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Historical Society
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ILKLEY TOWN HALL OPENED



Town Hall, Ilkley. Opening Ceremony April, 27 1908.

By J.T. Jackson, Esq. J.P.

Crowds gathered outside Ilkley Town Hall on 27 April, 1908, to witness the opening ceremony by Cr. J. T. Jackson, Chairman of the Buildings Committee of Ilkley Urban District Council.

The site was once occupied by Sedbergh House, the residence of a Mr. E. H. Wade, whose death brought the estate into the market and found a purchaser in Mr. J. T. Jackson. The buildings abutted on Station Road and the front garden so obtruded itself upon the public thoroughfare that the Council opened up negotiations with Mr. Jackson for the purchase of a portion of the estate fronting the road, with the idea of carrying out a much needed street improvement and also providing a site for municipal buildings, whenever the opportunity

of erecting such was offered. The land purchased was 4,180 square yards at a cost of £6,270 in 1897. Beyond Station Road being widened was land which was allowed to remain idle until 1904 serving no better purpose than a hen run.

The cost of the Town Hall scheme was: land £6,270; erection of public offices and Town Hall £10,000; furnishings £1,506; erection of Free Library £3,212; furnishing library £1,120. Ilkley was successful in applying for a grant of £3,212 from Dr. Carnegie who was making grants for the erection of free libraries all over the country.

Opening the Town Hall Mr. Jackson hoped that day's ceremony would do much to stimulate the success and increase the prosperity of the town. -- 1990.

HOUSES IN ILKLEY 122 YEARS AGO



These old houses were pictured in Leeds Road in 1867.

REMAINS OF A RAILWAY IN 1967



Storiths Court and Southfield House providing sheltered accommodation for the elderly at Addingham now occupy this area of land which once served a railway. The goods depot building is pictured alongside what remained of the track bed which carried

COMING OF THE RAILWAY WAS "A REAL BLESSING"

Next Wednesday marks the 125th anniversary of the coming of the railway to Ilkley. Before 1865 only stage coaches provided public transport to and from the town and the arrival of the railway at Ilkley was heralded as a "real blessing."

In the Ilkley census taken in 1861 there were only 197 houses and the population was 1,043. In the next decade the houses increased in number to 397 and the population went up to 2,511 and from the period of the coming of the railway the town continued to grow and by 1890 the population had reached 6,000. The railway had indeed been a "real blessing" to Ilkley, it was said.

Wealthy merchants in Bradford and Leeds, could not avail themselves of the salubrious surroundings of Ilkley because of the delay attending the natural slow process of the stage coach. Immediately the line was extended to Ilkley these merchants came in large numbers and made Ilkley their abode, being able to reach their places of business in about as short a time as it would take did they live in the suburbs of Leeds and Bradford.

The "Gazette" said at that time "building which hitherto was almost unknown, became a staple trade, and a large artizan population soon clustered around the village. In the 1860's the line only extended to Apperley Bridge and Arthington but the claims of Ilkley to railway communication soon commended themselves, and the work of introducing the 'steam horse' was begun."

UNRIVALLED

The station at first was of a rather unfinished character, but as time went on improvements were carried out with the result that Ilkley came to possess a station the like of which it would be difficult to match at any place of the same size and population.

The Otley and Ilkley Joint Railway Company, which opened the line engaged Mr. Jas Nicholson

as Superintendent at Ilkley. At first the old system of working the trains — allowing a train five minutes start before the succeeding one was allowed to follow — was adopted, but this soon gave way to the more safer way known as the block system where the line was worked in sections.

In May, 1888, the line was extended from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey and in October of the same year it was further extended to Skipton. The opening of this line brought within easy distance the famed Abbey and woods of Bolton and the large numbers who took advantage of the excursions to Bolton, furnished sufficient evidence to warranted the conclusion that the opening of the lines had been a great boon.

When the railway celebrated its centenary the occasion was marked on Platform Four when against a background of flags and bunting tributes were paid to the part the railway had played in the development of Ilkley.

At this time all Ilkley's rail services were threatened with closure under the Beeching Plan and indeed the Ilkley to Skipton services had already been withdrawn. There was a subtle undertone in all the tributes and in the suggestions the future held for Ilkley that to be without the railway would be unthinkable, a disaster for the district and a loss of valuable business for British Rail.

The chairman of the Council, Cr. Jim Shelton and his wife arrived by diesel train and were greeted by Mr. Hedley Wright, Chairman of the Ilkley Railway Supporters Association which had made

the arrangements for the celebration, Mrs. Wright, Mr. R. A. Crowther, Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Spooner, Ilkley Stationmaster, and Col. Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott, M.P. for Ripon and Lady Stoddart-Scott.

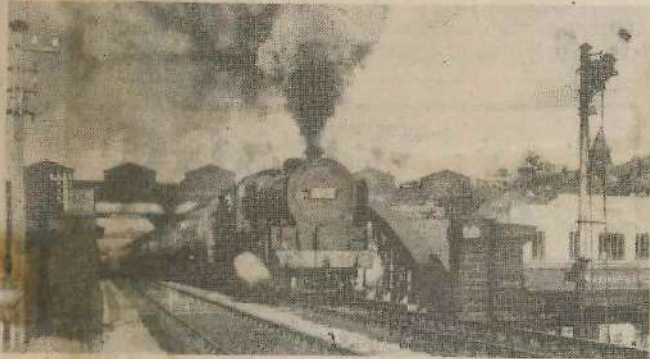
Mr. Wright read extracts from local newspapers about the opening of the Otley and Ilkley branch and that there was no organised ceremony when trains for the public were first operated. However, the inhabitants at the various places on the line extemporised some demonstrations. The chief rejoicings were at Ilkley where crowds of people turned out to see the arrival and departure of trains. There were several bands of music in full swing during the day, including the Burley bands, the Silsden and Addingham band and Marriners Keighley band.

"TEA FIGHT"

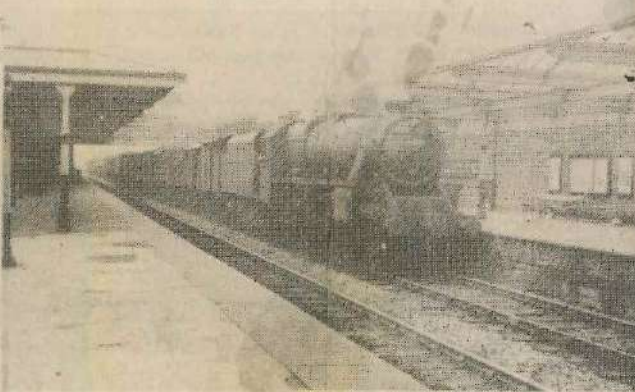
The Silsden volunteers also made a parade at Ilkley in honour of the occasion and in the evening old and young were feasted at a "tea fight" provided by subscription.

Cr. Shelton said since the coming of the railway Ilkley had grown and the railway had not only played an important part in the development of the town but also in its prosperity. "It has brought many visitors who have gone away realising that it is not just a town with a comic song, but a beautiful town of which we can be justly proud," he said.

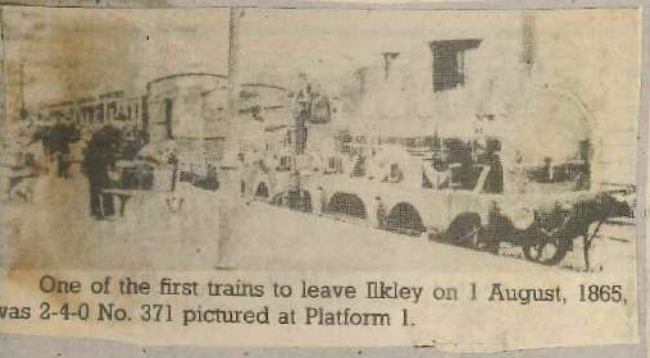
He said British Rail was streamlining services, were experimenting with Liner trains and in the near future there was the development of the International Wool Secretariat which would bring many foreign visitors, said Cr. Shelton.



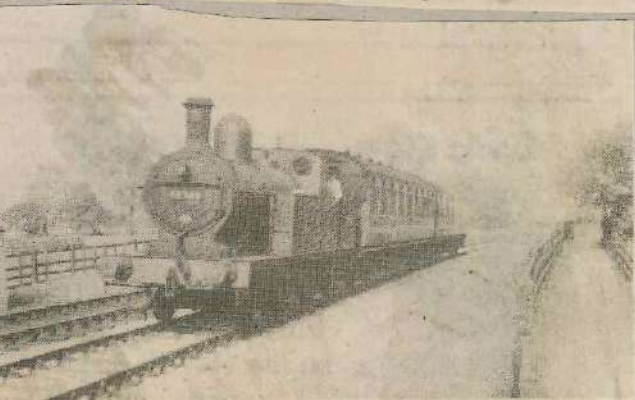
A day excursion from Whaley Bridge, Lancashire, in May, 1955, hauled by Patriot Class locomotive No. 45505 is pictured crossing Brook Street bridge on its return. Picture by F. W. Smith, of Ben Rhydding.



A diverted freight train pictured at Platform 4 (now part of a car park which has yet to be opened), in June, 1953. Picture by F. W. Smith, of Ben Rhydding.



One of the first trains to leave Ilkley on 1 August, 1865, was 2-4-0 No. 371 pictured at Platform 1.



A Leeds to Ilkley train is pictured at Ben Rhydding in 1953. Picture by F. W. Smith, of Ben Rhydding.

Col. Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott said the coming of the railway to Ilkley must have been one of the outstanding occasions in the history of the town. "Today they thought they lived in changing times but 100 years ago Victorians thought the same of the great strides in mechanisation. What was thought of being able to travel in space today was equal to what was thought of the railways in the Victorian age," said Sir Malcolm.

The railway at Ilkley had played a most important part in the life of the town and Sir Malcolm referred to some of the important occasions in the past. The news of the relief of Mafeking in May, 1900, arrived by rail and was announced by the Rev. James Kempson Curate of the Parish Church.

According to the "Ilkley Gazette" said Sir Malcolm, most of the residents let themselves go with a vengeance. There was a regular hullabaloo, some cheered and others shouted and another portion began singing. Brook Street was a regular pandemonium. The report of firearms and fog signals was almost deafening and a good effect was produced by a number of fog signals placed on the railway line over Brook Street where an engine and tender passed and re-passed over the bridge.

It was the railway in 1914 which first brought to Ilkley the horrors, suffering and misery of war when 62 Belgian soldiers arrived. They were met by the Chairman of Ilkley Council and taken by private cars to Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home. Many Ilkley people turned out to cheer the wounded and provide them with cigarettes, sweets and money.

27.7.90.

SNOW CLEARING IN THE 1930's



Horses and snow ploughs were out and about during the winters of the 1930's in the

ILKLEY'S GREAT FLOOD



One of the biggest disasters ever to strike Ilkley in modern times occurred on the afternoon of 12 July, 1900, when vivid flashes of lightning accompanied by loud claps of thunder gave warning of a storm which was to be remembered in history as the great flood.

Torrential rain soon turned Ilkley's streets into rivers, property was damaged and a man died in

the old coaching works. Buildings collapsed, roads were torn up and hundreds of head of poultry were drowned. The bottom of Church Street (pictured) was under six-feet of water and all areas in the vicinity of becks which flowed from the area of the moor were severely affected. The damage was estimated at between £50,000 and £70,000 and the flood was believed to be unparalleled in the history of the valley.

ILKLEY'S BANDSTAND SHELTER



This shelter which stood in West View Park, Wells Road, Ilkley, during the first half of the century, provided a welcome refuge from the rain for people listening to the Ilkley band.

The Municipal Orchestra played in the band enclosure twice daily, in the morning and evening. By 1914 West View Park had become the general rendezvous of visitors who enjoyed listening to the band. Performances continued into the

1930's and for several years after the Second World War the bandstand served as a reminder of the Sunday evenings when people would sit and listen to the band.

At one time it was intended to light up the shelter and bandstand with fairy lamps. However, they remained without lighting until the day they were pulled down, and all traces of those Sunday evenings disappeared.

100 Years Ago

One of Ilkley's historic landmarks, the Cup and Ring Stones, were to be moved to a different location, it was announced in 1890. The stones, situated at Panorama Rocks, were among the town's most curious antiquities and their preservation was of great importance. The proposal, made to and approved by the Ilkley Local Board, was to move the stones to somewhere on the moors — preferably near The Tarn. The move was said to be necessary because the stones were being "injured by daily exposure".

Councillors on Ilkley Local Board were baffled as to why two "official looking men" were inspecting the railway bridge over Brook Street. Cr. Beanlands said the two men were looking at the bridge and taking notes. He presumed the men were there after two nasty slips during wet weather. The Board agreed to investigate the inspection.

Improvements to Westville Road were being planned, the Local Board said. Wellington Road and Queen's Road improvements were also being considered.

The Ilkley Building Committee were told of an eyesore erected in the town. The building was erected by a Mr. Squire but councillors said it was "most unsightly".

A Sanitary Inspector made a visit to the Ilkley area and whilst in Ilkley he paid a visit to White Wells and the Cow and Calf Rocks.

Two Menston men were fined at the Otley Petty Sessions court after failing to pay their fares on the Midland Railway. They were both fined ten shillings each despite pleading not guilty. After the court session, Railway Detective William Evans warned other railway users not to try and dodge fares. He said there had been a spate of similar incidents — incidents which he warned he would stamp out.

An interesting exhibition of Edison's latest phonograph was given in the Victoria Hall, Ilkley, when Prof. C. R. C. Steytler, of the Edison Phonograph Company, gave a description of the machine and played numerous recordings. Prof. Steytler pointed out many of the splendid possibilities for the machine and humorously stated that it would be invaluable in the case of breach of promise actions, when the defendant in court could not deny the record of his promise as given forth by the machine.



Ilkley Parish Councillors are pressing for the protection of this historic corner in Denton Road, Ilkley.

They fear the old style red telephone booth could be replaced by one of British Telecom's new look kiosks if they do not take action now. And in a bid to secure the booth's future, councillors are pressing for it to become a listed building — like its close neighbour, the Victorian post box.

The telephone booth is one of the popular K6 types. Although BT has not suggested they plan to replace it, councillors, aware that Denton Road was not considered a conservation area by the telephone communications company, want to impose a listed status on the booth.

Cr. Rowland Hill said, "All appropriate telephone boxes within Ilkley should also become

FOUNDATIONS FOR WINTER GARDENS



The year 1912 saw the foundations of the Winter Gardens at Ilkley laid on land in Station Road. This picture records crowds gathering for the laying of the foundation stone by the then Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council, Cr. F. S. Jackson.

The Winter Gardens were not only intended to serve for band performances and promenade concerts during the summer. The kitchens and

serving rooms would enable it to be used as an adjunct to the King's Hall when this was let for balls and parties.

Cr. Jackson said, "they are looking to the ratepayers to make the fullest use of the building and thus not only make it self supporting but also enable it to pay something towards the relief of rates." 4.5.90.

NOW SITE OF MEMORIAL GARDENS



Allotments and hen runs occupied this land which was to become the riverside Memorial Gardens at Ilkley.

This picture in May, 1946, was taken from Bridge Lane looking towards the New Bridge.

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 twelve

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. 21.9.90.

The three schemes were selected by the War Memorials Committee after much discussion and following upon public meetings in which the public itself showed little interest.

CRICKET FIELD MADE WAY FOR HOUSES



Work on the railway wall on what was the down platform from Skipton was still in

ENDOWMENT LECTURE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROBERT COLLYER

The Friends of Ilkley Manor House were privileged to hear the Hannah Hardwick Endowment lecture in the presence of Miss Laura Mason, who instituted the lecture.

The speaker was the popular Dr. Mike Dixon. Hannah Hardwick was born with one arm in the early years of the nineteenth century. She attended Ilkley Grammar School and eventually became headmistress of Middleton School. The villagers greatly respected her. She died aged 93. The Hardwicks had been an old Middleton family since the time of the Conqueror.

Dr. Dixon's subject was Dr. Robert Collyer co-author of "Ilkley Ancient and Modern". For the average resident of Ilkley the name Robert Collyer may mean little but he was certainly a remarkable man who lived an extremely active life and whose death was recorded in the New York Times.

He was born in Keighley in 1823. His parents, both workhouse children, went to live at Fewston and then to Blubberhouses where they worked in a mill. Robert Collyer started work in the mill at the age of seven - working thirteen hours from 6 a.m. and for eleven hours on Saturdays.

However, at the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, John Birch, who had his Smithy in Leeds Road, Ilkley. His apprenticeship was completed in 1844 but he continued to work for Birch.

Dr. Dixon showed slides from his collection of Ilkley as it was in those days. The Manor House, at that time, formed three cottages; there was the Rose and Crown, Ilkley's oldest hotel; the old Vicarage which stood in Church Street and Brook Street with its open brook running down the centre of the road. However, Ilkley was already being promoted as a fashionable spa.

Robert Collyer eventually took over the Smithy in Leeds Road following the death of John Birch. He married in 1847. In 1849 his first wife died in child birth and Robert, in his grief, turned back

to the Methodist. However, in 1850 he decided to marry again and the very next day set off for America - first to New York and then to Philadelphia where he obtained work making claw hammers.

He became disenchanted with the Methodist Church because of its attitude towards slavery and so joined the Unitarian Church where he became a Minister in 1859. And so, his extremely active life began in earnest. He worked in field hospitals during the Civil War, was on the Sanitary Commission and preached widely.

In October 1871 the great fire of Chicago happened. Robert Collyer lost all his books, amounting to two thousand, but these were luckily replaced by a benefactor. From then on his life was a continuous round of lectures - often in aid of charities - and visits to England where he also lectured widely, particularly in Yorkshire.

On his visit in 1892, he opened the first museum in Ilkley. His last visit to Ilkley, in 1907, was to open the library and at the same time he received an honorary degree from Leeds University.

Robert Collyer died in America in 1912, aged 88. The church he founded in Chicago still stands to this day.

THE LEGEND CONTINUES

Sir, - The curative qualities of the Ilkley Wells would seem to have been recognised even earlier than your recent articles suggest. The Overseer of the Poor of Addingham in 1655, Joshua Dawson, paid two shillings to Richard Shires towards his charge for carrying his daughter, a catiffe (cripple) to the Wells for the recovery of her health, and paid to Hugh Teale for his catiffe daughter for the like.

About a hundred years later Joseph Smith, Lord of the Manor of Addingham, was in charge of his orphaned nephew and in 1741 paid for him 'nine weeks table at Ilkley Well twelve shillings; for attendance there and washing thirteen shillings and sixpence, and to the Wellman for Bathing four shillings and sixpence'. A year later he had another nine weeks' treatment at the Ilkley Well.

Was the Well referred to the White Wells or the Canker Well? I am inclined to think that it was indeed the White Wells. The Canker Well never seems to have attracted to itself stories and legends such as grew up about White Wells.

The mention of a Wellman and the process of bathing suggests that there was already an organised method of utilising the waters whose legend has continued until today.

KATE MASON

Reynard Ings



A decision over the re-location of Ilkley's main Post Office is to be made by the end of the month.

It now looks certain that services will be transferred from the 61-year-old Post Office in Chantry Drive to a more central position by the end of the year.

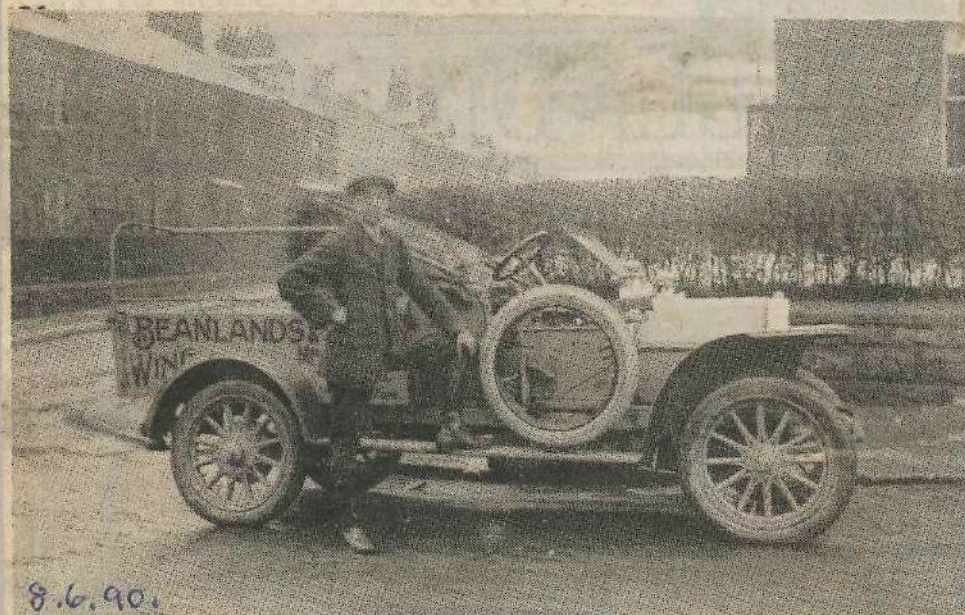
The news has been welcomed by campaigners who have been fighting for services to be transferred to a more central location. Protestors have argued that Chantry Drive is too far away from the town centre and the present building created problems of access for the elderly and disabled.

However, a decision will be known at the end of the month where the services are to be transferred.

A spokesman for the Post Office, Sarah Chadwick said they were in the process of interviewing candidates to choose a new sub-postmaster and the new location of the post office would depend on who was appointed.

She said all services would remain the same at the newly located Post Office and it would probably occupy more modern premises which were easily accessible for the elderly and disabled.

MAKING DELIVERIES IN ILKLEY



This early motorised delivery vehicle is pictured in Skipton Road near the junction with Lister Street at the turn of the century. It was owned by a family firm of grocers J. Beanlands and Sons which served Ilkley for over a century. During its long history in the town the firm had shops located in The Grove, Brook Street, the Arcade and in Ben Rhydding. The last shop to close was in the Arcade in 1973. The founder of the business was Joseph Beanlands who opened a shop in Brook Street in 1869.

ROYAL HOTEL DEMOLITION



Work began in October 1961 on the demolition of the Royal Hotel, in Wells Road, Ilkley, and by the end of that year all traces of the majestic building had disappeared.

The older portion of the hotel — not seen in the picture — was opened in 1871 and the extension — featured above — was added in 1892.

The hotel was at one time a popular choice for the annual dinners of local organisations. It had a billiard room on the Wells Promenade site which was later converted to a dining room and ballroom.

The hotel was demolished to make way for a block of luxury flats which still stand

PROTECT DEAN'S YARD, SAY RESIDENTS

^{4.5.90}
A proposed new development in Ilkley has come up against strong opposition from nearby residents who have joined forces to sign a sixty name petition.

Plans to develop Dean's Yard, off Leeds Road, have caused a storm amongst residents who claim the development would be a double storey office block and would be too big.

Mr. John Stanley, of Leeds Road, said it was not so much the development he objected to but the size of it. "The boundary wall of my garden is the one for the development. The new offices would block out all our daylight," he told the "Gazette".

"This new development is unnecessary and ill-considered. Another problem would be poor access which would be from the busy Leeds Road or from Wharfe View Road. Access to the site is inadequate as it is," said Mr. Stanley.

Two other nearby residents, Mrs. Mary and Miss Cathy Sara, of Weston Road, have also voiced their concern over the proposals. They said, "the existing old barn at Dean's Yard is an attractive feature of what is a pleasant residential area — it should not be demolished or renovated.

"The proposed development is higher than the existing barn and would steal light from houses and gardens on all sides and would completely infill an open space that at the moment serves as an amity for residents," said Miss Sara.

They added, "developers can afford to live in the suburbs and

they, and planners, frequently ignore the convenience and amenity sought by those who choose to live nearer the town centre."

Mr. John Stanley added, "this development will cause a lot of ill feeling and, in some cases, hardship if it is approved," he said.

MISNOMER

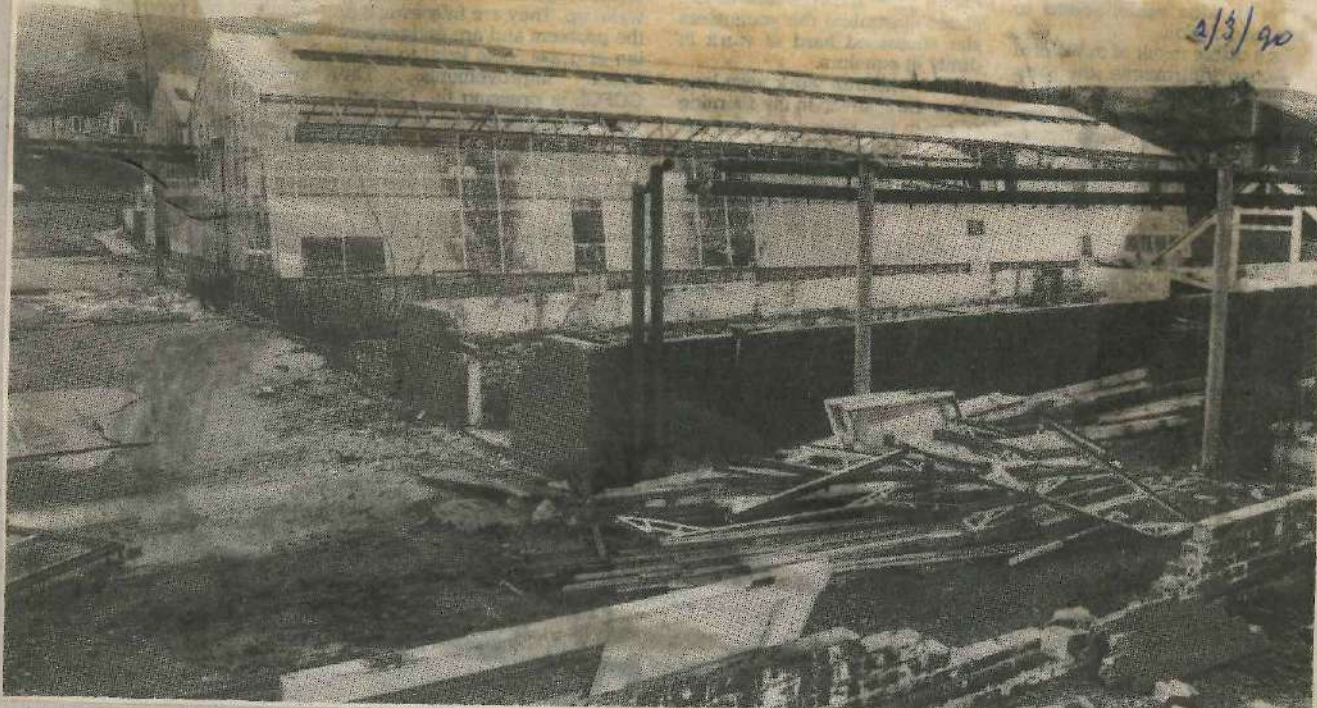
But, the Managing Director of Vincent Dobson (Builders) Ltd., who submitted the plans, said the residents were exaggerating.

Mr. Vincent Dobson told the "Gazette", "to label it as an office block is a total misnomer. It would be a small development and would replace a dilapidated joiners shop, which is a disused and run down building," he said.

"In fact, this development would make a vast improvement to the site. As a member of the town's Civic Society I understand the sensitivity of what is right and wrong with new development but if anyone claims this development is 'wrong' I suggest they have not looked at the plans properly," said Mr. Dobson.

NURSERY TO MAKE WAY FOR HOUSES

2/3/90



An outline planning application for a residential development on the site formerly occupied by the council nursery in Little Lane, Ilkley, has been approved.

A spokesman for Bradford Council said this week that the land was to be sold for housing. For years the site was used by

the Parks Department of the former Ilkley District Council - and later by Bradford Metropolitan Council - as a nursery.

The nursery was closed in 1984 when Bradford Council announced its aim to save £195,000. Since the closure the greenhouses have been empty. Picture ref. no. PB141.

2.11.90 ILKLEY LOSING ITS CHARACTER

Ilkley is in danger of losing its character unless more positive action is taken to retain its attractiveness, claim the town's Civic Society.

The Society has launched the Ilkley 2000 campaign with a public meeting for councillors, local groups and townfolk to discuss the future of Ilkley.

Society chairman, Mr. Graham May, said the Society believed that it was an opportunity to create a new character for Ilkley, one fit for the twenty-first century.

"Ilkley, with its moor, riverside and Victorian centre, is an attractive place in which to live and to visit, but the pressures caused by increasing numbers of residents and visitors require a more positive response if the attractiveness is to be retained", he said.

Mr. May said there were several issues already causing concern in the town. Among them car parking causing frustration to drivers and annoyance to residents over a large area around the centre; continuing conversion of large Victorian villas into flats which change both the environment and the population structure; young people threatened with the loss of the youth club which made them feel that the town does not care about them; high house prices making it difficult for first time buyers, more shops being built, Middleton Woods and the riverside

de threatened by the proposed by-pass and new attractions proposed on the site of the Roman Fort.

The more positive aspects of the town, he said, were the Station redevelopment, the improvements around the car park and some housing developments, but Ilkley could be even better.

There were opportunities, he said, for improvements at the central car park, Brook Street, Leeds road, Church Street and the Tarn.

Mr. May said no criticism of existing groups like Ilkley Parish Council was intended by the new campaign.

"There is much going on, but it all happens piecemeal and nobody is trying to put the pieces together. The result is Ilkley is losing its character and nobody seems to care".

The Society believes that the residents of Ilkley should play an important part in determining the future of their town and hopes that the meeting will result in a positive partnership between the Local Authority, the Parish Council, local businesses and residents, particularly the young.

The meeting will be held on 6 November at the Clarke-Foley Centre.

BRIDGE OVER CUNLIFFE ROAD



There was much activity in the western part of Ilkley in the summer of 1973 as demolition workers were engaged in the removal of the viaduct and embankments which carried the railway to Skipton and beyond.

Picture shows one of the arches over Cunliffe Road and rubble in the foreground on land which now serves as part of Ilkley's central car park and across the road the site of the Clarke-Foley Day Centre for the Elderly.

PLAN TO SELL COUNCIL DEPOT

2.11.90



Whilst there are plans to sell opposite the depot, will not be sion to sell the former cleansing

The choice of a central site for Ilkley's new main Post Office within the town's new shopping development has been welcomed by residents and local organisations.

2.3.90.

For years campaigners have fought for facilities to be transferred from the Post Office on the steep hillside in Chantry Drive to a more central location with better access. This week the Post Office announced that subject to planning permission, services should be transferred to a new building in the Station development by the Spring.

A spokeswoman for the Post Office, Sarah Chadwick, said the new Post Office building would be far better for the elderly and disabled because it would be situated on the level and was in a better central location. In addition the premises would be much more modern and adaptable than the present main Post Office.

A new sub-postmistress has been appointed. She is Mrs. Ann Bristow, who works at a sub-post office in the York area. Mrs. Bristow has seven years experience working in sub-post offices and served for three years as sub-postmistress in Settrington.

Plans to transfer services to the Station development are expected to be considered by Bradford planners later this month.

"FANTASTIC"

Members of several Ilkley organisations have reacted to the Post Office move with open arms. The decision has been described as "fantastic", "superb" and good news for the elderly and disabled.

Mrs. Catherine Clarke, Chairman of the Ilkley Access Group, was "delighted" with the decision because it would mean the post office would be easily accessible for the disabled.

She said the access Group campaigns for improved access in the neighbourhood to enable disabled people to lead a more active life. And the decision to transfer postal facilities to a more central and flat location would mean the services being made more convenient for people in wheelchairs.

However, Mrs. Clarke said she wanted to see the new building fitted with a lower counter so it could be used by wheelchair bound residents.

"I want it to become national policy for all new post offices to be fitted with a counter suitable in height for a person in a wheelchair. Able bodied people just have no idea of the many difficulties encountered by the disabled," she said.

Mrs. Clarke said while she was pleased about the Post Office move she pointed out that it would be the only place in Ilkley the disabled would be able to visit and carry out cash transactions. At present there were no buildings in Ilkley which were easily accessible for disabled people to cash or pay in money.

Also delighted with the news was Mrs. G. Eydmann, from Ilkley Interact, a group for the physically handicapped. She described the decision as "fantastic".

"SUPERB"

"It will be superb for the disabled as well as the elderly," she said. "At present I don't use the Post Office in Chantry Drive because the hill is too steep and the steps outside are too hard to climb. But I will certainly use the services at the new location."

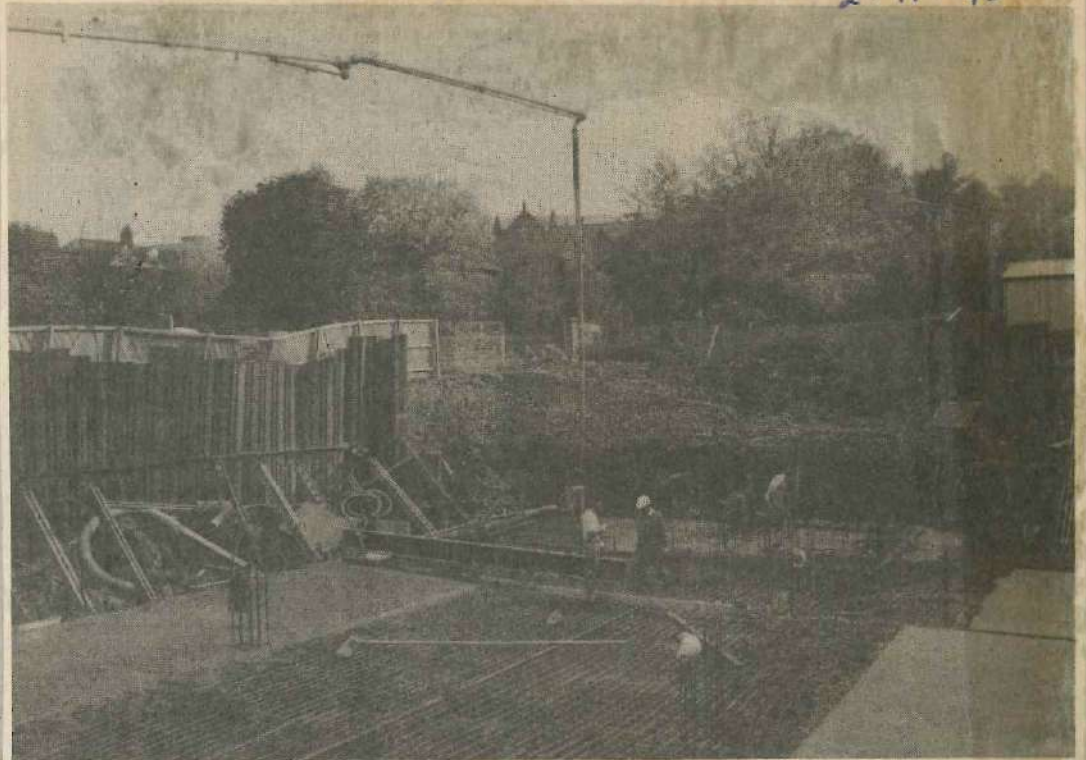
Meanwhile, a project worker for residents of self contained flats in the grounds of Five Oaks, Ben Rhydding, hoped the decision to improve access facilities to the main Post Office would be extended to include sub-post offices, particularly the one in Ben Rhydding.

Ms. Helen Charlton said

many residents from Five Oaks, the residential training centre of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, used the Ben Rhydding post office and encountered difficulties of access. She said many found the steps impossible to climb and she wanted to see a ramp fitted to the entrance.

SMOOTH FINISH TO SPA FOUNDATIONS

2.11.90



Several months of complicated excavation, piling and foundation work at the Spa site on The Grove, Ilkley, culminated in a marathon concrete pouring operation.

Convoys of mixer wagons started arriving at dawn and discharged more than 500 tons of

concrete to complete the basement floor of the new £3 million residential and retail scheme, being built by Primary Homes and Vignor, both part of the Leeds-based Micklegate Group.

Forty lorry loads of concrete were fed into a giant mobile pump with a 100ft. reach, specially brought in for the job, and a team of eight men worked from day-break to late evening to lay the

foundations within the day. The basement of the five-storey development will provide car parking for the 15 luxury flats and three penthouses on the upper four floors.

The 14-hour operation, planned with military precision to cause minimum disruption in the town centre, went smoothly and with the foundation work now in place, the building will begin to take shape by the New Year.



30.3.90.

Plans are afoot to replace the railway footbridge between Springs Lane and Station Road, Ilkley.

Parish Councillors have been told British Rail will rebuild the bridge when funds become available.

In a letter to the Council a spokesman for BR's Eastern Region, stated remedial work was to be carried out on the bridge this year, but in the long term there were plans to rebuild it, because repairs were becoming uneconomical.

Cr. Howard Scaife suggested more adequate lighting should be provided on the bridge.

Picture by Philip Bambridge, Addingham. Ref. No. 174.



6.12.90

The long hard winter of 1947 brought with it deep snow and ice and by February skating was possible on this stretch of the River Wharfe at the bend in the river above

17/8/90
FEARS FOR MUSEUM

Fears that Ilkley's Manor House Museum will suffer because of a decision to end the secondment of a teacher to help museums in the district have been expressed by Bradford District Councillor, Mrs. Anne Hawsworth, of Ilkley.

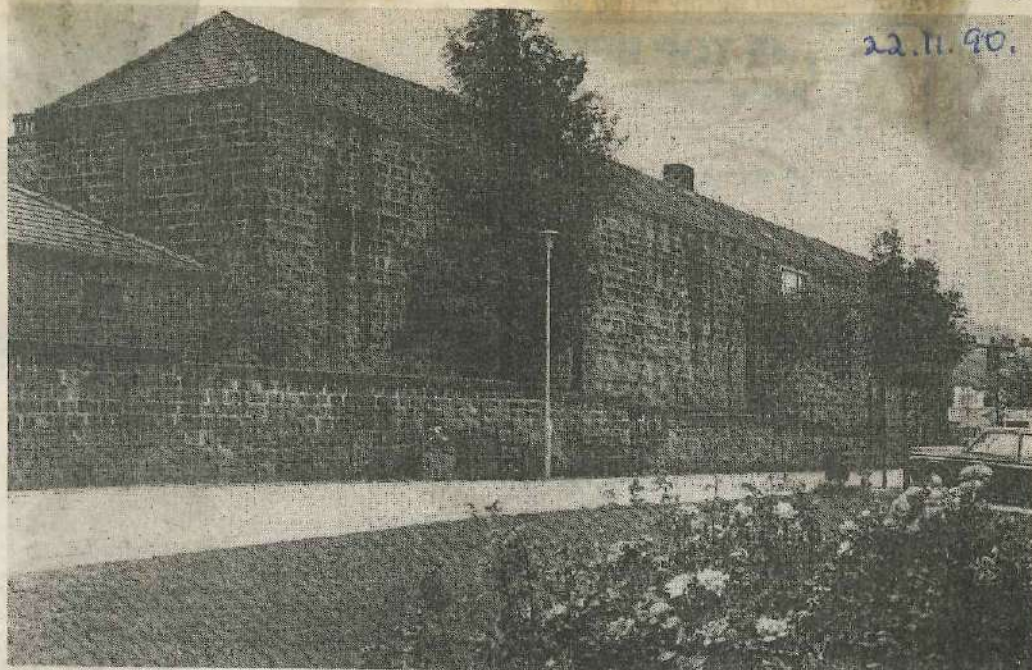
Cr. Hawsworth has asked for assurances that the museum will not be hit badly by the cuts by Bradford Council's education department.

Museum officer, Paul Lawson, confirmed that his department would have only two teaching staff from September because the extra seconded post was being cut.

He said resources would have to be spread more thinly and as a result this could have an impact on the Manor House as with other historic houses.

Cr. Hawsworth criticised the timing of the decision since she said it was only a few weeks ago that the controlling Labour group were congratulating themselves on restoring the funding for Clarke Hall. "I realise fully what a wonderful facility Clarke Hall is, but it is the icing on the cake and must not be retained at the expense of 'bread and butter' educational museum facilities," she said.

WAREHOUSE PROVIDES ROW OF SHOPS



This warehouse which once served shops in The Grove was converted to a row of shops to become what is now the Grove Promenade. The flower beds and footpaths occupy the site used for the embankment which carried the railway west of Ilkley.

9.11.90 Ilkley's central car park should be transformed into a town square within the next ten years, a society leader has urged. Mr. Graham May, Chairman of Ilkley Civic Society, was speaking at an Ilkley 2000 meeting where a packed audience took a futuristic look at the town for the turn of the next century.

He said, "the central car park is growing a new face. What used to be the rear site of buildings has gradually turned inwards over the year with new developments and shops.

"It has become a pleasant part of the town. But the middle area where all the cars park is diabolical," said Mr. May.

IMAGINATION

"That area has the potential of being turned into an attractive town square which could rival any other.

"With a bit of imagination the car park site could become something to be proud of. It could become the heart of Ilkley instead of the dead heart it is at the moment," Mr. May told the meeting.

Mr. May's town square plan won the approval of the audience but Ilkley Parish Councillor Peter Williams said it was "impossible".

He told the Gazette, "in an



Ilkley Central Car Park.

ideal world it would be great to have a town square for Ilkley. It is something we would all like to enhance the town and the environment.

"But in reality it can not be done. We can not afford to sacrifice anymore car parking space," he said.

Cr. Williams pointed out that a town square scheme

would cost a "phenomenal" amount of money.

"If we had such monies available we could provide underground car parking with the town square on top. But it is unlikely," said Cr. Williams.

"Car parking in Ilkley must take priority over these ideas," he added.

ATTACKED

Meanwhile, at the same meeting, the developers of the railway station development came under strong attack for not opening the new car park.

Trader Sid Lipman said, "there are about 120 spaces available in that new development but it has not been opened for about a year."

Civic Society Chairman Graham May said, "The developers can give no excuses for keeping it closed so long."

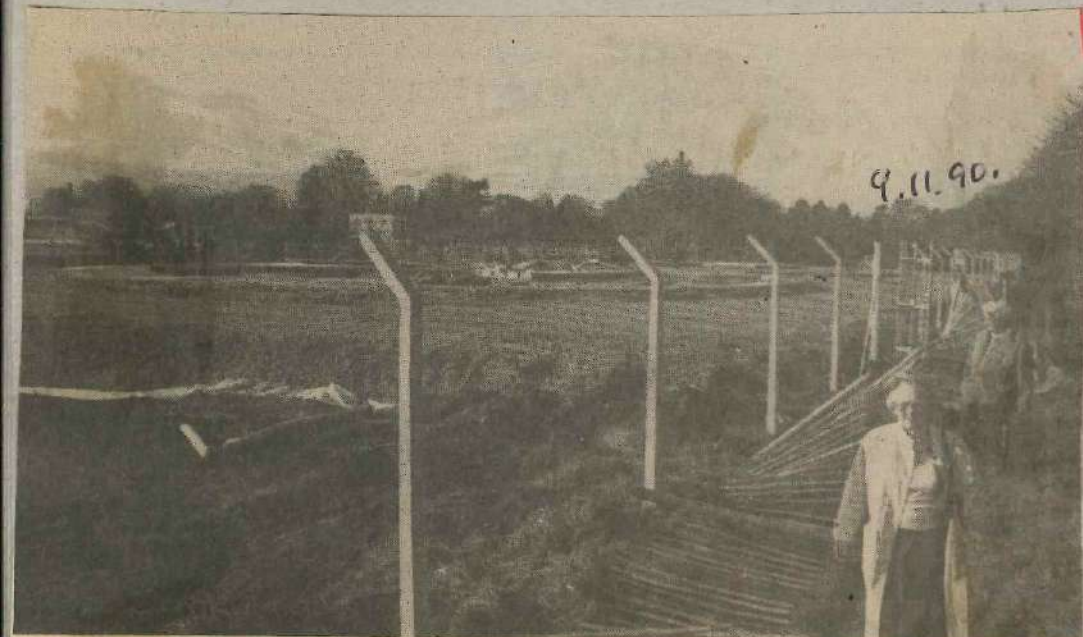
But Mr. Tom Orange, Chairman of Rising Star - the managing surveyors for Ilkley and Peterborough Buildings Ltd., who own the station development - said it was not a public car park.

He said, "we have made it quite clear from the beginning that the car park is for the use of shoppers to the development only."

Mr. Orange said the food-store chain Kwik Save was due to move into one half of the large unit at the development "anytime now". He would not reveal which company had purchased the second half of the unit which looks on to the Wharfedale railway line.

He said, "depending on Kwik Save's progress in setting up at Ilkley, the car park should be opening soon."

9.11.90.



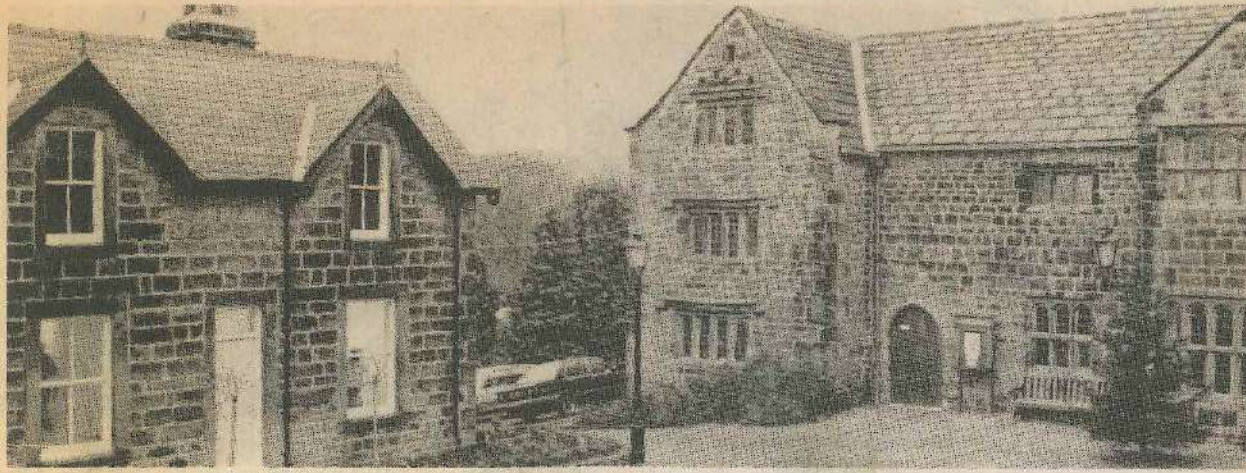
Yorkshire Water have begun a £633,000 project to meet the increasing demands placed on the Ilkley Sewage Works.

When completed the effluent will be treated by being sprayed over small rocks and stones which will be biologically broken

construction work recently fenced off alongside the riverside footpath, as part of the scheme trees are to be planted as a screen

11/5/90

THE MANOR HOUSE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM CASTLE YARD, ILKLEY





SATURDAY, 12th MAY, 1990, 10.30am

*Official opening of the ACTIVITY CENTRE by Judith Stamper —
presenter on BBC's "Look North".*

Full programme of events — admission free! Everyone welcome!

- **In Castle Yard — 10.30am-12.30pm**
Performances by the Fabulous Salami Brothers,
Medieval music by members of York Waits
Archaeology Sandpit for the under-fives!
- **In the Activity Centre from 11am-12.30pm**
Drop-in handling session of artefacts and
documents relating to the local history of Ilkley.
New exhibition on the history of Brook Street, Ilkley
- **In the Activity Centre 2-4.30pm** Public lecture and Demonstration — 17th Century Food and
Cooking in the Manor House. Speaker: Eileen White, historical researcher. Admission £1.00. Please book.
- **In the Manor House Lower Gallery all day**
Mystery objects quiz
- In the Manor House Upper Gallery 10.30am-12.30pm 'Common Ground' exhibition**
Demonstration of working methods in painting,
drawing and printing by the artists.
Sarah Hutton and Janice Hill
Refreshments available in Church House during the morning

Generously Supported by the Friends of the Manor House

 **City of Bradford Metropolitan Council Arts Museums & Libraries**
 **Directorate of Enterprise and Environment**

SOCIETY VOICE CONCERN OVER PLAN

26.10.90

Civic Society leaders have expressed concern over a planning proposal for Norwood House, in The Grove, Ilkley.

Ilkley Civic Society has voiced its concern for the proposal adjacent to Heathcote — which they claim is, in architectural terms, the most valuable building in the town.

Chairman Graham May said, "Heathcote is unique. As a listed building it is world renowned as a particular example of its designers work and its time.

"Unfortunately, some builders in recent years have seen fit to ape its features", said Mr. May.

He continued, "This latest planning application, with its mass of red tiled roofs, is another example. The result would detract from the original rather than complement it; a poor shadow of being an insult to a masterpiece".

Mr. May said Heathcote warrants careful consideration before planning application for Norwood House is determined.

"This latest plan is another example of intensification of development within this part of Ilkley. There is a pressing need for consideration of the cumulative effect of such developments", he said.

"Developments are changing the nature of the area, the town and its population; placing further demands upon the facilities and services of Ilkley which need to be carefully assessed.

"Whatever is happening to the west of Ilkley, it is certainly not planning!" he added.



STUDENT'S WISH GRANTED

A Danish student had his wish granted when he became a waiter for a day at Betty's Cafe, in The Grove, Ilkley.

Anders Nyholm (15) was in the town as part of an exchange holiday with Ilkley Theatre Group and all Danish students had to take part in some kind of work experience to improve their English.

Anders had already heard of Betty's Cafe and his wish was to become a waiter for a day. Betty's were only too pleased to make his wish come true and the fifteen years old spent a day serving the people and visitors of Ilkley.

Wheatley Old Hall, which is reputed to be the oldest house in the district, and the sole remaining building of the original village of Wheatley, now Ben Rhydding, is for sale and is expected to realise over £395,000.

Built in 1588, it is one of Wharfedale's most interesting and historic buildings. It stands on the site of a house held by Robert de Boulton in the 13th century and in Edmund Bogg's book "Two thousand Miles in Wharfedale" he recounts the story that Oliver Cromwell slept at the hall prior to the Battle of Marston Moor.

The house belonged to the Bolling family who owned most land in Wheatley, selling in the

19th century to allow Ben Rhydding to develop. In the later years the Bollings did not live in the house but let it to tenants, one of whom allowed Methodists

to use an outbuilding as their chapel from the 1850's.

Over the years since its construction, some alterations have been made and in the 17th century was extended considerably.

The Hall is constructed of coursed stone, with a Yorkshire stone roof. It retains many original features, including oak beams, original oak panelling and doors, stone arched doorways and magnificent open fireplaces. Whilst retaining its original charm it now has all modern services.

NEW CROSSINGS COME INTO USE



Pedestrians in Ilkley have been able to cross the road with the aid of little green men this week.

For three new pelican crossings have been erected along the A65 — one in Church Street and two in Leeds Road.

Campaigners have fought for years to have the two former zebra crossings in Church Street

and Leeds Road, near All Saints School, up-graded to the traffic light controlled crossings. Now their calls have been answered and pedestrians are able to cross in safety with the aid of the little green-man.

Picture shows the new crossing in Leeds Road, near All Saints School. Picture by Philip Bambridge, of Addingham. Ref. no. 196.

VICTORIAN HOTEL IS SAVED

Rockwood, the Ilkley Victorian building at the centre of a controversial scheme is to be saved and Ilkley Parish Council has been criticised for recommending its demolition.

Bradford Council's planning north sub-committee unanimously rejected the scheme to demolish the former hydrotherapy hotel in Cowpasture Road and replace it with a block of flats.

Chairman, Cr. Laurie Coughlin, said he was amazed and dismayed that Ilkley Parish Council could recommend the demolition of the building.

Following the decision the Parish Council Chairman, Cr. Mrs. Barbara Cussons, said she would obviously go with the majority decision.

"I am opposed to the proposed new development but I do not think that Rockwood is a Victorian asset to the town - it is a daunting building."

However, the news was welcomed by Bradford District Councillors for Ilkley.

Cr. Sarah Lawson said "I am obviously delighted that Rockwood is not going to be de-

molished because it is an important part of Ilkley's heritage.

"I think the tide has turned - people are now realising it is important to conserve buildings."

Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth said she had always disassociated herself from the Parish Council's comments.

"It is important to look at the whole spectrum, not this or any particular building. Ilkley is a Victorian town but it is in danger of becoming pseudo Victorian - a pastiche."

The Leeds based estate agents, Dalton's, who submitted the plan claimed the building should be demolished as it is extensively affected by wet rot, dry rot and damp.

But in a report by Bradford planning officers they stated that the need for repairs and rot treatment at Rockwood was not sufficient justification for demolition.

Preparations for the Olicana Museum and Historical Society's centenary year in 1992 were in hand, members heard at the annual meeting.

Members were told it was expected special speakers would give talks to celebrate the centenary.

The Chairman's report referred to a successful year with excellent attendances at meetings. Congratulations were expressed to the programme secretary for an interesting and varied programme.

The secretary regretfully reported the death of Mrs. Jessie Dean, a long standing member and regular attendee at meetings. It was announced the new excursion secretary would be Mrs. Muriel Lloyd.

Some interesting excursions arranged for the summer included an evening visit to Eldwick and full day visits to Ribchester, Hadrian's Wall, Gawthorpe Hall and Tiffany Glass Museum at Accrington, and a joint outing with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society to Helmsley and its castle.

CLOTHING TRADE

The business meeting was followed by an illustrated talk by Mr. P. Kelly, of Leeds Museum, on the Leeds Clothing Industry.

Mr. Kelly said that in 1851 eight per cent of the working population was employed in the clothing trade but by 1911 Leeds had outstripped every other town except London in the num-

ber of workers employed and the clothing trade was the staple industry of the town.

There were several branches of the trade. Small bespoke and craft tailors, small wholesale firms and large wholesale firms such as Montague Burton, employing two thousand workers.

Even the very large firms kept special order departments for certain customers. Some had their own shops. By 1950 half the population of Leeds was employed in the clothing trade.

For a suit to be made, all the pieces had to be cut from the same length of material. The invention of the band knife meant that up to eighty suits could be cut out at the same time as the material was spread out in layers. Laying was a skilled job, he said. Today with the use of laser beams up to two hundred suits could be cut out one time. There were six processors in the making of jackets, such as cuffs, and button holes. These proces-

ses were divided among specialist workers.

Many of the out-workers employed in the 1870's-90's were semi-skilled workers from Silesia, who were Orthodox Jews. They started eight synagogues in Leeds.

By the twentieth century the ready made clothing industry in Leeds was highly organised. It was found that five basic sizes would fit ninety per cent of the population. Thirteen million garments were supplied to the forces in the First World War.

In the 1930's piped music was introduced to keep the workers working at the same speed but also meant most firms provided social clubs, welfare schemes and playing fields.

COMMITTEE

The committee of the society was re-elected but with a mandate for the ensuing year to consider the constitution of the society and any amendments felt to be necessary.

GROUP LOBBY MINISTER IN BOUNDARY ROW

A pressure group is to lobby Environment Minister Chris Patten in its bid to reverse the controversial decision of transferring the whole of the Middleton Hospital site into North Yorkshire. 21.9.90.

The group, calling themselves the Campaign for Local Democracy and the Protection of Wharfedale's Green Belt, have called on Mr. Patten to reject the Boundary Commission's decision.

Two months ago, the Boundary Commission transferred the sixty acre hospital site entirely into North Yorkshire. Previously, the site had been divided by the north and west boundaries.

Now, the Ilkley pressure group is demanding the site be transferred entirely into West Yorkshire.

A member of the group, Mr. Peter Cheney, of Crossbeck Road, said, "it's going to be tough and it could take up to three years but we are determined to win the battle."

And Mr. Cheney knows exactly what he is up against. For

when he lived in Scotland he fought a similar battle against the Boundary Commission - and won.

"One thing I learned then was that the Boundary Commission can be stubborn; they will not change their minds easily. But we have to prove to them that in this case they are wrong," he said.

Already the campaign has won the support of local MP Gary Waller. He will be putting a motion forward in the House of Commons on behalf of the group.

The next step is get as many names as possible on the petition which will be presented to Environment Minister Mr. Patten.

In a detailed report to Mr. Patten, the pressure group highlight several factors in their case including the location of the site, natural justice and the environment.

The group state, "the derelict hospital site is clearly within Wharfedale. The geography of its location, most particularly the lack of road access from North Yorkshire, points clearly to the site being moved wholly into Ilkley and West Yorkshire."

The hospital site is at present up for sale following the closure of Middleton Hospital. The main fear of the group, and the town's parish councillors, is that whilst

the site is in North Yorkshire they will not have a say over planning decisions for the future.

COMPROMISE

Mr. Cheney said, "as far as planning goes, Ilkley and its people can have no say in determining the level of any development despite the fact that the site overlooks the town."

And the group's report adds, "residents of any future development on the site will look towards Ilkley and Ben Rhydding for the great majority of their services and facilities."

Residents would send their children to school in Ilkley, use the town library, enjoy the use of the riverside gardens and recreational centres and use other facilities - all without any contribution to the cost because they would be paying the North Yorkshire poll tax.

To conclude their report, the pressure group propose a compromise. "The compromise is to separate the hospital site from Middleton village and transfer it into the west. It is a compromise which is likely to minimise the danger of inappropriate development and maximise environmental protection," the group said.

That compromise has also won the support of Ilkley Parish Council.

VANDALS RUIN MUSEUM TROUGHS

Museum officials were outraged this week after vandals struck at Ilkley Manor House and wrecked a floral display.

On Sunday morning a worker at the museum, in Castle Yard, arrived to find plants and soil strewn all over the ground after being ripped out of stone troughs.

The troughs, donated by Ilkley businessman Vincent Dobson, arrived at the museum only in May.

Mr. Stephen Kerry, Principal Officer for Arts and Museums, told the "Gazette" he was outraged by the vandals.

He said, "I am angered and depressed that someone should choose to ruin all the hard work people at the museum have put in to make Castle Yard look attractive".

"We have been dreading this happening ever since the troughs were installed. And it is a sad state of affairs that this kind of thing should happen in Ilkley", he added.

The museum gardener has been assessing the damage this week and it is expected the floral display will be re-established as soon as possible.

PRE-MANOR HOUSE BUILDING ON SITE



Excavations of the site of the Roman Fort at Ilkley in September 1965, revealed the corner of a late 14th century building pre-dating the present Manor House. Cr. Kenneth Wilson who directed the excavations said the major part of the building was underneath the Manor House and below a modern sewer where it was not possible to

building with walls 2 feet thick faced with dressed stone from the Roman Fort. The walls had remained standing to about four feet in height and were joined to the west face of the Roman wall. In the corner of the building was a privy with an outlet through the wall into the moat.

Pottery found at the bottom of the privy was

HISTORIANS WIN FIGHT OVER FORT

Historians have won a seven year fight to get a famous landmark listed as an ancient monument.

The English Heritage has announced that the Ilkley Roman Fort has achieved the listing local historians have been pressing for since 1983.

The fort is one of one hundred and fifty known examples in England and was occupied for some three hundred years.

On the Ilkley site, features relating to both the fort's early turf and timber phase and its reconstruction in stone are believed to be contained. The whole of the remaining unexcavated area contains the remains of contemporary Roman buildings and the size and location of the struc-

EXHIBITION FEATURES VICTORIAN ILKLEY



In support of Ilkley Parish Council's appeal for the restoration of the fountain at the top of Brook Street, local school-children have donated art work for a special exhibition at Ilkley Manor House.

At the exhibition, opened on Saturday by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cr. Deryk Conquest, visitors saw art work by children from local schools, Ashlands First and Burley Middle. All the work was based on the theme of "Victorian Ilkley" - a time when the fountain would have been the pride of Ilkley.

Also on show at the exhibition were various photographs depicting Ilkley in Victorian times. Etching works by David Hockney, illustrating Grimm's Fairy Tales, completed the exhibition.

Commenting on the art work on show Mrs. Mary Bentham, of the Manor House, said that the children from Ilkley schools were fortunate to have Ilkley as their inspiration, and she praised the schools for their part. "The exhibition shows the wide variety of work produced in schools today," she said.

● Pictured at the opening of the Manor House Exhibition are (left to right) - Cr. Bill Nunn (Bradford Art and Recreation), Cr. and Mrs. Deryk Conquest, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth, Chairman Ilkley Parish Council.

STONE TROUGHS FOR MUSEUM



Ilkley Manor House Museum will be making a worthwhile contribution to the town's display in the Britain in Bloom competition thanks to two huge stone troughs.

The troughs, acquired through generous donations by Vincent Dobson (Builders) Ltd., and Friends of the Manor House, will

be used for a display of flowers through the year - adding to the delightful surroundings of Castle Yard.

Administration Assistant at the Manor House, Joy Godfrey, said, "once we have spruced up the troughs with a colourful array of flowers we hope it will be a contribution to Ilkley's entry in

the Britain in Bloom contest this summer."

● Pictured celebrating the arrival of the new troughs in Castle Yard are (left to right), Miss Eleanor Holt, of the Friends of the Manor House, Joy Godfrey and Mr. Vincent Dobson. Picture by Philip Bambridge, of Addingham. Ref. No. PB198.

Ilkley Parish Council Chairman, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth, the creator of the Ilkley Heritage Trust of which the first project is to re-install the town's once famous fountain, revealed her further plans to the "Gazette". They are:

- The area between the fountain and the Ghyll widened and made into a mini cobbled courtyard.

- Replica Victorian lights to be erected in the courtyard.

- Seats, possibly sponsored by individuals or organisations, to be situated in the courtyard.

- The Ghyll to be maintained and gardenised.

The latest additions should "enhance" the original plans but Cr. Mrs. Hawkesworth said the plans had always been in her mind and it is only now that she has decided to reveal them publicly.

The Victorian Fountain at Mill Ghyll, at the top of Brook Street, has always been a point of considerable interest in the town and the original fountain is fondly remembered. In the Trust's first year, Cr. Mrs. Hawkesworth felt it was "entirely appropriate" to set up an appeal for residents and visitors to contribute to the target of £5,000.

Seven months on, the money

raised is approaching £1,000 and Cr. Mrs. Hawkesworth reported progress was "steady".

She said: "There are many people who are interested and enthusiastic about the scheme but money is not coming forward as quickly as I would have liked", she admitted, looking back on the past seven months.

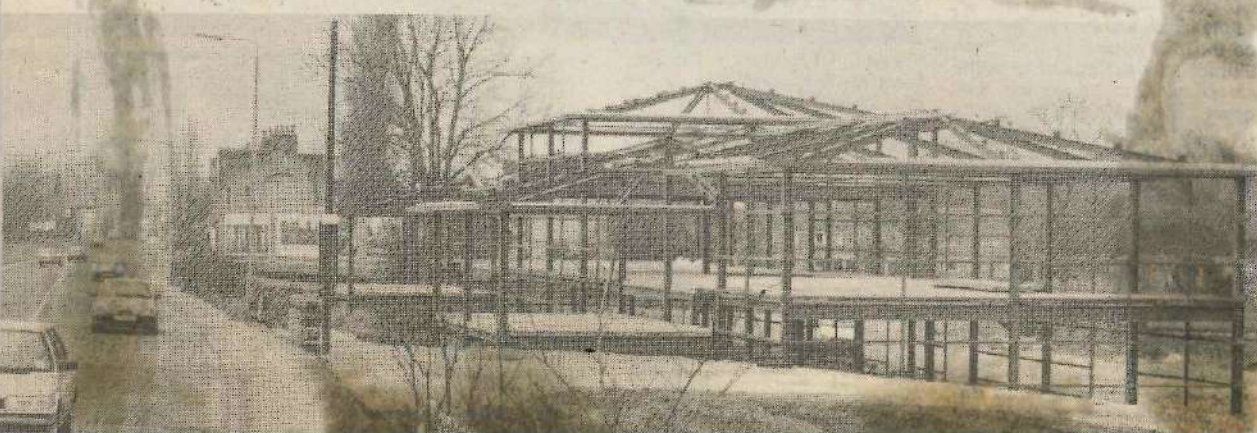
"The exhibition at the Manor House was superb and we hope to have collection tins in many town centre shops to boost funds", she added.

Cr. Mrs. Hawkesworth was hoping to have the required target money raised by the end of 1990 but "the earlier the better", she said.

"There is still a long way to go but there is some encouraging news because an anonymous 'godfather' may give a tremendous boost and conclusion to the funds!", she optimistically added.

Pictured is one of the several cheque presentations which took place last year in aid of the Ilkley Heritage Trust's Fountain Scheme. On this occasion, Chairman of the Ilkley Carnival Committee, Mrs. Miggy Bailey, (far left) presents a cheque for £250 to two trustees of the Trust, Crs. Joy Galling (left) and Iris Burnett. (Picture ref. no. PB74).

WORK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE ON BUSINESS PARK



ROMAN FORT PROJECT NEARER REALITY

Ilkley's multi million pound Roman Fort scheme took another step forward on Monday night after Parish Councillors agreed detailed work should now be carried out.

And, in about one year's time Bradford Council officers in charge of the scheme will return with more firm ideas of what they actually plan to do with the town's famous past.

Ilkley Parish Council was told by two officers of the City Arts, Museums and Libraries Division, Mr. P. Lawson and Mr. G. Edwards that the draft document released in November provided just a framework for the ambitious plan.

Mr. Gavin Edwards, author of the document, told councillors, "it is just a starting point which takes into account all considerations. Many things still need to be looked at in detail before anything definite can be drawn up and they include archaeological considerations; reconstruction of existing facilities; the effect of such a scheme on Ilkley and the environmental effects," he said.

PROBLEM

The biggest problem with the scheme would be finding a place for tourists to park, said Mr. Edwards. "I view this as a single project and it could prove worthwhile considering incorporating car parking in the scheme. I believe a possible site for parking could be at the western end of Riverside Gardens with access from Stockeld Road," he said.

He told councillors there was a number of options on how the Roman site would be presented but did say the scheme would be dedicated to a small section of the fort which had already been disturbed through previous excavations. But, he said that whilst a Roman theme was an important element of the scheme more emphasis should be placed on the site being of a multi period nature.

If the scheme is approved a year from now, the Roman Fort site would resemble a building site, said Mr. Edwards whilst

excavation work was carried out. And, work would take at least six years to complete "if things went smoothly," he added.

However, during those six years, Mr. Edwards fears the site could fall victim to vandals and metal detector enthusiasts.

"It is a particular worry and that is why I would prefer work to be done all the year round with between eight and sixteen archaeologists on the site. That way, vandals and other unwanted guests could be deterred from going to the site," he said.

"LOST" WATER

Sir,—As one treks round Ilkley early in the morning one cannot but reflect on this former spa resort in 1990. Is this beautiful gracious town losing its dignity and grace in its bid to become commercially viable and a modern tourist town? Not only has Ilkley become one vast building site, full of potholes, uneven, blocked pavements and diversions, some parts of the town are now under water. The building site is now in danger of becoming a flooded building site and all in a period of severe drought.

On spying through the knot in the wooden fencing surrounding the Spa Buildings redevelopment one asks whether the water is rising or falling? Is the tide coming in or going out? What is the source of the leaks. Did the Victorians know a thing or two that the engineers of today do not? The situation is totally confused.

As one who helped, among others, to locate the iron or chalybeate water to south of The Grove in 1986, the following questions should now be raised. When the 1970 redevelopment to the south of The Grove interrupted the flow of iron water to the Canker Well to the north where did the "lost" water go? Has it been flooding underground since the 70s and if so where? Are there other water sources? It is understood that many springs and wells were known in recent times in properties north of The Grove and no doubt City Engineers are aware of the water supply and drainage patterns, nevertheless, historical and anecdotal information could be both valuable and welcome.

An 1890s Guide Book to Ilkley refers to the Spa Hydro and its baths for the former demolished Spa Building. The chalybeate spring in the grounds is also mentioned, which clearly refers to the Victorian tiled wells behind Swallow and Route 66, which is at present completely dry.

Before the leaks become a flood and before the building site of Ilkley becomes a submerged building site, once the drought is over, perhaps City Engineers could locate the source of the water and connect it to the Canker Well, perhaps killing two birds with one stone. The uninhibited flow may be staunch and the Canker Well may be restored to its former glory as a tourist attraction.

No doubt City Engineers are studying this very complex situation and the knot in the wooden fencing may now be sealed.

ELEANOR HOLT
25, Wells Road,
Ilkley.

10/8/90

CRAIGLANDS OFFERED FOR SALE

The Craiglunds Hotel at Ilkley is one of three well known Yorkshire hotels being put up for sale with a £13.5m price tag after a decision by their London based owners not to continue with plans to improve them.

The Craiglunds and the other two hotels, The Metropole in Leeds and The Cairn at Harrogate are owned by the Crown Hotels group which is also selling its Dalhousie Castle, Edinburgh, and Dryburgh Abbey, Roxburghshire, operations.

The Crown Group managing director, Ms Judith Holland, said the decision to sell was taken because her group wanted to be "operations and management driven" and not distracted by the re-development plans for the hotels.

"We have made a decision to rationalise our operations and while the hotels for sale are all excellent trading concerns, they no longer fit in with our long term marketing objectives," she said.

"We see development activity as taking our eye of the ball. As a London based group we want to retain a tighter geographical and financial control over our Company development and these disposals will contribute significantly to achieving that aim," said Ms Holland.

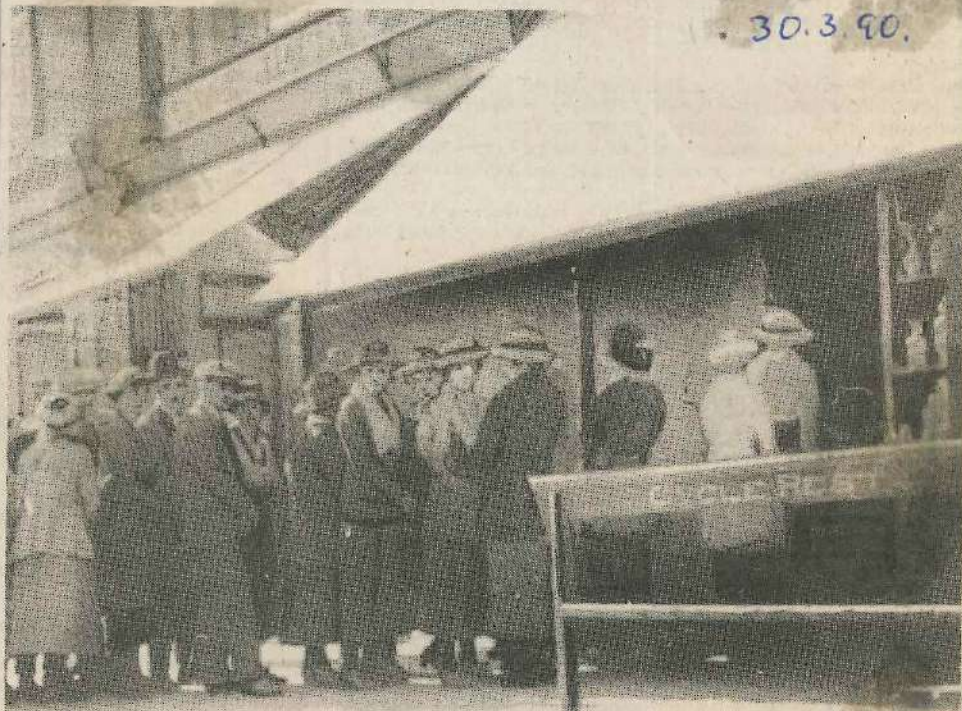
The group had done some refurbishment on the hotels, but was not prepared to invest major sums on extensive renovations.

The group acquired the Craiglunds Hotel eighteen months ago as part of a larger package. Crown estimates the three Yorkshire hotels are jointly worth £13.5m but will consider selling any of them individually or in a package.

The Craiglunds Hotel has 73 rooms with potential for further development.

28/9/90

QUEUING FOR TEA IN THE GROVE



Residents queued outside the Cafe Kiosk, in The Grove, Ilkley, when this picture was taken in the 1920s.

by Halifax Property Services—sold a selection of teas and coffee.

This concluding part of an historic lecture given in 1873 by John Dobson on what Ilkley was like in 1823 takes a look at the life of one of the fathers of Methodism in Ilkley, education, practical joking and ghosts and witches.

A "FATHER OF METHODISM"

One of the fathers of Methodism in Ilkley was "Old Sammy". He occupied a farm at Wheatley, but in early life had been a labourer. He was a tall, thin man, with a rather long face, having a highly intelligent expression. In his air and carriage there was a simple dignity and refinement of manner seldom seen in connection with a small farmer. Though never for-

ward he was decidedly free when once the ice was broken, and was abundantly endowed with that charming grace which made juniors and inferiors feel at ease in his presence. He was a well-read and thoughtful man, of very considerable mental powers. Hence it was nothing less than a treat to listen to him, whether in conversation at the fireside or when preaching from the pulpit. On the

occasion of his public addresses it was soon seen he was no ordinary man; there was order and method in the arrangement, beauty and force in his diction, and pith and clearness in his thoughts. As a considerable number of visitors attended the old room where the Methodists had their services they always enjoyed a sermon from "Old Sammy"; many of them saying they would quite as soon hear from him as a regular minister. Though a Methodist the old man never attempted to conceal the fact that there was quite a large proportion of moderate Calvinism in his doctrinal composition. "Sammy" lived and continued to preach till the lecturer was near twenty years old, so that the estimate he had given of the man was not formed in childhood.

amount increased with the distance.

ONE NEWSPAPER A WEEK

Then as to newspapers, he believed only one copy of one paper came into Ilkley. This was the "Leeds Mercury", the size of the page being not above half what it is at present. The paper had four pages, was published weekly (on Saturdays), and the price was sevenpence. The paper somehow got to Otley by about nine o'clock, and it was brought forward to Ilkley to the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Tommy Wharton's, by the "butterman", who generally arrived there about noon. Of course there was no such thing as seeing the paper for a day or two, but by going to the house for a drink on Monday or Tuesday. When he went for the paper, giving a penny for the loan of it (if it was in), he received a strict charge to bring it back immediately.

CHANGING TIMES

The constant and increasing intercourse which had taken place with the great world outside for a number of years past with the influx of strangers as residents (formerly in a less degree, but latterly to a preponderating extent), had not been without its influence on them (the older inhabitants) in lessening the darkness on the shady, and toning down the light on the brighter side of their character. But a very different state of things prevailed half a century since. The few visitors that came did not show in force till about the beginning of July, and they were nearly all

EDUCATION

In matters educational Ilkley stood relatively quite as high as at present. The old school would have even then something like seventy scholars attending it in winter. The master, Mr. Tunnicliffe, left his mark upon the place. He was, perhaps, the finest penman ever seen in Wharfedale. He "pushed" the juveniles pretty freely, but was decidedly severe, and many laughable incidents in connection with his rule as Domine could be given.

It need scarcely be said that railways and telegraph did not exist; and as to the postal service, one would have thought it was contrived not for the furthering, but for the purpose of preventing correspondence. A letter at the date in question from Leeds to Ilkley was sevenpence and the



One of many moorland streams which takes a course down the hillside to the River Wharfe is this one known as Hebers Ghyll.



Thatched cottages in Church Street between South Hawskworth Street and Cunliffe Road.

gone before the end of September, and their influence on the minds and manners of the Ilkley people was but little. It would therefore excite little surprise that the elderly inhabitants should seem so strange and quaint in language and character, when their wild surroundings and their weird beliefs and marvellous legends inherited from their ancestors for generations before are remembered.

GHOSTS AND WITCHES

The people of Ilkley told of ghosts in abundance. They were in this gill and that watercourse, appearing differently to every spectator. Then the strange

sounds in old houses; doors banging; crockery rattling; with sighs, groans and fearful wild whistling; and the neighbours in two instances were said to have seen the "deil" waiting on top of the chimney for those who were dying below! There was a firm and almost universal belief in witchcraft. Manifold were the strange tales told of the poor creatures suspected of this imaginary crime: and if the machinery of the old corn mill went wrong; if the child sickened or the cow died; if the crops failed or, in fact, any other calamitous event happened, the "witch" was blamed. Precautions were taken by nailing horseshoes above doors; charms buried in the fields; and "wise men"

(who were much more abundant than at present!) were frequently consulted.

There was one old woman (a type of the rest of those suspected). she was extremely poor, but had a wonderful fund of ready wit, spiced with a dash of sarcasm. He had often thought this strange power of hers might have been the original cause of the fear, which had degenerated into hate; and not being able otherwise to account for her power, had pronounced her a "witch".

PRACTICAL JOKES

There was a good deal of practical joking, such as running carts or other conveyances into the mill

dam or into the river; pushing stacks over, and, still worse, stopping-up the chimneys of houses during the winter evenings and at the same time fastening the house door. As the smoke couldn't get away, the fire had to be put out until someone opened the door. This was once the case with the Methodists at old Fozzard's at a New Year's eve watch-night service. The age, however, has left the period of childhood, and there is no doubt has put away permanently all such childish things; and let us hope that intelligence and goodness may in future keep pace with social progress, then we shall have no fear for our country.

BAD ROADS LIMIT TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

The second part of an historic lecture given in 1873 by John Dobson on what Ilkley was like in 1823 continues this week with a look at catering for visitors, the cost of living, means of transport and some local personalities. This part follows part one which gave an account of Ilkley – a thatched village beside an open stream and almost lost in its surroundings of thick woodland.

COMBING AND WEAVING

The amount which could be earned by wool-combing varied greatly in consequence of the material worked being much worse to operate upon at one time than at others. When the work

was good, a man, by very hard working for very long hours, might earn 18s. per week; and when the work was bad he might work just as hard for 6s. or 7s. In consequence of the extremely lowness of wages, when a man

had a large family, both wife and children had to assist, one awkward result of this state of things being to keep the children from school. About one day in every fortnight was spent in taking work back to the mill and bringing fresh material from it, the pay for the horse and cart having to come out of the pittance they had earned.

The weavers had been better off some time previous to this, but already "coming events were casting their shadows before". There began to be talk of power looms, combing by machinery, and in the struggle between machinery and hand labour as it was called, there was an awful amount of suffering on the part of many honest, industrious, intelligent and most estimable men. The struggle was protracted for years, but when this dark night closed, a brighter morning dawned upon them than they had ever seen before. Well did he remember a curious conversation between an old man in Ilkley, a small farmer, and his daughter, a weaver. He was talking largely of the ruin and beggary brought to working people by the use of machinery.

"Well", said the poor girl as a sigh escaped her, "There was always some way done".

"Eh!" said the old man, "While now 'at there's nane".

SELF-RELIANCE

But the worst thing about this employment in manufactures was the frequency of entire or partial stoppages of work, and as this nearly always happened after a bad harvest, when provisions were dear, their sufferings on these occasions were very severe. The Corn Laws had not been repealed, and when our crop failed, the consequences were fearful indeed. But such was the spirit of independence displayed, that it would be difficult to prove that any of them applied for parish assistance, in the very worst periods of bad trade. When he remembered the self-reliance exhibited on the occasions spoken of, it would be most gratifying if he could see the superior opportunities of the present properly used and made the most of by those who ought to recollect that the sun does not shine at midnight, that winter up to the present always followed summer, and that, a surely as employment has been scarce before, it will be again.

In speaking thus highly of the industry and economy of the cottagers in Ilkley at the period under notice, he would not be understood to say they were all alike thrifty, as undoubtedly there were failures amongst them; but he thought that, when numbers and means were fully considered there was less intemperance than at present. The people however, were cleanly in their persons, clothes and dwellings.

About the time to which he referred, some of the neighbouring towns and villages were troubled with gangs of desperate characters given to housebreaking and highway robbery. On one occasion a native of Ilkley was coming toward home from Burley, when he was stopped by a man, who sprang upon him and immediately had him down. The Ilkley man recognised the robber and said, "What! Hast thou turned highwayman?" The other replied that he had, and asked, "Dost ta know ma?" An answer in the affirmative was given, when he was allowed to go on his way on promising "not to tell".

Besides the general honesty of the people, they were no less remarkable for their kindness one to another, especially amongst the very poor. The persons who followed special trades were but few. There were two inns – the Wheat Sheaf and the Rose and Crown; there were a blacksmith, a wheelwright, two butchers, three shoemakers, one tailor and three small grocers' shops, the most frequented of which was the old house which stands singly in the Castle Yard, directly to the West of the Church tower. This shop had long been the only draper's shop in the village, for its stock was not confined to groceries by any means.

CATERING FOR VISITORS

The number of those who provided furnished rooms for visitors in summer was confined to eight, the Low House and Mr. Batty's being the principal ones. The few persons of the working class who then resorted here found lodgings in some of the old cottages. The number of visitors, however, at that time was very small, the probability being great that there are far more residing in Ilkley at the present time as visitors, than could have been found there at any time in summer. Nor need this be wondered at, as the population was comparatively small then, even in the manufacturing districts.

Money was a very much scarcer commodity, and the roads so as to make a journey to Ilkley a slightly hazardous undertaking; added to which there was no public conveyance, and taking chaise was a dear mode of obtaining the means of removal. Properly speaking there could hardly be said to be a road to Bradford. The rough tracks called roads, one by Wood Head from Burley and the other by Mestone from the same place, joining on Menstone Moor and proceeding by Hawksworth Lane to Baildon, were scarcely fit for a horse to travel on, the animal being often to the knees in mud.

COST OF LIVING

It would be a matter for wonder with some how persons with large families managed to subsist on the pittance they earned. If incomes



A herd of goats gather outside the old Star Inn along Leeds Road during the nineteenth century. The Star Inn and its neighbour the Wharfedale Inn at the bottom of Brook Street were demolished when Brook Street was extended towards Middleton and a new Star Inn was built. The lamp post was said to be one of the first in Ilkley in 1866.



Church Street during the last century.

were small, however, the necessities of life were cheap. The rents of many of the old cottages would range from £2 to £3 per year. Rates were extremely small. Good skim milk (many said as good as what is at present sold for new) a penny four pints. Oatmeal and old milk formed the greater part of the living of the poorest. Potatoes varied somewhat but the average was 5s. to 6s. per sack, and in plentiful years came as low as 4s. Corn varied greatly, from 1s. 9d. to 5s. for 16lbs. being paid for flour, wet and dry seasons making the difference. Butter in summer was from 10d. to 1s. per roll of 24ozs., and eggs at the same season 26 for 1s. Legs of mutton 5½d. to 6d. per pound; salt 4d. per pound; the heavy price being caused by a heavy duty; tea and sugar nearly double present prices; currants 1s. per pound, and new milk 1d. per pint, the measure, however, being generally one-third over what it is at present.

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Whatever the causes, the health of the village was not so good as now. Infectious diseases, such as typhoid fever and smallpox, were more frequent and of a more dangerous type than at present then they did occur. Probably the style of living had much to do with it, as well as the damp, undrained land by which the place was surrounded.

When visitors wished to go to Bolton Woods for the day there was but one conveyance. It was a sort of spring cart. A seat which held three persons (the driver and his party of two), swung from supports at the sides by means of stout straps. Often, however, the party of two had to be obtained from as many houses. This state of things soon changed, for a carrier's cart started for Leeds on market days, and was soon followed by a car, for the conveyance of passengers at the same times and for the same place.

On a fine summer's day a string of donkeys wended their way, conveying invalid ladies and children up the sides of the hill to the

Old Wells. Poor pedestrians, too, might be seen toiling up the same on sticks and crutches, happily in many cases destined to be thrown aside, health and vigour being restored to many by the free use of pure air and water, the latter being applied with the kindest attention by "Old Billy" and his wife "Betty".

VISITORS WHO SANG

Queer bodies sometimes "cam this gate" amongst the poorer visitors. Some of them were poets, after a fashion. The subjects they sang of were generally the same - the beauties of Ilkley and the benefits derived from a sojourn there. Some of the productions were tolerable; in one instance really beautiful and truly poetic; often, however, it was the veriest doggerel. Many of this class of visitors, however, were very estimable men, steady, thoughtful characters with whom it was a privilege to associate. There was one practice they had at that day which at present seems to have fallen into partial disuse. He referred to their habit of singing psalms and hymns in a group on fine mornings and generally out of doors - up at the old White Wells or on the broad back of the Cow, and often on still evenings under the old tree in Bridge Lane.

CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

The Parish Church at the time to which he referred was not a very inviting edifice either externally

or internally. The bells which conveyed the invitation to worship did not discourse very sweet music. They were but three in number and two of them were awfully cracked. The ancient clock, with antique face and wierd-looking machinery, seemed in more senses than one to be a relation to old Father Time. The seats were simple oaken benches with higher backs than the present ones. The wood in places was decayed and worm-eaten. The floor, with the exception of the aisles, was earthen and partially covered with straw mats trodden to rags, and the loose straw freely scattered about.

SOME LOCAL PERSONALITIES

The Vicar at this time was the Rev. William Holdsworth, a very amiable and pious old gentleman, who had the esteem and regard of the entire population. Well did he (the lecturer) remember his addresses to them in the Sunday School; how he was regularly in the habit of giving out one of Watts's hymns; how he was surrounded by assistants in the Sunday School tuition of the Methodist persuasion, without whose help the schools could not have been conducted. In fact at that day there seemed the best possible understanding between the Vicar and all his parishioners. With the Catholics he never interfered, and the simple and thoroughly Protestant character of the services won the help and frequent attendance

of those who did not regard themselves as Churchmen. The prayers were read and the Psalms were sung, and a dignified simplicity characterised the entire service.

VILLAGE GOSSIP

There was a decided love of gossiping among the villagers, especially the old ones. Sometimes he had the privilege of listening to the converse of the elders. As might be thought, there was a vast difference as to intellectual power, and one at least had a clear and vigorous mind, although far towards ninety years of age. He sometimes quoted poetry of a very old-world type, and caused a distinct impression to be left on the lecturer's mind that these fathers were drawing aside the screen which curtained the past, and revealing a state of things almost departed.

Sometimes the conversation would leave village gossip, and even old-world tales and wild legends, and the talk would be for a moment of the Bible; and as they were not all "far learned i' t' Scripture", they made curious mistakes and dealt very largely in the apochryphal. One of these chronologists once said, "What a pity it wor 'at Methusaleh didn't live yah year longer, and then he wad ha' been just 1,000, as he wor 999 when he died!"

STORY OF OLD ILKLEY REKINDLES MEMORIES



A great deal of interest has been generated by the Gazette's articles on "What Life was like in Ilkley" which concludes this week and has certainly made a local craftsman view his premises in a different light.

Mr. Raymond Pollard runs his upholstery business from premises in Brook Street behind the Crescent Hotel and after reading the first article he believes that his workshop was once used as a place of worship for local Methodists.

Mr. Pollard thinks that although the article stated that acroft, yard barns, etc. and two cottages occupied the same site where the Crescent Hotel now stands in fact the cottages were not demolished but is the property he uses for his workshop and showroom.

His property is certainly very old, and it is obvious from the outside that two doorways have been blocked up. As described in the article above the cottages was a "low rickety chamber which might seat about eighty persons where the Methodists had worshipped for half a century". And above his showroom is just such a room which appears never to have been divided up.

Mr. Pollard's knowledge of the building is quite sketchy as although he bought the property about fifteen years ago there are very few details either to the age or occupancy of the deeds.

His own recollections are of during the Second World War visiting with his mother for what he believes was a Food Office for orange juice and cod liver oil. On the deeds is only one name an Amy Keighley who sold the property in 1944.

The property has also, it is believed, been a store for furniture just after the last war. Mr. Pollard also recalls that Crockatt the Cleaners also owned the premises and Mr. Charlesworth for some time ran an upholstery business. His own father worked for Mr. Charlesworth and when his employer died he set up on his own and Raymond followed in his father's footsteps.

Of its earlier history Mr. Pollard knows very little except over the years elderly customers have remarked that they used to come dancing to the upstairs room. So perhaps this old stone building was not only used for a place of worship but was perhaps the town's first dance hall.

EARLY ILKLEY STUDIO



Many of Ilkley's early photographs were taken by Jesse Bontoft whose studio could be found in Wells Road.

It was from these premises (pictured) that Mr. Bontoft was to record for more than 50 years many changes to the Ilkley land

scape. Towards the end of the last century and into the 20th century Ilkley was undergoing a period of many changes and it was Jesse Bontoft who was on the scene to record for future generations glimpses of another Ilkley.

His studio provided facilities for portraiture and picture framing and when his premises were cleared in the early 1950s following his death thousands upon thousands of negatives, on film and glass, were found.

100 Years Ago

ONE of Ilkley's most respected figures, Major John Middleton, died suddenly in November 1891, at the age of 62. Such was the suddenness of his death that it stunned the whole community casting a gloom over the area which was an indication of his popularity. The younger brother of Mr C M Middleton, Lord of the Manor of Ilkley, he lived in Laurel House which he moved to in his later years from the family home of Myddelton Lodge. A bachelor, Major Middleton devoted his life to the affairs of the town, sitting on the Bench, the School Board, the Lawn Tennis, Bowling and Cricket Clubs. A Gazette tribute described him as "Genial, kind-hearted, sympathetic, he will linger lovingly in the memory of those amongst whom. He has lived and for whom he has done all that lay in his power."

25 Years Ago

The development and landscaping of the former gravel workings between the river and the main road at Ben Rhydding as a recreational and picnic area was approved in principle by Ilkley Urban Council in January 1966 in the face of strong criticism. It was stated that the estimated cost, excluding the acquisition of the site, was £4,763. The area was not exclusive enough to accept a



ILKLEY's comic cricket match which became known as the tradesmen's game between the Black Hats and White Hats was founded 111 years ago.

It became a popular annual event for charity but eventually met its demise before the Second World War. In May, 1980 Ilkley remembered the centenary of the event and staged a special match which was won by the "White Hats." That year the Ilkley Tradesmens Cup was presented to the Captain of the White Hats, Mr. Andrew Sharpe by the Mayor of Bradford and the losers cup to Mr. Walter Forrest, Captain of the Black Hats.

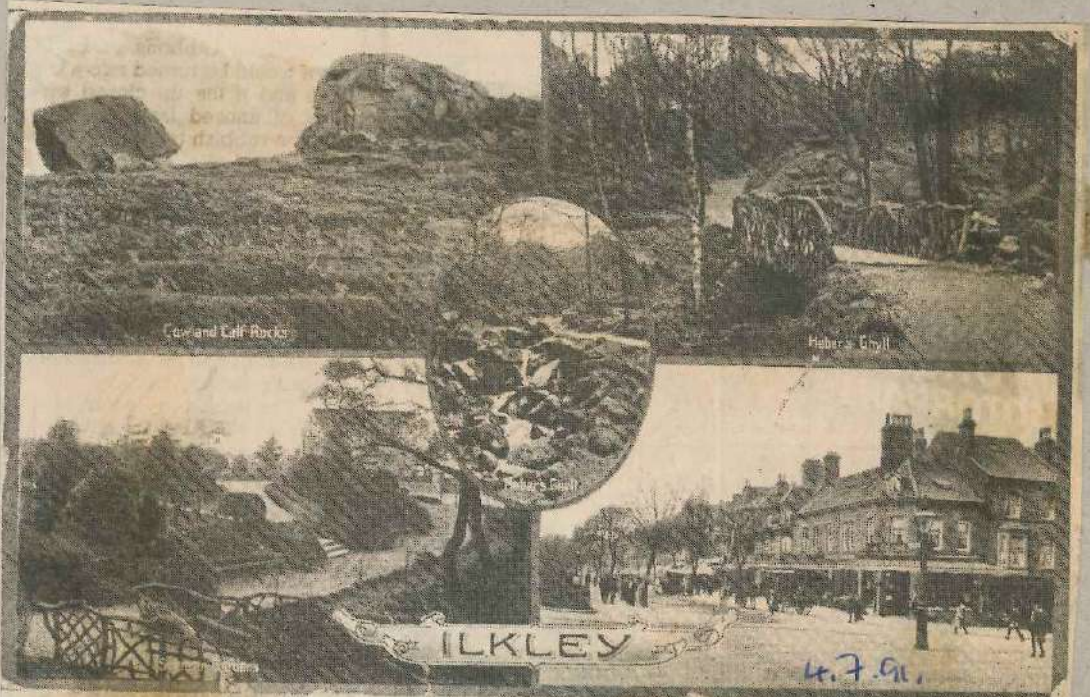
Each side had 19 players and the comic match became well known for the zany incidents which formed part of a special rule book for this exceptional event.

This picture of five cricketers who took part in an event at the beginning of this century shows the captains wearing their respective top hats with the much coveted trophy.

A NEW STAR IS BORN



A new Star Inn at the junction of Leeds Road and New Brook Street, Ilkley was completed during the first decade of the 20th Century. The new inn replaced the first Star Inn, the remains of which can be seen left of picture, which was demolished to make way for the extension of Brook Street, to be known as New Brook Street.



This early Ilkley postcard from the beginning of the century featured five scenes from many of the town's beauty spots at the Cow and Calf Rocks, Heber's Ghyll, Spences's Gardens and The Grove junction with Brook Street.

GROCCERS IN THE EARLY 1900s



ONE of Ilkley's leading grocery stores at the beginning of the century was the Leeds Road Branch of the Leeds Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. The building still stands today and is occupied by a firm of antique restorers with a night club above.

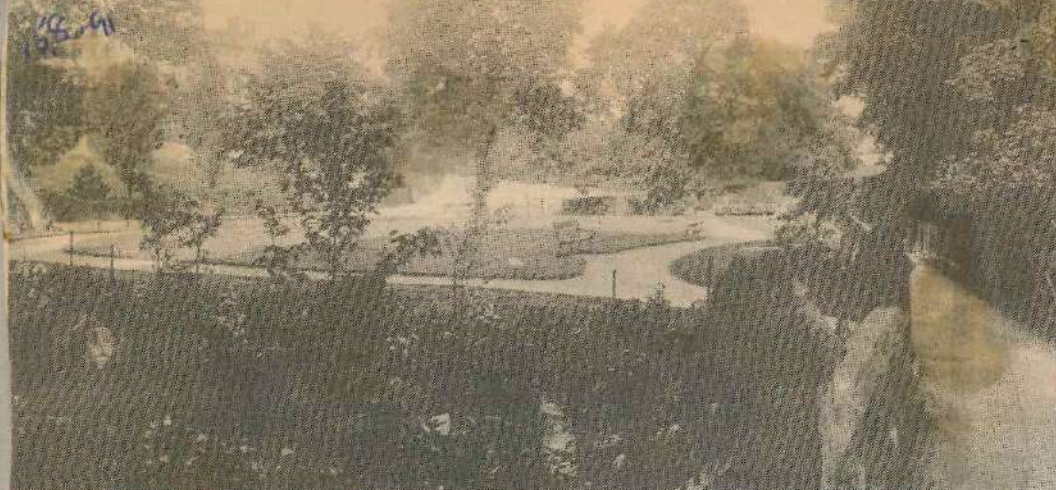
In the days when the Co-operative Society had a branch in the town there were in addition footwear and butcher departments in

window displays there were no shortage of supplies. On display were Pure Quaker Oats, Lifebuoy Soap, Robin Starch, Bird's Egg Substitute, Peak Frean's Meal Biscuits, Pattinson's Crystal Jelly Powders, Reckitt's Starch, Dr Lovelace's Family Soap for laundry and toilet, CWS Cream Crackers and Digestive Biscuits, Topmas Sardines, CWS Ginger Snaps and Nansen Crab. Gas lights inside the building

BRIDGE REMOVED

4-7-91
25 Years Ago

CROWDS gathered in Brook Street, Ilkley in July 1966, to watch the removal of the final two portions of the steel railway bridge. Built 79 years previously to carry the lines to Skipton the removal brought new views for residents with a clearer view of the Moors and Middleton. Work was continuing on the removal of the bridges in Easby Drive and Victoria Avenue and the removal of the two bridges over the trunk road were next on the programme. The contractors expected to reach Addingham to remove the bridge over Main Street the following month.



IN the days before the First World War and in the days between the wars the park on the southern bank of the River Wharfe near the Old Bridge was commonly referred to as paradise. The park still remains today but has long since lost its exotic title and much of its grandeur.



The old cabmen's shelter which stood for many years on the forecourt of Ilkley Railway Station was transferred in August, 1973 to the Yorkshire Dales Railway at Embsay, near Skipton. In addition to its historical importance it still serves a useful purpose today but this time as a ticket office.



This view looking north from the Old Bridge at Ilkley towards the end of the last century shows Stubham Rise in the process of being built. Buildings (right) and paths were soon to be replaced.



1727 house on the market

ONE of Ilkley's oldest houses has been put up for sale and offers are being invited in the region of £220,000.

Moor Cottage, in Wells Road, which dates from 1727, is much older than most of Ilkley's houses as the town was little developed until Victorian times. It was not until 1865 that the railway to Bradford opened and it was another 23 years before the railway extended to Bolton Abbey.

Tony Howarth at the agents Simon Thornton, of Ilkley, says that Moor Cottage has not been offered on the open market for more than 30 years. The house is Grade II listed, and its five-bedroom accommodation fortunately retains



OLD INN NOW APARTMENTS

ONE of Ilkley's oldest inns, The Listers Arms Hotel (above), has been converted into luxury apartments for the over-55s.

Built in 1825 by John Lister, the hotel, on the Skipton Road, was a popular meeting place and venue for social events.

Clugston Homes of Scunthorpe and Leeds bought the building in 1989 and over the last 12 months have converted the building into 11 luxury apartments.

The Listers Arms apartments form part of the Listers Court Development which also includes a newly constructed building containing 38 managed apartments, also for the over-55s.

Listers Court is constructed from Yorkshire stone quarried locally and has been designated a grade 2 listed building. More than 6,000 people have viewed the

development in the last nine months with almost half the apartments now occupied, sold, or reserved.

Mrs Norma Taylor, resident manager, commented: "Over the last year many people will have seen the ongoing construction work at Lister Court, next to The Moors Shopping Centre. The location of the completed apartments mean that the occupants are close to Ilkley town centre making it a convenient and secure place to live."

All the apartments have either one or two bedrooms, with a security entrance system, alarms, intercoms and central heating.

Clugston Homes have arranged for the Harewood Housing Association to handle the day-to-day management and maintenance of the buildings.

100 Years Ago

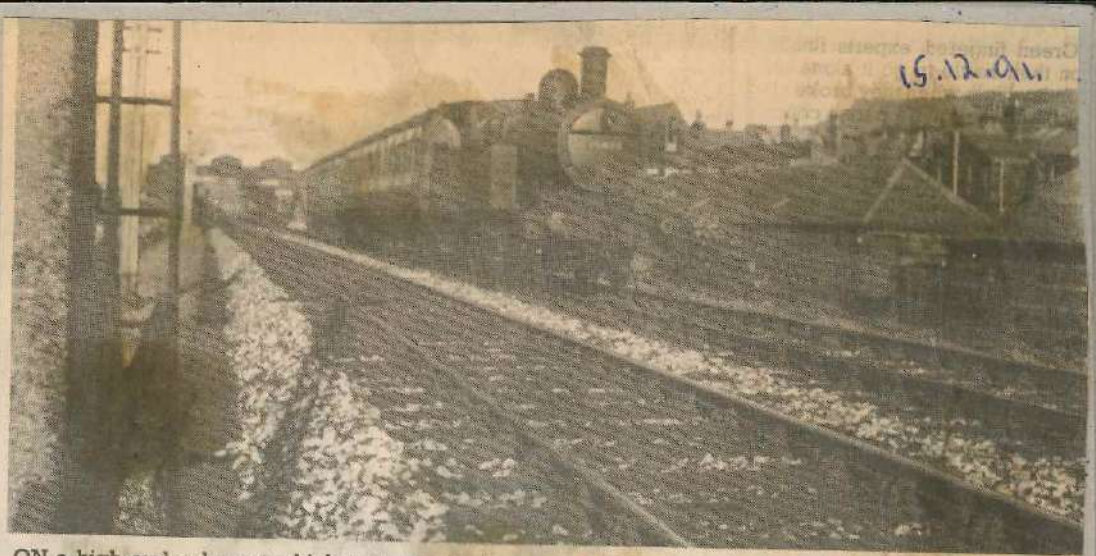
PLANS for new public buildings in Ilkley were under discussion in November, 1891. Representatives of various local organisations including the Ilkley Library Company, the Ilkley Local Board, Museum Committee, School of Art, the Olicana Lodge of Freemasons and the Ratepayers' Association met in the rooms of the Ilkley Library Company in Wells Road to consider the project.

The plans for the buildings on an adjoining site provided for Local Board offices, a museum, a school of art, Freemasons' Lodge, a library, telephone exchange, public offices and three lock-up shops together with a large public hall fitted with stage, capable of accommodating 750 people.

This was to be approached by means of a spacious central arcade with a main entrance upon Wells Road to which a frontage of 80ft would be presented. The estimated cost of carrying out the scheme, including the purchase of the site offered at 25s per yard, was £6,800.

25 Years Ago

June, 1966, marked the end of the removal of the Ilkley-Skipton line. Workmen could be seen cutting the lines on the embankment overlooking the Brook Street car park before moving on to take up the rails over Brook Street Bridge. The bridge was to be removed in the near future.



ON a high embankment which was removed to extend Ilkley's central car park the sight of a train making its journey west was a familiar sight until the railway was closed in the late 1960's.

The slated long roof of the warehouse (right of picture) which served traders in The Grove was later transformed to provide a row of shops now known as the Grove Promenade. The roof was also believed to be that of The Grove which also fell victim to town centre redevelopment. W Smith, of Ben Rhydding.

8.2.91
28.1
Despite a cloud of uncertainty hanging over the future of an Ilkley old people's home residents went ahead with celebrations to mark the silver jubilee of its opening.

The thirty-eight residents of Moor Court in Fieldway, Ben Rhydding, became worried about their future when it was announced that the home was one of eleven homes earmarked by Bradford Council for possible transfer to non-profit making organisations, such as a housing association.

The elderly people are concerned that if no suitable organisation can be found they may lose their home.

Bradford Council has a total of twenty-nine homes and £8 million would be needed to comply with new Government standards which come into force in April. Three of the homes, including Burley Hall, due to be sold, but Moor Court was one of those considered suitable to be taken over.

The purpose-built home has over the years accommodated many elderly people from the area but now the passage of time, general wear and tear, but most importantly the new standards



means £300,000 would be needed to bring Moor Court up to standard.

A spokesperson for Bradford Social Services said, "Our first thoughts are for the well being of the residents."

come a little distressed by the consultations.

"I'm sure the residents have nothing to worry about and will be well taken care of."

"I am sure there will be a satisfactory conclusion for all the residents", she said.

Commenting on the possible transfer, the Chairman of Ilkley Parish Council, Cr. Mrs. Barbara Cussons, said that people's fears about the future of the home should be allayed. "I have every confidence in housing associations and feel sure that good provision will be made for the residents", she said.

She added if a housing association did take over the home she felt sure that both residents and property would gain.

SHOWPIECE

In 1966 when Moor Court was officially opened by County Ald. Mrs. Ryder Runton, the property was quite a showpiece. A modern, well equipped purpose built home in an ideal setting in Ben Rhydding with a view of the Moors. When it opened it accommodated thirty-five people in need of care and attention mostly from the Ilkley district — with twenty-four bedrooms, thirteen of them single and situated on two floors. A lift was installed for those who could not climb stairs and as well as having central heating with thermostat control there were three communal lounges, a quiet room, radio room and television.

"If a suitable organisation is found it could definitely improve standards at the home hopefully with residents and staff remaining the same".

No decision has yet been made about the future of Moor Court.

Discussions have been held with all interested parties, the residents and their families and possible interested Housing Associations have been sounded out.

The consultations should be concluded next month. Although the new standards come into force in April these do not have to be implemented by them as long as a plan for the future of the home is known.

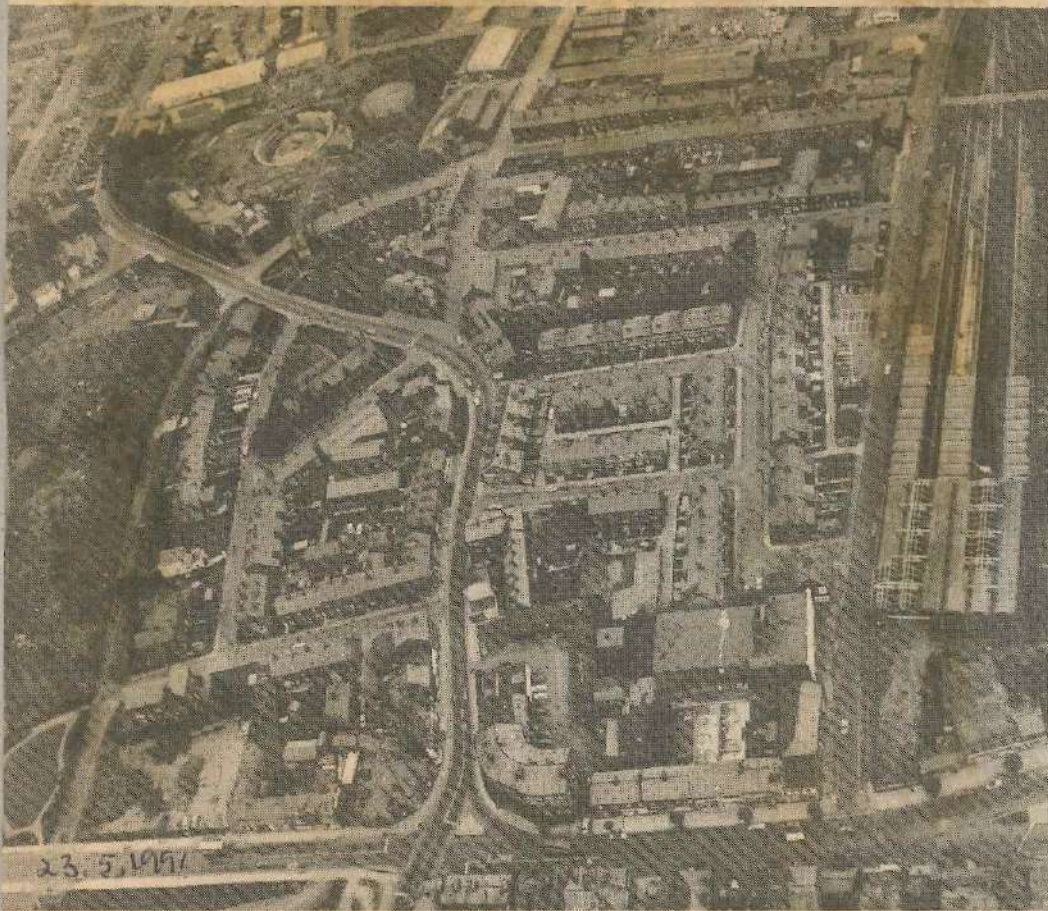
Bradford councillor for Ilkley, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth, felt that residents had perhaps be-



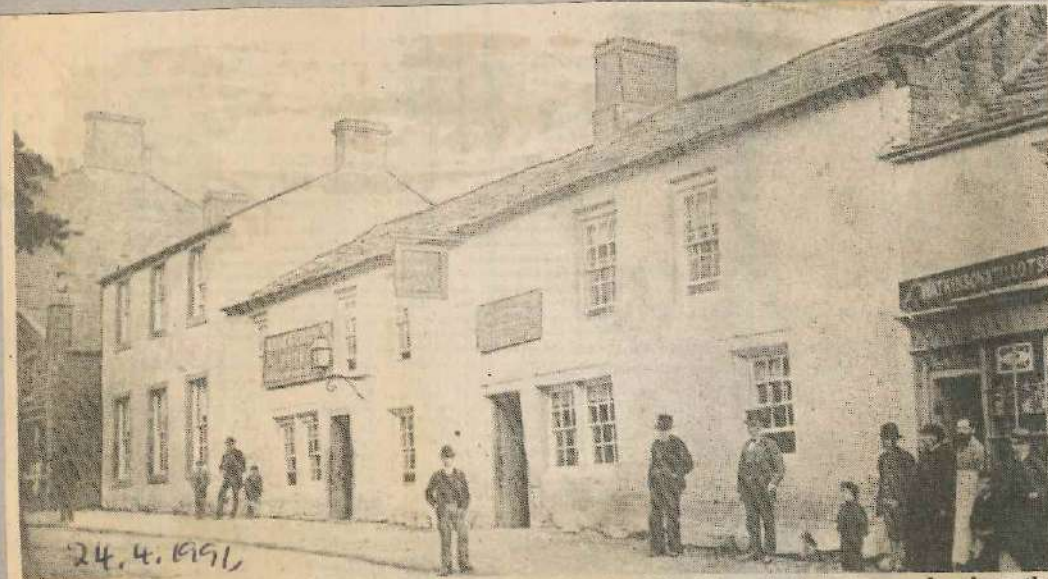
There have been many changes in Brook Street since this picture was taken in the early 1950's.

The bridge carrying the railway west of Ilkley was to last just over another decade before being demolished. Buses for Harrogate left from a stop

ILKLEY FROM THE AIR



The many changes which have taken place in the town centre of Ilkley during the last twenty-five years can be traced in this aerial view. The railway bridge across Brook Street (bottom right) had not long been removed and land on the east side of New Brook Street (bottom left) remained undeveloped. The Essoldo Cinema in Railway Road (the site is now occupied by Sunwin House) was showing the film "The Greatest Story Ever Told" when this picture first appeared in the "Gazette" and in the top left hand corner the foundations were being laid for a new gasholder.



This early picture of the Rose and Crown Hotel in Church Street goes back to the days when it was an old coaching inn with coaches leaving for Leeds and Bradford before the railway was brought to Ilkley.



With the opening of the new supermarket at the £3.5m Station Development in Ilkley came the welcome news that the car park for over 100 vehi-

a problem for both visitors and residents and the car park which has been unused since the completion of the development way back in May 1989.

railway bridge shows the car park, partially under cover, which runs along the side of the railway platforms. The entrance and exit

With the opening of a light votes to two. Ilkley on Tuesday came the car park for over 100 vehicle

14.3.91
Since work began on the development way back in October 1987 there had been speculation about who would occupy the 18,000 square feet of the largest unit which has been developed from the former train shed. For many months it was known that a nationwide chain of supermarkets had obtained the property but it was only a matter of two weeks ago when the refurbishment of the store began.

Although there was no grand opening ceremony shoppers flocked to the new Kwik Save Store where they were greeted by clowns and a dinosaur handing out balloons and hats.

With the opening of the store came the opening of the long awaited car park which includes several bays for disabled drivers with the entrance and exit from Railway Road. The car park was built on what used to be platforms three and four and the Skipton line. Manager Mr. Andrew Barton, formerly at a Bradford branch, said he was delighted with the opening day.

"People have been very favourable with their comments. They have obviously been looking forward to the store opening," he said.

The store which has provided over fifteen new jobs looks out onto the railway platforms.

Mr. Barton said that people waiting for trains had popped into the store before catching their trains.

Mr. Tom Orange, of Orange Developments, said he was "delighted" with the Station Development.

"We are delighted with the result as, when we began, the whole programme was completely speculative", he said.

"Ilkley is a great area for tourists and for shopping", he added.

The only unoccupied area of the development is about 7,000 sq. ft. on Springs Lane, which Mr. Orange said a lot of thought had gone into this property and would perhaps be used as offices and could possibly be in use within the next two to three months.

ELECTRICAL

£3.6m SCHEME

The completion of the £3.6m restoration of the station was commemorated in February 1989 when a special plaque was unveiled by the then Lord Mayor, Cr. Smith Midgley. Two months later, in May, the whole scheme was completed.

Prior to the restoration programme there had been fears for the future of the Grade 2 listed building in the centre of the town. With its classical lines and distinctive Venetian style windows, the building was a famous landmark for thousands of visitors. But as rail traffic declined the station buildings were left vacant and British Railways Property Board sought competitive ideas for its redevelopment. The neglected buildings posed a challenge to development companies and it was the House of Orange and Millard Developments who came to the rescue and restored it to a new found beauty.

Now the main development houses both nationally known outlets and smaller units but all have added to the shopping appeal of Ilkley.

With the opening of Kwik Save shoppers can now use the mall entrance at the front of the station to walk through to shops, platforms and car park between the Post Office and shoe shop.

The Victorian style of the railway station has been maintained. Even the coal drops in Railway Road have been transformed into ornamental flower beds.

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Ilkley

IN the late 1800s large quantities of Roman and earlier artefacts were being unearthed as the foundations of the buildings which were being erected at the time were excavated. Many of these artefacts were being placed in peoples pockets and left Ilkley without record.

A scheme for starting a museum in Ilkley was first reported in the Ilkley Free Press in November 1886, but very little happened until June 1891. The Ratepayers' Association then resolved to form a Museum Committee with Dr Carter as President.

The necessary funds were raised by subscription and donations and suitable premises were found at the old chapel. One suggestion had been to use the "Old Castle", now known as the Manor House, but this did not materialise at that time.

With £100 of the money that had been raised they were able to purchase the Ellison Collection. This consisted of around 6,000 fossils and geological specimens, and this along with the archaeological artefacts formed the basis of the new museum.

Many other items were donated or lent, ranging from stuffed birds to domestic appliances, chinese idols, an African mummy and a piece of Atlantic telephone cable.

£1 per week

The first museum, was housed in the old Wesleyan chapel at the junction of Bolton Bridge Road and Skipton Road. It was opened on August 25 1892 by the Rev Dr Robert Collyer, the renowned local clergyman on a visit to England from America.

After the opening of the museum the committee became known as the Ilkley Museum and Antiquarian Society.

The committee ran the museum with the help of Mr Oxley, the curator. He was a man well versed in archaeology, numismatics, botany and other subjects and was paid £1 per week.

There were financial problems right from the beginning, as people were understandably not keen to give money repeatedly, although objects continued to be donated.

In 1896 the museum was taken over by the local authority, which thanks to the Museum and Gymnasium Act of 1891, was able to spend a small amount of the rates to maintain the museum.

Lack of space was a problem. In 1908 the Town Hall complex opened and the museum was moved to a room above the Library.

The move does not seem to have been very successful as seven months later there were reports that the exhibits were still crowded and badly classified.

This did not prevent more donations arriving, including a piece of the dress worn by Grace Darling during her famous rescue.

In the 1920s the question of acquiring the Manor House as a museum was raised again, as by this time the collection had increased enormously and was

AS celebrations are being planned for next year's centenary of the Ilkley Museum local historian DENISE SHILLITOE looks back at the history of this establishment.

Start in chapel led to great things

being referred to as an "Old Curiosity Shop".

Not only did it have a collection of local treasures revealing the history of the town, but at the same time provided house room for a strange collection of objects from all over the world.

Nothing done

These were specimens which are largely unlabelled, and prevent any effective classification and display of those local objects, which are the real grounds for the founding of a local museum.

A report on the Manor House was prepared by Mr Sidney Kitson, an architect from Leeds. His estimate of £2,000 to buy and restore the building meant that nothing was done, except the sale of some of the collection to Keighley Museum and the return of some of the on-loan objects.

During the 1939-45 war, the museum room was taken over to provide accommodation for people doing essential war work. The collections remained packed away until 1948 when the Council suggested that they be lent to Cartwright Hall Museum.

After a great deal of discussion it was agreed that the council would restore the museum. The services of Miss Grace Simpson were obtained to help catalogue the collections and the museum reopened (still at the library) in June 1949.

The honorary curator was Miss Elsie Fletcher who, in 1950, started a Museum Club for children and four years later the name was changed to the Olicana

Museum Society and became an adult society.

It still exists today, although it is now known as the Olicana Museum and Historical Society.

Benefactor

A report in 1955 by the Chief Sanitary Inspector recommended that the cottages in the Old Castle should be demolished. It was at this point that the owner, Mr Percy Dalton, offered the building to the council to be renovated and restored and to be used as a museum and art gallery.

In the 1940s he had suggested a similar scheme, but on a much grander scale to cover the whole of the surrounding area.

With monies from the Ministry of Works and a further generous donation from Mr Dalton, the Manor House was very cleverly restored and converted to a museum and art gallery.

The opening took place in 1961 with Elsie Fletcher as curator. Thus nearly 70 years later the museum was finally housed in the Old Castle as the founders originally wished.

In 1974 with the reorganisation of Local Government, the Manor House became part of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, of which Cliffe Castle at Keighley and Cartwright Hall at Bradford are part.

The artefacts which had been sold in the 1920s to Keighley Museum are now all part of one collection.

Another irony is that, far from being cramped, modern museum practice is to have only a limited selection of items on display at any one time, so that most items remain in storage and are never seen by the general public.

It is also nice to note that the Bradford Art Galleries and Museums is in the process of reorganising the museum display at the Manor House and it is hoped that a compromise between the old and the present can be reached.

It is unfortunate that it will not be ready for 1992, but I look forward to seeing the new gallery completed in a few years' time.

**MANOR HOUSE
ATTRACTED
30,000**

How many people visited Ilkley Manor House last year? How had the original plans for the Manor House been fulfilled since Bradford Council took it over and what of the future? These questions were all answered by Mr. Paul Lawson, City Arts, Museum and Libraries Officer, and Mr. Stephen Kerry, Principal Officer, Visitor Services, at a meeting of the Friends of the Manor House.

Since the early days, said Mr. Lawson, the Manor House by virtue of its setting on the site of the Roman Fort, was the obvious place for Bradford to concentrate on local history, heritage and archaeology. The house body was suitably furnished and a permanent history of Ilkley established while art and cultural exhibitions continued to be held in the upper rooms. Essential structural repairs were carried out and a fire escape installed. The Manor House and 6, Castle Yard, were also practical places to store artefacts from the Roman Fort, collections and bequests.

The growth of "Upland Archaeology" gave a lift to the importance of Ilkley as an archaeological centre and when 2 and 4, Castle Yard, were acquired, the realisation of early visions for the development of the Manor House complex appeared a reality.

Plans for major reconstruction were drawn up. No. 4 would be designed so as to serve as a meeting or class room to be used by schools or societies for workshops or exhibitions. Office and storage space in Nos. 6 and 2, was redesigned and enlarged to accommodate an ever expanding work load connected with local history. Up to date technology was installed to facilitate recording and classification of data and information. Funds for such major reconstruction and equipment were found from public and private sources and not least by the people of Ilkley through membership of The Friends of the Manor House, and sponsorship.

Mr. Stephen Kerry, who had spent several years at the Manor House No. 6, before reconstruction, was able to describe for members just how much the realisation of early dreams meant to Ilkley as a heritage centre. Years ago office and storage space were less than adequate, facilities and heating primitive, yet a centre was established because it fulfilled a real need. There was (and still is) free access to the public for advice, guidance in projects connected with local history, archaeology or any related subject.

Today the Manor House complex is a dynamic centre of activity: workshops, lectures, classes, concerts and exhibitions, a practical response to local needs, as admission figures show. A total of 30,000 people visited the Manor House last year and 2,250 have visited the new centre at No. 4 since it was opened in April, 1990.



Ilkley's museum was housed in rooms above Ilkley Library (pictured) from 1908 until it was moved to the Manor House in 1961.



22.8.91

This picture, taken from Leeds Road, shows the attractive entrance to The Court.



21.2.91

A forgotten piece of Ilkley's history has been surprisingly unearthed by workmen renovating a Leeds Road building.

The men from E. A. Smart Construction Ltd. were removing plaster from an inside wall when they

discovered a tiled painting dating back to the time of the First World War. The tiling, which depicts a piper playing to villagers around a maypole, was the symbol of the old Maypole Stores company who owned the property until the 1960's. Unfortunately, the property's next owners saw fit to completely change the building's Victorian origins which disappeared along with the merry piper, who was hidden behind plasterboard until his reappearance this month.

Now the property's new owner, Mrs. Helen Avis, has promised that the piper shall regain his former pride of place as work

continues on restoring the building's original design.

"Although some of the original tiling was removed in the sixties and can not be put back, the maypole scene is a piece of Ilkley's heritage which will not be forgotten a second time," said Mrs. Avis.

When renovations are complete, the premises are to be let as shops and offices.

● Mrs. Helen Avis and Antony Hussey, E. A. Smart Construction Ltd., welcome the return of the Maypole piper. Picture by Philip Bambridge, of Addingham.

FARMS FOR SALE

31091

50 Years Ago

EXTENSIVE agricultural land between Burley and Ben Rhydding came onto the market in 1941. No fewer than six farms were included in, addition to Colston House and several areas of woodlands and grazing land. The largest of these farms, Stead Hall in the occupation of the County Council, included nearly 136 acres and some ideas of the value the late Mr Emsley placed upon it can be gathered from the fact that when he bought it as long ago as 1876 he paid £9,223 14s for it - £68 an acre.

The wearing of trousers by women, which had become popular during wartime merited comment in the Gazette. The report stated: "Many women have adopted, or should it be adapted, trouser

100 Years Ago

12.9.91

ONE of the few remaining thatched cottages in Ilkley was demolished in 1891. Green Lane Cottage, in The Grove, was knocked down to make way for four new shops to be built by Dean Bros contractors. Only one thatched cottage remained in the town after the demolition - and that building was in Bridge Lane.

AN ELECTRICAL engineer has sparked off a planning row over the future of a 100-year-old cottage.

John Wilson, 67, is fighting to save Westwood Cottage from demolition after its owner revealed plans to bulldoze the building and replace it with a larger modern house.

Londoner David O'Brien wants to build a new four-bedroomed house on the picturesque site in Hollin Hall Drive, which is set in the green belt on the edge of Panorama Woods in Ilkley.

But next door neighbour Mr Wilson says the plan has got out of hand and should not be approved. "It would be an intrusion on the environment and the ecology," he said.

Earlier this year, cottage owner Mr O'Brien won approval to make alterations to his newly acquired home. Now, he has taken it one step further and reapplied for the demolition of the property.

Mr Wilson said: "It's one thing to alter the building, but to demolish and then replace it would be a massive disturbance to the landscape and it should be stopped.

"A lot of people have contacted me protesting about the plan and many letters of objection will be sent to Bradford," he said.

Westwood Cottage is a large building, painted white, which stands out sharply amidst the

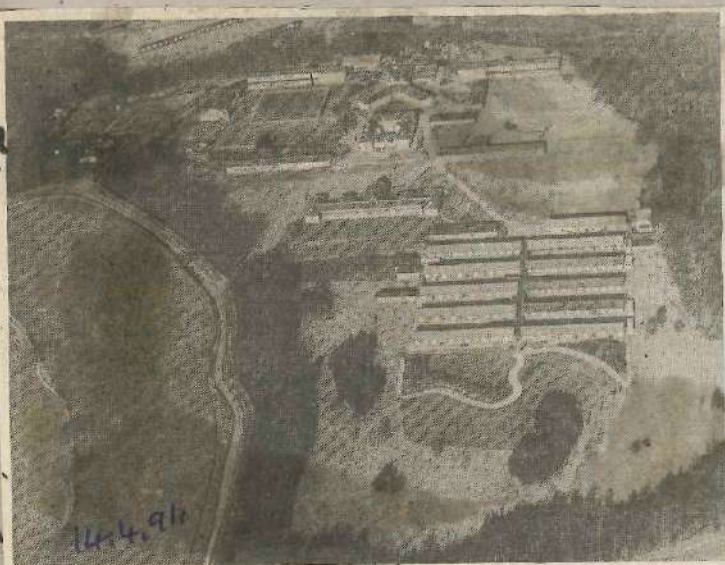


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RECEPTION MARKS NEW DEVELOPMENT



Retailers, prospective tenants, and those involved with the development and letting of the outlets at "The Moors" shopping development attended a reception at the new building. Keen interest has been shown by retailers and already over 60 per cent. have been let and will include a varied selection of shops to attract customers when the main part of the scheme opens in March.



Yorkshire Regional Health Authority confirmed this week that the move has now been taken because of the run down condition of the premises. Many of the doomed buildings are made of rotting timber while the sixty-acre site has suffered from increasing vandalism since the geriatric hospital was controversially closed down in May of last year.

The site was at the centre of a fierce row earlier this year when Environment Secretary Mr. Michael Heseltine decided to transfer the hospital completely into North Yorkshire. Campaigners had protested against this move, fearing that the scenic site would eventually become a housing estate served almost completely by facilities in Ilkley and West Yorkshire. The land was previously divided across the border of Harrogate and Bradford Councils.

With demolition now imminent, the fears of many in

Ilkley may shortly become reality.

"I think the building of a housing estate is now inevitable", said Bradford Councillor for Ilkley, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth, who campaigned vigorously against the transfer.

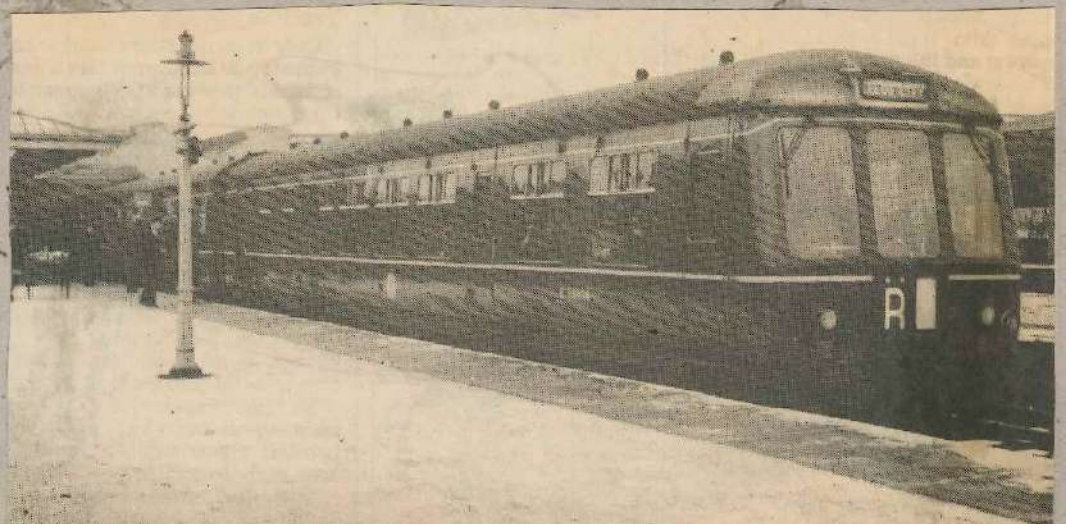
No buyer has yet been found for the main site, although plans have been announced to sell the few buildings that will survive the bulldozers. Houses in Carters Lane which previously provided accommoda-

tion for doctors and nurses will soon be placed on the private market, as will the nearby gardener's lodge.

● An aerial view of the doomed Middleton Hospital buildings.



The £2½ million shopping arcade "The Moors" built on the site of the former West Yorkshire bus garage is now almost complete. The attractive two-storey scheme which incorporates a Victorian style arcade contains 20 shops and a sixty-seater brasserie — with the first shops opening next month.



A DATE in local railway history was marked on January 5, 1959, when the first of the diesel rail cars began operating from Ilkley bringing to an end an era of steam locomotion which began in 1825.

were cut by four minutes to Leeds and five minutes to Bradford and it took fast trains just over 30 minutes to travel to either city.

Over 140 new diesel cars were put into



Pictured at the well are stonemason Jimmy Barker, Pat Hudson and Pat Baker, toasting the start of restoration work. Picture by Philip Bambridge, of Addingham.

Fears for the tarn

FEARS that Ilkley's tarn could become a stinking, stagnant bog unless some action is taken, soon has been expressed by Gazette reader, Mr Patrick Cordingley, of Louth, Lincolnshire.

In a letter to the Gazette this week, he said that "generations of small boys have sailed toy boats on the tarn, families have skated on the winter ice, residents and visitors alike have promenaded in the summer, lovers have enjoyed cold cuddly walks in the winter and ducks have lived and bred on its island."

Now the tarn is losing water and its condition deteriorating rapidly. The west end has become dry and the island is no more with rocks protruding in the centre and in eastern areas, says Mr. Cordingley.

June 191

HISTORY IS RESTORED

AN ancient well is being restored to protect one of the few remaining examples of Ilkley's spa town history.

And the Olicana Museum and Historical Society is hoping the improvements of the Victorian well will boost the town's entry in the Entente Florale - the top European floral contest.

Pat Hudson, a member of the society, said: "If we had not restored the well, it would have been lost. This work was badly needed so we could preserve it."

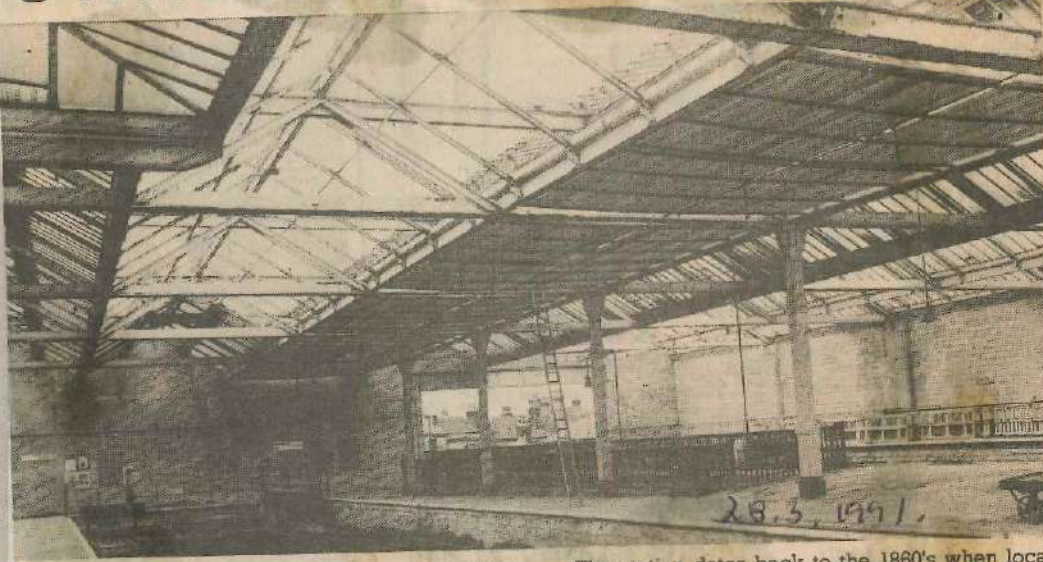
The well is situated in what used to be the garden of the Spa Hydropathic Hotel, in The Grove, which was demolished last year.

"I don't know if many people realise it is there because it is a bit of an obscure spot," Pat Hudson said.

Work on restoring the well is being carried out by Rombalds Builders, of Ilkley, who have given the advice and services of stonemason Jimmy Barker free of charge especially for Entente Florale. Replacement stone steps have been donated by Raven Development, Ilkley.

Pat Hudson said: "We hope suitable Victorian-type flowers and shrubs will provide a colourful feature to impress the judges later in the summer and also remind Ilkley's residents and visitors of the past history of the town."

STATION ROOF REGLAZED



There were no indications when the roof of Ilkley Railway Station was reglazed in 1979 that almost within a decade the listed building was to form part of a new shopping complex.

The opening of a new supermarket in this part of the station this month formed the largest unit in the complex, development of which started 1987.

The station dates back to the 1860's when local contractor Mr. Israel Thornton successfully tendered an estimate of £2,770 for its construction. It was later extended by the Midland Railway Company when the line was built through to Skipton in the 1880's.



PEDESTRIANS felt free to walk in the middle of Cowpasture Road, Ilkley to negotiate deep snow when this picture was taken sometime in the 1920s.



Peasant tribute

A CORNER of an Ilkley park has become a setting for a monument of historic importance.

This former "fountain" now provides a colourful floral display in the park on The Grove, but an inscription on one side comes from another era and commemorates the indebtedness of the world.

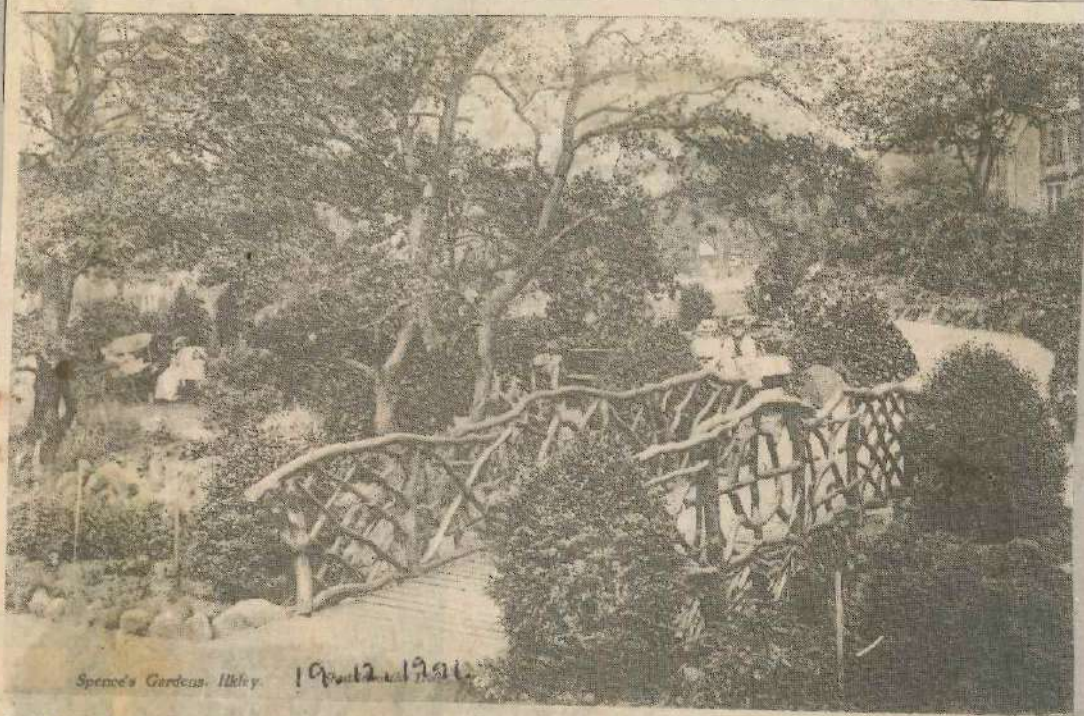
It states "In Memory of Viccencz Priessnitz, the Silesian peasant to whom the world is indebted for the blessing of the system of cure by cold water, this fountain is gratefully erected and inscribed by Hamer Stansfield, Ben Rhydding." It is dated May 24, 1844.

The Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment and hotel was opened in 1844 and was demolished between 1954-55. The railways arrived in 1865 and it was due to the efforts of Hamer Stansfield

31.10.91



26.9.91



Spence's Gardens, Ilkley. 19th Dec 1996

ONE of Ilkley's town centre features at the turn of the century was the provision of its parks and gardens. One of these, Spence's Gardens at the junction of Grove Road and Kings Road, provided attractive displays of

flowers and foliage where ornate bridges were built to cross the stream which emanates from Ilkley Moor. This picture of Spence's Gardens was to form part of a collection of popular Ilkley post cards.

13.6.91



A MOORSIDE landmark once ruined by vandals is being given a facelift.

And Bradford Council countryside project officer Tim Blythe said the "new look" shelter at the Tarn, on the edge of Ilkley Moor, should be completed in a matter of weeks.

The old weather beaten structure, which was daubed in graffiti, is now a thing of the past after countryside officers installed new leg-structures.

Mr. Blythe said: "We've just got to finish putting on a new roof and then it will be complete."

The Tarn is included in an ongoing programme of improvements on Ilkley's historic landscape.

Picture by Philip Bambridge, of Addingham.



Ilkley Tarn in 1911 had two islands which became a safe haven for the ducks featured in the song "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At."



A view of New Brook Street bridge across the River Wharfe at Ilkley captured in 1911, seven years after the bridge was opened.

Famous pictures to be sold

A PART of the famous Frith Collection of Photographs of Yorkshire will be sold at Ilkley next week.

The photographs form part of the famous Francis Frith Collection, founded in 1860, and the collection contains more than 333,000 photographs. These illustrate in great detail many of the changes which have occurred throughout rural and urban Britain in the 110 years from 1860 to 1970 — not just in a few places, but in more than 4,000 towns and villages.

Frith was an archetypal Victorian entrepreneur and had already made a fortune in the wholesale grocery business when, in 1857, at the age of 35, he embarked on the first of three expeditions to photograph the ancient monu-

ments of the Nile region.

Photography was still in its infancy and the photographs he took on these expeditions, often in conditions of extreme difficulty, established his reputation as a photographer. The Times declared that Frith's photographs "carry us far beyond anything that is in the power of the most accomplished artist to transfer to his canvas."

In 1860, following his success, Frith married and established F Frith and Co, in Reigate, Surrey, as photographic publishers. The daunting task he set for himself was to photograph every city, town and village in the British Isles.

From the beginning grew the massive collection of today, which is unrivalled in terms of its geographical scope, depth of coverage and image quality.

The photographs present an opportunity to buy interesting early views of towns and villages in Yorkshire and, with estimates of between £2 and £30, they are within the reach of most collectors.

The first sale will concentrate on views of South and West Yorkshire and will be held at the Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley, on Tuesday. It includes views of Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, Whitby, Doncaster, Sheffield and Ecclesfield.

The sale of views of North Yorkshire will be held in two parts — on Saturday, July 20, and Tuesday, July 23 — at the Granby Hotel, Harrogate, and includes views of York, Harrogate, Ripon, Scarborough and Whitby.

All items will be on view two days before each sale.



Yorkshire art sale

PAINTINGS by former Nessfield artist Herbert Royle are included in an auction of Yorkshire pictures on October 16.

They include an oil painting of timber hauling at Addingham, which is expected to fetch up to £6,000, and another oil, depicting cattle in a river landscape (pictured above) which could realise between £3,000 and £5,000.

Born in Manchester in 1870, Royle moved to the Dales in 1918, settling first near Bolton Abbey and then moving to Nessfield, near Ilkley, where he made his

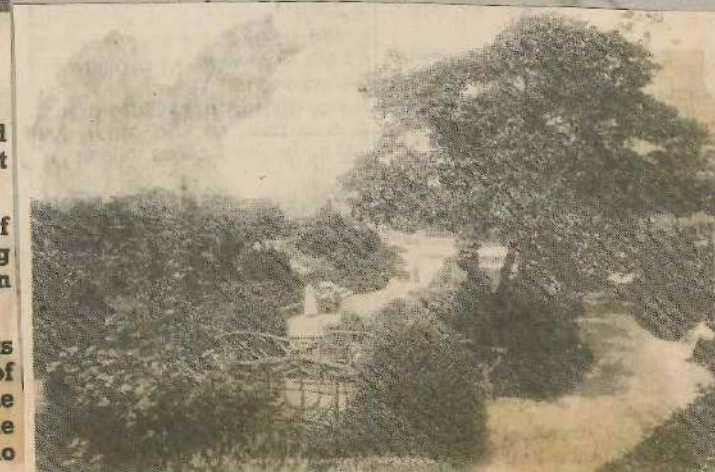
He specialised in landscapes in oil and exhibited at the Royal Academy for about 50 years from 1894.

The paintings are part of a collection of 347 Yorkshire and sporting pictures being sold by Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers in Leeds.

Also included in the sale are works depicting local landscapes with several of the Bolton Abbey area by members of the Sykes family of Huddersfield, and of the Wharfe valley by Owen Bowen, who



Weekend performances of Ilkley's band playing on the edge of Ilkley Moor became an attraction for visitors and residents. By 1914 when this picture was taken West View Park had become the general rendezvous of the visitors who derived great pleasure from the music provided for them. It was said then that "there is nothing more agreeable after a day's ramble about the moor than to sit in the cool of the evening and listen to the strains of delightful music discoursed by the orchestra."



"CARE for the Old Ilkley, the new Ilkley will care for herself". This is a statement as relevant today as when it was spoken by Robert Collyer at the opening of the first Ilkley Museum, 100 years ago this week (August 25, 1892).

Collyer continued, "We have in the making a museum where the fragments can be stored which cast a gleam on the old lost life of Ilkley. Unfortunately, many of the "fragments" on display in that original museum have been lost to Ilkley but some of the more important items have been retrieved and serve as the centre piece of the museum centenary exhibition now on at the Manor House.

It was a happy coincidence that Collyer, "The Poet of New York", was staying in Yorkshire in the summer of 1892. He was the natural choice to open the newly completed museum and he gladly accepted the invitation of the organising committee to give an address.

Such was Collyer's reputation that the museum, housed in the old Wesleyan Chapel at the corner of Bolton Bridge Road, was not large enough to hold the anticipated audience and after declaring the building "open", his lecture had to be delivered in the much larger St. Margaret's parish room in Regent Road.

Collyer was a charismatic figure who was held in high regard by our Victorian ancestors yet today few people have heard of him.

Why was he such a colossus in Victorian Ilkley, and why was it so appropriate that he should open the museum?

Worked at smithy

Collyer came to Ilkley in 1838 at the age of 14 to serve an apprenticeship with John (Jackie) Birch at the smithy in Leeds Road. He lived, along with the other apprentices, in the Birch household.

His childhood had been spent in Blubberhouses where his father was blacksmith at the huge flax and linen mill, West House Mill. Collyer himself had worked as a "doffer" in the mill since the age of seven and it was the fear of disease and deformity, which was so prevalent among the child workers, that led to him seeking different employment in Ilkley.

His formal education consisted of just two years' attendance at Willy Hardy's school in Fewston, but he acquired a passion for reading and Collyer would often be seen tending the fire at the smithy with a book propped open and the sparks flying all around him.

In his late teens Collyer came under the influence of John Dobson, a woolcomber, Methodist local preacher and according to Collyer, "the best read man in Ilkley". Although 10 years older than Collyer, John Dobson became a close friend.

It was Dobson who encouraged Collyer's appetite for reading and provided him with a regular supply of literature through his "young mens reading group".

In 1842 - when Collyer was 19, there began a series of personal tragedies which would ultimately lead to his departure from Ilkley. On May 29, 1842, Collyer's half brother and fellow apprentice at the smithy, William Wells died at the age of 22.

Wells, like many of his fellow mill-hands, contracted tuberculosis in childhood and died of progressive disease. In July 1844 Collyer's father dropped dead while working at his anvil in Fairbairn's iron foundry, in Leeds.

Samuel Collyer had moved there with the rest of the family in 1839 in anticipation of the bankruptcy and sale of West House Mill in 1843. He was 47 years old.

Collyer finished his apprenticeship in 1844 at the age of 21. In June 1846 Jackie Birch had a heart attack and died. He had nominated Collyer his successor, but the Leeds Road smithy was owned by the Lord of the Manor, William Middleton, and Birch had only been the manager. Middleton felt that Collyer was too young to be in overall control and let the smithy to Samuel Speight of Middleton. Nevertheless Speight kept Collyer on as manager for 18 shillings per week, which soon went up to £1.

A pound a week was a reasonable wage for a young man, enough to keep a family, and Collyer's thoughts turned to marriage. Collyer attended the Wesleyan Church in Skipton Road and readily confessed that a major incentive in those days was the sight of two or three lovely girls who sat in the balcony.

One of these girls was soon the subject of his affection and on May 25, 1847, Collyer married the 21 years old Harriet Watson - a straw bonnet maker from Bingley who lived with her sister Mrs Parratt in Church Street. A boy, Samuel, was born later in the year.

Spiritual Turn

On February 1, 1849, Harriet Collyer died giving birth to their second child, a daughter Jane. The child died five days later and both were buried in the grave that already held William Wells in Ilkley Parish churchyard. Collyer was devastated.

He and his son moved out of their cottage in Church Street and lodged with Thomas Stephenson and his wife in a cottage in Weston Road alongside the Leeds Road smithy.

Later that year he made the gates for the Parish Church at a cost of £7 10s, and he made them well because they are still there 143 years on. While Collyer had this practical association with All Saints Church, his connection with the Wesleyan Church took a more spiritual turn.

He started to attend prayer meetings as well as Sunday services, and soon afterwards he was asked to take services. His first service was in the kitchen of an isolated farmhouse on the moorside overlooking Ilkley and must have been reasonably successful because thereafter he obtained appointments in the churches of the Methodist circuit with increasing frequency.

By 1850 Collyer had decided both to re-marry and to emigrate to America. On Tuesday April 9, 1850, Collyer (now aged 26), married a Bradford woman, Ann Longbottom, a domestic servant working in Ilkley, at the old Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford.

On the following day they journeyed to Liverpool, and on Saturday, April 13, they set sail for America in a small sailing packet, the SS Roscius. They left young Samuel with Mother Collyer in Leeds until a home in America was established.

Active preacher

Collyer and his new bride arrived in New York on May 11 after an exhausting 28 day crossing, and two days later they headed for Philadelphia. There was no particular reason to head for that city. He confessed that he just liked the sound of a "city of brotherly love".

Collyer quickly found employment at Hammond's hammer factory in Shoemakertown, (then seven miles out of Philadelphia but now buried in its northern suburbs) where he made claw-hammers.

Soon after arriving in Philadelphia, Collyer joined a small Methodist church at nearby Milestown and after modifying his almost unintelligible Yorkshire accent, became an active local preacher.

Over the next eight years Collyer acquired a growing reputation as a preacher. However, doctrinal disputes and his stance on anti-slavery led to increasing disenchantment with the Methodist Church and this culminated in

This year Ilkley has been celebrating the centenary of the opening of an Ilkley Museum. One hundred years ago this week Dr Robert Collyer opened that museum. Local historian Dr Michael F Dixon takes a look at the life of the man whose life ran like a thread of silver through the fabric of fabric of Victorian Ilkley.



The Rev Dr Robert Collyer

his resignation at the quarterly conference in January 1859.

In the following month he was approached by a representative of the Unitarian Church and asked to become a Minister-at-large for the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. Robert accepted and he moved to Chicago on February 24, 1859. In April his wife and children joined him. Despite not having a single formal qualification Collyer was ordained as a Unitarian Minister in May, 1859.

In 1861 his ministry was interrupted by the Civic War. Robert was called by the Rev Henry Bellows to serve with the Sanitary Commission, an organisation whose members gave first aid, comfort and ministry to the wounded and dying.

The work was dangerous and distressing, particularly for someone with no medical training whatsoever, and proved so demanding that Collyer left the Commission in June 1862, although the war was to go on for another three years.

In 1862 Collyer was asked by the North Side Unitarian Church in Chicago to be the Minister in Charge and he accepted. Three years later it seems that Collyer had become physically and mentally exhausted, and the congregation decided that he should have a holiday in Europe. He delighted in renewing his acquaintance with the Washburn Valley and Wharfedale and returned to America refreshed after a three month holiday in England and the Continent.

Between 1869 and 1871 Collyer could be considered to be at the zenith of his career. He was at this time the great pulpit figure of Chicago and the Middle West. In April 1871, he managed another trip to England but soon after Collyer's return to America disaster struck.

Destroyed

On October 8 1871 his great Unity Church and his home were totally destroyed in the Great Fire. Undaunted the congregation and Collyer raised sufficient funds to rebuild the church on the same site. Because the church needed all its resources for the rebuilding, Collyer decided to forego his stipend and maintained himself for more than six months by lecturing throughout the United States on a wide variety of topics. In 1878 with the church rebuilt and flourishing but Collyer exhausted he decided on another trip back to England.

Collyer's reputation had spread throughout the United States and

accepted one of these invitations and he became the Pastor at the Unitarian Church of the Messiah in New York. Further visits to Yorkshire followed in 1883 and 1886.

Early in 1892 he accepted an invitation to open the Robinson Library and Free School in Timble, the gift of Robinson Gill, a wealthy stone merchant in New York - and a fellow ex-pupil at Willy Hardy's school in Fewston!

Robinson Gill and Collyer shared a state-room on the SS Teutonic when they set sail for Liverpool on July 6. It is no coincidence that the Robinson Library is holding its centenary celebrations on Saturday in Timble.

Knowing that Collyer would be in the area in August 1892, the Ilkley Museum Committee lost no time in getting him to open it. The appropriateness of the invitation is now evident. The building housing the museum was formerly the church where Collyer met his first wife and started preaching.

Furthermore Collyer had a reputation as a local historian and was the co-author with Horsfall Turner of "Ilkley Ancient and Modern" published in 1885. The opening of the museum provided Collyer with an opportunity to return one of Ilkley's Roman "fragments", a burial urn, that had come into his hands some years before when such items were dug up in profusion and dispersed far and wide.

In 1893, at the age of 70, Collyer wished to retire but the congregation pleaded with him to continue. It was not until 1896 that another Minister was appointed but Collyer carried on as Pastor Emeritus and had frequent preaching engagements.

Honorary degree

In 1899 and 1907 there were further visits to England. The latter visit was to receive an honorary degree at Leeds University (Litt.D) and to open the library in Ilkley, an occasion that led John Dickinson of Timble to write, "Bade Adieu to Dr Collyer who rode off triumphant amid cheers of the multitude. He seems beloved and honoured by all who come in contact with him...We feel a tender love for the old man...We shall never see his life again".

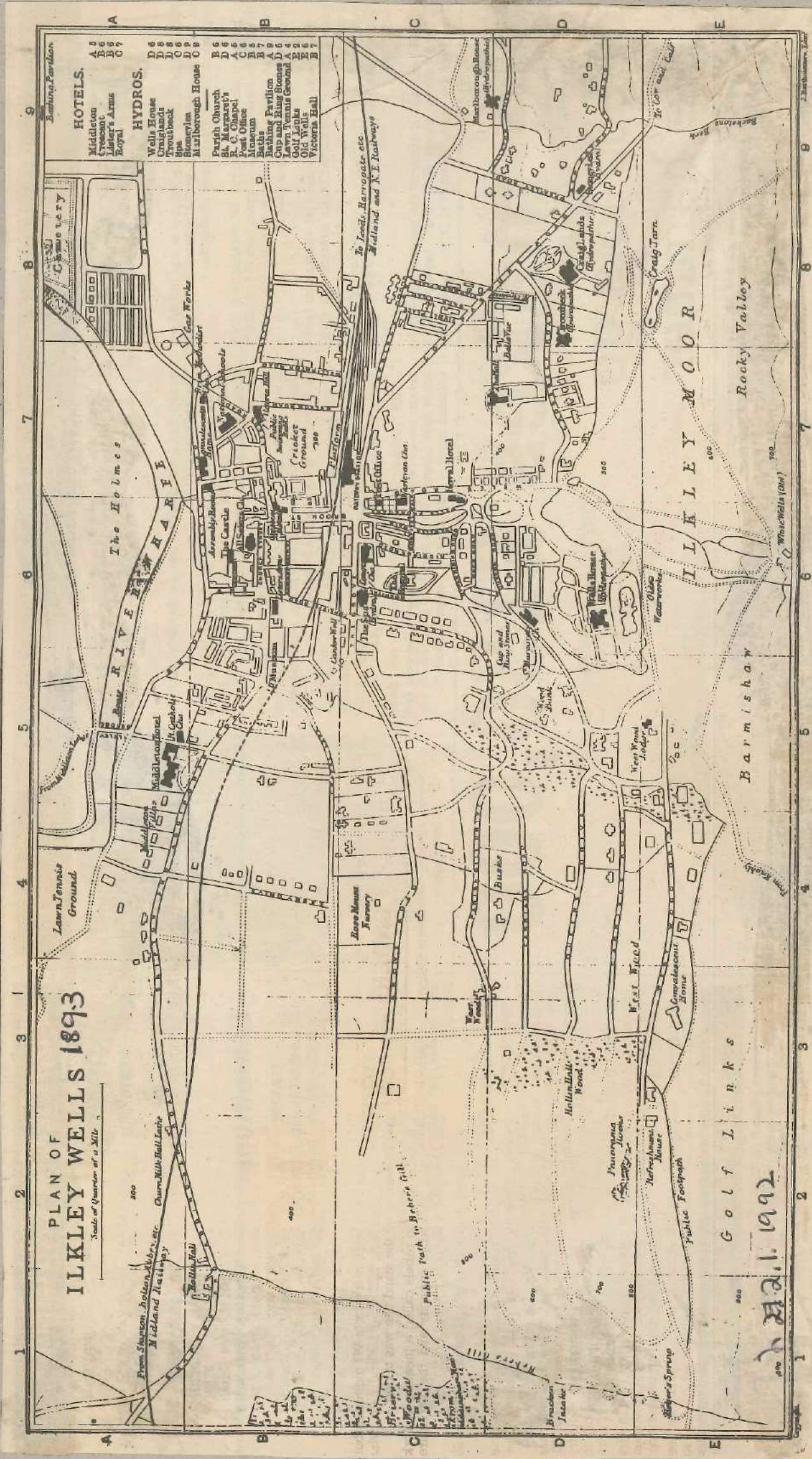
Collyer continued preaching up to a few weeks before his death. He suffered a stroke on November 1 1912 and died on November 30, eight days before his 89th birthday.

New York had lost a formidable preacher, Ilkley had lost a valued friend, "A man of cheerful yesterdays and confident tomorrows".



In 1961 the Manor House became Ilkley's Museum and Art Centre. It was opened by the...

1992



**PLAN OF
ILLKLEY WELLS 1893**

Scale of Quarter of a Mile

- HOTELS.**
- A 5 Middleton
 - A 6 Crescent
 - B 6 Lister's Arms
 - B 7 Royal
- HYDROS.**
- D 6 Wells House
 - D 8 Overclough
 - D 8 1/2 Abbots
 - D 8 1/2 Spa
 - D 8 1/2 Boney/lea
 - D 8 1/2 Marlborough House
- Other Landmarks:**
- B 6 Parish Church
 - D 6 St. George's
 - D 6 St. Andrew's
 - C 6 1/2 Post Office
 - C 6 1/2 Museum
 - B 7 Baths
 - A 8 1/2 Washing Pavilion
 - A 8 1/2 Cup and Saucer
 - A 8 1/2 Victoria Ground
 - A 8 1/2 Old Wells
 - B 7 Victoria Hall

GOLF LINKS

22.1.1992

This plan of Ilkley for 1893 shows large tracts of open land which has since been developed over the years. The map pinpoints the hotels and hydros which were to feature in the town's heyday as an inland health resort.

ILKLEY, though presenting a rather unfinished appearance, is a charming resort, combining the attractions of both hillside, valley and river.'

So runs a description of the town which belongs to a time almost 100 years ago and which this week is recalled from a Guide book of Yorkshire.

The guide, *Thorough Guides of Yorkshire — Part 2*, published in London in 1893, was handed in to our office by Gazette reader Rex Hirst, of Nelson Road, who thought it might be of interest.

That it certainly proved to be. It stated that Ilkley was between 250 to 750 feet above sea level and was served by a joint railway, the Midland and the Northern Eastern from a station centrally placed in the valley.

Tourists could travel the 202 miles to London by train at a cost of 55s (£2.55) First Class or 31s (£1.55) Third Class.

Numerous hydros

Hotels, included the Middleton, Skipton Road, with grounds overlooking the bridge and river with bed and att. from 5s (25p), table d'hote breakfast 2s 6d (12.1/2p), dinner 4s 6d (22.1/2p); Crescent, bed and att. 3s (15p) breakfast 2s (10p), dinner from 2s 6d (12.1/2p) including terms. 7s (35p) a day. Lister's Arms, Skipton Road 42s (£2.10).

There were numerous hydros including Ilkley

This stone was turned up while digging the foundations of the Congregational Church in Green Lane (The Grove) in 1867. According to one theorist, Mr Leyland, the figures represent a priest, a deacon and an acolyte.

On the north side of St Margaret's Church, across the road, and enclosed by railings, are three large monolithic stones, which have been removed from their original site, about a mile away, broken up, pieced together again with cement and neatly coloured with brown distemper or silicate. The largest measures 15ft by 12ft.

Monolithic stones

From the designs rudely sculptured on these stones, they are called "Cup and Ring Stones," and similar remains abound, not only on the moor near Ilkley, but in many other parts of the kingdom, in many countries of Europe, and in parts of other continents so far remote as Madagascar, the United States, Fiji and Palestine. Their origin and meaning are alike unknown.

The Cow and Calf Rocks are singular excrescences from the otherwise monotonous moorside — a little above Ben Rhydding. They command a good view. The rocky knob due east is Almas cliff.

Otley is seen, with the Chevin on its right and beyond it the Arthington viaduct spans the widening valley. Still further the sylvan slopes of Harewood rise from the right bank of the river.

Ben Rhydding, Denton Park and Middleton Lodge are the prominent objects in the near view.

* The Guide, by M J B Baddeley, was aimed at describing those parts of Yorkshire which could fairly be regarded as holiday ground.

Prices are an eye-opener

"A Glimpse of ILKLEY in 1893."

Wells House on the edge of Ilkley Moor, Craiglads, Troutbeck (Crossbeck Road), The Spa, Stoney Lea (Cowpasture Road), and Marlborough.

Cabs could be hired for 1s (5p) to most places with the charges doubling between 10pm and 7am, and Ilkley Post Office was open between 7am and 9pm and on Sundays between 9am and 10.30am

The population of the town had reached 5,767 and the guide went on to describe Ilkley as the best headquarters, on anything but a small scale, for exploring Upper Wharfedale, which is perhaps the most beautiful valley in Yorkshire and, in its way, second to none in the kingdom; though of course, the villages of Bolton Abbey, Kettlewell and others are more central and afford tourists quite satisfactory accommodation.

The village rises steeply from the south bank of the Wharfe a great part of the way up Ilkley or Rombald's Moor (1,323ft) and except, for one or two business streets close to the station, consists of villas and hydros.

Risen rapidly

The "Malvern of the North" is a favourite sobriquet for Ilkley, but while it must be owned that the hill immediately rising from the village has neither the grace or outline, nor the richness of clothing, which characterise the Malvern Hill, Malvern has nothing in the way of water to recompense it for the absence of such a river as the Wharfe.

Ilkley has risen very rapidly. Fifty years ago the population was 500; Brook Street — now the chief shopping thoroughfare — contained many houses. Of unknown antiquity was one storey, covered "thick with thatch, on which the house-leek grew," at the top of it "stood the old corn mill," given by a noble lady about 600 years before to the monks of Sallay.

The Old Well House is a white cottage conspicuous on the hillside nearly a mile south of the station, but Ilkley is not a water cure place in the sense Harrogate is, and it is the walk, rather than the water, that restores the liver.

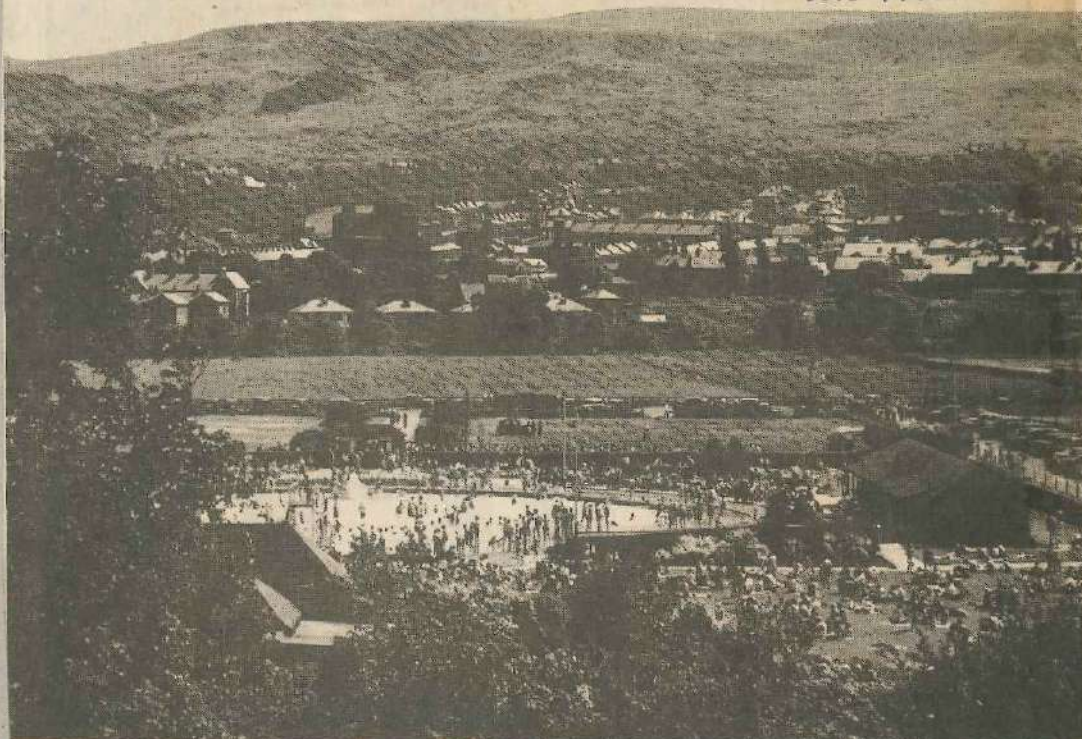
The purity is the chief recommendation of the latter. There are two wells — one lined with a rich growth of ferns, the other affording a deliciously cold plunge (6d).

The lower part of the village occupies the site of the Roman Olicana, within the limits of which stands the Parish Church, a building of no special interest, except for a Norman arch, a scrap of Roman sculpture in the base of the tower, the effigy of Sir Andrew de Middleton, 13th century ancestor of the present occupants of Middleton Hall, and three Saxon sculptured crosses, without arms "wrought in frets, scrolls, knots etc," on the south side between the building and the street.

The middle one (7ft 6in) is much higher than the other two. There is also a peculiar piece of sculpture — three grotesque figures — preserved in the court of Middleton Lodge.

BATHING POOL FORTY YEARS AGO

21. 1992



MANY changes have taken place since this picture of Ilkley Bathing Pool was taken in 1951. The grounds of the bathing pool area have been enlarged and a new indoor pool built along the western perimeter. Part of the riverside below Castle Road has been landscaped and the fortress like building in the centre of the picture which provided gas making facilities for the town for over 50 years has long since disappeared.

FIRST ILKLEY POST OFFICE

30.7.92



Ilkley's first post office is believed to have been established in this cottage in Green who moved it to Wells Road where he remained postmaster until his death in 1872.

The late Major Middleton of Ilkley left £22,639. The Ilkley Local Board, through their solicitors, deposited a Bill in Parliament with the object of empowering the Local Board to construct additional waterworks and to improve their existing water supply; to purchase the undertaking of the Ilkley Gas Company and to make better provision for the health and government of the district, and for other purposes.

The reason for the need to improve the existing water supplies was given as with the growth of the population and the erection of large hydropathic establishments the existing water supply was insufficient for public requirements. The Board proposed to take, divert, impound and use the waters of springs on Rombalds Moor, close to Semon's Convalescent Home, from what was known as the Silver Well, near the keeper's cottage and also at Black Beck Head and in the vicinity of the public footbridge across Black Beck at the top of Heber's Ghyll. Water would also be taken from springs in various parts of the area including the Hugh Teal Spring on Addingham High Moor.

The Ilkley railway workers annual dinner was held at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel. Mr Edward Middlebrook complimented the railway servants upon their efficiency in their several positions, and said that their uniform courtesy and obliging manners to the general public and specially to the Ilkley residents, were worthy of all praise.

26.1.92 skd

CHANGES IN NEW BROOK STREET

FIRST ILKLEY CURATOR

25.6.92
SIR.- In the article about the second exhibition to mark the Ilkley Museum Centenary published in the Gazette, June 11, it states Arthur Kitching was the first curator of the Manor House, in fact Miss Elsie Fletcher held that position before Mr Kitching took over.

Many people in Ilkley and Menston will remember Miss Fletcher and the work she did with the support of Mr and Mrs Percy Dalton to rescue a rather sorry collection of objects from an upper room in the Library and the conversion of the Manor House to what it has become today.

Up until recently the committee and members of the Olicana Museum and Historical Society were proud to retain the word museum in the title, in memory of Miss Fletcher, its founder and benefactor.

In this year of the Ilkley Museum Centenary it would be fitting to remember the architect behind the resurrection of the museum and the society.

E GREENWOOD,



NEW Brook Street, Ilkley, at the turn of the century presented a scene very much different from that of today.

Along with the inevitable change in fashions, as seen worn by these two ladies of this Victorian age, there have been many changes. Inns, a railway, facilities for a fair ground and a gas works have all since disappeared during this 90 year period.

The fairground for years occupied part of the site of the Roman fort which today has been landscaped and forms part of gardens

and the two inns in New Brook Street, the Wheatsheaf (top right) and the Star Inn opposite have long since been demolished. It was not long after this picture was taken that the Star Inn was demolished to make way for an extension of Brook Street and the new 'Star Inn' (white building on left).

The bridge which once carried the railway west of Ilkley across Brook Street can be seen between the two old inns.

Gas arrived in Ilkley in the mid-1800s and the chimney (left) was part of the old gas works.



SCENES from the past this week takes another look at the severe winter of 1947 with this picture of the River Wharfe.

The scene is at the Crum Wheel, Ilkley where a large surface of the water was covered by ice. The winter of 1947 was recorded as one of

the worst on record and lasted eight weeks between February and March.

Heavy snowstorms over several days brought drifts up to six feet deep in wintry conditions which were to affect sport for eight consecutive weeks.

The large tower like building in the background is the retort house at Ilkley Gas Works in Leeds Road. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a new gas holder erected in 1967 to supply North Sea gas "piped" to the town.

AN EARLY ILKLEY GARAGE



FOR many years Ross Bros, car dealers and service station in Leeds Road, Ben Rhydding, have served the area and were probably one of the first garages in the Ilkley district.

Mr Gilbert Ross is seen fourth from left and Mr Roland Ross extreme right alongside his other brother Mr Sydney Ross.

In 1934 the firm advertised Britain's dependable car, the Austin Seven. It was dubbed the car with the penny a mile for comfort, dependability and the

This picture taken in the mid 1930s on the site

'We're caged in like animals' they claim

12.3.92

IRATE walkers say new footpath fencing is making them feel like caged animals.

They have been left hopping mad after a landowner put up a one metre high wire fence alongside a popular public right of way on Addingham Moorside.

The fence has been built alongside the Cat Steps stretch of the footpath running through a picturesque area known as Throstle Nest.

But locals say the mass of wire opposite railings on the other side of the path - creates a tight corridor which makes walkers feel claustrophobic.

Betty Ackroyd, who lives at Langbar, said it was a monstrosity which caused a blot on the landscape.

by Steve Dennis

Another Main Street resident, Connie Lawrence, has been walking her favourite footpath for about 60 years and could not believe her eyes when she saw the fencing.

"I was very upset. It has spoiled a beautiful part of the countryside and I can not understand why the person responsible has done this," she said.

Irene Beck, of Burns Hill, Addingham, said: "I have never seen anyone abusing the land around the footpath so I can not see the reason for all this fencing."

Boggy area

"This beautiful environment has always been an unrestricted and relaxing country walk, but now I feel a strong sense of intrusion - and that is entirely wrong," she said.

She added that before the fence was constructed, walkers could use the grass to the side of the path. Now, they were forced down a narrow route which ran through a boggy area.

Lexie Henderson, of Main Street, Addingham, said a beauty spot had been dramatically changed for the worst and it would never be the same again. "You feel like a caged animal, trapped. It is dreadful," she said.

"Bradford Council refused a plan for a car park in Sugar Hill because it did not want tarmac on all the green land. Yet it has allowed this eyesore in a beauty spot," she added.

Not connected

Landowner Mr Tim Holmes has gained planning permission to build a tennis court on land near the footpath and construction work is already under way. However, the fencing is not thought to be connected with that scheme.

Bradford Council footpath officer Peter Miller said he would investigate the problem, but said that if the fencing was not obstructing the right of way, there was nothing he could do.

Mr Holmes was unavailable for comment this week.



New fencing (right) is making walkers feel penned in by creating a narrow corridor.

GROCERS READY TO DELIVER



6.2.1992

AN Ilkley family firm of grocers, Beanlands and Sons, which served the town for more than 100 years was proud of a delivery service second to none.

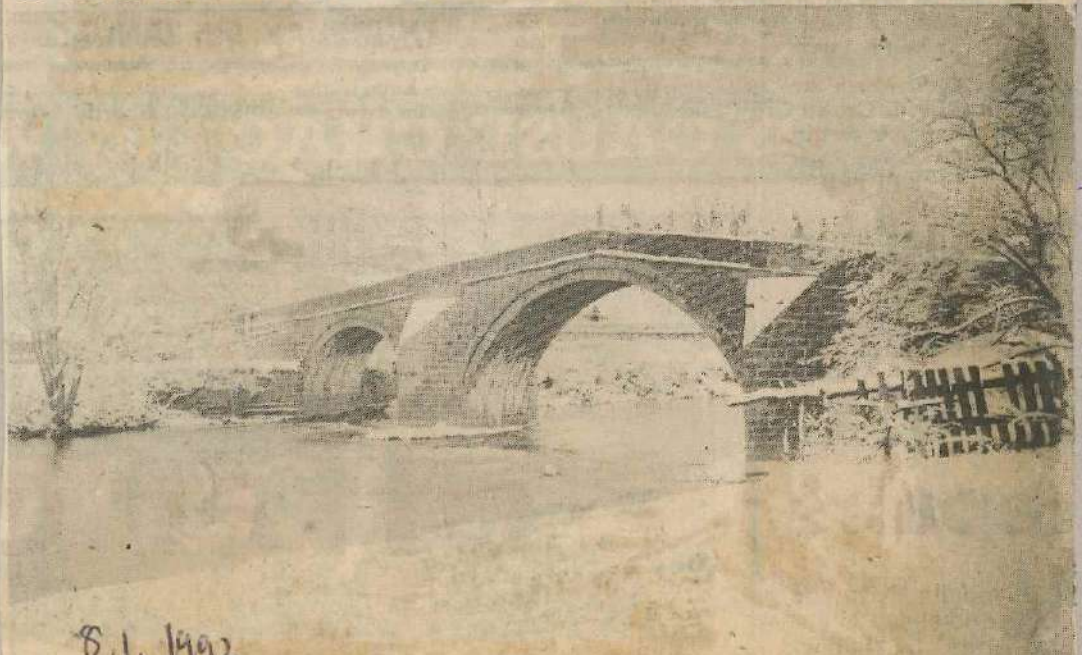
For this picture in an Ilkley Guide of 1948 three delivery vans and their drivers line up by the firm's main shop at the junction of Brook Street and Railway Road.

The firm made good use of the end wall of its property in Brook Street to make known its presence, but left enough room for another sign to advertise the whereabouts of the New Cinema which opened in 1928 and was demolished in 1969.

During its long history in the town the firm of Beanlands also had shops in The Grove, the Ilkley Arcade and at Ben Rhydding. The last shop to close was the one in The Arcade in 1973.

The founder of the business was Joseph Beanlands who opened the shop in Brook Street in 1869.

SNOW AND ICE ON THE WHARFE



8.1.1992

Ice covered the surface of the River Wharfe from bank to bank when this picture of the Old

GOAT MILK FOR SALE

WHEN three public houses stood at the bottom of Brook Street, Ilkley during the last century periodic visits were made to the town by a flock of goats and their milk sold on the spot.

This picture of the flock was taken in front of the Star Inn which, along with the Wharfedale Inn, was demolished to make way for New Brook Street. Both inns were supplied by the Ilkley Brewery Company which had premises in Railway Road.

The third public house, the Wheatsheaf Hotel, which stood at the top of Church Street, was closed in 1959 under an improvement scheme for that area.

The notice over the old Star inn indicated Lister Jackson as the licensee and after the usual details of the wines and spirits he was entitled to sell came the words 'post horses and carriages.'

W Lister was the licensee of the Wharfedale Hotel which stood alongside the Star Inn.



SITE FOR A NEW LIBRARY



These buildings in Station Road which were once part of Bolling Farm later to be known