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DEMOLITION OF AN IKLEY LANDMARK



Demolition has begun on the building in Cunliffe Road - South Hawkesworth Street, Ilkley, which for years was used as a depot for the West Yorkshire Road Car Company. It is being demolished to make way for a new shopping arcade which will incorporate a restaurant and underground car park. A total of seventeen shops are to be built some fronting onto the car park and a number onto

South Hawkesworth Street with a split level arcade between the two. Access to the underground car park will be from Cunliffe Road. The scheme is being carried out by Enterprise Trust Developers, based in London and Clugston Construction, of Scunthorpe, who hope to start work on the development in January and complete it by November. It is intended that the shops will be

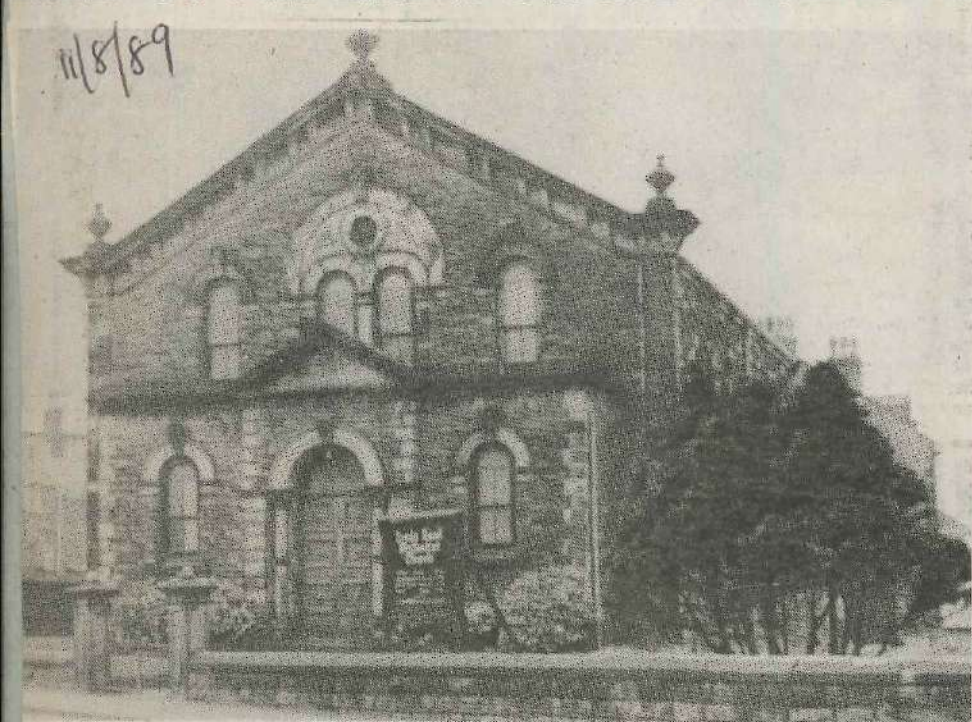
open for trading before next Christmas. The letting agents for the new shops are Dacre, Son and Hartley, estate agents, Ilkley. Approval of the plans to demolish the former bus garage and re-develop the site as a shopping arcade was given in February by Bradford Planners. But the decision was one which left the West Yorkshire Archaeologist Service

"astounded." Archaeologists believed the site had great potential and wanted to avoid re-development taking place on what they believed to be the Roman Vicus - a civilian settlement which was once full of native people. Ilkley's Olicana Museum and Historical Society also criticised the planning decision which they claimed indicated the "unprotected nature of Ilkley's Roman past".

But Mr. John Steel, Assistant Director of Planning, accused archaeologists of going "over the top" and exaggerating the site's importance. He pointed out that if anything was there it would be preserved by the foundations being built in an appropriate way.

● The former bus garage is pictured after having its roof removed as demolition work gets underway. (Picture ref. no. PB43).

END OF AN ERA FOR METHODISTS



It was twenty years ago in 1969 that Leeds Road Methodist Church in Ilkley closed bringing an end to an era lasting 91 years. The church was opened in March 1878 and when the foundation stone was laid in May 1877 a procession of over 1,000 people marched from the fountain at the top of Brook Street to the site of the new chapel. Previously the Primitive Methodists in Ilkley had followed the Wesleyans in the use of a room in a building sited where the Crescent Hotel now stands. The room was known locally as "Ranter's Chamber". The grocer who owned the property had more than once, it was said, brought meetings to an abrupt conclusion because the floor was coming away and he had to protest about over enthusiasm. From this room the Primitives moved to the former Wesleyan Chapel at the junction of Skipton Road with Bolton Bridge Road and then

to the Working Men's Hall (now the Playhouse). It was the Primitives impression before they bought the Leeds Road site that they had an option on the site now occupied by Ilkley Railway Station. As the final activities were held in August 1969 there was no lessening of enthusiasm nor was there any sign of despair amongst its members who marked the occasion with a full programme of events. The last service held at the church was conducted by the Society Steward Mr. George Askew and Mrs. B. Spivey led the opening prayers and read the first lesson. A statement of closure was read by Society Steward, Mr. D. Atkinson and a second lesson by Mr. B. Bailey. Shortly after its closure the building was demolished.



The two new telephone boxes in Wells Promenade which protesters say are out of keeping with the conservation area.

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CAMPAIGN TO STOP CHILD GAMBLING

7/4/89
Ilkley Parish Council is backing a campaign to stop child gambling.

At a meeting on Monday the Council decided to write to Bradford Council in support of the Yorkshire Post's "Fruit of Despair" campaign which has shown machine addiction leading children into truancy, crime and suicide.

Chairman Elect to the Council, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth, said many children became addicted to the machines and she thought the Council should

support the campaign.

Cr. John McGhee said there were places in Ilkley where children could regularly be seen gambling on fruit machines.

"It horrifies me that traders within the town, other than pubs, encourage children to play these machines," he said.

His recommendation that the Council writes to Bradford asking that no fortune licenses be granted for fruit machines, other than in licensed premises, received the support of the Council by ten votes to six.

Cr. Howard Scaife said addiction to fruit machines was a problem they had to tackle but warned that if the Council supported the campaign they might be putting an end to fun fairs which visited the town.

Cr. Peter Williams, of Menston, said they should make Bradford Council aware of what was happening in Ilkley as they would have evidence to withdraw licenses once they became renewed.

Cr. Rowland Hill said Bradford Council should ask each Parish Council for its view when considering applications and Cr. Mrs. Molly Renton thought it was right that the Parish Council should have some say when applications were received.

Disagreeing with the resolution District Cr. Mrs. Barbara Cussons said "we are using a sledge-hammer to crack a nut." Legislation was going through and she thought it was not an issue for the Parish Council.

SUGGESTED SITE FOR BUS STATION



This land in New Brook Street, now occupied by residential development, was once suggested as a possible site for a bus station at Ilkley. The land was purchased before the Second World War by the West Yorkshire Road Car Company with the intention of establishing a bus station at the junction of Castle Road and New Brook Street but in post war years it was sold off for residential development. This picture was taken at a time when bus services to Leeds operated from New Brook Street.

WORK BEGINS ON NEW PLAYHOUSE EXTENSION



Building work on a major new extension to the Ilkley Playhouse, in Weston Road, has begun and is expected to be completed by next March.

The new extension - which will overlook the River Wharfe - will accommodate a new Box Office and entrance and will allow the bar to be enlarged. It will also feature a new fitted kitchen and an enlarged area which can be used for rehearsals, social functions, children's drama classes and studio productions.

Originally a Liberal Club, the Playhouse was bought by the Ilkley Players in 1960, and was converted into a theatre with a wardrobe, bar and Green Room downstairs. But the Players have been victims of their own success. They now stage eight pro-

ductions each year for at least ten performances and last year over 10,000 people visited the Playhouse. Inevitably the facilities of nearly thirty years ago are now too cramped.

APPEAL FUND

An appeal fund was set up in June last year to finance the building work and the original target sum of £60,000 was set. However, that figure has now been raised to £110,000 and the Ilkley Players are over half way towards meeting this target.

Through covenant donations and a wide range of fund raising activities £68,000 has so far been raised.

●Picture illustrates land in Castle Road where the extension will take place (picture ref. PB21).

A series of tours of Ilkley organised by the Olicana Museum and Historical Society have been highly successful with large groups of people turning out to discover more about Ilkley.

Society President, Mrs. Esme Greenwood said the tours had aroused a lot of interest in the town. On the previous tour thirty five people had attended Mrs. Pat Allon's tour - which covered the Pre Roman to Post Norman period - and twenty five people turned up for Miss Eleanor Holt's tour - which dealt with nineteenth century Ilkley.

The last in the series of the tours will be on Wednesday at Ilkley Manor House.

Pictured around the Saxon Crosses in Ilkley Parish Church are Mrs. Pat Allon, (far left), leading the tour, with Mrs. Esme Greenwood, Society President, (second from right). Picture ref. G4057/18A).



BROOK STREET OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO



Shop property occupied by Ilkley traders, Mott, Trees, Robinson, Redmans, Dormand Stewarts and Addys' has changed hands several times since this picture was taken in Brook Street over thirty years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Mott were retailers of crockery, including high class china and glassware whilst

next door Fred Trees dealt in fruit and green-grocery. Robinson's Gents' outfitters had Redmans Good Bacon Shop (grocers) as neighbours and Dormand and Stewart's specialised in waterproof clothing and had painted on the windowsill across the front window the words "we shall have rain." Addy's gents' outfitters occupied premises at the bottom of Brook Street.

MIXED REACTION TO ROMAN FORT PLAN

Ilkley Parish Councillors have reacted with mixed feelings to draft proposals for a multi-million pound scheme to promote Ilkley and its Roman Fort.

At a meeting on Monday night Councillors discussed the proposals which would involve excavating a multi historical period site adjacent to New Brook Street, behind the Manor House. Bradford's Arts and Museums and Libraries Division would manage and co-ordinate the scheme and if the proposals go ahead it was claimed the scheme would boost local economy through tourism, create employment and provide a valuable educational resource and tourist attraction.

Council Chairman, Cr. Mrs. Anne Hawkesworth said many people in Ilkley had been shocked to learn of the proposals involved a multi million pound scheme. But she pointed out "You don't get much for a million pounds".

Cr. Mrs. Hawkesworth wondered if the scheme was referred to as the Manor House Enigma or if it was looked on as an experiment to discover where the Manor House came from it might be more favoured.

She said: "I don't think the document has said enough and I would want to see visually what they are suggesting. It is only one suggestion and it can not be looked at in isolation. Car parking has to come first and I think the car parking arrangements mentioned in the document are not adequate. We will also have to wait and see what line the Ilkley by-pass will take."

However, Cr. Mrs. Barbara Cussons was less in favour of the

proposals. She felt the scheme would be an "unnecessary development" and it would not help Ilkley's economy.

Cr. Mrs. Cussons felt there were already enough problems being experienced on the A65 road through Ilkley without adding any more to them.

She referred to the current roadwork diversions through Ilkley town centre and additional parking restrictions being enforced.

Many shopkeepers on The Grove had complained that car parking had been stopped on 'The Grove' and she said trading at shops in the town centre had "withered" since the current road problems had begun.

"We are going to have all the traffic we are going to be able to cope with. Do we need more people in Ilkley?" she asked.

Cr. Mrs. Iris Burnett said many residents had asked why money was being spent on developing the Roman fort instead of providing a youth or leisure centre for the young people of Ilkley.

"EXCELLENT IDEA"

But Cr. Peter Williams said he thought the scheme was an "excellent idea" but felt it was being proposed at the wrong time. He pointed out the excavation work would probably not be completed until the year 2010.

He accused Bradford Council of getting their priorities wrong and said car parking needed to be looked at first.

"Car parking has been neglected in this town since the Parish Council was formed in 1974. The powers that be have been reminded about it but they keep allowing all these developments to take place. But it will just not be possible for people to use the new shops because there is nowhere for them to park. Car parking is an essential issue and something should be done about it immediately," said Cr. Williams.

He also complained that Ilkley had not had a town plan compiled since the days of the former Ilkley Urban District Council.

NEW TECHNOLOGY AT TESCO'S



Tesco's store at Ilkley is featuring the latest in shopping technology with their newly-introduced checkout system.

The system brings benefits for Tesco customers, because it allows them to pass through the checkout faster, and provides a fully itemised receipt. Products displayed on Tesco shelves will not now be individually priced, although the prices will be clearly displayed on shelf-edge labels at the fixture.

Prices are set centrally at Tesco head office and fed through a computer network to the store where the shelf-edge labels are printed. No changes take place when the store is trading. The shelf-edge labels are continuously cross-checked with the store's computer to ensure the product information and price are correct.

At the checkout the cashier

will no longer ring up the price on the cash register so there will be far less risk of human error. Items will be passed over an electronic scanner which reads a bar code printed on the pack. The bar code - a series of bars and spaces - is converted by a computer into the product description, size and price for every item stocked within the store. This information is then shown on the customer display panel as the product is 'scanned', and appears again on the receipt.

For fresh produce such as fruit and vegetables, there will no longer be a separate produce weigh and price point. Items will be weighed and priced on scales at the checkout, and again the customer display panel and receipt will show the weight, price per pound and total price.

After customers have paid,

they will be given a till receipt which gives details of each product bought, the price, the method of payment, any coupons used, the amount paid and given, together with the checkout number, time of day, and date.

Tesco is introducing this scanning system into all of its largest stores in a £120 million investment programme which will see more than 180 stores on stream in two years.

The new checkout system will also have the ability to directly debit customers' accounts using the customer's debit card. This system will become available later this year and will eliminate the need for customers to write cheques.

Liz Thornton is pictured operating the new scanning system installed at Tesco's, Ilkley (Picture ref. no. N/A).

SECOND TOUR OF ILKLEY PLANNED

The first in a series of tours organised by the Olicana Museum and Historical Society for Museum Year 1989 was held on one of the hottest days of the year.

But in spite of the good weather the tour attracted a poor turnout and the Society hopes there will be more support for their second tour on 19 July.

Society President, Mrs. Esme Greenwood said the hot weather might have contributed to the fact that support from the public was a "bit thin" but those who did join in the tour, including two Swiss women enjoyed and appreciated the morning tour given by Mrs. Pat Allon whose talk on Ilkley's history from Pre-Roman to Post-Norman times was well supported with evidence.

Mrs. Pat Hudson and Mrs. Pam Hartnoll took charge of the afternoon, pointing out and giving information on the development of Ilkley during the Victorian period.

Tours start from Ilkley Manor House at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and there is no charge for taking part.

Ilkley people want of Leeds Univ Local History

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Ilkley's ho crew appear of one of D nineteenth ce

Ilkley has the best traditions of University W.E.A. class work because people want to work at the subjects they have chosen, said Mr. J. A. Jowett of Leeds University Ex Mural Department when opening the mid-Wharfedale Local History Research Group's latest half day conference at Church House.

He went on to say that the Ilkley branch of the Workers Education Association has been one of the most prolific in West Yorkshire since 1982. One group of students led by Mrs. Moira Long and Mrs. May Pickles has been working for years on a pilot study forming part of a major nationwide research project devised at Cambridge University. It comprises one approach to the question "What did people do during the industrial revolution?" by searching Parish Registers for signs of changes in the balance of occupations in different areas. By 1830 the ratio of agricultural to industrial workers in England had fallen to thirty-eight to ten from the one hundred to ten figures of not so many years earlier. This change took place during a period in which the population had more than doubled which would seem to indicate that a smaller number of agricultural workers was feeding a much higher number of industrial workers.

A variety of West Riding Parishes were looked at to gain ideas of what changes may have been occurring not only in rural areas but also in villages or small townships, such as Ilkley and Addingham, and in market towns such as Otley and Skipton. In addition, some York registers were checked to bring out very different and very interesting occupational patterns.

Even in the eighteenth century Wharfedale was more predominantly agricultural than Airedale but Ilkley did not itself fulfill the group's criteria for being predominantly agricultural. Conversion of wool to cloth was carried out in all its aspects in both Ilkley and Addingham and the products were carried to Halifax for sale even before the present Piece Hall was built. A symbol of Addingham's importance as a cloth production centre is the Piece Hall in Main Street now converted into a shop.

The work of the Parish Registers Group was reported on by Mrs. Pat Hudson, Mrs. Kate Mason, Mr. Geoffrey Barker and Mrs. Kathleen Edwards. Dr. Michael Dixon spoke on behalf of another group that had been making a study of tithing. It may seem a simple matter to carry out the injunction on tithing set out in the Old Testament book "Leviticus" but putting scripture into practice has a way of getting complicated. Anglo-Saxon missionaries preached the virtue of consecrating one tenth of a good citizen's products or acquired goods to God, which upon interpretation meant handing them over to the church. Even collecting the tithes soon became a problem, for "the church" is not a simple institution. The feudal lord who owned land owned what was on it. In 1378 Henry Percy, a great lord who could command such things, gave Ilkley church to the prior and monastery of Hexham. Ilkley was far from Hexham but the prior still required his tenth of Ilkley produce. Who counted the pigs, lambs, rabbits, goslings, chickens, eggs and swarm of bees?

PARSONAGE

At the dissolution of the monasteries, the tithes due to them became possessions of the Crown and were promptly sold to laymen. In 1536 Ilkley Parsonage was sold to a Thomas Merying. Who owned what and where became even more important business than in earlier centuries. Which

brought Dr. Dixon and colleagues to the Ilkley tithe map of 1847 that showed and still shows — in some detail who did what with a great many small parcels of land. For those with great patience much can be learned about the local scene from this map, including the antiquity of some domestic boundaries and the origins of many street names.

Mr. Hugh Steele-Smith has been looking at local history through a different ecclesiastical microscope. Satan was mighty active hereabouts in the mid-eighteenth century and people knew it. By one of those strange convulsions that so often accompanies religious belief, it was the most pious souls which were most conscious of Satan's power and of their awful fate if they fell, as they most surely felt in danger of falling, to Satan's wiles. Thomas Lee, born near Keighley in 1727 and in due season apprenticed to the worsted trade, "saw hell before him and wished to be annihilated" rather than risk descent into the pit. He must have been a good lad because he was feeling like that by the time he was ten or eleven. Another youth was "tortured with the just expectation of ever lasting misery" and another with the "uneasy appreciation of the wrath of God."

Mr. Steele-Smith observed that it was unkind to regard such tortured souls as hysterical fanatics. People of that period were much affected by national and natural forces over which they had no control but which could drive them to despair. The "Finger of God" was no idle fancy to them.

REVIVAL

The eighteenth century evangelical revival brought salvation from despair to many and the greatest evangelical preacher on permanent station in the North, as distinct from such orbiting itinerants as the Wesleys, was the Rector of Haworth, the Rev. William Grimshaw. "By the blessing of God upon Mr. Grimshaw's ministry, the barren wilderness rejoiced and blossomed as the rose" proclaimed the Countess of Huntingdon, who was a bit of hot stuff herself evangelically speaking. Having first confirmed young Tom Lee's fear that the jaws of hell were wide open to receive him, the powerful Rector of Haworth rescued him from the fate of eternal combustibility. Thomas was converted and became a preacher travelling far and wide to save others from the wrath to come unrestrained by fear of sinful men, such as those stirred up by the clergy of Pateley Bridge and paid to afflict Thomas with "muck, stones and stripes" and a broken head" before rolling him in a common sewer. After a change of clothing the indefatigable Thomas ascended to Greenhow where many were waiting to hear him preach the word, which he briefly did.

This was all good rollicking stuff of which not a tithe is provided here. It would be a pity for the Local History Research Group to move on to an eternal reward without leaving to Ilkley posterity something more than this present transient inadequate record. It is to be hoped that a detailed report of their work will be made available in local and specialist libraries. It deserves to be.

100 Years Ago

Improvements to Mill Ghyll at Ilkley were being carried out in 1889. It was hoped the improvements would allow people to revel beneath the luxuriance of its summer foliage or pass in and out of the many little grottos and snug retreats which form a distinct feature about what was a latest addition to Ilkley's attraction.

However, improvements made at Heber's Ghyll by the Local Board two weeks prior to work starting on Mill Ghyll, were done so in vain. In that short period already public property had been damaged. It was said people had no regard for the efforts made by the Board and could not appreciate them. One man asked, "what is the use of making all these improvements if they are only going to be destroyed soon after?" It was hoped action would be taken to ensure the safe keeping of the "attractive Ilkley features".

The sport of Otter hunting was in evidence on the River Wharfe as Sir Charles Legard's otter hounds started on their second day of hunting before a large crowd. The weather was ideal but as far as the sport itself was concerned the day proved to be a "failure" — one otter was found!

Many "Hints for the Home" appeared in issues of the Gazette in 1889 including one for the treatment of burions.

For the "perfect cup of tea" one was advised to test it first. To do this you were told to take a pinch of tea in a glass and pour upon it cold water. The stronger the colour the less perfect the cup of tea would be.

The Ilkley area was threatened by "dangerous" storms which had previously caused destruction around southern parts of the country. The storms, however, passed over the town "peacefully" despite very strong winds and heavy rain.

Employees of a big Leeds firm visited Ilkley where they enjoyed the attractive features and scenery of the town. Many took to the river where there was no lack of aquatic pastimes and the newly opened Victoria Baths was visited by the party.

100 Years Ago

An ambitious scheme for Ilkley Moor was planned by a group of men from Leeds in 1889.

They were interested in Ilkley's success as a health resort and were drawing up proposals to make easier access to the moors for the hundreds of visitors. The main feature of the "expensive" scheme was a proposed tramway to the top of the moor. Two routes were suggested: from the top of Wells Road to the moor or from near Ben Rhydding Railway Station. The idea was met with "considerable encouragement" within the town and the project was to be considered at a later date.

The Wharfedale Chess Association, WCA, took part in its first competitive match, six months after being established. Their first opponents were Bradford 'B' team and with twelve players on each side a tough and competitive set of games were planned but Bradford won by ten games to four.

Burley Feast again proved a popular event. There was plenty to see and do for all including many stalls, shooting saloons, round-a-bouts and musical entertainment.

Together with the Burley event there was plenty of entertainment throughout the area. At the Ilkley Hospital a party of entertainers gave several good sketches of humour and drama for the patients. Again, at Burley, a Church Bazaar was held which realised well over £100 and at Ilkley's Victoria Hall three dramatic performances of "A Wife's Trial", "Sinbad the Sailor" and "Human Hearts" were given to large audiences.

The Congregational Band of Hope held their social evening in Ilkley to round off a fine week's entertainment in the town.

Two Ilkley shops were holding "clearance sales". C. Hudson's, whose sales were always popular, sold boots, shoes and slippers whilst C. Green's Ironmongery was selling his stock before leaving Ilkley.

CROSSES RESTORED

75 Years Ago

The Saxon Crosses, which stood on the south side of Ilkley Parish Church, were restored in 1914, the main change being the centre cross having its cross-arms and head piece restored to the centre piece.

The stone had long been preserved at Middleton Lodge, where it had been kept since it was found in the River Wharfe in 1885. The head pieces were examined by Professor Collingwood, of Coristan, who was the greatest living authority on the subject. He was of the opinion that the centre cross dated from about 890 A.D. The owner of Middleton Lodge, Mr. Sidney Kellet, was thanked for his generosity in allowing the stone to be removed from the Lodge.



Ilkley's horse-drawn fire engine and crew appear in this picture of a parade of one of Ilkley's first carnivals in the nineteenth century.

Crowds lined the streets and horse-drawn cabs were on hire from outside Ilkley Railway Station (left of the picture) on this sunny day in Station Road.

The centenary of Ghyll Royd School, Ilkley, which was marked in a Gazette supplement has brought "memories flooding back" for one of the school's old girls. 28.7.89

Mrs. Joan Prior, of Dark Lane, Ewyas Harold, Hereford, who attended Ghyll Royd in 1939, wrote: "In September 1939 many lives changed course abruptly at the outbreak of war, and at the start of that autumn term, instead of the early train ride to Bradford Girls' Grammar School, I found myself cycling up the long hill to Ghyll Royd, my gas-mask in its cardboard case bumping against my back. Mr. Frost had consented to admit about eight girls as a temporary measure, and what a blissful year it was! I had often admired the scarlet and grey striped blazers which the boys wore, and now I could actually wear one myself, along with a white blouse, grey skirt, and red and grey tie.

"What fun we had. Classes were small and friendly, we were taught by men, who actually made jokes, and Mr. Frost was the first teacher to get me to understand simple mathematical problems — quite a feat."

PHONEY WAR

"That first year of the "phoney war" brought no real hardship to the majority of us twelve-year-olds. Mr. Frost would read to us regular newsletters of what was going on in Europe. We had to bring our gas masks to school every day, and if we forget we were sent straight home to get them. New boys would turn up at short notice, often in their previous school uniforms. Food shortages were not yet serious, we even had bananas and custard for school 'pudding' not infrequently, and quite often we had boiled rice with treacle. Good home cooking and generous helpings were the norm.

"We girls much enjoyed doing carpentry, and shooting, along with the boys. We were let off boxing and football however. While the boys had boxing lessons we would sit in the Matron's Room and knit scarves for H. M. Forces, with much hilarity. Instead of football we played a hectic form of three (or less)-a-side hockey in the Ghyll Royd garden. In the summer term we joined in the cricket, but it was always assumed that we knew the rules (what on earth did "middle and leg" mean?) and I was happiest out in the deep (literally) field, day-dreaming and hoping the ball wouldn't come anywhere near me."

"One concession to our femininity was that we were given the daily chore of washing up the

orange juice glasses at break. This was done with much glee, pulling of faces through the window at the boys outside, and loud singing of "We're gonna hang up the washing on the Siegfried Line" and "Run Rabbit, Run."

COMPETITIONS

"Mr. Frost would think up ingenious competitions for us to do, such as identifying postmarks on foreign stamps and writing about the places concerned. He was also a great opportunist. One brilliant, freezing winter's day during a history lesson he suddenly decided we should quit history for the time being, and we all went outside and constructed a magnificent "Cresta Run" out of snow. This was squirted with water from the resident stirrup pump, and thereafter we had many happy hours of exciting tobogganing."

"In the summer term the small swimming pool was much used and enjoyed. Other memorable occasions were the fire practices when one had to be lowered from an upper window on a rope with a canvas belt round one's middle.

"Drama that year took the form of a performance of 'MacBeth', with three of us girls (of course) as the witches. The 'Double, double, toil and trouble...' scene had to be repeated as the witch responsible failed to sprinkle enough magnesium powder onto the nightlight in the bottom of the cauldron. (It worked the second time).

"Many such memories come flooding back. Cheerfulness seemed to abound, and both at the time and looking back it was a Golden Age to me — undoubtedly the happiest year of all my schooldays."

GROCER'S SHOP IN BROOK STREET



A horse and cart is pictured standing outside one of Brook Street's first grocer's shops in this scene from the 1860's. The proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Ickringill seen (inset) served the community from their thatched property which stood on land between the present day West Street and The Grove Promenade.

£200,000 NEW LOOK FOR GLEN ROSA

Glen Rosa, Ilkley's Methodist Home for the Aged, is holding an Open Day to mark the completion of a major £200,000 improvement programme.

Work has taken fifteen months to complete and has included the improvement of bathroom, toilet and kitchen facilities, administrative accommodation and bed sitting rooms for residential staff, the enhancement of kitchenettes for residents, re-modified patio and flower beds and extensive modifications throughout the home to ensure a high standard of fire safety. In addition, there has been re-decoration with new carpets now lining the main staircase, the hall and lounges.

Glen Rosa is one of thirty

seven Methodist Homes for the Aged in England and Wales and the recent alterations have been financed nationally — £175,000 from MHA's Capital Fund, which depends entirely on donations and legacies, and £25,000 from MHA's repairs and renewal budget.

All residents and staff at the home are looking forward to the Open Day, on 30 September, which will be followed by a Thanksgiving service. An eventful day will end with the home's own celebratory evening party.

VIEW FROM FORMER HOTEL



Visitors to the Middleton Hotel (in later years known as the Ilkley Moor Hotel) in Skipton Road would admire this picturesque view looking north from the hotel.

It takes in these prim flower beds, gardens and tennis court in the foreground and Ilkley Old Bridge before unfolding to the slopes of Stubham

Rise prior to development.

The hotel was built in 1863 and was known as the "Middleton" until it was renamed the "Ilkley Moor" in 1947. It was demolished in 1968 after being destroyed by fire in which four people died and five were hurt.

6/10/89 A multi likely to be Details of a economy, given this

Mr. Stephen Kerr Officer for the Art and Libraries Division of the Council, told what they hoped to important ancient site "This site is imp whole variety of real for its Roman the fact that it has for almost 1,900 years Kerry. There was a city of there having vicinity of the Paris Anglo-Saxon monas

BEAR

15/9/82

A four-year bear at a circus in 1964.

The Ilkley right arm after when he passed performance circus show

A Leeds man struck him in travelling as Road, Ilkley. Infants School It was thought from an open

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The Carry O and their later at The Grove

6/10/89 **A multi-million pounds scheme to promote Ilkley and its Roman Fort is likely to be presented to the Parish Council before the end of the year. Details of a far reaching plan to rebuild parts of the Roman Fort, boost the economy, create employment and provide a major tourist attraction was given this week.**

Mr. Stephen Kerry, Principal Officer for the Arts, Museums and Libraries Division of Bradford Council, told Councillors what they hoped to do about the important ancient site.

"This site is important for a whole variety of reasons particularly for its Roman origins and the fact that it has been occupied for almost 1,900 years," said Mr. Kerry. There was a real possibility of there having been in the vicinity of the Parish Church an Anglo-Saxon monastery.

Radical schemes had been planned over the years but Mr. Kerry said they now needed a more considered approach to the development of the Roman Fort. There might be scope for rebuilding parts of the Roman Fort as it was. Bearing in mind the sensitive location of the site it might require an interpretation centre which could be in the form of a reconstructed Roman building but not necessarily on the exact site of the Roman Fort, he said.

Such ideas needed to be considered by the Parish Council, the officers and Bradford Council before being included in any scheme but he thought the following seven objectives form the basis of any plan:

- 1, To attract visitors to the town.
- 2, Management of visitors by the provision of sufficient car parks and overnight accommodation.
- 3, There would be a good spin off as an educational resource thus creating more local employment which would make a major contribution to the local economy.
- 4, To promote the uniqueness of Ilkley.
- 5, Encourage commercial or charitable sponsorship.
- 6, Develop the Fort to project Ilkley's image.
- 7, To protect Ilkley's assets.

"The site has great potential as an historical resource for schools which now have to visit the nearest sites at Castleford or York," said Mr. Kerry. He wished he could have presented a scheme to the Council that night but in the meantime he wanted

Councillors to think about what kind of impact such a scheme would have on the town and the benefits it would create.

Mr. Kerry said this would be a multi million pound scheme spread over a number of years. He said after the meeting that he hoped the plan would be presented to the Council before the end of the year.

Cr. Peter Williams said he would like to see more car parking space made available first. "This is an excellent scheme being put forward and I hope it will be implemented but how can we put trust in this when we can't get small schemes such as for car parking in Ilkley," he said.

CASTLE ROAD FUTURE?

14/7/89
The Olicana Museum and Historical Society is calling for the completion of the scheme to close Castle Road at Ilkley, now the house known as Ghyll Croft in that road has been demolished.

The Society wants the area pedestrianised and landscaped and at this month's meeting of Ilkley Parish Council Cr. Rowland Hill said a small car park for up to twelve vehicles should be considered. It would help the congestion at the Manor House and at the Riverside Gardens, he said.

Cr. Mrs. Iris Carney said she could not understand why that road had ever been blocked off. It could have been used, she said, to provide relief for traffic using Church Street.

Cr. Mrs. Barbara Cussons said she would not like to see any more money spent on that road.

BEAR ATTACKS BOY

15/9/88 **25 Years Ago**

A four-year-old Ilkley boy was attacked by a bear at a circus, staged on the East Holmes field in 1964.

The Ilkley toddler suffered lacerations to his right arm after being mauled by the circus bear when he passed the animal's cage following a performance of what was billed as the "wildest circus show on earth".

A Leeds man was injured when an air gun pellet struck him in the right temple of his head when travelling as a passenger in a mini van in Leeds Road, Ilkley. The van was passing the County Infants School when the man was hit by the pellet. It was thought the pellet had entered the vehicle from an open window.

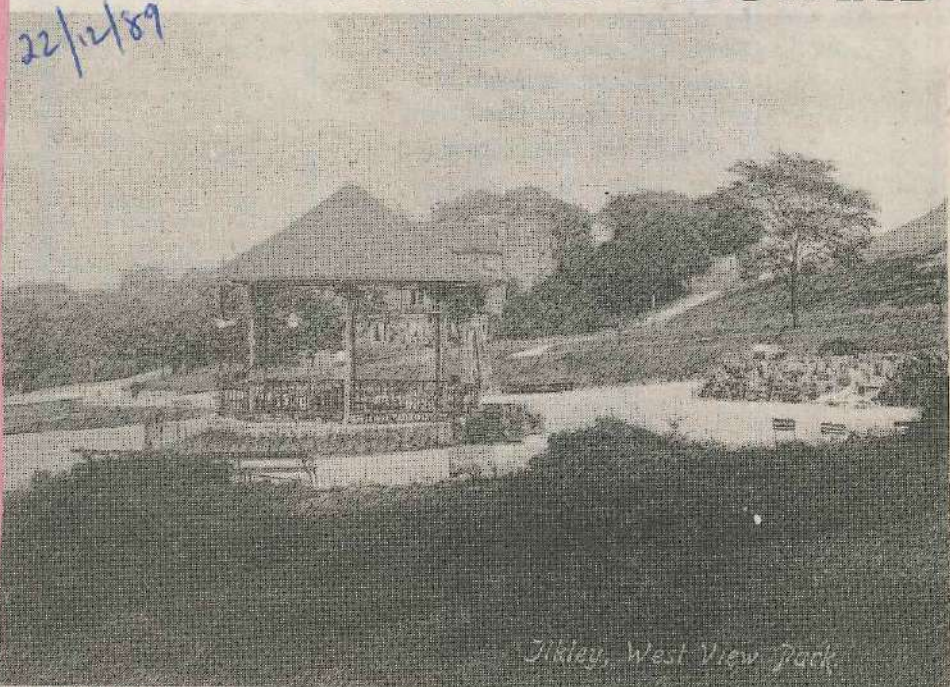
The dwindling number of open spaces on which children could play in the Ilkley area was emphasised at an Ilkley Education Committee meeting. The Committee asked the County Council about its attitude towards playing fields and playgrounds being kept open outside school hours. The County Council said it was not their policy to permit the use of these facilities if the activities were not for school purposes. It was agreed that land had to be found for children to play on and a decision was to be taken within two weeks of the meeting.

The limited quantity of water which remained in the Menston Reservoir had depleted at such a rate that it would only last for one more week unless there was a change in circumstances, Romibalds Water Board warned. The situation for residents in Burley and Menston was worsening and in the absence of heavy rain the prevention of running out of water could only have been brought about with "strenuous efforts" to reduce consumption. The affected districts were by then totally dependent on supplies from outside areas to meet the demand for water. Officials and residents could only hope for rain.

Ilkley Players presented "Bonaventure" - a play by Charlotte Hastings which revolved around a nun in charge of a hospital run by the Sisters of Our Lady Rheims. Meanwhile, Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society were preparing for their October production - "Bless the Bride".

The Carry On Crew were in action once again and their latest film, "Carry on Spying" was shown at The Grove cinema.

ILKLEY'S FORMER BANDSTAND



Ilkley's former bandstand which stood in West View on the edge of Ilkley Moor provided the platform for many enjoyable performances by a popular Ilkley orchestra in the first half of the century.

The Municipal Orchestra - as it was known - played twice daily, morning and evening at the band enclosure under the conductor of a talented musician.

By 1914 West View Park had become the general rendezvous of the visitors who derived great pleasure from the music provided for them.

It was said "there was nothing more agreeable after a day's ramble about the moors than to sit in the cool of the evening and listen to the strains of delightful music, discoursed by the orchestra." At that time it was intended to light up the bandstand and shelters at West View Park with coloured fairy lamps.

Band performances continued at West View until the thirties and for several years after the Second World War the bandstand served as a reminder of those Sunday evenings when one could say "Oh! Listen to the band."

RAILWAY BRIDGE DEMOLISHED



One of the features which disappeared in 1973 as a result of the demolition of the viaduct which carried the railway west of Ilkley was this skew arch which spanned Bolton Bridge Road. The name skew arch is gained from the fact that it spans obliquely and is therefore longer

than the gap. Work started early in 1973 on the scheme with the removal of the stone bridge over Westville Road and part of the embankment between there and Yew Bank Terrace where the viaduct structure began. From there the

viaduct contained twenty six arches before ending in Cunliffe Road. The scheme took nine months to complete and cost £62,200.

This view taken from Bolton Bridge Road looks towards Skipton Road.

100 Years Ago

The cost of providing the Ilkley to Skipton railway line opened in 1888, was paid for within twelve months.

The line, property of the Midland Railway Company, had been opened for goods and passenger transport for thirteen months and had proved to be more profitable than was initially envisaged — much to the delighted surprise of the railway company.

Meanwhile, progress was being made with the ambitious plans for the Rombalds Moor Tramway scheme. The District Engineer for Ilkley met with the Local Board to discuss the plans and to try and persuade them to go ahead with the proposals.

An Ilkley resident who objected strongly to the plans could hardly believe the lack of protest being voiced. The man appealed to all Ilkley residents who valued their local scenery and walks, to protest against the tramway and save the moorland. "The mechanical contrivances would spoil the natural beauty of the famous moors", he said.

Ilkley Cricket Club held its annual dinner and meeting at the Rose and Crown, Ilkley. The season was reviewed and entertainment went on until the early hours of the morning. Ilkley Chess Club gained an 8-5 success over Leeds following a keenly fought contest.

The state of some Ilkley footpaths caused concern to the Ilkley Local Board. Councillors said the footpaths between Cowpasture Road and Ben Rhydding had not been repaired or maintained for years and something needed to be done. The installation of more gas lamps also came under discussion. It was proposed that more lamps be erected in Ben Rhydding Road to help illuminate the area better. It was agreed the road had been in darkness long enough and more lamps were erected.

19/5/89 The controversial Ilkley market went ahead and progressed into its second week last Saturday despite the threat of a court injunction. Bradford Council's Markets Division is now taking further legal advice on whether or not to carry out that threat.

On Saturday about eighteen stalls participated in the market, held at Ilkley Rugby Club's field, but on the Sunday the market was cancelled because the Rugby Club feared the threat of an injunction. The club, at their annual general meeting this Thursday, will discuss the issue and decide whether to allow the market to be held on its grounds.

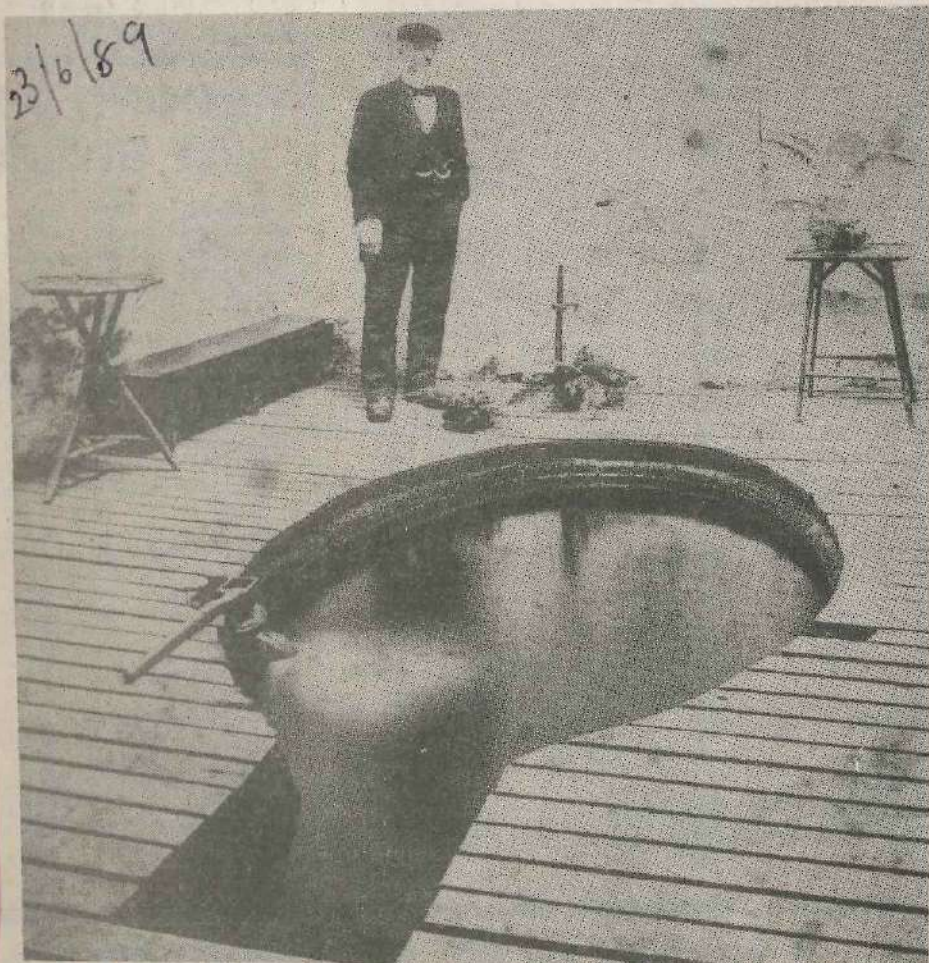
However, the market organiser, Steeton couple, Adrian and Karen Duke are adamant the market will continue and are prepared to go to court if necessary.

"We are confident of winning," they said. Mrs. Duke said if her husband was allowed to go ahead with the market he would keep "a tight rein on it" and keep it under control.

Mr. Duke can not understand why the Council will not permit

his market to take place. "It can only do good for the town. I am sure that ninety nine per cent of the people in Ilkley want this market. Ilkley has been a charter market town since 1512," he said.

Bradford Council's Markets Superintendent, Mr. M. Craske, told the "Gazette" he was now taking advice from a solicitor on what steps to take next. "The two market stalls in Ilkley Central Car Park form Ilkley's market. The market rights state that there shall be no other market within six and two thirds miles of it therefore this market at the Rugby ground breaches that rule," he said. However, he did admit that if it went to court he was not sure how the court would evaluate it. "They may not consider the two stalls to be a market," he said.



A picture of Ilkley's famous Plunge Bath at White Wells was depicted on a postcard at the turn of the century. It stated the water was mellifluous, diaphanous, luminous, transparent, pellucid, immaculate and unequalled in purity. It was vitalising, animating, exhilarating, resuscitating, enthusing, sustaining, refreshing, invigorating,

delightful and delicious as a bath. It was instinct with life and was seven degrees colder than ordinary well water. The postcard stated the plunge bath strengthened the muscles and tissues, and improved the general condition, nutrition and tone of the body and gave increased energy and capacity for work.

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VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

3/11/89 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Querns, and their distribution in West Yorkshire, was the subject of a lecture which Mrs. Liz Wright of Sheffield University gave to the Olicana Museum and Historical Society.

Although querns were used from neolithic to medieval times primarily for reducing grain to flour, Mrs. Wright informed members they had occasionally been found to have been used for milling vegetables and even metals. The earliest type were saddle querns which developed into bee-hive querns, so called because of their shape. Subsequently the round flat querns were introduced by the Romans.

Mrs. Wright's main work was locating and plotting the iron-age beehive querns in West

Yorkshire and searching for quarries from which they were hewn. Members were shown slides of moorland with a wilderness of stone, great rock outcrops and massive tumbles of scree. Any reasonably flatish area was used as a platform or workshop on which roughouts, false starts and broken pieces were still lying. These sites were scheduled as Ancient Monuments.

Querns, she said, could be found whole, broken or in parts in gardens, rockeries, fields, field walls and even church walls. Mrs. Wright said she would always be pleased to hear from anyone who has one, or knows where to find one as the information was required for the National Quern Survey.



Scenes from the Past last week featured a picturesque view looking north from the Middleton Hotel - which later became the Ilkley Moor Hotel - in Skipton Road. This was the view from the other side of the River Wharfe looking south of Ilkley - taking in the majestic building of the Middleton Hotel.

The hotel - which was built in 1863 - was renamed the "Ilkley Moor" in 1947 and was demolished in 1968 after being destroyed by fire in which four people died.

26/5/89 Ilkley's original spa at White Wells - which is almost 300 years old - could be back in use following a decision by councillors.

Bradford Council's Arts and Recreation sub-committee has agreed to let the premises, which were described as the first purpose built cold water spa in the country, to a commercial tenant for the re-opening of the spa for hydrotherapy as well as the retailing of White Wells trade-marked goods.

The sub-committee agreed to a short lease with a report to be

made next year into how it was working after they were told of the interest of a woman in taking up the lease and using the spa's water for preparing cosmetics as well as restoring the use of its plunge bath.

Councillors were asked to consider various options including becoming a base for the countryside unit, or advertising it for sale on the open market.

Mr. Steve Kerry, Bradford Council's Principal Officer for the Arts and Museum Department, told the "Gazette" this week that the option would be further explored and it was intended to have full consultations with Ilkley Parish Council.

"Knowing about White Wells and its history it was agreed that commercial letting was the best option," he said.

"The woman wanting to take up the lease is interested in the old hydropathic water cure and wants to hold talks and lectures on this and even hopes to re-introduce the original plunge bath," Mr. Kerry said.

He went on: "The safeguards Bradford Council are getting are that White Wells will be on lease and after eighteen months it will be reviewed.

"Any new business has an element of risk but the White Wells symbol will be spread far and wide. We will carry out further consultations before any deal is signed and we are confident that it will be sorted out soon so the building is opened as soon as possible."

The woman interested in taking the lease is from Nottingham, although has "strong links" with Ilkley. She has trained in natural medicines and has previously run a small business from her home, but without such a strong theme, added Mr. Kerry.

16/6/89 MILK DELIVERIES AT BEN RHYDDING



This picture taken in Wheatley Lane, Ben Rhydding, at the turn of the century serves as a reminder of how milk was distributed in the area.

Milk was taken from the farm in a churn, transported by horse and milk float, around the district where it was sold to customers after being taken from the churn in a measure ladle of half a pint or a pint. The customer usually provided a jug to take away the milk.

This milk float is pictured parked outside what is now Ben Rhydding Post Office and which was then occupied by S. Moss, printer, stationer, picture-framer and tobacconist.

AN EARLY PICTURE OF CHURCH STREET



Property below the Parish Church has changed little since this early photograph of Church Street was taken during the last century.

There has been however, a dramatic change in road conditions and to the property on the opposite side of the road and at the top of Church Street itself. There is not a resident nor a vehicle

to be seen in this picture which was processed from an early lantern slide. The white building right of picture served as a porch for the old vicarage. The porch known as the "charity hole" was used as a dispensary where a Dr. Scott gave advice to the poor. At the top of Church Street can be seen the Wharfedale Inn which was to be demolished in later years for a new Star Inn.

100 Years Ago

Over 20,000 people packed into Denton Park in 1889 for a great unionist demonstration.

Trains were jammed full of passengers who came to Ilkley to demonstrate their fidelity to the West Riding Union. The Marquess of Hartington was one of many speakers at the massive event which went on all day and brought Ilkley under the spotlight around the whole district.

A visitor to the town criticised local hotel keepers for charging exorbitant prices for meals and accommodation. He said the prices he was charged were "ridiculous and needed to be revised" and vowed never to return to the town until action was taken.

Ilkley Hospital was receiving considerable amounts of money after the dramatic performances at the Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley, which were all in aid of the local hospital. The scenery and stages for the performances were said to be "outstanding" although the response was not as good as was expected. Nevertheless, organisers and doctors of the hospital were thankful and delighted with the money raised. The hospital had over 100 patients then with a waiting list of 156 people.

Harvest operations and preparations were in full swing in Wharfedale. Farmers from Addingham to Harewood were indicating that there was to be an average of crops for the year at harvest, the dry spell had benefitted many crops but some, like apples and beans, were not as numerous.

Ilkley Football Club put out a plea for a field to use for their forthcoming season 1889-90.

Ilkley shared in the nation's grief after the worst ever sporting tragedy at Hillsborough claimed the lives of 95 Liverpool football fans.

This Thursday and Friday outside Ilkley's Tesco's supermarket, in Springs Lane, the Ilkley Good Neighbours Scheme's workers will be collecting for the Disaster Fund, and the Ilkley Carnival Committee is hoping to donate money to the fund.

The tragedy on Saturday happened six minutes into the Liverpool v Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final game being staged at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground. At the fatal Leppings Lane end of the stadium there was a crush as thousands of avid Liverpool supporters gained entry to the ground.

Police opened the gate allowing scores of fans to surge towards a tunnel leading to the already packed terraces. Fans were trampled underfoot, pinned against crush barriers and crushed against perimeter fencing.

AUTHORITY HITS BACK AT PROTESTERS

Notices distributed in parts of Ilkley by protesters campaigning against the proposed privatisation of water have been described as "despicable" by the Yorkshire Water Authority.

The notices, condemned by the Water Authority, were displayed on buildings, lampposts and pushed through letter boxes.

Director of Water Services, Mr. A. Ward, said, "firstly, they incite the general public to break the law by mis-using water. Secondly, the people most likely to be affected are those living in the same area because high demands would result in reduction of pressure and lastly, the cost of wastage would have to be funded with monies earmarked for improvements in service.

"I hope water users who have read these irresponsible posters will treat them with the contempt they deserve," said Mr. Ward.

The Minister for Roads and Traffic, Mr. Robert Atkins commenting this week on the future of a by-pass for Ilkley said this was indeed a difficult problem for the town.

Mr. Atkins had made a brief visit to Addingham to see the progress being made on the village by-pass when he told the "Gazette" that the Department of Transport would be doing all it could to ease or solve traffic problems in Ilkley.

This year a scheme for a new three mile single carriageway road for Ilkley to form a by-pass had been given the go-ahead in a Government White Paper for a huge £450m package for Yorkshire. "One of the reasons we are wanting to build a by-pass for Ilkley is because we recognise the pressure the town is under," said Mr. Atkins.

By-pass campaigners fear that before a by-pass can be built in the mid 1990s at the earliest Ilkley will not be able to cope with the traffic demands and that

when the Addingham and Burley by-passes are completed the town's road network will become a bottle neck.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Mr. Atkins said Ilkley's traffic problems would not be something the Department could solve straight away. Clearly though we will have to give some thought to traffic management schemes for we need to ensure that traffic does not clog up Ilkley," he said.

"We are aware of the problems and local MP Gary Waller has asked us to do all we can and we have undertaken a task to do just that," said Mr. Atkins.

"Ilkley is an attractive town with a road, a railway line, a river and a narrow valley which makes planning a by-pass route much more difficult but we will do our best to find an appropriate and suitable route", said Mr. Atkins.

"However, the Minister would not comment on the possibility of a tunnel providing the answer to part of Ilkley's problem. Local MP Gary Waller and Chairman of Ilkley Parish Council, Cr. Anne Hawkesworth recently said the tunnel idea should not be overlooked. Commenting on this Mr. Atkins said: "The consultants are still looking at everything and all options will be examined."

NOT NECESSARY

Mr. Atkins could see no reason to upgrade the by-pass for Addingham from a single carriageway as had been made for the one at Burley. At Burley

the by-pass had been upgraded to a dual carriageway because of the predicted increase in traffic levels.

"My advice is that half of the traffic peels off into Addingham anyway and we anticipate that the climbing lane on the by-pass will be perfectly capable of taking the necessary amount of traffic for the foreseeable design life of the road which is about fifteen years," he said.

Department of Transport informed Ilkley Parish Council at its meeting on Monday night that a scheme to by-pass Ilkley was being prepared but they were early stages and consultants had not yet even been appointed.

Cr. Peter Wardhaugh said: "It worries me that there are still a number of Councillors still saying we don't need an Ilkley by-pass. When we look at what is happening at Addingham and what is planned at Burley we could be left far behind.

"If we are not careful a by-pass will be forced upon us and residents will be asking 'what did the Parish Council do for us?' warned Cr. Wardhaugh.

22/11/89



Forty two new Council estate were... The then Florence S. conducted the fronting Vally new road to

BROOK STREET EXHIBITION

5/12/89
In May Ilkley Manor House will be opening a new educational and community centre in Castle Yard in a cottage adjacent to the present art gallery and museum.

TOP AWARD FOR SPA BUILDINGS

19/5/89
Ilkley's doomed Spa Buildings, on The Grove, have received a prestigious award from the Victorian Heritage Society, of London.

Spa Buildings — which are to be demolished to allow a Rawdon development company to develop the site — have gained one of the Society's Albert Awards for its "outstanding merit". Arrangements are now to be made by the Society to present the award to Ilkley Parish Council.

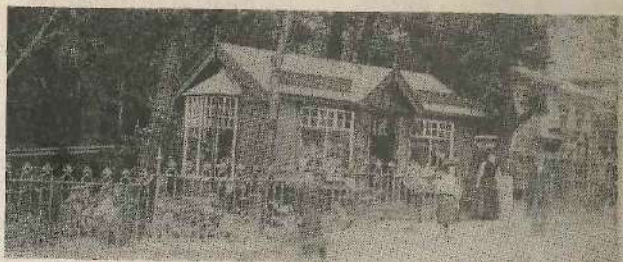
Only within the past few weeks Spa Buildings were sold to the Rawdon company, Vignor Ltd., who plan to re-develop the site into eighteen luxury flats and three retail shops.

Detailed planning permission for the re-development has already been granted by Bradford Planners and construction work is due to start in the early Autumn.

As well as providing a centre for history and art workshops and activities of all kinds, there will be a permanent exhibition showing how the history of people's own streets can be pieced together. It will also tell the story of Ilkley's Brook Street from when it was no more than a few farms and cottages until it became the flourishing shopping centre it is today.

The Museum has already gathered some information together but it would be pleased to hear from anyone who has anything that could tell more about who has lived and worked in Brook Street over the years. Anyone with any memories of how Brook Street used to be or if they have any photographs or items that were bought and sold there or tools used in any of the trades practised there or paper clippings or any other things carrying advertisements, the Museum would be delighted to hear from them.

Anyone who can help piece together this part of Ilkley's history should contact Angela Cartledge at the Manor House on Ilkley 600066.



This picture depicts John Sunley's fruit and flower shop — which was built in 1906 — and stood at the top of Brook Street until it was demolished to make way for the recently opened new development in the railway station complex.



An early picture of lower Brook Street illustrates a tranquil scene — a far cry from the hustle and bustle experienced in the town centre today.



Forty two years ago on Monday the first two new Council houses on the Mayfield Avenue, estate were officially opened.

The then Chairman of the Council, Cr. Mrs. Florence S. Hampshire (pictured in doorway) conducted the opening ceremony at the houses fronting Valley Drive which had then formed a new road to link up with Little Lane. Cr. Mrs.

Hampshire unlocked the doors of the two completed houses, numbers 9 and 11 and ushered in their first tenants, Mr. and Mrs. A. Swanston and Mr. and Mrs. G. Featherstone.

The opening was attended by a group of Councillors, including the Chairman of the Council's Housing Committee, Cr. Eric Wolfe, officials and selected tenants.

26/89 A fascinating description of Ilkley and its inhabitants in 1834 appeared in an issue of the 'Ilkley Gazette' in February 1904.

The article referred to a chat with an old native, and representative of the old-fashioned type of Yorkshireman the twentieth century "would soon see the last of". It read as follows:

Mr. John Jackson, small of stature and at one time as alert as the gazelle, though now, with the burden of well-nigh four score years, "not as active as he used to be", yet still, with the exception of sadly failing eyesight, ailing little, saw the light of day in an old thatched cottage that stood in Brook Street near where Mr. Worfolk's shop now stands. The exact day of his birth was September 10th, 1825, and then for nigh upon thirty years after the brook meandered down the principal thoroughfare, and the ducks and geese disported themselves in its shining waters, and Mr. Jackson and his youthful playmates also similarly amused themselves. It was a healthy open-air life the children then enjoyed; and the homely fare, though plain, was good; the oaten cakes for which Ilkley in its early days was justly famed being just the sort of stuff to impart stamina to a young lad's frame, and on it young Jackson and his brother and sisters thrived wonderfully.

WOOLCOMBER

His father was born at Baildon and his mother, at Horsforth but both were brought up in Ilkley from their infancy and knew nothing whatever of the place of their nativity until life unfolded itself for each of them in a wider and broader outlook and they took their walks abroad and visited these distant places in their "courting days". Mr. Jackson's father was first engaged in the woolcombing industry, but later carried on the business of a hand loom weaver.

Woolcombing in those days was one of the staple trades of the town, and all the residents in Castle Yard were thus employed. Mr. Jackson, as soon as he was able to work was put to this trade, and for many years did nothing else. His father, who was sexton, died at the age of ninety-three, and his mother was over seventy. He well remembers Mr. Fenton being Vicar, who had also to do duty at Denton.

The only school, beyond what were known as "Dame Schools" (so called for being conducted by an old dame who plied her needle and "taught the young idea to shoot" at the same time), was the Grammar School on Skipton Road, still remaining, and here Mr. Jackson learned the rudiments of education.



Mr. Jackson pictured with two mules outside his thatched cottage in Bridge Lane.

There were two teachers connected with the school, John Robinson and John Hobson, but the latter was more familiarly known as "Knocking Johnny" owing to a physical deformity locally termed "knock-a-kneed" and on account of which he was tormented by the lads most unmercifully.

Boys and girls were taught together, and the festivals of the church were then most rigorously kept and the scholars marched to church both weekdays and Sundays; the entrance to the church-yard being by some steps that stood where the wine and spirit stores now exist in Church Street. "Knocking Johnny" lived at the old vicarage in Church Street and kept a night school which Mr. Jackson for some time attended. In those days there was very little variety in life, but once a year at any rate the inhabitants had a "rare grand time" and that was at the feast. There were various attractions; the chief for many years being the foot races indulged in. The course was generally to the top of Brook Street and back, or to the Grammar School and back; the starting point being always from the bottom of the main street. Prizes were given and one in particular allotted to the men was a new hat.

Mr. Jackson's mind can carry him back seventy years, and nearly every resident about this time he still remembers and can name. The names of some of them, of course are still familiar, particularly the Beanlands, Dobsons, Ushers, Ickringills, Listers, Hudsons, Jacksons, Robinsons, Hodgsons, Hartleys, Parratts and Stephenson's, who have each descendants represented amongst us.

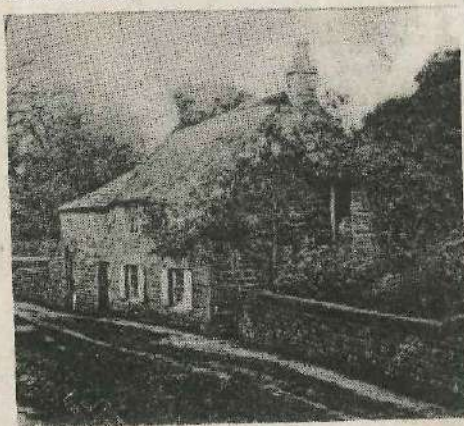
COTTON MILL

When he was a lad a cotton mill stood where the Wells House stables are to be found today, and there was an upper and lower dam connected with the corn mill; millbrook and the house adjoining being built on the upper dam. The principal residents in those days were the Bollings, who were large farmers and resided at Sedbergh House, which was pulled down some few years ago and is shortly to be replaced by a Free Library and Assembly Hall. There were Beanlands and Ushers then living in West View, and in Church Street old Bridget Parratt kept a mangle; where as a lad Mr. Jackson had to go with the clothes. A little above where the Royal Hotel (on which site Wells Court now stands) there used to be some porter vaults, and Chapel Lane, subsequently nicknamed "Bunkas", was dignified enough in those days to have a beerhouse.

Not far from where the vicarage now is, stood an old cottage occupied by Gacie Ickringill, who "hawked humbugs and spice" for a living, and hereabouts there was a gate across the road to prevent sheep from wandering off the moor into the village.

Blind Tom, brother of Mr. Jackson, for years stood at the gate and opened it for visitors and others passing up and down, who generally acknowledged this service by the gift of a copper or two. Robert Lister occupied the flour mill and

resided in a thatched house at the top of Brook Street, and the first post office was situated at Green Lane Cottage. Thinking Lane (The Grove) it was then more familiarly known. This cottage was last occupied by Mr. Thomas Richardson, shoemaker, and stood on the site of Taylor's drug stores (Oxfam).



A thatched cottage in Green Lane now The Grove, Ilkley.

Old Neddy Hartley was constable, and he was the father of John Hartley, for some years assistant overseer. On the site of Gothic House (Fish Dish) stood a quaint old house occupied by a man named Henry Roundell, and subsequently by Billy Hawsworth. Mrs. Dale kept the Rose and Crown, and a very well known and influential resident who resided near was John Margerison, who lived retired and had one of the best gardens in the countryside. The lads used to make a practice of visiting Margerison's garden very frequently during the summer, and his gooseberries in particular used to disappear in consequence. Margerison was anything but a spendthrift, and as an instance of how carefully he disbursed his money it might be mentioned that he was frequently to be seen half dressed running after the Friday morning butter-carts on their way to Otley market with the object of saving the shopkeepers penny profit.

JUMPER

Another well known resident in Church Street was John Jackson, uncle of the subject of this sketch, and father of Mrs. George Burton. Jackson was a sawyer and at one time used to walk to and from Keighley to his work. He was a famous jumper, and one of his feats was to jump from the middle of the road into the churchyard; the wall at that time not being so high as it is now. Old John Senior lived at the Box Tree cottage, and he was brother to Job Senior, the Rombalds Moor hermit, a man remarkable in his way, and who Mr. Jackson conveyed to the workhouse. Job Senior lived in a hut of his own construction at Burley Woodhead, and used to eke out a scanty livelihood by "singing to his visitors in four voices". Well known hymns Job generally selected, but he fell on evil days and died soon after his admission to the Otley workhouse.

There were several shoemakers at this time who were shoemakers, and near where Mr. Raper Bradley's shop is stood the Whitehouse Farm occupied by John Vickers. Low House, in Bridge Lane, was then occupied by Joseph Beanlands, grandfather of the present generation of that name, who was a farmer in a large way of business. Nicholas Cunliffe, an independent gentleman, lived in the house in Church Street, now occupied by Mrs. Waddington, and Ivy House was in the occupation of old Mrs. Parratt.

John Lister kept the Lister's Arms and Thomas Barnes the Wheat Sheaf. Johnny Birch held a blacksmith shop in Leeds Road, and here the Rev. Dr. Collyer worked as a blacksmith. Referring to this interesting fact, Mr. Jackson remarked in the course of conversation "I've laiked wi' Bob Collyer mony an hour, an when he comes ower he allus comes to see me". Dr. Collyer then lodged with Thomas Stephenson and his wife, and Mr. Jackson tells how Dr. Collyer once pulled the corner cupboard down in getting at some tarts Mrs. Stephenson had made for the feast.

On the site of the Crescent stood a cottage occupied by William Bell, and above was the "Ranter Chamber", a religious sect of the Methodist persuasion, whose noisy meeting Bell once brought to an abrupt conclusion by informing them that the floor was giving way; a device resorted to in order to get them off home.

COACHES

Coaches were run regularly from Leeds and Bradford, but beyond the horses used for these only donkeys and mules were employed in Ilkley. After giving up woolcombing Mr. Jackson bought a mule and carriage, and for twenty years ran this for hire. Frank Dobson was a coach driver in Ilkley for about fifty years.

Up to leaving the old house in Bridge Lane, just demolished, Mr. Jackson had never resided in a slated house in his life. He lived in this house thirty-eight years and kept donkeys for hire all the time, and William Rigg, the previous occupier had also carried on the donkey trade.

When Mr. Jackson was a lad one of the Saxon Crosses now standing in the churchyard was used as a sun dial and the other two served as door posts within the porch of the church. Limekilns existed on "The Holmes" by the side of the river, and the one on Nessfield Road was also in use. As a lad he was employed gathering limestones from the bed of the river for burning purposes at 4d. a day and had gathered many a basketful.

When he and his wife were first married they lived in a cottage facing the Lister's Arms, and to show what stirrings there were at feast time he mentioned that on one Feast Sunday he counted 190 gigs and traps behind the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, while his wife on Feast Sunday had sold as much as 50lb. of beef for dinners and sandwiches.

Mr. Jackson remembers the trees being planted in front of the church, and incidentally mentioned that the large tree opposite the Lister's Arms was planted by his wife when they resided in the cottage there.

Susan Parratt was a woman noted for the excellence of her oatcake, and her daughter, Mrs. Ickringill, over 80, is still living. The names of many other residents Mr. Jackson mentioned. Indeed he started at one end of the village and gave the names and particulars of almost every up-grown person in the place; though I have no wish to weary my readers further.

COM

23/89



One of the features of the Show in 19... pairs of dra... plough gear... The pict... pairs on t...

aw

125 Ye

A BRILLIANT... dicted for... Bradford Obs... 1873. The an... turesque villa... was said, wh... expanded and... the last few ye... be subjected... changes in th... people would... to see old... 'improved awa... tion it must a... substitute bui... sanitary rules... for the unhea... which had no... antiquity to re... The general o... the landscape... somewhat sp... which love to... beauties, by t... of new streets... the hillside w... villas. But th... were more th... in the increas... of locomotion... al wealth a... which were gi... by the improv... cle praised th... Manor, Willi... who had open... tral lands to t... modern enterp... cautionary no... Board who w... direct their a... subject of dra... sances. These... geries at the l... Inn, a manu... gun-shot of th... a nest of pigge... of the Rose an... foul places at... Old Bank in B...

COMPETING AT SHOW

23/3/89



One of the most picturesque features of the Ilkley Agricultural Show in 1945 was the class for pairs of draught horses shown in plough gear.

The picture shows one of the pairs on the Ilkley rugby field,

where the show was held annually between 1942 and 1950.

The year 1942 saw just 164 entries but by 1951 entries had increased to 2,000 and over 10,000 people attended.

However, in 1953 the show

suffered a financial loss and it was decided by a majority vote to disband the show society and wind up the event. Previous to 1933 many difficulties had been experienced by the Society because of ever increasing costs.

1998

^{23/12/85}
OLICANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - The Society's Christmas party took the theme of a visit to the Ben Rhydding Hydro during its heyday. This was excellently dramatised by a sketch in which Mrs Darwin consulted Dr Macleod about her poor husband, Charles, who was suffering under a delusion that we are all descended from apes! Slides showing the horrifying cold water treatments administered at the hydro were very amusing, given that they are now safely distant in the past. Other entertainment included a quiz based on the genuine advertisements of traders in the town before the turn of the century, and music and songs from the same period. Members entered into the spirit of the occasion by wearing Victorian costume, and they greatly enjoyed an authentic Victorian supper.

away' 17/4/98

125 Years Ago

A BRILLIANT future was predicted for Ilkley by the Bradford Observer in April, 1873. The ancient and picturesque village of Ilkley, it was said, which had rapidly expanded and improved during the last few years was likely to be subjected to still greater changes in the future. Many people would, doubtless, regret to see old Ilkley slowly 'improved away' but on reflection it must appear better to substitute buildings in which sanitary rules were observed, for the unhealthy tenements which had nothing but their antiquity to recommend them. The general configuration of the landscape may also be somewhat spoiled to eyes which love to dwell on natural beauties, by the construction of new streets and by dotting the hillside with ornamental villas. But these detractions were more than compensated in the increased convenience of locomotion and the additional wealth and importance which were given to the town by the improvements. The article praised the Lord of the Manor, William Middleton, who had opened out his ancestral lands to the operations of modern enterprise but added a cautionary note for the Local Board who would do well to direct their attention to the subject of drainage and nuisances. These included piggeries at the back of the New Inn, a manure heap within gun-shot of the parish church, a nest of piggeries at the back of the Rose and Crown and the fowl places at the back of the Old Bank in Brook Street.



ILKLEY saw one of its last farmhouses removed from the town centre in 1868 when these buildings (pictured) were demolished to make way for Gothic House (now occupied by Boots the chemist) and for a new street to be known as Hawksworth Street. The farm was owned by Billy Hawksworth and was purchased by John Shuttleworth (founder of the Ilkley Gazette) who built Gothic House on the site.

Tree orders will hit developers

12.6.98

FURTHER restrictions to possible development at Ilkley College will soon be in place as Bradford Council slaps on Tree Preservation Orders for most of the woodland on the site.

The college owners Bradford and Ilkley College Corporation (BICC) want to abandon the site and sell it.

But the Preservation Orders will add to the limitations of what can be done with the land when it is sold.

The fact that the main college building is Grade II listed and the site has been designated in Bradford's Unitary Development Plan as a Major Urban Greenspace already prevents developers levelling the site and building scores of profitable house.

The further restrictions on building, such as the requirement to preserve all the trees, will make the campus even less attractive to companies looking for a quick turnover of profit.

Bradford Planning officer Martyn Burke said that Tree Preservation Orders had been advertised and if no objections were received they would be ratified soon.

Bob Tilley, chairman of Ilkley Civic Society, said: "Offers from interested developers are currently being evaluated by the college agents. Accordingly, redevelopment is likely to occur soon and the trees are clearly at risk."

A spokesman for BICC said they did not want to comment until implications of imposing Tree Preservation Orders had been fully examined.

8/10/98
Tenders sought for new hotel

125 Years Ago

TENDERS were sought in October, 1873, for the erection of a new hotel to be called the Victoria Hotel on the Addingham road near to the Old Bridge over the river at Ilkley. Later to be called the Middleton Hotel and in its final years before it was largely destroyed by fire, the Ilkley Moor, the hotel was to be built on ground known as Kellands. The site was believed to be that of an ancient Roman encampment. A new road to be called Victoria Road would lead directly down to the Old Bridge. There were 90 bedrooms planned and the shares were being well taken up.

BEFORE three horse-drawn waggonettes taking employees of the Wells House Hydropathic Establishment on their annual outing to Bolton Woods left Ilkley, a stop was made at the Royal Hotel in Wells Road to take up a barrel of John Barleycorn and other more potent liquors in bottles.

ILKLEY Local Board made improvements to Mill Ghyll by constructing a miniature waterfall, rebuilding the embankment, planting it with ferns, and renewing the fencing.

by Paul Langan 5.6.98
 Gazette Chief Reporter

THE stage is set for a dramatic £750,000 facelift at Ilkley Playhouse.

The new building project, which has begun this week, is expected to take 26 weeks to complete and should be finished by the end of the year.

The upgrade will include:

- A new studio theatre to operate alongside the existing auditorium in Weston Road.
- New staircase and entrance.
- Full disabled access and facilities which includes lifts and toilets.
- New seating in the main auditorium.
- Resurfacing and maintenance of roads to the north of the building.

Ilkley Players spokeswoman Vanessa Gibson said: "The fulfilment of the new building project will mean that the Playhouse can offer vastly improved facilities for all its patrons, especially the elderly and disabled.

"It will be an excellent new venue for social and cultural activities within the community, such as the Literature Festival and the Film Society, and offer much greater opportunities for young people to work and perform within the new building."

The number of productions staged at the Playhouse will increase from eight to 12 each year, one of which will be an annual production by the children attending the very popular Greenroom classes, and the new Studio theatre will be available for hire by many more local organisations than previously.

The main contractor for the project is Ilkley-based Quarumby Construction Company Limited and the designer is local architects Philip Lees and Associates.

Quarumby's managing director David Jones said: "The aim is to cre-



Pat Dyson, president of Ilkley Players, is pictured with David Jones, managing director of Quarumby Construction.

ate a venue that the whole community can be proud of, and as an Ilkley-based firm I believe we are in the best position to deliver this."

Pat Dyson, president of Ilkley Players, said: "Opting for Quarumby was a fairly simple decision. They have a deserved reputation for high quality workmanship and are thoroughly professional in their approach to every aspect of a project."

Ilkley Playhouse has played an important part in the social and cultural life of the town for more than 50 years. Over that time it has staged nearly 500 productions and nurtured the early development of a considerable number of actors who have gone on to successful professional careers.

Disruption to the Ilkley Player's hectic schedule of plays will be kept to a bare minimum, with only their

adaptation of H E Bates's 'Darling Buds of May' at the end of this season's programme and the first show of the next being disrupted.

Mr Jones said: "As with every project our intention is to surpass the highest of expectations, and by the time the Ilkley Players return to the Playhouse in December they will have a theatre that will be the envy of many professional dramatic societies."

The project was made possible by grants, £544,611 from the Arts Council and £50,000 from the Federation for Sports and the Arts, with the remainder, to a total of around £750,000, being raised by Ilkley Players themselves.

Individuals and businesses who wish to contribute to the project should contact John Hirst, of the Ilkley Players on 01943 600127, for further details.

29/10/98



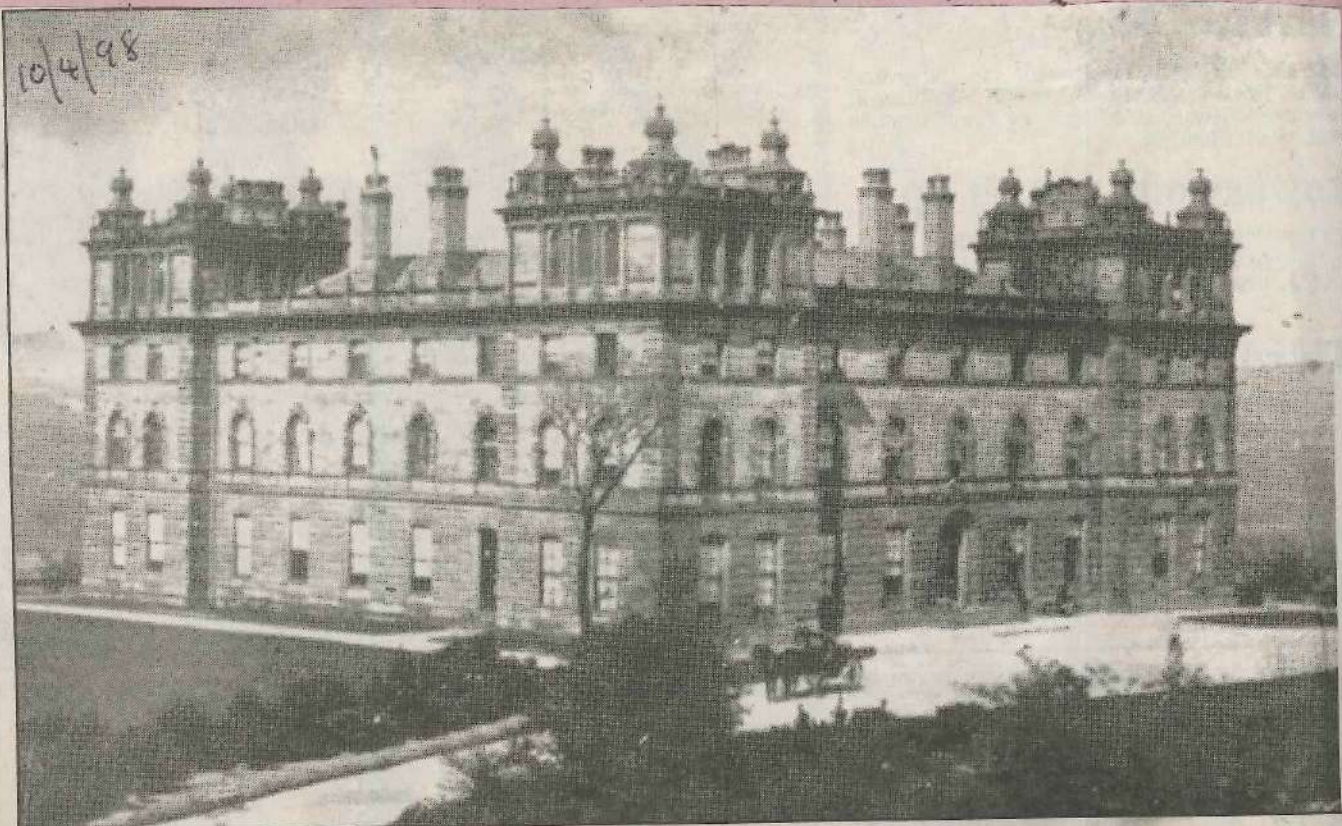
Act

ACTRESS and co... the Ilkley Up-Stage... terday by diggin... The former brew... Station Road, Ilk... ing room, comm... for the Up-stage... Although the gr... well attended, th... places to rehear... The site is conve... and Winter Gar... are held), across... To buy the Old... through perform... £194,000 by the... 'matched fundin... and the mortga... Su Pollard was... that she hoped... pleasure to all c...

Specimen of grand baronial style

125 Years Ago

THE Ben Rhydding Hydropathic establishment, described as a grand specimen of the Scottish baronial style, with varied, rich and extensive grounds was listed as one of the places of interest in the Ilkley Gazette in 1873. The private grounds covered an area of nearly 80 acres and included an excellent nine hole golf course adjoining moorland, with miles of Wharfedale stretching below to glad the eye. The hydro had the advantage of possessing its own farm for the supply of milk, eggs, mutton and pork. Other places listed were the Old Wells with a remarkable spring and the summit of Ilkley Moor where on a clear day the view extends to the greater part of the county including York Minster, and the Wolds, nearly to Scarborough. Heber's Gill was described as a highly picturesque ravine, with a profusion of ferns and wild flowers, and a succession of small but beautiful cascades.



THE Scottish baronial style Ben Rhydding Hydropathic establishment (pictured) which was said to be by far, the first hydro in the country, is recalled in our feature 125 years ago. It was listed as a place of interest and was established in 1844. Within its walls facilities included a dining room to accommodate over 200 guests, a spacious ballroom, comfortable writing room, billiard room and American bar. For those visitors who wished for strenuous exercise squash racquet courts were provided. Over the years the hydro became an internationally known health centre for which Ben Rhydding railway station was built. Its demise came in the 1950s when it was demolished and the site was residentially developed.

Pic Wellshouse!

6/8/98



FOR many ye... Ledgard bus... buildings, wh...



Actress Su digs Ilkley project

by Rebecca Wright

ACTRESS and comedienne Su Pollard (above) launched the Ilkley Up-Stagers planned Old Barn development yesterday by digging the first hole on the building site.

The former brewery building behind The Midland Hotel, Station Road, Ilkley, will become a rehearsal area, meeting room, community space, library and storage complex for the Up-stagers.

Although the group has always proved very popular and well attended, they have had trouble finding suitable places to rehearse and to store props and costumes.

The site is conveniently situated next to the King's Hall and Winter Gardens complex (where most performances are held), across the road from the train and bus station.

To buy the Old Barn, the group had to raise money through performances and schemes. They were granted £194,000 by the National Lottery providing that the 'matched funding' of £64,000 was acquired by the group and the mortgage of £30,000 was paid off.

Su Pollard was very enthusiastic about the idea and said that she hoped the Old Barn would bring 'wonderful pleasure to all of those who will be using it'.

Later she told the Gazette that she had begun acting in an amateur group and so she could imagine how exciting the project must be for the Up-Stagers.

When asked what advice she would give to aspiring young actors and actresses she said: "Nowadays in acting there is so little opportunity for experience, you have got to have determination and at times be selfish and single minded. You have got to expect disappointment and be able to cope with it, at the same time you have to make sure that you never lose confidence in yourself and your own ability."

Su is currently acting in a farce at Leeds Grand Theatre called See How They Run, which ends on Saturday.

Su said: "I love working in Yorkshire. Leeds is a great city and Ilkley is a very nice town with a lot of interesting history behind it."

The next Up-Stagers performance is the pantomime Aladdin, it will be showed from January 29 to February 5 next year.

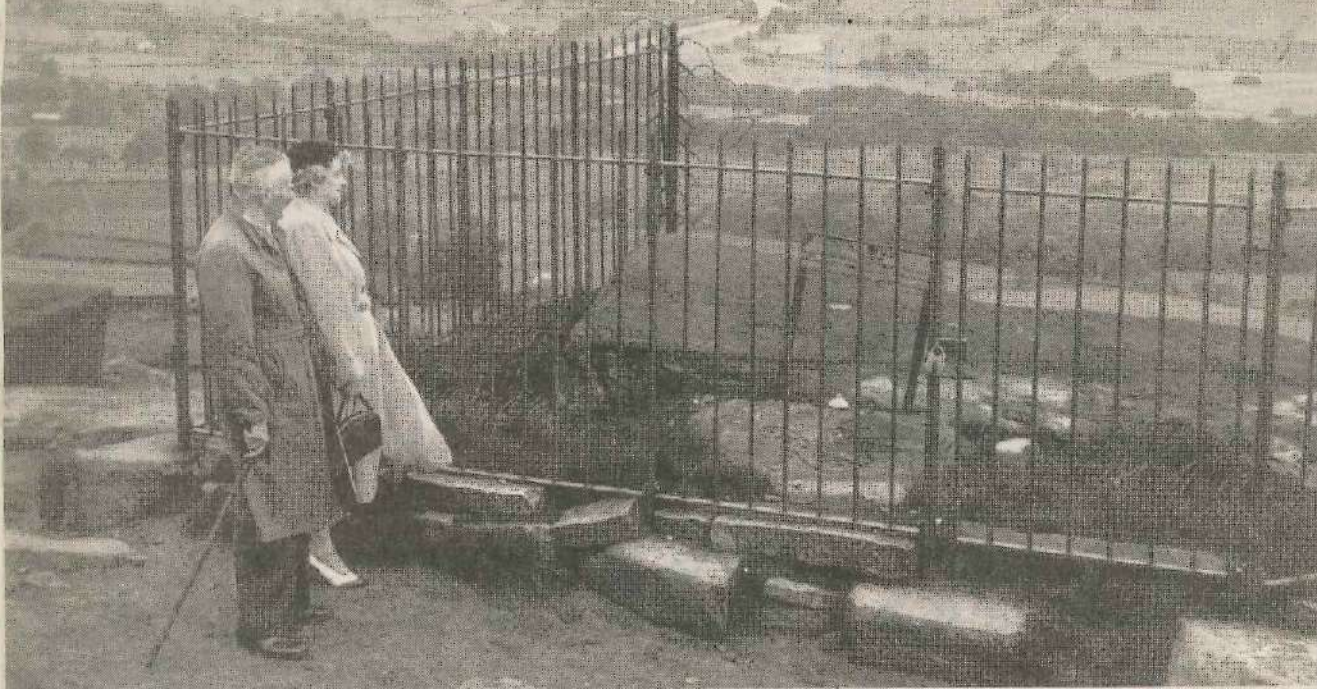
3.4.98 Ilkley

OLICANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: At the March meeting of the Society the chairman, Moira Long, introduced Mark Newman of the National Trust who gave the Elsie Fletcher Memorial Lecture on the History and Archaeology of the Studley Royal Gardens. Mr Newman, an archaeologist, described his work on the Garden Survey at Studley, on which he has been engaged for the past three years. The site has revealed neolithic flints and iron age and Roman relics. There is evidence of a seventh century settlement in the deer park area. Settlement at Studley at Doomesday is possible but perhaps not within the park. A medieval house at Studley Magna was out of use by 1375. Mr Newman outlined the history of the Aislabie family who created the gardens at Studley Royal and the development of the gardens by one of the family, John Aislabie, who became Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was disgraced as a result of the the South Sea Bubble financial scandal and fined an amount which it was assessed he had made for himself since becoming chancellor. When these debts were paid off Mr Aislabie resumed the improvements of the gardens at Studley Royal, which were started as early as 1685 by his predecessors. The late 17th century garden was merely a landscaped park with a series of avenues. Mr Aislabie created a garden rich in complexity of views adding the interest of water and grottos, statues and towers. The Octagonal Tower was built in 1735 and a kitchen used for catering for guests has been excavated nearby. The gardens and deer park are remarkable for the early employment of decorative features, such as gothic structures, Chinese gardens and picturesque gardens, all of which became fashionable in the later years of the century. Mrs Long thanked Mr Newman for his fascinating lecture and added that members would look at the gardens with renewed interest during the summer excursion to Studley planned for July. Members and visitors were invited to attend the next lecture on April 16, which will be given by Tony Jowitte of Bradford University and will be on Religion in Society in 19th and early 20th century Yorkshire. The AGM will follow and members will be able to sign up for the summer series of visits.



FOR many years this land at the junction of Little Lane and Nelson Road served as the Ilkley depot for the Samuel Ledgard bus company and for residential property. The garages (right) housed the company's buses whilst the other buildings, which adjoined Wellington Road, were occupied by one of the town's coal merchants. Today the residential development, known as Nelson Court, occupies the site.

19/9/98



WE recall in this week's feature that the Ancient Monuments Board recommended in 1923 that the Swastika Stone at Woodhouse Crag on Ilkley Moor should be included in the list of monuments which the Commissioners of Works were required to prepare and publish. This ancient stone carving overlooks the Wharfe Valley with Addingham lying to the left of this picture.

Stone now a monument

75 Years Ago

THE Ancient Monuments Board recommended to His Majesty's Office of Works in 1923 that the cup-and-ring marked stones at Woodhouse Crag on Ilkley Moor should be included in the list of monuments which the Commissioners of Works were required to prepare and publish. The rock referred to was the one popularly known as the Swastika Stone, to which a footpath from the top of Heber's Ghyll was opened a few years previously. In order to preserve the carving Ilkley Council placed an iron railing around the rock and attached the following notice: "The carving on this rock is a remarkably good example of the SWASTIKA or (Flyfot), a very ancient symbol, probably meaning FIRE, and used throughout Europe and in the East as a sign of good luck; also to avert the 'evil eye' and other misfortunes. A similar rock carving appears at Tossene in Sweden, and another at Myeene in Greece. It is also found with curved arms on objects of the Bronze Age (ie circa 800 BC) to which this example probably belongs, according to the best authorities."

A YEAR after one of Ilkley's oldest speciality shops closed its doors for the last time, there have been calls to relaunch an increasingly quiet shopping mall.

The delicatessen Burrells on the Plaza closed last March with owner Andrew Leggott blaming changes in shopping habits for the demise of the business.

But the unit, along with six others in Station Plaza, is still empty giving the building an increasingly deserted appearance.

Ilkley Parish Council clerk Miggy Bailey said that a business selling garden ornaments in Station Plaza had shut recently. "It's such a pity," said Mrs Bailey.

The £3.6 million scheme to refurbish the station buildings was completed in 1989 with an unveiling of a plaque by the then Lord Mayor of Bradford Councillor Smith Midgley.

It is a Grade 2 listed building with classical lines and distinctive Venetian-style windows, which makes substantial redevelopment impossible.

Ilkley District and Parish Councillor Anne Hawkesworth said that Station Plaza needed a major relaunch to attract more retailers to the site along with minor alterations to the building.

Report by Paul Langan

Gazette Chief Reporter

"Perhaps the entrance could be opened out so people can see what attractions there were inside," said Coun Hawkesworth. "It needs something to give it a warm feel to attract shoppers, and the rents have to be realistic to attract the shops."

She said that specialist shops or shops all on the same theme such as antique shops could attract more people to the area.

The shopping mall is owned by Manchester-based Hypo Properties. A spokesman for the company said that it was hoped more units would be occupied in the near future.

Because of the heritage value of the buildings, once a major landmark for rail visitors to Ilkley, the company had no plans to substantially alter the layout.

Shortly after the buildings - one of them a former train shed - were restored, all 13 units of the complex were occupied.

In 1995 British Rail put the two-acre site under the hammer and it was bought for £410,000 by Ilkley and Peterborough Properties.



PAST OPTIMISM: Former Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Smith Midgley, opens the Station Plaza in 1989, but the shopping mall is now in desperate need of businesses to fill it.

29/9/98 Ilkley

OLICANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - The chairman, Moira Long, welcomed members and visitors to the January lecture which was dedicated to the memory of Michael Pollard, a past chairman who was killed in Hungary last year. Mrs Long expressed the members' sorrow and extended deep sympathy to his family, in particular his wife, Jo and daughter Rebecca, who were present at the memorial lecture. The lecture on Education and the Forsters of Burley was given by Dennis and Margaret Warwick, who spoke of the family backgrounds and the education of William and Jane Forster. William was born in Dorset, of a Quaker family and educated at a Quaker school. He started his career as an apprentice wool sorter in Darlington and later partnered Fison in industrial enterprise in Bradford. Fison and Forster moved to Burley-in-Wharfedale in 1850, set up the Greenholme Mills and made a great fortune. Jane was the daughter of Arnold, of Rubgy, and was an

intellectual of strong liberal views. Together they provided leisure and educational facilities for their workers in Burley. Forster later entered politics and became minister for education in Gladstone's Government. His brief period as Irish chief secretary was an unhappy time for the family and ruined his health. He died in 1886. May Pickles thanked Mr and Mrs Warwick for their fine lecture on this unique occasion. The next lecture will be on February 19, entitled The way we were - Houses and their past by Alan Stockdale.

SIR, - The old Ross at Ben Rhydding was empty by September 29th anniversary of death, which was a crucial date in 1918.

Goering's Luftwaffe the RAF by this day to lose the Battle of Britain.

For the duration of the war I stopped being a member of the RAF as I was employed as a mechanic by the Ministry of Aircraft Production, Beaverton.

He was based at 100 Addingham, helped to make Carburettors for the Merlin engine.

Over one week I was on a team which converted a garage into a shop for machines arranged in rows behind the windows.

The man from the RAF returned just after Sunday, with a great coat, in order to see me.

He was so delighted with the completion that he stayed from 6pm to 10pm and then left.

That the conversation all may have some air raid which destroyed the huge parachute factory at Mill, and lit up the sky but which failed to hit the target to the air raid. No bombs were dropped.

I no longer live in Ilkley. My sister lives in Ilkley. Both my brothers live in Ilkley. One of my father's key rings.

In case any of you play 'spot-the-relation' enclosed a rather white photograph of the period. My father's 'MAP' of the Ford van with stands for Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Occasionally, my mother wears an orange hat in the same position but it can be unhealthy.

Whilst I am married that it is probably

Concerns re restoration

SIR, - Your article on the application for the restoration of the former Wheatley Lane to all residents.

The road junction at Lane/Leeds Road is a busy junction in an area of high amount of traffic. The amount of traffic is increasing and the amount of traffic is increasing.

Numerous accidents have occurred there. To propose the restoration is specifically additional traffic and must be rejected.

I am surprised that you views the proposal as an 'artistic' own application.

What other application? Is this the way to the sky as in Ilkley?

SIR, - The old Ross Brothers building at Ben Rhydding was still lying empty by September 13, which is the 29th anniversary of my father's death, which was itself 29 years since a crucial date in 1940.

Goering's Luftwaffe had to destroy the RAF by this deadline, or effectively lose the Battle of Britain.

For the duration of the war my father stopped being a motor engineer, and was employed as a maintenance foreman by the Ministry of Aircraft Production, Beaverbrook's baby.

He was based at Lister's Mill at Addingham, helping to turn out SU Carburettors for the Rolls-Royce Merlin engine.

Over one weekend he was part of the team which converted Ross Brothers from a Rolls-Royce showroom and garage into a shadow factory, with machines arranged herringbone-fashion behind the whitewashed windows.

The man from the Ministry was summoned just after lunchtime on the Sunday, with gravy down his waistcoat, in order to sign the job off.

He was so delighted at the speed of completion that he paid everyone up to 6pm, and let them go home there and then.

That the conversation took place at all may have something to do with an air raid which dropped at least one huge parachute flare over Lister's Mill, and lit up the yard like daylight, but which failed to designate it as a target to the aircraft overhead, and no bombs were dropped.

I no longer live in Wharfedale, but my sister lives in Addingham, and both my brothers and myself keep one of my father's metal pay discs on our key rings.

In case any of your readers like to play 'spot-the relative', I have enclosed a rather grainy black and white photograph (see above) from the period. My father is second from the left. 'MAP' on the front wing of the Ford van with shaded headlights stands for Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Occasionally, my 17-tonner nowadays wears an orange 'HazChem' in the same position but I do my best not to spill anything down my shirt, as this can be unhealthy.

Whilst I am mature enough to realise that it is probably a good idea not to



Staff at the Ilkley shadow factory, converted from a Rolls-Royce showroom and garage early in the 1939-45 war. See our first letter.

kill each other, this little piece of history may perhaps give a naming cure to any redevelopment of the Ross Brothers or Lister's Mill sites, particularly as we are now past the date when any of this could still be classified information.

JOHN DOBSON

12 Oldroyd,
Todmorden,
Lancashire.

YOUTH events at the Ilkley Literature Festival have been boosted this week with a £5,000 grant.

The major cash injection was awarded by West Yorkshire Grants - a committee which gives funding to non-profit making organisations - and helps the festival every year.

And this year the grant is even bigger and better than ever.

David Porter, festival director, said: "Normally we get about £1,900 a year from them, but this time we got an extra £3,100.

"It's marvellous news and we're all really pleased.

"The grant is specifically in recognition of the work we are doing with young people in this year's festival and the work we have planned for future festivals.

"If we hadn't been awarded the grant the youth projects would have continued this year, but it would have affected next year's plans."

There is a strong emphasis on youth in this year to mark the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Mr Porter said the jubiliations would not only look back at the past 25 years, but also forward to the next 25.

A year-long programme of events, entitled Beyond the Ilkley 25, has been arranged by the festival's outreach and marketing co-ordinator, Amy Young.

This includes several creative workshops, featuring different writing techniques, such as sport, journalism and poetry, a production based on UFO tales of Ilkley Moor, comedy, and a musical season called PopTV.

"We have a new initiative this year to try and attract a new, younger audience to the festival and hopefully it will mean we can carry on with these kinds of events in the future," added Mr Porter.

"The grant is a big boost for us and it's wonderful to at last get recognition for what we are trying to do.

"Also it means we can now talk to other organisations to see if they can help us to capitalise on this grant."

The programme of youth events will culminate in a weekend of per-

formance in November.

"There will be a special weekend called Stand Up and Deliver and this will give young people who have taken part in workshops or competitions throughout the year the

chance to read their pieces of work, or perform, in public for the first time," said Mr Porter.

The first of the youth workshops will begin today with two days of writing workshops based at the Crescent Hotel, Brook Street, Ilkley.

These will be led by established writers Sanjida O'Connell, Sophie Hannah, Patience Agbabi and Tracy Ryan.

For tickets contact the ILF office, telephone (01943) 601210.

ilf

ILKLEY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

3.4.98

● YORKSHIRE poet Tony Harrison launched the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Ilkley Literature Festival on Sunday.

The distinguished writer, who has appeared at every festival since 1973, gave his only UK reading to a crowd of 300 at the Craiglands Hotel.

He told the audience how he went to Bosnia to write about the war there.

"I have tried to claim back the public dimension of poetry which has led me rather dangerously to write poems for the newspapers," he said.

One poem which he read was transmitted from a journalist's computer via satellite from fighting near Sarajevo.

"I'm not sure it's a great poem but it was written under great duress. What I felt I was offering was an alternative activity to the violence and destruction," he said.

David Porter, festival director, said the evening was a success and enjoyed by all.

"It was a fantastic, brilliant evening and we were oversubscribed. The first day of the festival went really well and more than 400 people came to the reading and the debate."

The festival continues throughout the year. For more details and tickets, telephone the festival office (01943) 601210.

Concern about restaurant bid

SIR, - Your article on the planning application for the proposed restaurant on the former Ross Bros site on Wheatley Lane should cause concern to all residents of Ben Rhydding.

The road junction at Wheatley Lane/Leeds Road is the most dangerous junction in Ilkley due to the amount of traffic and sighting distances available.

Numerous accidents have occurred there. To propose a restaurant which is specifically designed to attract additional traffic seems incredible and must be resisted.

I am surprised that the developer views the problems as local and his designers' reference to drive-through as an 'artistic licence'. This on his own application!

What other artistic affects are included? Is this the sight of a big yellow 'M' in the sky as the welcome entrance to Ilkley?

DAVID THOMPSON

Town goes it alone on medical service 125 Years Ago

AFTER considering a suggestion that Ilkley should join with other authorities in appointing a medical officer, Ilkley Local Board, in February, 1873, took independent action by appointing Dr Scott to the position. It was felt that Ilkley was in a different position from the other two townships and needed a practitioner on the spot. The Ilkley Free Press commented "Considering that the duties of the person appointed are so numerous and so varied and that he may be called upon at any time to inspect premises or to exercise his functions in any way required by the Act, and present a report thereon at an early date, we think the decision arrived at by our local legislators is the wisest which under the circumstances could be adopted."

SKIPTON Building Society at its half yearly meeting was reported to be in "a very prosperous state." Upwards of £6,000 was deposited during the half year and in addition to the ordinary interest a one per cent bonus was declared.

Fears for character of town

125 Years Ago

THE campaign to oppose a War Office plan to establish a military camp on Ilkley Moor gathered momentum when in January, 1873, a large and influential meeting was held in the town. Those present agreed to send the following resolution to the Secretary of State for War: "That the character of Ilkley as a place of resort for persons in search of health and retirement especially in connection with its position in the vicinity of large towns of the West Riding makes it very undesirable that a military camp should be established on the adjacent moors."

NEAT conveyances were available to meet trains at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding to take those who wished to picnic and pleasure parties to Bolton Woods and other places of interest. In Brook Street, Ilkley, Charles Dobson hired out waggons, cabs and dog carts.

DENTON'S Ilkley Directory, Guide Book and Almanac for 1873, went on sale priced at 3d (1p).

AN appeal for Ilkley residents to pinpoint vacant sites has sent a shudder down the spine of parish councillor Barbara Cussons.

Coun Cussons (Con, Ilkley North) said it might not be helpful to point out vacant sites to Bradford Council as part of its district-wide Vacant Urban Land Survey.

"I am frightened to death," she said. "I do not think we should help sell off our heritage," she told colleagues at Monday evening's parish council meeting.

Following the Vacant Urban Land Survey, 11 sites have been identified in Ilkley as 'vacant.'

The council's definition of vacant is 'not in beneficial use.' Sites identified include an area off Stockeld Road (categorised as mown grass - little beneficial use) and two sites in Curly Hill. Rough grass sites in Kings Road and

By Jonathan Ritson

Queens Drive have also been listed by council officers.

The survey identified 260 undeveloped sites not currently earmarked for any purpose. Bradford Council has said there is public concern that insufficient attempts are made to develop available land in urban areas, especially previously developed sites.

The council hopes the research and public consultation will help increase the re-use of previously developed urban land (brownfield sites) for housing, business use, community buildings or as public open space.

The authority now wants to hear what people think should happen to the land, including whether it should remain vacant.

Coun Kate Brown (Con, Menston) is chairman of the parish council's planning committee.

She said: "Obviously we will have to study all the sites on the list in detail. We will have to examine the size, whether they are already in the UDP or protected areas."

"Obviously, we don't want to lose all our open spaces," she said.

Coun Latiff Darr, chairman of Bradford Council's Transportation, Planning and Design committee, said: "We actively encourage developers to make greater use of brownfield sites instead of always looking at greenfield areas and this consultation process will help us to identify all undeveloped land in urban areas for possible future use."

He said: "This is a chance for everyone to be involved in the

planning process and have their say on what these sites should be used for and tell us if we have missed out any sites."

Coun Audrey Brand (Con, Menston) said: "I believe people should take this opportunity to look at these sites and make their opinions known to Bradford."

Residents can look at detailed plans for every ward in the district at area planning offices (including Ilkley). They can also check the exact addresses and current uses of individual sites - from inner city land to areas in rural wards.

Questionnaires can be filled in and should be returned to Bradford Council by Tuesday December 1. Any comments received will then be reported back to Coun Darr's committee and considered as part of the first review of the district's adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Intro

ILKLEY College can be transformed into an excellence centre, a health residential home of the Bradford college successful at selling

The 15 acre site, contains the Grade II building, has been a threat since the Bradford Ilkley Community board decided it was to run.

It has been put on by Leeds-based estate Storey Sons and they have reported interest in the site.

Locals are worried economic effect of student population and the future of a town in the area because courses are taught in buildings.

Parish Council Councillor Audrey she would be meeting agent representative week to discuss the site in the hope at least part of it may for community use.

In all, the campus more than 17,000 metres of building in public setting on the edge

ALTHOUGH the official re-opening will not take place until next year, everyone connected with Ilkley Playhouse is delighted to be back in action. The new season opened on Monday evening with two of Alan Bennett's solo pieces from the first television series of Talking Heads - A Chip In The Sugar and Soldiering On.

The honour of being the first performers to take to the stage of the new-look Playhouse fell to Kay Vann and Peter Stansfield respectively.

Ilkley Players press officer (and director of Talking Heads) Vanessa Gibson said: "It went very well indeed. There have certainly been some changes during the past six months. I think people were just pleased to be back."

The changes to the Weston Road-based Playhouse have been possible thanks to a £750,000 facelift which started in June.

The remodelled Wharfeside Theatre is a conventional end-stage 150-seat theatre, with all the seats numbered and bookable.

The new Pinfold Theatre is a more flexible space, holding between 80 and 130 depending on the size and location of the acting area and the layout of the seats.

The project has been possible



The Playhouse team includes: Ray Parish, Vanessa Gibson, Samantha Hill, Jennie Aron, David Higgins, Alise Parish, Barry Strong, Anne Kitching, Diana Greaves & Dennis Keith.

ble thanks to a £544,611 grant from the Arts Council, £50,000 from the Federation for Sports and the Arts and a variety of other sources.

The Ilkley Players have owned and run the Ilkley Playhouse since 1929 and all its supporters are keen as many Olicanians as possible enjoy

10.12.98

the experience. New members are always welcome, whether as a regular member of the audience or as an actor/actress, backstage helper or helper at the front of the house.

Productions to look out for in the new year include Neil Simon's Lost In Yonkers and

Alan Ayckbourn's Time Of My Life.

The box office number is 01943 609539.

● The current production of Talking Heads, directed by Vanessa Gibson and designed by David Wildman, runs until December 19.

Concern over loss of river banks

FISHERMEN have been accused of turning a lovers' lane into Ilkley's version of the Florida Everglades - without the crocodiles.

Stones placed in the River Wharfe about ten years ago to improve fishing have resulted in the riverbank being washed away, leaving trees growing out of the water, it has been claimed.

Ilkley resident Frazer Irwin told parish councillors at an open consultation meeting: "The damage, quite honestly, is astronomical - if you go down there it is like the Everglades. It is a major emergency - something has to be done and done quickly."

He said that the riverbank in East Holmes Field, Denton Road, used to contain a path lined by trees and enjoyed by courting couples, before it was washed away by floodwater.

Mr Irwin warned: "You will lose the trees and the bank and a historical part of Ilkley."

Following the meeting, Ilkley and District Angling Association's Brian Featherstone said that regular checks, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, were carried out on the riverbank to make sure undue damage was not happening.

He said that damage had occurred when the stones had first been put in but this had been rectified.

He said that once river flows had retreated from the winter flood the bank would be examined for any damage caused.

"It may need looking at again. It is constantly under review and we will take any action that is necessary," said Mr Featherstone.

Parish councillors agreed to make a site visit to examine the extent of the damage.

Talk delay 'threat to stones'

UNIQUE prehistoric carvings in Ikley are disappearing while discussions how to preserve them drag on and on, a resident has claimed.

Peter Briggs, of Sunset Drive, has called for a simple wooden shelter to be constructed over the Panorama Stones in St Margaret's Gardens.

As reported recently in the Gazette, writers as far back as the last century were calling for something to be done to preserve the ancient carvings on the stones which were gradually wearing away.

The erosion has been worsened by modern pollution and intentional damage, but the rocks are still exposed to the air and the elements.

District archaeologist Gavin Edwards favours moving the stones to the Manor House and instigating a research project to prevent further erosion.

by Paul Langan

Gazette Chief Reporter

The project would cost many thousands of pounds and would need external funding such as from the National Lottery.

But Mr Briggs argues that while negotiations take place the stones are wearing away to nothing.

He also said that any work done to move the stones was likely to result in more, albeit unintentional, damage.

"I personally can't see any significant good in the stones, being removed and placed nearer the town centre where pollution is greater.

"This type of rock - sandstone grit - rots naturally from within and surely any attempt to uproot the stones would do

more harm than good," added Mr Briggs.

"They don't need to be moved, what they do need now is a simple roof cover, with glass skylights."

Mr Briggs said that it was an anomaly that a modern seat on the edge of the moor was protected by a wooden shelter while the stones were left open to the elements.

He said: "Something needs to be done now - but not moving the Panorama Stones from their present location - surely instead of spending thousands of pounds on this idea a few hundred could be spared to enable the building of a shelter to protect them in their present position."

The rocks were placed in St Margaret's gardens in 1860 and are as much a part of Ilkley's rich heritage as the Swastika Stone, the Roman Fort and White Wells.

THE Vikings to and other drea Library.

Pupils from Ilkley hand to explain school spokes does the Viking Stone, the Roman Fort and White Wells. A thriving hist



Interest in college sell off

ILKLEY College campus could be transformed into a conference centre, a health farm, a residential home or a clinic if the Bradford college bosses are successful at selling it off.

The 15 acre site, which contains the Grade II listed main building, has been under threat since the Bradford and Ilkley Community College board decided it was too costly to run.

It has been put on the market by Leeds-based estate agents Storey Sons and Parker and they have reported a lot of interest in the site.

Locals are worried about the economic effect of losing the student population in Ilkley and the future of adult education in the area because many courses are taught at college buildings.

Parish Council chairman Councillor Audrey Brand said she would be meeting estate agent representatives next week to discuss the future of the site in the hope that at least part of it may be retained for community use.

In all, the campus consists of more than 17,000 square metres of buildings in an idyllic setting on the edge of Ilkley

Moor.

Because of its listed status and designation as urban green space, development on the site would be limited.

Paul Morris, the associate director at Storey Sons and Parker, said: "It has been known that this site was coming onto the market for some time. During that period we have received unprecedented interest from a number of dif-

ferent parties, which is not surprising given the location and aspect of the site."

Coun Brand said that the site could make a suitable location for an annexe to Ilkley Grammar School which she said was saturated with pupils.

But at a recent meeting, parish councillor Alex Henderson said that the future of the site would most likely be decided by commercial consid-

erations.

"This is going to go on the market as a commercial proposition - there is no way we can get any influence on that," said Coun Henderson.

The college and its students are due to vacate the campus by the middle of next year and will relocate courses, mainly community-orientated disciplines, to the Bradford site in Great Horton Road.

by Paul Langan - Gazette Chief Reporter

A GARAGE close to the heart of Ilkley could soon be making way for a £1,500,000 sheltered housing complex.

Plans have been submitted to Bradford Council for permission to demolish Station Garage on Springs Lane and replace it with the four-storey complex. If the plan is approved, the building could be completed by autumn next year.

It has been submitted by a specialist developer based in Altrincham, near Manchester.

Tim Webster, boss of the Rhydding Motor Company which owns the Rover dealership garage, said that the development, including landscaped gardens, would improve the area of Springs Lane.

"What it will do is take a lot of traffic away from that road and make the whole area look that much nicer," said Mr Webster.

He said he was planning to relocate his company to another site in Ilkley but negotiations were dependent on planning permission being granted as well as other factors.

Selwyn Cooper, the regional land director for McCarthy and Stone (Developers) Limited, said that work on the project would begin immediately if planning permission was granted.

Mr Cooper said that the complex would contain 27 one-bedroomed and 23 two-bedroomed flats as well as accommodation for a house manager. People over 40 would be able to buy them.

He said that company research showed that there was a need for more tailor-made accommodation for the over 60s in Ilkley.

Ilkley District and parish councillor Anne Hawkesworth agreed, but she said she hoped that the garage business would stay in the town.

"There is a need for some sort of housing which is lower cost in the centre of Ilkley," said Coun Hawkesworth.

The proximity of Ilkley's Coronation Hospital, Health Centre, a large supermarket, library and Town Hall, could make the flats an attractive proposition for retired people.

Coun Hawkesworth said: "They could be quite an asset."

It is expected that the plan will go before the town and country (Keighley area) planning sub-committee within the next eight weeks.

Coun Hawkesworth said that there were already concerns about traffic and access in the area and hoped that it would be improved if the new development went ahead.

A plan by the Ilkley and District Road Safety Committee to persuade the nearby Tesco supermarket to reduce the size of its entrance from Springs Lane in order to make it safer for pedestrians was not successful.

A new sheltered housing complex would mean more older people having to cross the junction to make their way into town.

Badly lit street

blamed for accident

125 Years Ago

A CORRESPONDENT in the Ilkley Free Press complained that Ilkley streets were so badly illuminated in 1873 that people were having difficulty in finding their way in the hours of darkness. Some were taking the wrong turning and falling over unseen obstacles. The latest incident had concerned an elderly man who thought he was turning into Cunliffe Road and mistakenly went up the path leading to Mr Brumfitt's brewery, fell over a wall and broke an arm. "I am of the opinion that the Local Board is to blame for allowing the burners to be taken off the street lamps as early as they have been this year," said the correspondent.

THE 75th Otley Show which was claimed to be the oldest in England was held over two days and attracted a large entry. Special trains were run from Leeds and Bradford and visitors arrived in their thousands.

Accused of not telling the truth

100 Years Ago

THE first meeting of Ilkley Urban Council in the month of May, 1898, brought headings to the Ilkley Gazette such as 'Mr Lister again to the fore' and 'More lively proceedings.' Oswald Lister clashed with the chairman over business which it had already been agreed should be put in the hands of solicitors and not discussed any further. He had arguments over tenders for horse corn and over the cost of the sewer along Addingham Road. After a long exchange with the chairman he turned to the question of the sewer construction in Victoria Road. He accused the chairman of not speaking the truth, of giving sandwiches and old ale at the recent elections and ignored cries for "order." His final attack was on proposals of the council in respect of Morningson Road. He said repairs had been carried out in that road opposite the house owned by the chairman and by the chairman of the Brewery Company. He maintained this was all wrong.



THE Vikings took a break from pillaging and other dreadful activities to visit Ilkley Library.

Pupils from Ilkley Middle School were on hand to explain a bit about Viking life. A school spokesman said: "We decided to study the Vikings because everyone else does the Romans."

A thriving history club runs at the school

- history of the 'hands-on' variety. The pupils studies have revealed a side to the Vikings not readily associated with them.

Far from snarling and attacking anything that moved, many Vikings were not vicious. They were traders, farmers and settlers.

Picture by Gerard Binks (W5728)

15/10/98
Ilkley's skyline begins to change

125 Years Ago

IT was only 30 years previously that the hillsides were bare of buildings and the first part of the Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment had been completed, stated the Ilkley Free Press in October, 1873, describing the progress being made in Ilkley. In a few years the place had changed so much that it would be difficult for anyone who had been away for only a short time to recognise the place except for the lower portion which still retained much of its old appearance. There were already six hydropathic establishments with a seventh being built; at least 100 lodging houses 'many of them very capacious', new hotels, new churches and Semon's home was on the point of being built. New drives were being provided at Westwood, Parish Ghyll, Queen's Road and Queen's Drive at a cost of £5,000 to £6,000.

WORK in connection with the erection of the Victoria Hotel (later known as the Ilkley Moor Hotel) in Skipton Road and Mr Semon's Convalescent Home had been let to contractors. With the land the hotel was to cost £22,500 and the convalescent home about £6,000.



THIS former sports field in Valley Drive, Ben Rhydding, was used for many years by Ilkley Grammar School until it was sold for development. The field served as an area on which many local cricketers and rugby footballers learned the rudiments of those games but by August, 1966, preliminary work had begun on preparing the site for the International Wool Secretariat. In 1905 a pavilion was opened at the south-west corner of the field (left) and this survived until November, 1963. The International Wool Secretariat was completed and opened in 1968.



Hillside - Ilkley residents' preferred choice The proposed site in Bolton Bridge Road

New adult classes venue is greeted with resignation

THE announcement of a new venue for further and adult education classes in Ilkley has been met with resignation rather than celebration by a parish councillor.

"It is not ideal but it is the only building of any size that is available," said Coun Barbara Cussons.

Courses are presently held at the Ilkley campus of the Bradford and Ilkley Community College but that is due to be closed and sold off next year.

College bosses, the Bradford and Ilkley College Corporation, promised that the sell-off would not mean the end for adult education in the Wharfe Valley but they ran into problems when searching for an alternative venue.

They now plan to make alterations to an empty office block at 12 Bolton Bridge Road, Ilkley, so classes can be held there until a more permanent solution can be found.

Coun Cussons said: "I think it is the only solution in the interim. I am sure they have been trying and I am sure there has been a commitment.

"We would have liked the result to have been a little more suitable, but we are fortunate that they are going to take it on."

In the long-term, college bosses are looking to the site of the All Saints Church of England School on Leeds Road.

Bradford education bosses are planning to vacate the site once a new All Saints Primary School has been built at

Skipton Road. A statement released on behalf of the Bradford and Ilkley College Corporation says: "The options which the college is currently investigating highlight the determination to ensure the adult education provision currently supplied to the people of the Wharfe Valley will be maintained."

Because the building at Bolton Bridge Road is small, college bosses are planning to make more use of Burley Grange to hold classes.

Coun Cussons said that many people believed that the 'Hillside' building at the top of Wells Road would be ideal but college bosses have ruled it out because it would cost too much to convert into a teaching facility.

POACHERS are happily using their fists to attack Ilkley's river bailiffs who confront them about their thieving.

A catalogue of verbal and physical abuse, lies and excuses has been recorded by those patrolling the banks of the River Wharfe between the Ilkley Old Bridge and Cocking End.

The stretch of water belongs to the Myddleton Angling Club, which has a restricted membership of 50.

One of the club's bailiffs, Keith Schofield, 67, is appalled at the actions of poachers but has a message for those who steal fish - 'enough is enough, you don't break the law and get away with it'.

Mr Schofield is both saddened and disgusted with the situations he and colleagues have to face.

"Make no mistake, there are some really nasty characters involved in poaching this stretch of river. They are villains who come to take what they want. Although I wasn't struck myself, we had an incident down by the river where punches were thrown and it was very unpleasant," he said.

Mr Schofield said the club was determined not to let the poachers win. His pursuit of 'justice' has seen him travel to a variety of notorious areas to track down poachers and see them prosecuted. There was one individual whom I traced to a particular estate in Keighley. The man leaned out of his window and hurled all sorts of abuse at myself and a colleague when we turned up with the police," said Mr Schofield.

Without wanting to reveal the annual cost of stocking the river, Mr Schofield said the poachers were stealing valuable quantities of fish. During the trout season (which runs from March 25 to September 30) Mr Schofield patrols one side of the river, a colleague patrols the other. They feel they have to work in pairs for safety in numbers.

Mr Schofield said club members have had enough with the activities of poachers. He said signs clearly stating the stretch of river was the angling clubs had been ripped down and anglers had also been caught using live bait on a fly fishing stretch.

Mr Schofield, a club bailiff for ten years, said all those fishing without permission would be treated in the same way. Bailiffs have the power to seize tackle and they will not hesitate to call the police. "Inspector Bennett of Ilkley Police has been very good. We explained the situation and when I contact them about an incident, someone is usually down here pretty quickly," he said.

Mr Schofield contacted the Gazette to publicise the fact poaching does not pay. He revealed how two men from the Leeds area could not produce a valid fishing licence and gave false information regarding their names and addresses.

The police were called and the men taken into custody. They were subsequently fined and found themselves the subject of a private prosecution brought by the Myddleton Angling Club.

Inspector Alison Bennett said: "Stealing fish is simply not acceptable. Neither is threatening those whose job it is to guard the fish stocks."

Insp Bennett said people may not be aware, living in a rural setting, that individuals from the urban sprawl are happy to travel to Ilkley and poach its fish.

The Ilkley bailiff has a stark warning to poachers - 'we're watching you'. Mr Schofield has pounced on poachers just after dawn and just after dark. His advice is to buy a fishing licence (£16) and forget the excuses - he's heard them all before.

THE MULTI-... Dome being b... smaller versio... es co-operated... an Ilkley coun... Bradford offic... partnerships w... of wringing the... develop Ilkley's... an indoor leisu... Ilkley district c... gested covering... with a huge dor... by months. The project, i... indoor pool and... £500,000 - mone... don't have. But Coun Smi... private finance... tant to co-opera...

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THE new owner... said it remains a... nity. London-based... stressed its det... quality experien... Neil Young, a... an important pa... "Over the ne... ensuring that it... public have a rig... The £3.6 milli... the town in Mar...



1313148

THE MULTI-million pound Millennium Dome being built in London could have a smaller version in Ilkley if recreation bosses co-operated with private investors, says an Ilkley councillor.

Bradford officials need to accept the idea of partnerships with outside business instead of wringing their hands about lack of cash to develop Ilkley's outdoor swimming pool into an indoor leisure complex, he says.

Ilkley district councillor Martin Smith has suggested covering up the open air swimming pool with a huge dome to extend the bathing season by months.

The project, including an upgrading of the indoor pool and other facilities, would cost about £500,000 - money which Bradford leisure bosses don't have.

But Coun Smith said the project could attract private finance but the local authority was reluctant to co-operate with commercial enterprises.

Partnership

"I have suggested we ought to be looking for a commercial partnership. Partnerships are successful but it takes a while to change the culture," said Coun Smith.

An Ilkley swimming pool dome would make the already financially successful open air pool more of a money spinner for Bradford's recreation budget.

Ilkley Parish Clerk Miggy Bailey said: "Enclosing it would be marvellous. It is already well used and would be much more so."

Parish councillors in Ilkley have already written to the local authority after a resident suggested transforming the pool into a health and fitness centre using a Lottery bid to try and finance the upgrading programme.

But swimming pool bosses have been slammed

Report by Paul Langan Gazette Chief Reporter

for restrictive opening hours during the winter when health-conscious adults want to use the indoor pool.

One pool user, Fiona Buckley, said that a one hour period of general swimming on a Saturday had been swallowed up by an extended fun-splash session for children.

Miss Buckley, of North Parade, Ilkley, said: "As the weeks go by they are reducing it more and more - it is just very annoying."

Criticism

Parish Council chairman Audrey Brand criticised the move and said that members wanted more opening hours for working adults, not fewer.

Mrs Bailey said: "In winter it is closed on Sunday afternoon when I would have thought people would want to use it."

Councillors will discuss the plans for the swimming pool and its opening hours at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday.

Bradford's recreation division director Jim Mackay said changes to the pool programme on a Saturday were made in response to demand from the people using it and a need to clear a waiting list of people wanting to learn to swim. Extending that period meant having to rationalise the rest of the day's programme.

He said that swimming times were geared towards a balanced programme in order to meet a wide variety of community needs and there had been no reduction in the total number of hours the pool was open.

Historic discovery 100 Years Ago

WHILST excavations were in progress for foundations for shops to be built at the junction of Cunliffe Road with The Grove, Ilkley, in June, 1898, several pieces of Roman pottery were unearthed together with a buckle. The pottery included portions of a cinerary urn which was sunburnt and was composed of fine black clay. All the items were handed over to the council for inclusion with other Roman finds.

INCLUDED in a feature on hints for the home the Ilkley Gazette had a warning for people who kept birdcages hanging in a room where the gas was afloat. Unless it was exceptionally well ventilated the air near the ceiling was always the most impure at night. They were told to set the cage on the ground.

THE Strid at Bolton Abbey claimed another victim when a

Councillors wheelie' angry at bin scheme

THE row surrounding the introduction of wheelie bins in Ilkley has taken a new twist.

It should actually be the row over wheelie bins 'brought to you in association with...'

Advertisements could soon be seen on the bins in a year-long trial, providing extra funds for Bradford Council to improve its cleansing service.

A feasibility study has been carried out involving interviews with 500 firms, including fast food outlets, taxis, supermarkets and travel agents.

City cleansing officer Alan Baff will recommend tomorrow's waste management sub committee meeting approve a scheme in partnership with an advertising agency.

Adverts on the council's new green wheelie bins carrying the gold Bradford coat of arms might go on the sides or under the lid.

Sub committee chairman councillor Keith Thomson stressed the project was in the early stages but said they believed it had great potential.

He said serious consideration would also go the types of adverts.

The prospect has horrified Coun Martin Smith (Con, Ilkley). He said: "I think this idea is totally unacceptable. I certainly won't stand for a bin covered in advertising on my property, I can tell you that now," he said.

He said any future advert-bin scheme raised serious questions about forcing advertising onto people's property.

Coun Jeanette Sunderland, leader of Bradford Council's Liberal Democrat group and a sub committee member, said: "As a wheelie bin owner, I object very strongly to the council using it for advertising. If I want to advertise on my property, I will do and I'll take the money."

Another councillor unhappy at the prospect of advert covered bins is Coun Anne Hawkesworth (Con, Ilkley).

"I think the council has a bit of a nerve to be perfectly honest," she said. Coun Hawkesworth is not convinced wheelie bins are suitable for Ilkley.

"It is essential people with concerns should get letters written," she said.

THE new owners of Ilkley's Station Plaza shopping complex have said it remains an important part of the town's business community.

London-based Carisbrooke Investments has bought the site and stressed its determination to provide Ilkley's shoppers with a quality experience.

Neil Young, a director of Carisbrooke, said: "Station Plaza plays an important part in attracting shoppers to Ilkley."

"Over the next few months we will be considering ways of ensuring that it continues to offer the quality of shopping that the public have a right to expect."

The £3.6 million complex will celebrate its tenth anniversary in the town in March, 1999.

It was British Rail's Property Board which set out a scheme to resolve the future of what were disused parts of the railway station and they received competitive designs from many interested parties.

The then Lord Mayor of Bradford, Coun Smith Midgely, said: "The architects and developers have given Ilkley a a modern centre to be proud of."

Main retailers in Station Plaza include Woolworth, the Halifax Building Society and Kwik Save, with letting income totals bringing in about £362,500 per annum.

There are currently seven units available in the 21 unit complex and Carisbrooke has revealed it is presently in negotiations to a let a number of them.



23/5/98
THE old mill from which Mill Ghyll at Ilkley took its name was owned by Thomas Lister who became the landlord of the newly built Midland Hotel when the mill was closed down in 1868. Two years later the Lord of the Manor, William Middleton, gave Mill Ghyll to Ilkley provided it as "an arboretry with a clear and rippling stream." The old mill appeared as if it was still being used when this picture was taken for the trough, which supplied water to power the wheel, is still in situ above it.

25/11/98 29/10/98
WHILST carrying out improvements to White Wells on Ilkley Moor workmen came across an opening which led to the discovery of an underground chamber believed to be Ilkley's original reservoir. Measuring 40 feet by 14 feet and about 10 feet deep, it was immediately to the south of the dry stone wall bordering the public toilets and was covered by grass.

Centre for sale

A LISTED Victorian landmark on the edge of Ilkley Moor will be sold off on the open market.

The historic Glenmoor Centre, which became licensed for marriages last year, and nearby Glenmoor Lee, which dates from the 1970s, will both be put on the market, councillors on the regeneration committee of Bradford Council decided.

Glenmoor was listed in a book called Wonderful Wedding Venues in England and Wales from castles to football clubs. It received special mention for its setting but the committee was told that the centre was running at a loss of £15,000 a year.

A report also stated that the Council training centre suffered from being too far from Bradford, resulting in officers choosing other venues for courses.

Although the residential centre generated significant private sector revenue, it was not enough to pay for the costs of keeping it going and refurbishing the buildings, councillors were told.

Tory Councillor Richard Wightman (Rombalds) was unhappy about the decision.

"It is a sad day for Ilkley and I feel a decision has been taken for purely commercial reasons," said Coun Wightman.

Larger schools to be set up

CHANGING from a three to a two-tier system across the Bradford district will result in 246 first, middle and upper schools (including grant maintained) being reduced to 155 primary schools and 30 secondary schools.

This will mean fewer, larger schools with a majority of primary schools having between 210 and 420 pupils.

The majority of secondary schools will have around 1,200 pupils (not including sixth formers).

The review bases its proposals on an optimum class size of no more than 30.

Last year, more than a quarter of children aged four to 11 were in class sizes above 30, which are widely regarded as detrimental to children's education.

The National Curriculum is based on four key stages. Key stage 2 is run for pupils aged seven to 11, and key stage 3, for pupils aged 11-14. Middle schools with children aged nine to 13 have cut across these key stages, creating problems of continuity.

The report said this resulted in inevitable duplication and omission of subject areas.

Primary schools will be able to deliver the whole of key stage 1 and 2, secondaries will be to completely cover key stages 3 and 4.

There will be only one transfer at the age of 11 under two tiers, rather than two transfers under the present system.

This will ease admission problems, which can be costly and distressing, and less time will be lost in children settling into their new school.

Last year the estimated cost of repairs to school buildings was £210 million of which £40 million was urgently required.

Restructuring will enable the authority to weed out out-dated and expensive buildings to provide more modern, cost-effective facilities.

The report claims saving will be made under two-tier by reducing school overheads, to be directed into new schools.

Less money will be spent protecting small school budgets, which accounts for nearly two per cent of the overall school budget.

POLICE have carried out two early morning drug raids to thwart those suspected of growing and supplying cannabis in the town.

Officers from Ilkley and Keighley swooped on eight addresses in Ilkley after intelligence reports suggested a raid may bear some reward.

As a result of this drugs crackdown, officers recovered 20 to 30 cannabis plants, cannabis resin, amphetamines, heroin and an imitation firearm.

Nine people have been arrested and charged with a variety of drug cultivation and possession offences.

Inquiries are in hand to trace three other people in connection with the recent raids.

All those arrested are between the ages of 19 and 31. They were charged and bailed to appear in court at a later date.

The success of this police operation has delighted officers and they believe it serves as a useful warning to would-be drug growers, suppliers and users.

Inspector Alison Bennett of Ilkley Police said: "It is something we want to keep on top of. We keep monitoring the situation."

"It is very much a divisional success. Ilkley officers need the support from colleagues in Keighley. In turn, they need our support," she said.

Insp Bennett said possession with intent to supply drugs was a very serious offence. She also said bizarre excuses about cannabis just 'sprouting up' or 'it looked like a nice plant' would not wash with officers.

Inspector Mick Hopwood of Keighley Police said: "We are determined to take action to stop the evil of drugs."

Insp Hopwood echoed Insp Bennett's comments about divisional cooperation. He said the drugs issue was taken very seriously in the Keighley division, and Ilkley was very much part of the division.

"Those involved in drugs may think Ilkley is a place where they won't be bothered by the police. That is not the case," said Insp Hopwood.

He said whatever the arguments surrounding the drug issue, cannabis was illegal and the possession and cultivation of it was a criminal offence.

He also said cannabis use could

lead to people being tempted onto stronger drugs such as heroin.

"Cannabis can be a gateway to more dangerous drugs. It also has potential disastrous consequences, such as people driving while under the influence of it," he said.

Insp Hopwood said: "Drug dealing directly affects the residential and commercial communities in this division."

"I would like to stress the recovery of these drugs does not mean Ilkley suddenly has a serious drugs problem, it just shows we are prepared to act when we believe there is a pattern of activity."

Both inspectors said drugs information was received from a variety of sources, from a lady noticing suspicious 'comings and goings' to those in the pub trade.

News of the raids has been welcomed by the vice chairman of the Wharfedale Police Community Forum, councillor Mike Lynes (Con, Ilkley West).

He said: "We have been concerned in Ilkley about this issue. We have had a variety of discussions with the Police and it is nice to know they are looking after our interests."

75 Years Ago

FOR the second time in four years, Wharfedale suffered from the effects of a serious flood in November, 1923. The River Wharfe rose 10 feet between daybreak and darkness, and all down the valley it overflowed its banks. Sheep, pigs, poultry and rabbits, first trapped on islands of land, were finally covered and swept away downstream. Serious inconvenience was caused to traffic and a large number of motor vehicles had to be abandoned until they could be hauled out of the water. Ilkley Old Bridge was a vantage point which attracted many people. Here, at night the swirling roaring waters, carrying with them huts, timber and livestock were a fascinating sight. The toll bridge at Ben Rhydding was covered by 18 inches of water and traffic had to be suspended.



EVIDENCE of the establishment of the Roman Fort of Olicana at Ilkley in AD 97 and of its development through to the fourth century was unearthed during the course of excavations in 1962. The picture shows a portion excavated immediately behind the poster hoardings which flanked New Brook Street. The stones were of little significance but in the floor of the trench were post holes connected with an early wooden building. Brian Hartley, of Leeds University, who was in charge of the excavations, said one of the most interesting discoveries had been the traces of late second century timber buildings behind these poster hoardings. There was evidence they had been destroyed during a native revolt at the end of the second century. The buildings in the background are those of the stables and outbuildings of the Wheatshaf Hotel which were later demolished.

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ILKLEY resident Geoff Wilkinson takes a look at his diary which charts local history going back over six decades.



IN an attempt to record the development of Ilkley in the 50 years leading up to the Millennium, parish councillor Barbara Cussons is in the process of collecting the memories of residents who have lived in the town for half-a-century.

One such resident is 78-year-old Geoff Wilkinson, of Bridge Lane, who has kept a diary for 60 years and, on occasions, made the news himself.

After collating the information supplied by Mr Wilkinson, Coun Cussons said: "At a time when people seem to expect everything to be provided for them it might be opportune to look back at how things developed in the good old days."

An unusual leisure activity in Ilkley was the Olicana Barbell Club which was started in 1950 when Mr Wilkinson and Derrick Burnell recruited a few other teenagers and rented stables behind the old Wheatsheaf public house for 10 shillings (50p) a week and charged a subscription of two shillings (10p) a week.

Subsequently, they were loaned a garage at the top of GoldenButts Road until a garage at number four Railway Road, owned by William Dalton, became available.

Later on, the garage next door became available and members created their own doorway between the two and created much of their own equipment, buying key components piece by piece, as funds built up, from a former Mr Universe - Reg Parkes - of Leeds. By these means they built up an enthusiastic and successful group.

The key for the club, open five nights a week and Sunday mornings, was kept on a hook in Geoff Wilkinson's coal house and although available to members from far and wide at any time, it was never once lost or misplaced. Neither was the equipment damaged, nor were there drink or drugs around.

Over the years more than 100 people benefitted from this facility and the progress of member Tony Emmott taking the Mr Yorkshire, Mr Pennine, the North East and finally the Mr Universe title created additional interest.

Subsequently Tony Emmott turned professional and opened the Olicana Health Club in the old Beanland warehouse on Back Grove Road. The original club disbanded and all their equipment moved to the new venue.

In 1977, The Grove Promenade development we know today started and the Olicana Health Club became tenants until Tony Emmott moved to America. The Health Club became Bodies and was the forerunner of the successful enterprise which flourishes today at St Margaret's Hall, on Regent Road.

Mr Wilkinson and Mr Burnell subsequently make history as part of the group of the British Sub-Aqua Club, Keighley branch, being among the first members who explored the bottom of The Strid, near Bolton Abbey, walking from one end to the other.

In 1994, Mr Wilkinson played a significant role in thwarting burglars at the Silver shop of Jack Shaw on Skipton Road. In addition to the West Yorkshire Police commendation at the time he is now the proud possessor of certificates from the High Sherriff of York and is one of the remaining founder members of the Ilkley Round Table.

He is well-known among older residents, entertaining them on the piano at residential homes or at the Clarke-Foley Centre.

gipsies return

PEOPLE living in Leeds Road have been advised to petition Bradford Council after the return of gipsies to a site by the River Wharfe.

The site, on Denton Road, is traditionally used by travellers on their way to the annual Horse Fair at Appleby.

But their presence almost every year becomes the subject of complaints about noisy generators and dumped rubbish, and this year is no exception.

Last year members of the Ilkley Angling Association, which leases the fishing rights on that stretch

of the river bank from its owner, planted saplings on the grass to deter vehicles and caravans from using it.

The gipsies did not camp there last year, creating an impression that the problem had been solved.

But Councillor Anne Hawkesworth said that the saplings had been trampled down and the gipsies were once again ensconced on the grass verge.

She has advised residents living nearby who are unhappy about the gipsies' presence to write to the planning department and the environmental health department

at the local authority. Previous meetings between Bradford Council lawyers, the gipsy liaison officer, members of the Angling Club and local councillors, all failed to come up with a solution to the problem.

The owner, who is thought to live in the South of England, wants the land to remain accessible for members of the public to enjoy and is reluctant to have it sealed off from the road.

Coun Hawkesworth has called for the introduction of a council by-law to make overnight camping illegal, but her appeal has fallen

on deaf ears. Similar by-laws have been successfully used by other local authorities to keep grass verges and lay-bys free of long-term occupants.

Eviction orders for each caravan and family would be too expensive and time-consuming to pursue through the courts and would have to be taken out afresh every time the gipsies arrived.

Other residents of Ilkley have said that the travelling people should be allowed to camp by the river in peace because they do no harm.

It has also been suggested that

irresponsible members of the public have used the presence of the gipsies as a cover to dump rubbish by the river bank, knowing the travellers would take the blame.

Two years ago, the travellers turned from villains to heroes when a group of them saved the life of a 10-year-old Addingham schoolboy who had fallen in the river from the stepping stones.

Steven Ratcliffe, an Addingham Middle School pupil, was hanging on to branches to stop himself being swept away when the travellers jumped in the water and rescued him.

Famous hotel sells for more than £500,000

AFTER 18 years of running the famous Cow and Calf Hotel on Ilkley Moor, the Norfolk family have sold it to Bass Taverns for reputedly more than half-a-million pounds.

Bob and Brenda Norfolk, both 72, will retire to a converted barn in Menston, while their sons, Andrew, 44, and Philip, 48, will take a break before deciding the next stage of their careers.

Philip said: "We decided to sell because we'd been finding life difficult trade-wise this year because of the weather and got what we thought was quite a good offer."

Bass Taverns say 30 full and

part-time jobs will be created and the hotel will re-open as a restaurant and pub, with bed and breakfast accommodation in Easter next year.

Andrew said the family would like to thank all their regular customers as well as the staff who have supported them so well over this time.

The hotel will cease trading on Sunday, November 15, before a complete refurbishment by Bass.

On Thursday, November 19, there will be an auction at the premises of a wide range of items from the hotel, with viewing on the previous two days.

OLICANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: The February meeting of the Society was opened by the chairman, Moira Long, who introduced the guest speaker, Alan Stockdale, of Burnsall. His subject was 'Houses and their Past' and he explained that through his work as a builder he had the opportunity to examine old houses and had become greatly interested in their history and the way of life of their occupants. Farmhouses, cottages, outbuildings, barns etc had developed in relation to the needs of the people of the dales. People need water and groups of houses grew up around wells of which there are a number in and around Burnsall. Moira Long thanked Mr Stockdale for his fascinating talk. The next lecture of the Society on March 19 will be the History and Archaeology of the Studley Royal Gardens by Mark Newman, of the National Trust.

27/2/98

UNIQUE prehistoric carvings in Ilkley will soon disappear forever due to modern pollution and neglect, a worried resident has warned.

As far back as the 19th century writers were alarmed by the condition of the Panorama Stones because the prehistoric sculptures were weathering away.

Their condition has been made worse by modern vehicle exhaust pollution and acid rain, said Peter Briggs, of Sunset Drive, Ilkley.

Mr Briggs has written to Ilkley Parish Council asking for the preservation of the stones to be included in the millennium projects for the town.

The rocks were placed in St Margaret's Gardens in the 1860 so they could be preserved, but the sculptures are still in danger of disappearing.

A book called *The Carved Rocks of the Moor*, published in 1986, says of the stones: 'Accurate drawing and photography are virtually impossible, due to extensive weathering of the rock. Unless urgent conservation work is carried out, this unique example of prehistoric rock art will disappear forever.'

"We must act now to preserve what is left of the Panorama Stones," said Mr Briggs.

"They are as much a part of Ilkley's

by Paul Langan Gazette Chief Reporter

17.4.98

heritage as the Swastika Stone, the Roman Fort and White Wells."

But the Panorama Stones, which are on the English Heritage list of scheduled ancient monuments, have not been included in Ilkley's list of Millennium projects because Bradford Council's Museum service

has been looking at the possibility of moving them to the Manor House museum where they could be preserved.

Parish councillor Roy Fox said although the unique stones were included in tourist guides to the town, their present position was off



SLOWLY DISAPPEARING: Ilkley's Panorama Stones.

the beaten track.

As well as the weather and pollution damage affecting the stones, cleansing agents used to clean off graffiti have also eaten into the rock, causing more damage.

District archaeologist Gavin Edwards has been looking at ways to move the stones and has concluded that more research is needed to find out how to prevent further erosion and preserve what is left of them.

Representatives of English Heritage and Ilkley parish councillors have had no objection to the carved stones being moved but many thousands of pounds will have to be found to carry out the project.

National Lottery funding is one answer but much work will have to be done to put together a convincing bid.

But Mr Briggs said that Ilkley Millennium funding to save the ancient stones would encapsulate the ideal of a change of millennium as the pendulum swings from one age to another.

Mr Briggs said: "Ilkley Council has in its care some representations of true millennium changes in the form of anciently carved rocks. Could not some of the funding set aside for the Millennium Project be use to protect them?"

FRUSTRATION at the state of Ilkley's King's Hall/Winter Gardens complex could be ended by next spring.

A decision on Arts Council funding for a study to decide how best to improve the Victorian building is due in April - and Bradford Theatres Manager John Botteley is confident that the money will be forthcoming.

Mr Botteley, addressing Ilkley Parish Council's open meeting, said he was committed to the King's Hall and understood the frustration of Ilkley residents who felt little progress was being made.

He said the process of Bradford Council applying for funding had been changed, so he and his colleagues had literally had to start again from scratch.

He said he was determined to see the building restored to its former Victorian glory,

by Jonathan Ritson 3/12/98

but improvements had to be paid for.

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

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

The state of the building has saddened and disgusted a number of Ilkley residents and parish councillors.

Mr Botteley said a considerable amount of work had been carried out in recent months, much of it backstage, unseen to the public eye, and £14,000 had been set aside for a variety of decorative improvements and the pro-

vision of greater facilities for disabled users of the Hall.

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

Ilkley resident Geoffrey Mogridge questioned the flow of money obtained from letting revenue.

He said numerous groups used the facilities, paid for the privilege yet still they were confronted by awful seating, indeed a bad deal, full stop.

"Ilkley deserves a building in pristine condition," he said.

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

The hall has recently been granted a licence to be used as a wedding venue. This

led to a comment from the floor expressing doubt whether anyone would want to get married there with the building in its present state. Mr Botteley said there had already been considerable interest from prospective brides and bridegrooms.

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

Ilkley Civic Society chairman Bob Tilley said: "The whole lottery debate has been going on for two years. We haven't moved a long way. Is there anything we in Ilkley can do to energise activity, to make things happen?"

Mr Botteley urged Ilkley residents to be patient - just a little bit longer.

Town history is now on tape

VISITORS to Ilkley will be able to further appreciate the town's rich heritage with the launch of a new video at the Manor House Museum.

Roman Ilkley was produced by Pat Allon, Ilkley's historian of the period, and is based on her regular walkabout talks which she performs during the Summer months.

In addition to the three interpretation boards around the Manor House, the 15-minute video will provide additional information on the excavations carried out at the site.

It is exclusive to the museum and will be shown regularly to visitors.

Subsequent videos planned are Victorian Ilkley, The Archaeology of the Moors and Ilkley Tourist Sites. They are designed to attract more visitors to the Manor House Museum.

The production of the video was celebrated at an official launch party attended by Parish Council chairman Audrey Brand, representatives of Ilkley Civic Society, Olicana Historical Society, Ilkley Councillors and members of Bradford's museum staff.

We're on the Net!

THIS week, the *Ilkley Gazette* has gone on the Internet.

Our newspaper, which was launched 137 years ago has joined the so-called Information Superhighway, making our features, news and sports stories available to a worldwide audience.

Our main stories can now be accessed by tens of thousands of people with personal computers spread all over the globe. Ex-patriats will be able to get up to date news about Ilkley and the surrounding towns, simply by logging on to our pages on the World Wide Web - the electronic publishing house of the Internet.

The launch of our site will also soon open up exciting opportunities for advertisers. Soon our virtual 'pages' will include property, job and car advertising, as well as an extensive selection from our editorial coverage.

Our Web site is also linked to other newspapers in the Newsquest group, which owns the *Ilkley Gazette*, and this week our sister paper, the

Wharfedale Observer, also joined the Net.

"Since 1861, the *Ilkley Gazette* has been bringing news to generations of readers in the area," said editor Mel Vasey.

"Now our pages will provide a valuable service to those with access to the Internet and will mean that ex-patriats all over the world can instantly get the latest news from Wharfedale."

The *Ilkley Gazette* has joined a few pioneering firms in the area who are already on the Internet. Pages about Ilkley can be accessed and there is a thriving Ilkley Internet Group.

Over in Otley, James Barber's tobacconist's shop - world famous for its quality cigars - and butcher Tony Middlemiss, under Middy's Meaty Page, are also online.

● To access the *Ilkley Gazette* Web site, you need a computer with a modem and an Internet account. The address of our main page is:

<http://www.ilkeleygazette.co.uk>

15/11/98

Historian stands down

VILLAGE historian Kate Mason (pictured left) retired as President of the Addingham Civic Society at the annual meeting this month after holding the post since it was inaugurated 10 years ago.

On her retirement she was made an honorary life member and presented with a garden chair by parish councillor Alan Jerome with thanks from the society.

Mrs Mason has been described as Mrs Addingham because of all the work that she has put into her studies of the history of the village since moving there following her marriage, in 1941, to Tom Mason, a farmer on Addingham Moorside.

Her interest in local history grew out of attempts to decipher a bundle of old deeds and she later taught a number of local history classes in the area.

Her first book was an account of the Addingham textile industry called

Woolcombers, Worsteds and Watermills which was published by the Addingham Civic Society in 1989.

This was followed by the definitive history of the village called From Brigantes to Bypass.

Mrs Mason is succeeded as President by The Baroness Lockwood with Ken Wilson as vice-president.

Don Barrett was re-elected as chairman with Jane Scott as vice-chairman, Betty Downing as honorary secretary and Terry Wilson as honorary treasurer.

The aims of the Civic Society, which is a registered charity, are to stimulate public interest and involvement in actively protecting the quality of life enjoyed in Addingham.

Members also seek to promote high standards of planning and architecture to encourage preservation, conservation, development and improvement of features of public amenity, historic interest or environmental importance.

