing, in Silsden, for the last 16 years and is seeking to expand to bigger premises.

He wants to move into a building on Valley Drive, formerly used by the Woolmark Company for research and development. The site is designated in planning terms as 'light industrial' which means that its use is compatible with the surrounding residential area.

But if Mr Harrison's planning application is successful the designation will change to 'general industrial' which could involve processes which cause disturbance to nearby householders.

Objectors have been concentrating on the possible noise and fumes coming from the bathroom fittings business as well as the impact on the surrounding roads from extra traffic. They are also worried about the intended storage of one tonne of the hazardous chemical Isocyanate in the building. It is used with resin to create expanding foam for filling in shower trays.

Ilkley Parish Council's planning committee has already recommended refusing the plan and if the chief planning officer and the chairman of the planning committee agree, it could be turned down by officers using delegated powers.

Ilkley planning officer Martyn Burke said that officers were waiting for detailed estimates of traffic which would be generated by the development before making their recommendations to councillors.

Many residents in the area believe that the land should be redesignated as housing land now that the Woolmark company has moved to another part of the site, a policy which is finding increasing sympathy at the town hall.

There are worries that if the designation is changed to general industrial use, a situation could arise in the future where the bathroom fittings factory vacates the site leaving it open for planning applications for completely inappropriate industrial use.

Mr Burke said: "This application has made us think about the future of the site. We may wish to review the designation of the site and consider alternative uses for it." He added: "Ilkley badly needs land for employment where there are appropriate locations, but the interests of the residents should be given prominence."

Mr Harrison's factory in Silsden employs around 40 people and is situated in a semi-residential area only yards from an infants' school.

The business is mainly warehousing and distribution with a small plant vacuum forming shower trays and filling them with foam. He told the Gazette that no fume creating processes would be carried out.

A spokesman for Bradford Council's environmental health department said there had been no complaints against the factory since it had been in operation.

ILKLEY'S Cancer Research Campaign Shop shrugged off designer criticism and unveiled its new look this week.

In last week's Ilkley Gazette, the decision to change the Grove-based shop from blue to white, received stinging criticism.

Bob Tilley of Ilkley Civic Society, felt the new colour was against the spirit of 'uniform' shop fronts in The Grove.

Despite the row, the charity went ahead with its new look launch and invited Olicanians to enjoy a day of fun and bargains.

The charity is very proud of its Ilkley shop and is grateful for the fantastic support it receives from the town.

In consultation with supporters nationwide, the charity has modernised its logo to take on the fund-raising challenge of the new millennium.

Regional director Pat Bradley, who last week rejected the criticism of the re-branded look, claiming the alternative would look like a 'dog's breakfast,' said: "Our original logo - a cluster of healthy cells with the rogue cancer cell out of control - was almost 30 years old but it is just as relevant today. We've changed the colours and reinforced the images making them more relevant to our mission - to cure cancer."

The Ilkley shop is one of more than 270 nationwide which generate a joint annual turnover of £15 million.

The charity believes its Ilkley shop has been a great success since it was opened in October 1997. However, there is no question of any laurels being rested on.

Volunteers are still urgently needed. Anyone



**Pictured outside the re-designed shop are Sue Thompson, Elaine Hildreth, Geoff Slight and Sheila Harwell. (005-31AH).**

interested in volunteering for just a few hours a week should call in to the shop any time between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Saturday) or telephone 01943 601862.

Donations of adult and children's clothing, shoes, books, toys and bric-a-brac can also be taken to the shop during business hours.

## EXCLUSIVE

by Jonathan Ritson 12/8 9

DEVIL worshippers are probably responsible for sinister carvings which have appeared on Ilkley moor, it was claimed this week.

Ben Rhydding ufologist Nigel Mortimer is disturbed by occult graffiti which has appeared at a number of ancient sites on the moor.

Mr Mortimer believes Ilkley's famous swastika stone is just one site under serious threat of vandalism from shadowy forces. A goat's head and demonic face are just two of the symbols which have sent shudders down Mr Mortimer's spine.

He said: "My own investigations can reveal that there is at least one Satanic group, which hails from the South of England, and has made several visits to the Ilkley Moor region in order to conduct their own 'religious' ceremonies."

"I am aware of the leaders who are responsible for this group, and have contacted them in an attempt to dissuade any future practices, or defacing of the ancient sites on the moor," he said.

A recent Sunday afternoon stroll across Ilkley moor turned into a worrying experience for Mr Mortimer. Numerous strange shapes had appeared on rocks between White Wells and the



LEFT: An altar of stones above which tar has been daubed and an intricate demonic face carved. (S)



RIGHT: Nearby is this carving of a horned-goat's head. (S)

Great Skirtful of Stones near Menston.

"I would not have minded too much about observing them, if I had not had my two young children in my company, as at least two of these carvings described images which I would regard as quite disturbing to those of a young age," he said.

Mr Mortimer said a return visit to the Great Skirtful of Stones led to the discovery of a stone-built worshipping altar. One rock was covered in black paint or tar, into which a demonic face had been carved. Next to this was a carving of a horned-goat's head - an occult symbol.

"This image must have caused

alarm for some passerby. They had taken it upon themselves to etch the words 'You have been warned. Stop this c\*\*p.' Ironically, whoever this well-meaning individual was, by his own actions he was only adding to the irreversible damage perpetuated previously," said Mr Mortimer.

"I can see this current trend having an adverse effect upon the future accessibility for the public on Ilkley Moor, should such unwarranted practices continue. That would be a shame for us all and would take away the rights of those individuals who respect and regard the moor in the correct manner, he said.

Mr Mortimer said there were

groups who did use the moor's ancient sites for ceremonial purposes.

"I have made many good friends within the Pagan community and I am certain that their regard and respect for such sites on Ilkley Moor would rule out any defacement of these 'sacred' places. Whoever the phantom carvers are, I feel pretty certain that their motives are anything other than respectful, positive or well meaning," said Mr Mortimer.

The vandalism and possible Satanic link has saddened the Rev Paul Tudge, Vicar of Ilkley's All Saints' Parish Church.

He said: "Ilkley Moor is a beautiful part of God's creation. It was

given by God to be enjoyed by everyone. It is very sad if it is being spoilt by vandals and those with more evil intent."

Mr Mortimer added: "To ignore this situation is to turn our backs on our own local history, not to mention the ancestry of mankind."

The ufologist is setting up a petition against any future defacement of the moor's ancient sites.

● Anyone wanting to support this petition or add their own thoughts on the subject can contact Mr Mortimer at: Positive Power - Nigel Mortimer, 65 Valley Drive, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8NL.

AN ambitious multi-million pound scheme to breathe new life into a former Ilkley hospital has been revealed.

The Abbeyfield Ilkley Society is planning to pump £7.2 million into the Grove Hospital site, transforming it into a model scheme for housing the elderly.

After months of speculation, the charity told the Gazette it was delighted to finally unveil its plans after a lot of work behind the scenes.

The former convalescent hospital closed in 1993 and there has been a great deal of concern about the town centre site ever since.

Abbeyfield's integrated care scheme for elderly people will be the largest of three pilot schemes around Britain.

The charity believes this form of care, both medical and social, will give elderly people a renewed lease of life, promote independence and help them maintain an active life as part of the community.

The development will consist of up to 59 one and two-bedroomed apartments and provide 24-hour personal care, respite care facilities and a day activity centre.

The grounds will be landscaped to form an open space on the land adjacent to The Grove, and will be accessible to the public. Sixty four new trees will be planted.

The shell of the existing hospital building will remain in tact but new accommodation will be provided with 13 one and two-bed-

## By Jonathan Ritson

room flats in Riddings Road and 31 one and two-bedroom apartments in a building behind the existing structure.

The former hospital itself will house 26 en suite rooms for registered residential care. There will also be two guest/respite rooms. The day centre will also be located in the hospital building.

Shannon Houliston, vice chairman of The Abbeyfield Ilkley Society, said everyone connected with the scheme was very excited by its potential.

He said it was a positive move which would help address the problem of housing ever-increasing numbers of elderly people.

"I believe 29 per cent of people in Ilkley are over the age of 65. The national average is about 18 per cent. We have an ageing population, indeed the Royal Commission of 1991 said the number of 85 year-olds would double in the next 20 years, the number of 90 year-olds would treble," he said.

Mr Houliston and his colleagues believe too many elderly people are cut off from the community in which they live. They believe this scheme will not condemn elderly people to just venturing out once a week for their pension.

The plan is to create a community within a community - with 'streets' within the buildings, not

bland long corridors with numbered doors.

Those occupying apartments would be tenants, receiving care packages tailored to individual requirements.

About half the money needed has already been raised. The scheme will be funded by a combination of grant aid, private finance and charitable donations. If planning permission is granted, the charity plans to launch a fundraising appeal locally next year.

Abbeyfield see this scheme as a project which will benefit the Ilkley community as a whole.

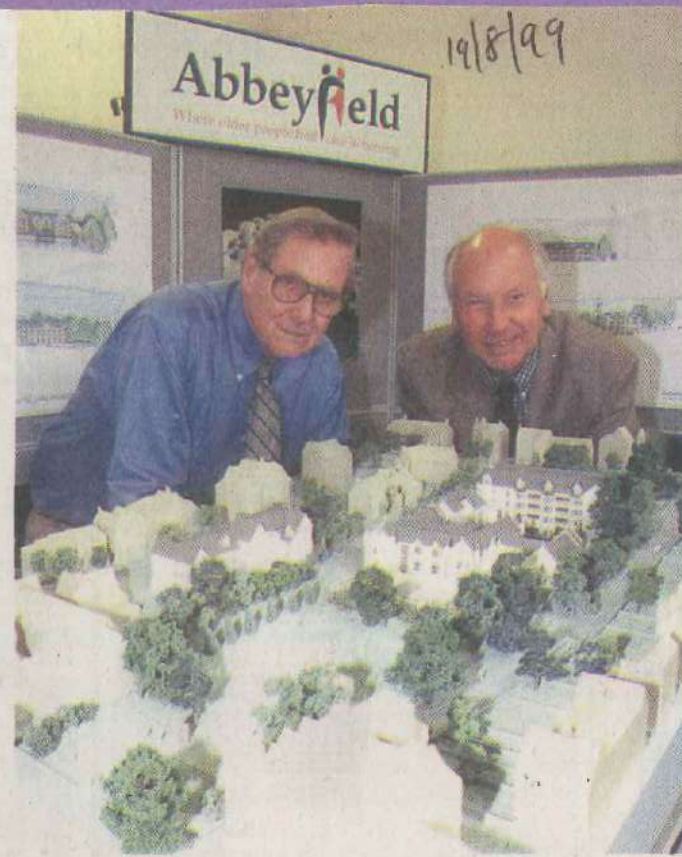
Numerous town organisations will make use of the facilities, with several planning to establish a new 'base' on site.

Mr Houliston said: "The committee is already working with groups with regard to the land adjacent to the Grove. We have already sought support from Ilkley gardener Alan Titchmarsh for example. Groups such as Rotary and the Civic Society will also be involved."

The charity feels the project will act as a pull for the town centre - a spot where people can meet up in delightful surroundings.

"This will not be an elitist scheme," said Mr Houliston. Potential residents would be assessed by need, regardless of sex, religion, colour or social class.

If planning permission is granted, work on the site could begin by mid 2000 and be completed in about 18 months.



Pictured looking at a mock-up of the site are left, John Hardy, chairman of the fundraising sub-committee for Abbeyfield at Ilkley, and Shannon Houliston. (038-32-AH)

AN Ilkley butcher has taken the drastic step of buying his own car park to ensure his business avoids the chop.

David Lishman, below, of Leeds Road is angry that he has had to buy land behind his shop in order to prevent would-be customers taking their money elsewhere.

Although not prepared to reveal

By Jonathan Ritson

14/8/99

the exact fee, Mr Lishman said he had paid out a 'considerable sum' to secure the land - a move which he certainly never envisaged having to make.

His decision to create 15 to 20

spaces comes as Bradford Council examines the problem of parking in once again.

The council is preparing to introduce more residents and business permit parking schemes across the district.

Mr Lishman is furious that parking has had such an influence on business decisions. "The deci-



sion to create the car parking spaces for customers was taken because I felt the parking issue was one which could jeopardise the business," he said.

The Ilkley butcher believes the town's parking crisis has snowballed since the Railway Road car park became pay and display.

He said the move to make motorists pay had forced them to park in nearby streets, making it very difficult for customers to park and pop into his, and other, businesses.

Mr Lishman is adamant that if the problem was not addressed, the results could be 'disastrous'.

"The simple fact is that if people cannot find somewhere to park they will go elsewhere, to the supermarkets or the large out of town stores," he said.

He said cars now filled the surrounding roads, such as Nile Road and Victory Road. "Looking out of the window, I can't see a single free space," he said.

Unfortunately, Mr Lishman cannot see a simple solution to the problem. He has sympathy with motorists who do not wish to use the pay and display in Railway

Road but, equally, he is not prepared to see Ilkley businesses strangled by the parking crisis.

He feels council plans to introduce more permit parking schemes is a welcome move but it will merely push the problem further out - not solve it.

The council feels a set criteria for permit requests will be a positive move. Speaking before yesterday's meeting of the highways sub committee, Coun Adrian Longthorn said: "Residential parking is increasingly becoming a problem for people in many areas of the district where there is competition for on-street parking nearby."

The committee chairman said: "By setting standards for the issue of parking permits we would be able to deal with residents' requests on a priority basis and so improve local traffic conditions where they are most needed."

Meanwhile, Mr Lishman has a warning for non-customers planning to use his 'car park.'

His staff are watching and are not afraid to leave a polite notice on the windscreens of offending vehicles. (034-32-AM)

# Eclipse chaser recalls 'most glorious sight ever presented to mankind'

5/8/99  
By Paul Langan

ANYONE wanting to experience a full eclipse on Wednesday will have to travel south.

But back in 1927 during the last eclipse over Britain eclipse-watchers travelled to Yorkshire to see the complete effect.

Laura Stoll, of South Parade, Ilkley, is a former Headingley neighbour of the late Cyril Cusworth, who wrote a personal account of his experience in June 1927.

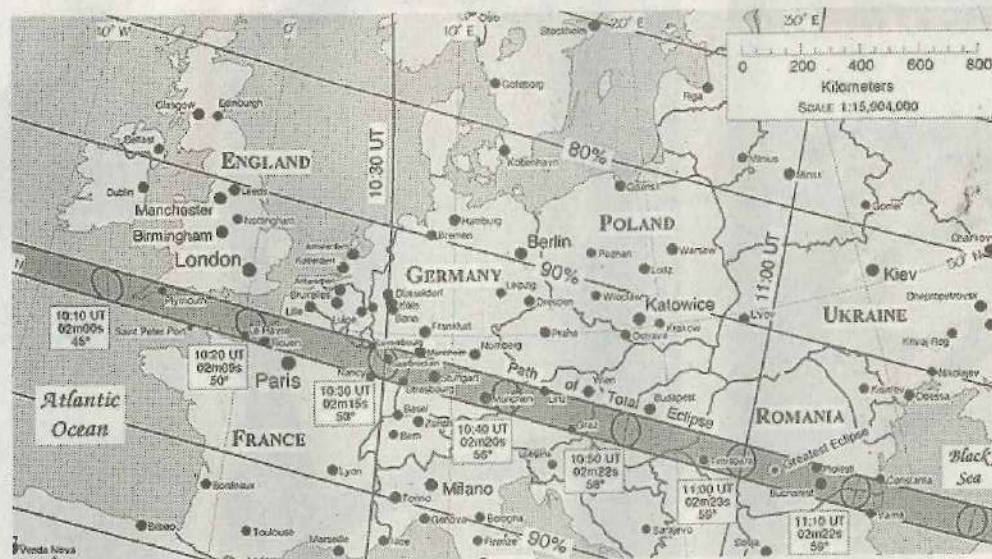
His widow Hannalare, who now lives in Torquay, sent the account to her friend Miss Stoll and she brought it to the Gazette.

Mr Cusworth writes: 'The year 1927 brought a wretched summer; it rained almost every day, and if it were not raining the sky was cloudy, and as the great day approached it seemed very much as though no living person would be favoured sufficiently to see the beautiful phenomenon.'

On June 14 the Astronomer Royal took his apparatus to the village of Giggleswick in order to get it fixed in position for the occasion.'

Mr Cusworth describes how he got up at 12.30am to catch a train from Leeds and witnessed the crowds of cars and bikes leaving the city for the countryside.

'The Railway Company had allotted three special trains to take people to Settle. Hundreds of would be passengers were unable to get in. The eclipse



Above: the best viewing points to see the eclipse and right, a full solar eclipse as seen in Guatemala last year. (Library pictures)

was to begin at 5.20am and it was just at this time when Settle was reached.'

Mr Cusworth hurried into the town then joined the crowds on a climb to the top of the hills overlooking the market town, but to his dismay the sun was obscured by clouds.

'The light was growing dim. Time passed. 6.15am only nine more minutes before totality - looking at one's watch and seeing the precious minutes pass did not avail much. Everyone dismayed - only five minutes more and the interminable black cloudbank still holding sway.'

'Then a wonderful thing happened. The great cloudbank

broke away by magic. The sun shone in all its splendour from a clear blue sky. At last we knew we should really and truly see the totality - that wonderful phrase the astronomers had been telling us about for the past six months.'

'From sheer joy and excitement at the re-appearance of the sun the crown burst into applause.'

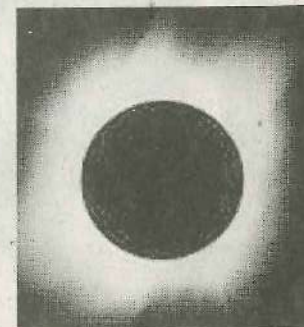
'6.24 Suddenly a mighty darkness swept across from the horizon; the moon's shadow passed swiftly and silently over the sky. The light was changed from a poor daylight to night within a space of three or four seconds.'

'It was most eerie, uncanny; something most fearful was going to happen. The earth had been swallowed up into darkness; the stars came out.'

'Immediately the great shadow had descended, we turned round to the east, and behold, the most gorgeous, the most magnificent and awe-inspiring spectacle that man in his wildest stretches of imagination could conceive!'

'A black disc suspended in the heavens, surrounded by a ring of beautiful light. The periphery of the disc was encircled by a band of bright light.'

'This strange and impressive sight lasted for 23 short seconds. In the twinkling of an



eye, the moon moved away from the sun, and the earth was lit up as suddenly as it had been plunged into darkness. Light returned once more.

'In the end everything had come off splendidly. How that horrible cloud had almost succeeded in frustrating our expectations! whereupon the unseen hand of the great creator broke it asunder and cleared the heavens, that we might be permitted to see the most glorious sight he ever presented to mankind.'

'The sudden transformation from day to night; the awful terrifying impression caused by the swooping shadow of the moon, when the darkness felt as if it were about to swallow us up; the bewitching and exquisite beauty of the corona - all these remain as a lasting impression in my mind of the grandest sight in natural phenomena.'

'For the loss of a night's sleep I had been repaid a thousand-fold, and many more nights' sleep would I gladly forgo to witness the glory of another solar eclipse.'

12/8/99

# Cornflake boxes and safety pins on moor

IMPROVISATION was the name of the game yesterday as hundreds of people viewed the eclipse from the Cow and Calf Rocks on Ilkley Moor.

Ladies of a certain age frantically searched about their person for safety pins with which to pierce holes in empty cornflake boxes.

Unfortunately, some thought they were supposed to look through the pinholes instead of using them to project the sun's disappearing image onto another piece of cornflake packet.

Rather than gasps of wonder, the world-shattering event was accompanied by not a few mumbles of disappointment when, quite frankly, it went a bit gloomy for a while.

Some people had fragments of welding glass to look through while other viewed the eclipse through specially bought glasses.

Jo Pollard, of Baildon, had various bits of papers with holes in: "I don't think it's going to work," she told her cousin, Kathy McGowan, who was visiting from New Zealand where Mrs Pollard originally comes from.

She added: "I can't see anything but a white piece of paper - I can't see it at all."

Mrs Pollard had travelled to her former home town of Ilkley for a shopping trip with her cousin and they decided to take in a bit of eclipse viewing before the serious business of the day.

Mrs Pollard is the widow of Baildon evangelist Michael Pollard, who was murdered by robbers in Hungary.

Her father was a keen sky watcher and she remembered as a child being woken in the middle of the night to see the Russian satellite Sputnik as it made its way across the starlit sky. "He took me outside to look at it before I fell asleep in his arms," said Mrs Pollard.

Mrs Pollard said she was wishing for clearer skies in Cornwall where her daughter, Tamara, 22, was hoping to catch a glimpse of the total eclipse.

Despite an overcast sky and a chilly wind, customers from Betty's Tea Rooms thronged expectantly outside in the hope of catching a glimpse of the eclipse through safety glasses.

Rick Lindley, 17, who worked at Betty's Tea Rooms said: "We are just excited about it. I have always been interested in solar goings-on. We are waiting for it to go dark."

He added: "Somebody was wanting a sandwich without butter but there is nobody in the kitchen because all the staff are outside watching the eclipse."

But eclipse fever had managed to escape Jouni Mussalo, 29, of Finland, who said it took him totally by surprise. Mr Mussalo, who was in Ilkley on a business trip, said he had had no idea about the eclipse. He added: "It's harmful to your eyes - but I suppose I will look at it."

But the best view of the

eclipse was caught by staff and passers-by outside the Skipton Building Society on the Grove - who gazed at the reflection of the eclipse in the shop window.

Area manager Andrew Munro said he could not believe his eyes when he realised that the whole spectacular event was being projected on to adverts.

He said: "We were just standing here and a customer came past and said you have the reflection in the window. People have been doing it up and down the Grove. It's a safer way of seeing it - and it was good fun."

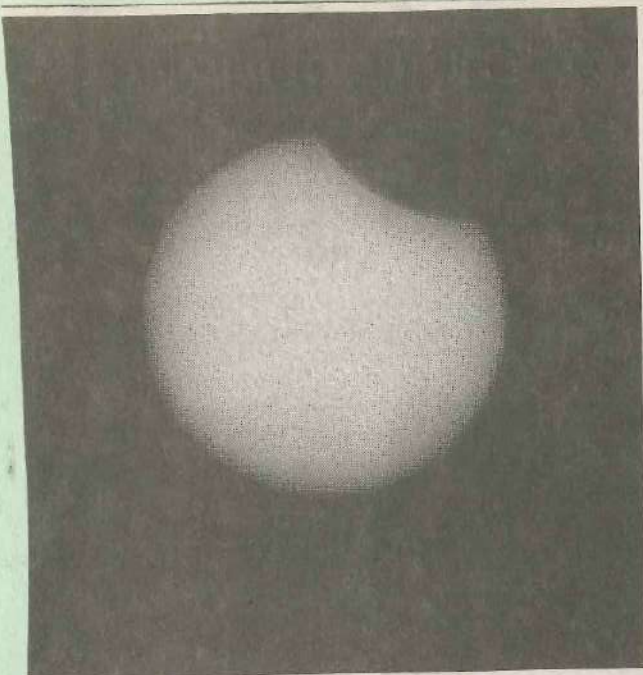
Lisa Farrar, manageress of Clay Farrar on the Grove, joined crowds of enthusiastic eclipse gazers outside Betty's tea rooms.

She said: "I have already had a looked through the sun visor - it's amazing. It's really bright and very strong on the eyes."

"I have heard that apparently you are supposed to make a wish because it's a new start - along with the millennium."

But Jo Prowse, of Ilkley, whose husband and children went to Cornwall to view the eclipse, had not realised that such a sharp chill would descend on Ilkley.

She said: "It's very cold - I had not realised that it would be so cold. I can imagine how people hundreds of years ago must have been really frightened of that happening to the sun. It's a bit of a national event, and it seems to draw people together."





Mr and Mrs Thorpe outside Ardenlea, Queen's Drive, Ilkley. Now the Marie Curie Centre are hoping to find more information about the old house for a book on the subject. (s)

## Can you help trace the history of this house?

ILKLEY'S Ardenlea Marie Curie Centre needs help in putting together the story of its past.

A book about the Queen's Drive-based centre is being compiled and despite an appeal for former staff, patients and families to help, there are still some missing 'chapters.'

The centre is being replaced by a

**By Jonathan Ritson**

year 2001.

The book is tracing Ardenlea from its origins as a Victorian draper's home to the present day.

Ardenlea Volunteers Manager Liz Binns said: "We have people research-

will welcome, of course, any old photographs or information.

"Since Marie Curie took over the house in the mid-Sixties many people have worked here either on the nursing staff or as volunteers and of course many families have benefited from its very special care."

Pictured are the first owners of the house, George Thorpe, who worked as

Clara and son Frederick Hebert, outside their impressive Ilkley home.

Liz Binns said: "Mr Thorpe bought the site of Ardenlea, Briarwood and Ardencroft in 1886 and lived in Ardenlea until his death in 1903. What happened next?"

Research has failed to provide concrete information about ownership or use until 1915 when the property was

Convalescent Home and then bought by the Marie Curie Foundation.

Liz Binns would like to hear from anyone who has information or photographs covering this period and is anxious that the mystery be cleared up.

Any readers who feel they can help should contact her at the Ardenlea Marie Curie Centre, Queen's Drive