

ILKLEY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL  
HISTORICAL INTEREST

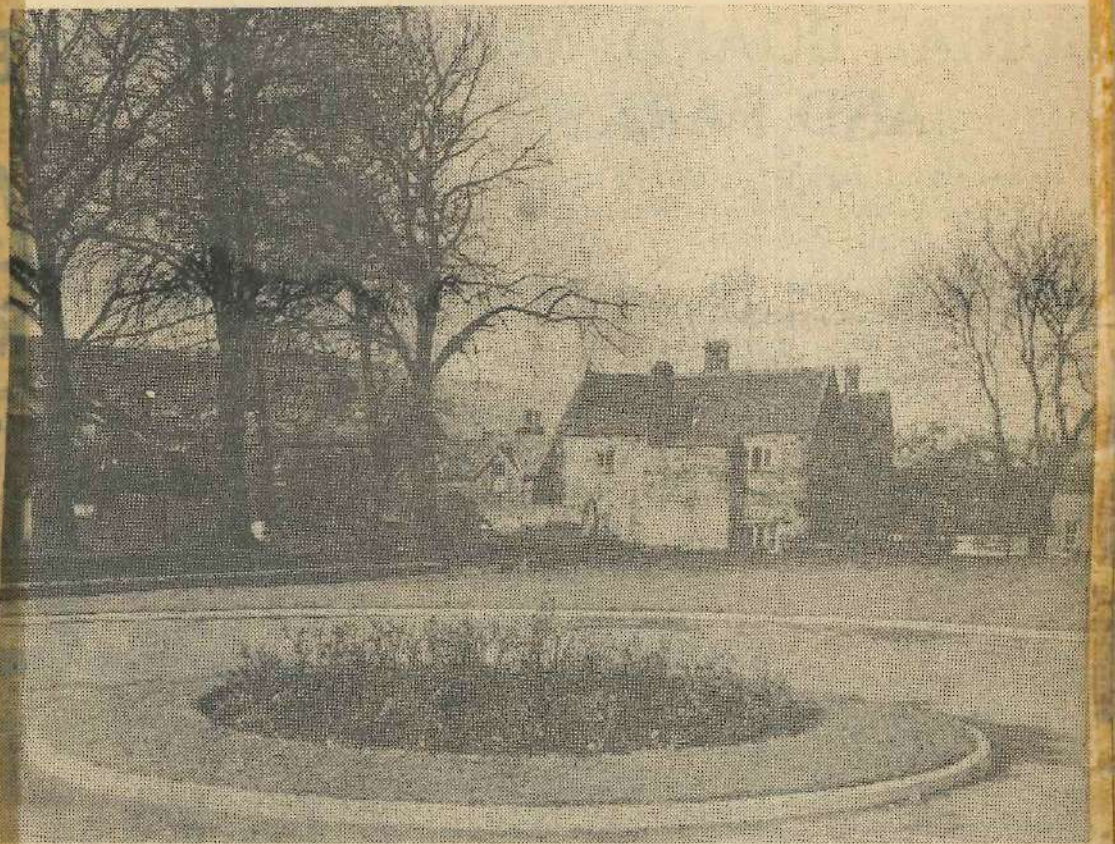
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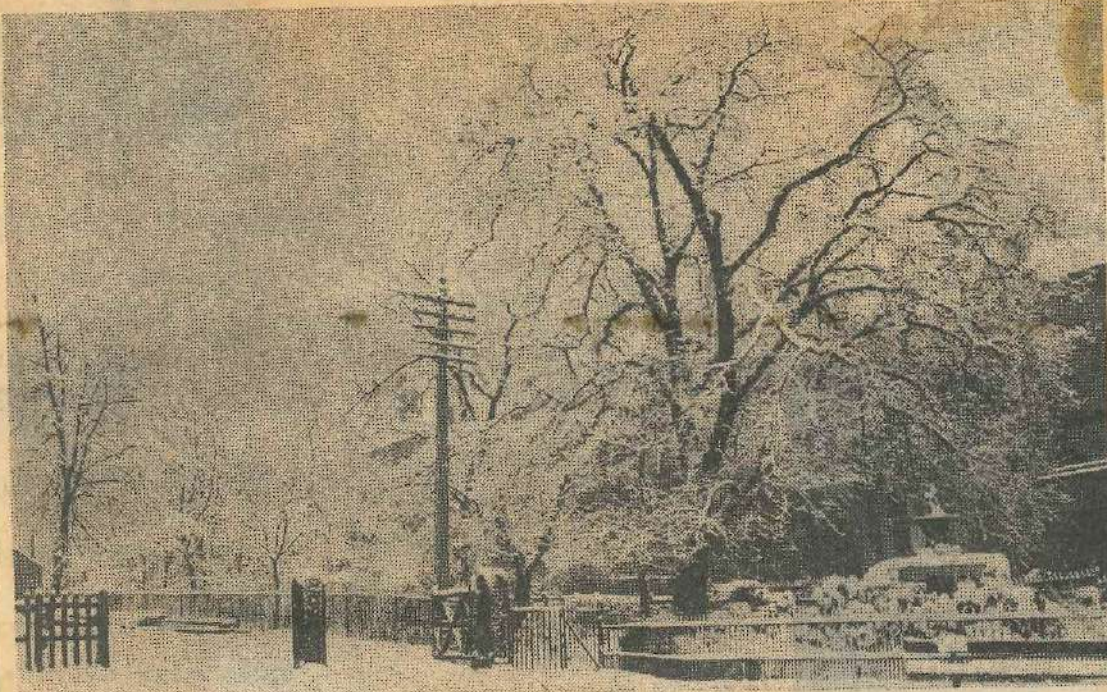
ILKLEY GAZETTE Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> 1964

### NEW SETTING FOR MANOR HOUSE



As work progresses with the transformation of the Wheat Sheaf site a new setting is provided for the Manor House Museum (pictured here) and the Parish Church.

## WHEN STREET ENTRANCES WERE GATED



This is a picture from the days when many of the streets leading to the moor were gated. This shows the one at the bottom of Wells Promenade.

17.2.67



The little village post office of Blubberhouses (seen here looking down the steep Church Bank) which is scheduled for demolition under a road widening scheme. A local petition is being organised asking for post office facilities to be retained in this part of the valley.

3/2/67



29/4/55

The recent clear visibility made possible this view of Ilkley and the outlying countryside photographed from a point near the quarry on Ilkley Moor.

## MUSEUMS AND FOLK LIFE COLLECTIONS Olicana Society Talk

Mr. J. Ogden, Director of Keighley art gallery and museum spoke on "Museums and Folk Life Collections" at last Thursday's meeting of the Olicana Museum Society. He said folk life collections were material representations of the life and work of the people of a particular region throughout the ages.

Mr. Ogden showed slides of the craft reconstructions of the Keighley folk collections. The textile collection, the clogging shop, nailmakers' shop, carpenters' shop and bolt-making shop were particularly interesting.

In days gone by music pursuits were important activities and pleasures of the people. There were slides of woodwind instruments such as early clarinets and oboes used in old village bands, church and chapel orchestras. Amongst the slides of country pottery and domestic utensils were slipware bowls, money boxes, knitting sheaths and early cutlery.

### DOLLS

Some attractive slides of 18th and 19th century dolls were shown. The 18th century dolls included curious pedlar dolls which were popular at that time and were miniature models of both male and female pedlars, complete to the last detail of tiny models of pedlars' wares. An extensive collection of Victorian costume dolls might well have included some examples which were not playthings but rather dress-makers' models, he said.

At the end of the meeting Miss E. M. Fletcher, President of the Society, expressed thanks to Mr. Ogden for his most interesting talk.

LIBRARY VOLUME  
NO. (17)

OLICANA MUSEUM  
AND HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

SCRAPBOOK

CUTTINGS FROM  
ILKLEY GAZETTE

VOLUME 4

1967-1971

# OLD FARM HOUSE MAY BE REPLACED

1967



No objection is being raised by Skipton Rural District Council to the proposed demolition of Lumb Beck farm house, on Addingham Moorside, which is included in the Ministry of Works list of buildings of architectural or historic interest, but which is in extremely poor condition. The surveyor and Engineer to the Rural Council has reported that before considering an application for planning permission to replace the farm house, by a new building, the Area Planning Officer had asked whether the Council would be opposed to its demolition. A lintel of the farm house bears the date 1670.

## ILKLEY GAZETTE

3.3.67

### CHANGES AT BOTTOM OF BROOK STREET



Recent references to changes at the bottom of Brook Street have brought enquiries from recent residents of the town about the three inns which stood there. This picture shows them standing side by side with the Wheat Sheaf set back on the left. In the centre is the old Star and to the right the Wharfedale. The Wheat Sheaf demolition is comparatively recent, and the other two disappeared towards the end of 1905. The Wharfedale Inn was built as a corn warehouse in the early 19th century and the Ilkley Gazette was first printed in an upper storey. The three inns contrast with the present view of the same part of Brook Street as pictured this week.

#### Village Churchyard

All in all, Ilkley Parish Church graveyard can be said to be a village churchyard. The stones in the main, are simple, there is little in the way of polished granite, and costly memorials. It lacks the artistic gem such as the stone, cut by Eric Gill, in Burnsall churchyard, but many of the stones are beautifully gravled in the manner of the time, and very well worth retaining.

## OLICANA MUSEUM SOCIETY

17 Oct '67

Mr. Peter Wrenham of the Department of History, St. John's College, York, gave a lecture on recent excavations in York at a recent meeting of the Olicana Museum Society.

After a brief outline of the Roman occupation in Eboracum, excellent colour slides were shown with clear plans and lucid explanations of the overlay of modern York on the Roman foundations. Excavations of the past year followed, showing Roman foundations and Viking overlay with "digs" under the central tower of the Minster to find means of averting its threatened collapse.

Mr. Wrenham showed many slides in succession showing "finds" which will eventually be housed in the Roman section in the Abbey grounds.

The chair was taken by Miss E. M. Fletcher. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Wrenham by Professor Le Patourel for a most exciting and illuminating lecture.

#### Six in Infancy

"Four sons and two daughters of James and Elizabeth White Richardson, died in infancy". One cannot but wonder what dread stroke of fortune caused this calamity.

There are lines that link up with the larger history of the country. "Henry, son of Jabez Dean who died at Wady Haifa, in the Battle of Ondurman, 1898." and the jocal boys who were in the creation of America's Wild West, "John son of Joseph and Sarah Beanlands who died at Minneapolis, Minnesota Territory, 1855".

A man often had his trade inscribed, and where he practised it, James Lister, corn miller of Burley, Thomas Speight, Blacksmith, William Hudson, cornfactor, and Thomas Wade, Shoemaker. There was also Thomas Rhodes who was a painter and William Lister Dobson who was an artist.

#### "Representative Man

Some times an interesting turn of phrase catches the eye. Nimrod Stephenson, 13 years Churchwarden for the township of Middleton died in 1865 and "of his class he might be termed a representative man." George Hudson who died in 1813 was "a man highly esteemed and justly celebrated for his superior skill and eminent success in surgical operations." In 1813 he would have probably have had a good eye for the axe and a strong arm for the saw.

To the occasional reader of churchyard stones it is surely the epitaphs inscribed along with the details of names etc. that can be most interesting. I would not say that Ilkley Churchyard has any verse that is likely to find its way into anthology, but there are several that reveal a note of personal tragedy. Of Nancy, wife of George Anderson of Langbar it was said:

"a pain full ashma gave the fatal blow,

The stroke was certain but the end was slow."

#### Voce to come

It was not uncommon in Victorian times to warn the casual reader of inscriptions, that, whilst all may be well with him at the moment, he should "Stop reader here and view the place where you ere long must shortly lie." and

that he could do worse than "Keep thy mind reader in constant preparation for that awful change which soon or late awaits thee."

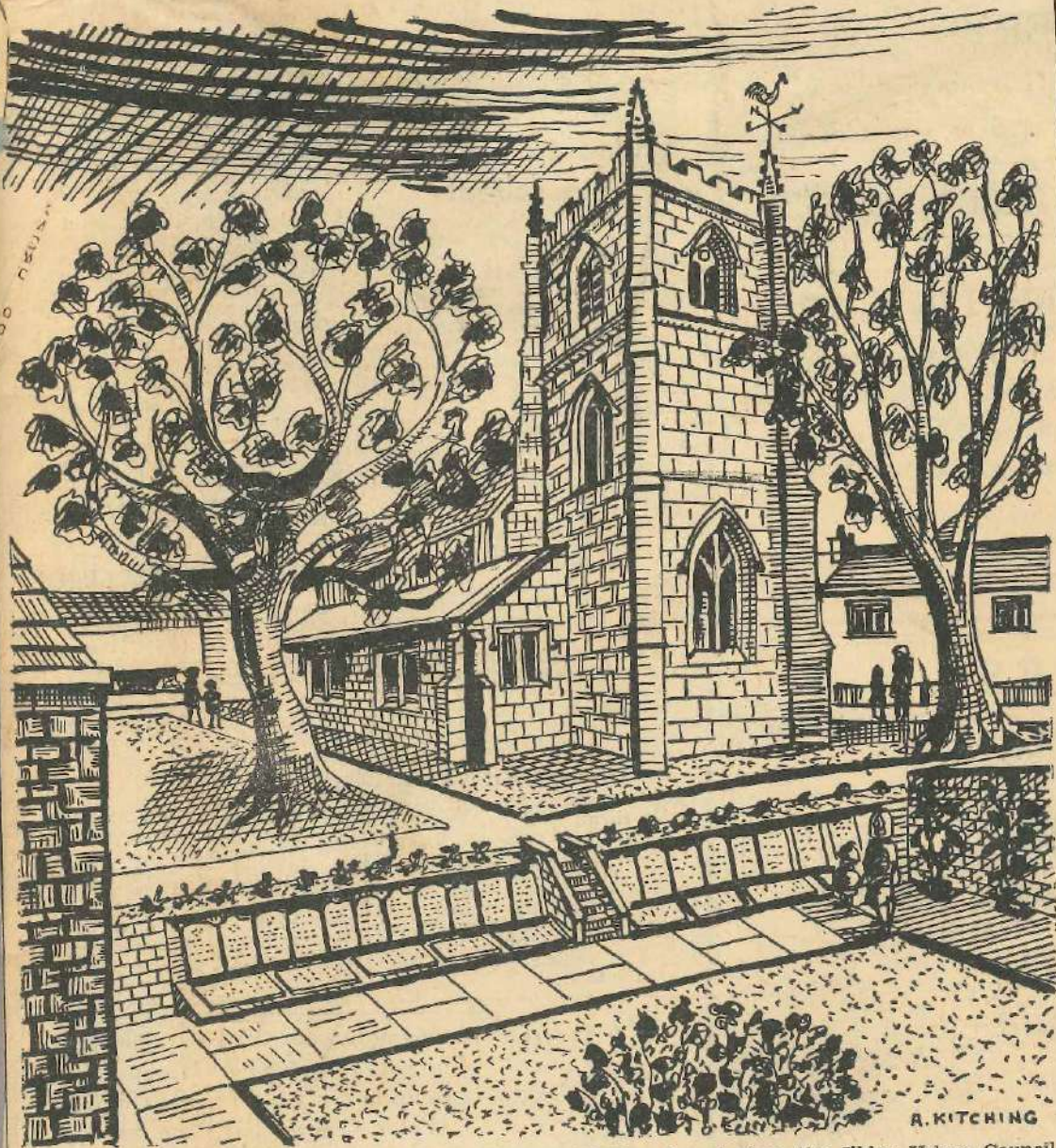
But there are one or two lines that come very near to real poetry. "Why does the tender mother weep,

Her lovely babe is but asleep" and probably the most sincere of all, the following lines written about Sarah Hudson who died in 1841 aged 20 ye ars.

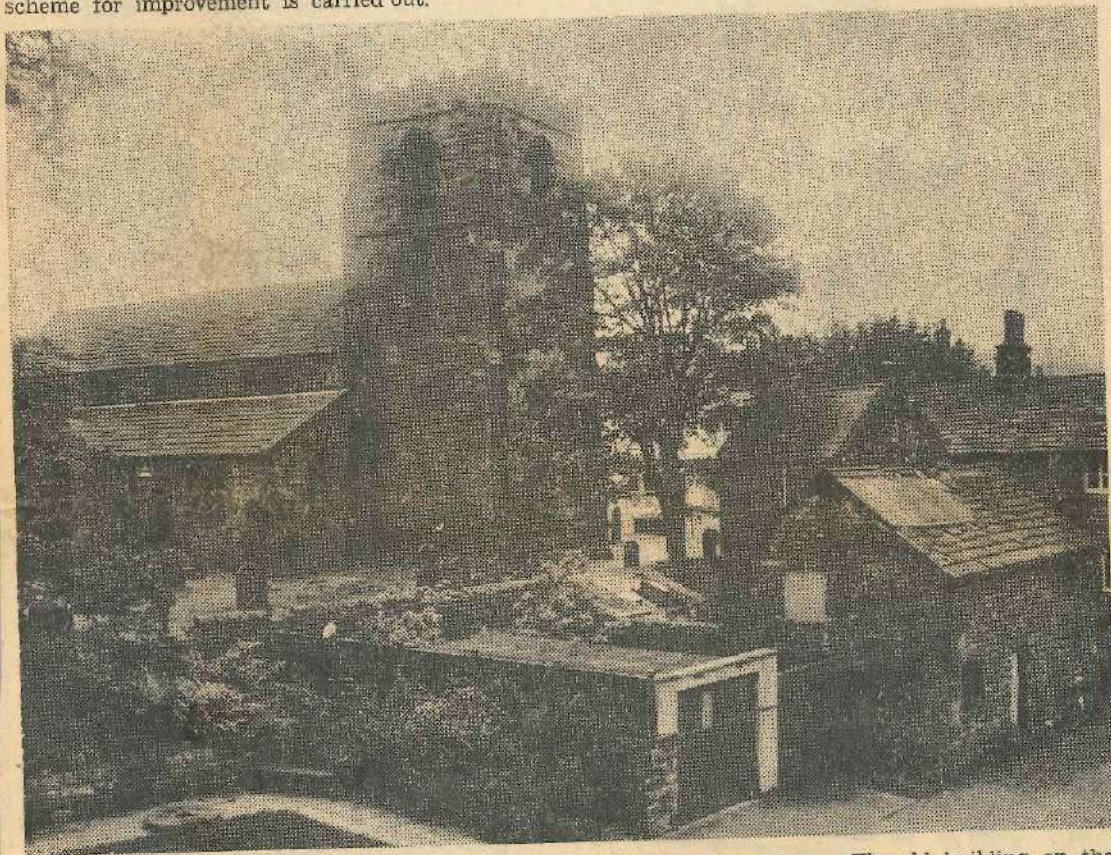
"She drooped like a flower that is nipped in the bud,  
And she took the repose of the gentle and good,  
O she blessed us and left us, and our tears flow they on,  
For they flood not the beautiful land where she's gone.  
Cold, cold lies the clay on her mouldering head,  
But sweet is the rest of the innocent dead,  
And the love which we bore her shall live in each breast,  
Till we meet her again in the land of the blessed."

13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1967

## PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO ILKLEY CHURCHYARD



An impression of the appearance of the Ilkley Parish Churchyard when the Ilkley Urban Council scheme for improvement is carried out.



Picture shows the same view of the Churchyard from the Manor House. The old building on the right is believed to be Ilkley's oldest shop.

### Pointers to local history in

re the shop **FB** bought from your **MACHINE**

The many times that I have passed by the churchyard of Ilkley's All Saints Parish Church, and looked with an interested but but not over curious eye at the stones that moulder there, leaning blown by the westerly gales or flaking from the decades of frost and snow working upon them. I have thought in terms of the lines of Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard."

"Each in his narrow cell for ever laid

The rude forefathers of the Hamlet sleep."

So that when it fell to my lot to make a closer inspection of the inscriptions I was very surprised to find there, not the rude forefathers but, for example, Major Alexander Andsell Gordon, late of the Madras Cavalry, and Joseph Ravenscroft Elsey, late of the Bank of England. That is to say, evidence of men in high places. True, the answer to this riddle was not so far away, but first let us read from a book published in 1863, this splendid description of a gentleman who,

"presents himself to our view.

His bronzed complexion, luxurious beard, and stately gait leads us to the suspicion that he belongs to the military profession. He has returned his sword to its scabbard and thrown his harness away. He has exchanged the banks of the Ganges for those of the Wharfe."

Could not this gentleman, seen patrolling the grounds of the Ben Rhydding Hydro, have been the cavalry Major sleeping in the churchyard, his search for health from the beneficial baths, being perhaps inevitable only temporarily successful?

#### HYDRO PATIENTS

And his fellow sleeper from the Bank of England and others from both north and south, were they not all residents and patients of the famous Hydropathic Establishments, soldiers of the second invasion of Mid-Wharfedale who now rest within the fortress area of those who came before and conquered, the Romans?

The gallant Major died in 1874, aged 42 years and was buried in the

cold ground to the north of the church. Here too were buried other "foreigners" in and amongst the names that breathe the spirit of Ilkley; the Listers, the Hudsons (there are 36 Hudsons known to be buried there), the Deans and the Beanlands. A Beanland was the last to be buried in the churchyard in 1955.

The interments had begun in an area to the south of the church, adjacent to Church Street, and the earliest stones seem to be of very modest dimensions, no more than 3 ft. high, beautifully incised with a flowing script, and the mason not above making an insert when he mis-spelled a name. But there are so few stones of the 18th Century that it must be presumed that many stones are lost or else there are several layers of graves in what to the south of the church is only a small area.

The problem is, where were the twelve hundred or so people known to have died in Ilkley in the 18th Century buried?

#### History

But problems apart there is a great deal of scattered history in the 200 odd stones and vaults still standing. History of the families who wove in and out of one another and yet had such a narrow range of Christian names that the historian's task will be doubly difficult. Mary and Anne, John and William, son called after father, these names are so common that it is with an exaggerated delight that one comes upon Selina Isabella, Eli, Jabez, Moles, and Nimrod.

#### LETTERING

With the coming of the industrial Revolution, the beginning of mass production, the lettering on the stones takes a decisive step towards the standardization and instead of the free flowing letters there is a monotony of square, thick almost machine cut lettering. This lettering was efficient and can be read, when on a sound stone, as easily as the day it was cut, but it lacks charm. There is one stone inscribed to the Lister family that begins in 1798 with an individual calligraphic inscription and between 1805 and 1822 changes

over to the new square type lettering. Probably the most rewarding approach to the thousands of words to be read on the stones is through an interest in one or two families, to tie them up with church records, but to the outsider with little or no knowledge of detailed local history, the stones have to compete with each other for their intrinsic interest. And the interest often lies in the degree of sadness to be found in the close knit lines.

continued opposite page

# PARISH HALL AND MEETING ROOM



Approval has been given by Ilkley Urban Council for the change of use of the former wine store on Church Street to a parish hall and meeting room for the Ilkley Parish Church Parochial Council.

June 9<sup>th</sup> 1967.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

25 Aug 1967

### Robert Collyer opens museum and talks about old Ilkley

#### 75 Years Ago

"In my leisure moments, far away, when I look back through the vista of 54 years, it is the old Ilkley I see, the nice little place, the brook gleaming down open to the sun with wild blossoms growing on its margin among the stones; the old thatched houses with their bits of garden; the miller's house with its wealth of roses shaking in the wind on the side next the meadow and mill; old Mr. Fozzard with his workshop by the stocks which had lost their power to hold the waifs and strays; the old smithy with the house and garden; the Wheat Sheaf run by the old bachelor; the old parish clerk who gave out when a curate was leaving us that next Sunday Mr. Burton would preach his funeral sermon; old Yeoman Nicholas, who was born in 1735 and died at 90 who could have told me so many stories about old Ilkley had I asked him."

So said Dr. Robert Collyer, the blacksmith turned preacher who emigrated to the United States and became a famous churchman. He was returning to his old village to open the Ilkley Museum, once the chapel where he preached for the first time (now Glover's garage at the bottom of Bolton Bridge Road) and which he attended as a boy.

He told the story of his first introduction to information about Ilkley's past. "I was standing with another boy, possibly in 1838, at that archway that leads up to the old castle, as we called it, and was talking to him about Ilkley to which I was then a stranger having just come over the moor from Blubberhouses, and he said, 'Well now doesn't that know that this was once a Roman city, called Helkanah.' From that time I was always eagerly curious about anything touching the old life of Ilkley, and from that time to this I have always longed to see some such monument as this, some place where everything would be stored everything that would restore to us the story town as I knew it."

Dr. Collyer said he knew in America the poet Longfellow "whose ancestors lay in the Ilkley churchyard for two centuries and a quarter." He went on, "When I went to see Longfellow not long before his death, he said, 'Let's talk about Ilkley.' He loved to hear about Ilkley."

### EARLY HISTORY OF ILKLEY MUSEUM CURATOR

Miss E. M. Fletcher, Curator of Ilkley Museum, was the speaker at the meeting of Ilkley and District Round Table, held in the Crescent Hotel, on Tuesday evening. She gave an interesting account of the history of Ilkley from the very earliest days.

As long ago as Stone Age times, there was a track running along Rombalds Moor, travelled by traders who dealt in such commodities as flint implements, skins and gold ornaments.

The first settlers on the moor were Bronze Age people and these left behind their traces in the form of the cup and ring stones and swastika stone, of very great interest to antiquarians.

Iron Age people established another route, this time from south to north, crossing the river Wharfe by a ford, Ilkley being thus situated at a crossroads which on the arrival of the Romans, became sufficiently important to warrant the erection of a fort which had a garrison of some 500 soldiers. During the 300 years or so that the Romans lived in Ollicana, as it then was, a considerable civilian town had developed to the south and east of the fort, and evidently developed into a place of some culture.

#### DIRTY VILLAGE

After the Romans left, however, Ilkley lost much of its importance and records of the Middle Ages describe it as an "isolated village" and even as a "dirty village." It was not until the curative value of various springs was recognised in the late 18th century and White Wells and later Ben Rhydding Hydro were built that Ilkley began to develop on the lines they knew today.

After her address, Miss Fletcher answered many questions on various aspects of her talk.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Tabler Alfred Simpson and the Table Chairman, Tabler Harry Birtwistle, presided.

April 7<sup>th</sup> 1967.

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL, 1967

ILKLEY

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### New Grammar School was in building plans

#### 75 Years Ago

Amongst building plans approved by the Ilkley Local Board at their meeting in April, 1892, was one for a new Grammar School.

The Board also gave their approval to an application by the National Telephone Company to erect posts in Mill Ghyll and the Rhyddings. Noticing the building operations that were going on in the township Mr. Ibberson said that for ten years money had "lain dead" in Ilkley and lost to the ratepayers. He was glad they were coming nearer the time when they were going to build. Mr. Brown referring to the Grammar School said it had been talked of for a long time. He was glad to see it was proceeding.

It was reported that the Local Government Board had agreed to sanction the borrowing of £1,200 for land for slaughter-houses, fire station etc.; £400 for the provision of a slaughter-house; £1,450 for street formation and widening and £260 for works of sewerage.

Following representations made by a deputation of the Ilkley and Leeds Passholders 75 years ago the Directors of the Midland Railway Company announced their intention of running a new express train from Ilkley at 7.40 a.m. arriving at Leeds at 8.10 a.m. The new service was to start at the beginning of May.

#### 50 Years Ago

A notice of motion was received from Cr. W. R. Bates in respect of the rescinding of the resolution passed at the previous meeting of Ilkley Urban Council in March 1917, authorising the Band Committee to engage a band for the ensuing season.

Cr. Bates stated that it was his intention to move this at the May meeting after the statutory 28 days' notice. Cr. Naylor at the March Council meeting considered this an unfair proceeding and asked what the Committee were going to do in the meantime.

The Clerk intimated that if the question was considered one of urgency it could be dealt with that night.

Cr. Bates said he was convinced the majority of the ratepayers were against a band.

Cr. J. C. Naylor remarked that the committee had been authorised by full Council to get together a band, and to bring such a motion as this forward at the next Council meeting was most unfair.

Clerk: I take full responsibility for putting it on the agenda for tonight. Cr. Bates desired it to be brought forward at the May meeting, but there may be difficulties in the way if the Band Committee do not at once proceed with the engagement of a band. I put it on the agenda in the hope of you taking a vote whether it was a matter of urgency or not.

Chairman (Cr. W. Prest): Is there a majority in favour of it being dealt with tonight?

A resolution was passed to proceed with the next business.

"At the time of writing it is more like Christmas than Easter," said the Ilkley Gazette 50 years ago. "The first thought that came into mind when thinking of the prospects for Easter, so far as visitors are concerned, was that it would be a very poor look out indeed for the hydro and lodging house keepers this year and also for others who cater for the visitors, what with the increased train fares, fewer trains and—

to crown it all—the re-appearance of winter. On enquiry to the hydro however, we were surprised to find bookings were good and that Sunday and Monday's downfall of snow had not the effect of causing many people to cancel their rooms."

On the Sunday seven inches of snow had fallen and on Monday at least five inches more, with succeeding frosts of considerable severity. A blizzard accompanied the Sunday snow which as a result piled up several feet deep in some places. The loss of young stock in the meadows was considerable.

#### 25 Years Ago

Ilkley's Warship Week campaign—21 to 28 March—had a brilliant but short-lived triumph. Mr. Percy Dalton marked the indicator at £702,091.45d. on the final day, Wednesday. By the marking of the previous Friday, Ilkley had beaten Denby Dale, the Yorkshire champions, & had their set out to raise a further sum of £100,000 to beat the Edinburgh per capita figure of £36. They succeeded, and Mr. Percy Dalton was able to announce the figure of £36.68d. per head of population in the Ilkley Urban District.

But shortly after the marking of the indicator, it was learned that the Knaresborough Week, which had run concurrently with the Ilkley Week, had raised an even higher per capita figure, £41.12.0d., making a total for the Week of £377,712.12.2d. That was a new national record. Knaresborough therefore won the contest to which Sir Harold Mackintosh, president of the Knaresborough Week, challenged Ilkley at the outset.

In the official announcements of Methodist ministerial changes and engagements in March 1942, it was stated that the Rev. Sidney T. Hopps, of Bramley, Leeds, had been accepted for the Ilkley Circuit from August 1943 to August 1944.

# PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

## Opening by Dr. Robert Collyer is recalled

It is sixty years since the Ilkley Public Library was opened by the Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer. Over six columns of the Ilkley Gazette were devoted to the opening ceremony at that time. The return of the man who had been a blacksmith's apprentice in the town and become a famous Divine in America created scenes of great enthusiasm in the town.

The "Gazette" stated that "The site on which the Library and the rest of the public building stands, was formerly occupied by Sedbergh House and grounds, but after the death of Mr. H. E. Wade the property was sold by public auction and it came into the hands of Mr. J. T. Jackson. Later Mr. Jackson disposed of 4,180 yards to the District Council for £5,270 and after a portion had been utilised to effect a very necessary street improvement the remainder was allowed to stand idle until such times as the opportunity afforded of putting it to the use for which it was intended.

"This opportunity came in 1904 when giving heed to the many solicitations that something should be done to put the land into profitable account, the Council decided to erect public buildings and made applications to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a grant towards a free library which it was decided should be incorporated in the scheme. Mr. Carnegie was pleased to make a grant of £3,000 for the purpose and with this money in prospect the scheme was eventually evolved which had resulted in the erection of the group of buildings now forming such a conspicuous feature of Station Road.

"Competitive designs were invited and out of 60 sets of plans sent in, Mr. George Bulmer of Leeds who had been appointed adjudicator awarded the first premium of £100 to Mr. William Bakewell, of Leeds, under whose personal supervision the buildings have been erected.

"Mr. Carnegie's gift of £3,000 has covered the cost of the erection of the Library but a loan of £1,300 has had to be obtained to defray the costs of the furnishings.

"The work has been executed by the following contractors.—Mr. George Smith, Ilkley, mason and bricklayer; Mr. Thomas Smith, Ilkley, joiner and builder; Mr. Oswald Lister, Ilkley, plasterer; Mr. G. W. Hampshire, Ilkley, painter; T. R. and T. L. Nelson, Ilkley, plumbers and slaters; Redpath, Brown and Co. Salford, ironfounders; North of England Furnishing Co., Darlington, fixtures; and Mr. George Newby, Harrogate, electric lighting installation."

### FOUNDATION STONES

The foundation stones were laid in January 1906 but the library was incomplete on the occasion of the official opening. This had to be held however because of Dr. Collyer's engagements in New York. After Dr. Collyer had opened the Library building with a gold key designed and made by Mr. E. Earnshaw of Ilkley and handed to the opener by Mr. J. W. Benson, a crowd of people entered the building.

They then moved to the adjoining hall where it was estimated that the greatest crowd of people ever assembled in an Ilkley public hall was present the estimate was in the region of 1,800. Mr. J. C. Barker, Chairman of the Council presided, and replying to welcoming speeches Dr. Collyer expressed thanks for illuminated address and for the welcome given to him.

### OLD ILKLEY

The report continued.—Proceeding, Dr. Collyer said it was 69 years since he came over Denton Moor by the short cut to Ilkley, where he was to serve his time to John Birch, the blacksmith, who had taught his (the speaker's) father the noble craft and had promised to do the same to the son. He was then turned fourteen, and graduated, as the custom was, when he was twenty-one; but he did not leave the forge because the old man wanted him to stay and he offered him higher wages than he had ever been paid before.

"These only amounted to seven shillings per week! So he worked for this old man until he died, and then for the man who took over the business until the spring of 1850 when he laid down his hammer, doffed his leather apron, rolled down his shirt sleeves, shook hands with his employer, and said "Good bye," with a tone of regret, because he was a good man to work for and would fain have had him stay.

### Made up his mind

He could not stay, because he had made up his mind to emigrate to the United States, and so in mid-April he set his face westward on the good ship Roscius. He thought she should have been named Atrocious for she was a dirty old tub, but she landed them in New York in four weeks to the day, he and his wife. (Laughter). This was almost twelve years after he crossed Denton Moor to learn his craft, and he touched the memory because, as he looked backwards from the eminence of his many years, these came home to him now as perhaps the most pregnant of his life—the years when we bridged the space between our boyhood and manhood, and had come into the possession of our chart and compass, and were ready to make the spoon or spoil the horn.

"I wonder," went on Dr. Collyer, "whether there is another man here or in the town who can see the old Ilkley I saw through the years of my apprenticeship when the new Ilkley still lay in the womb of time; before one new house or store was built beyond the line eastward on the Otley road, where our own house stood at the town end, and the cow pasture gate on the line of this library to the old thatched cottage in the hollow over the way from the museum and from the fine old Beanland House in the Bridge Lane northward to John Hartley's, southward far up the Keighley Road. The heart has a long memory, and mine holds the picture of the old Ilkley as I fondly believe perfect and entire within those lines; of the homes and their inmates, and what they were doing for their life and living in those early years. So that when I open my book of early remembrance and look at the picture as it stands in the sunshine and shadow of the early forties, I can see the faces as well as the homes of my old neighbours and friends, and hear their voices as I sit in my room among my books in New York

### Last Visit?

"And before this journey to the Motherland—the last I can hope to make—I had crossed the ocean seven times to see my kith and kin first, and then to make a beeline, as they say to Ilkley; with my heart in my mouth—to stand aside my graves in your churchyard, drop in to see old friends whose life was blended with mine, and talk with them of the days that are no more, and yet are for ever more while I live on earth; steal into the old church by my home, and touch there the memories of the living and the dead, mellowed by the enchantment of time and distance.

"For, like Jacob and Esau, in the ancient days, we all set up our stones of memorial by the hearths the altar and the graves. Then I must drink at the old White Wells—sweet as the water in the well of Bethlehem was to the war-worn warrior and King—climb to the crest above to drink in the glory of the moors and fells and beauty of our Wharfedale. This I have done for love's sake, blending the old home and life with what was once the new, finding ample room for both. So it is true that I did not leave my old Ilkley, but carried it with me, and hold it still. (Applause.)

### Make a Claim

"I have read that there are families here in England who lost their estates hundreds of years ago in the troubles of the kingdom, but believe they still hold a claim on them, and once a year they go there to dig a sod and take it home for proof of their claim to the old homestead.

"So I have come once more to dig my sod and take it home to make good the claim that I still belong to Ilkley and am your fellow-townsmen—free, by your grace, from the taxes for I pay them in New York, and complain, as you do here of the amount. May I say, also, that when I left the dear old town and yet took it with me there was a touch of longing in my heart that I should not be forgotten, or be, as the mist I still remember, that would linger on a soft summer morning over one spot in the west woods, to be caught up in the forenoon by the sun. And this might well have come true, when, on each journey to my Motherland and to my town, more and more, were missing and I would fain have found in the old homes; and now there is not one man—so far as I know—of my own generation whose hand I can clasp as a friend of the time when I left Ilkley 57 years ago.

### "Beyond my dreams"

"But my welcome when I came over nine years ago to the new Ilkley brushed away the touch of fear, and now you have honoured me beyond my dreams or my deserving, for which I can only thank you from a full heart. You might well have done this for my friend Andrew Carnegie, whose gift is enclosed in this beautiful structure, and who is worth more than all his wealth, as he stands on his own sturdy feet, and pours out wealth without stint or stay for all noble uses in the old world and the new. I knew a good man many years ago who was very rich but by no means generous in his giving, and would say it was not to be expected that those who gather much money should give much because the hand that holds the money takes the strength from the other hand that should give. But with your friend and mine the hands hold the balance even, or if there is any distinction, "the hand that gives is still the stronger." But I must have done with what a good woman who was fond of listening to our speeches used to fret at—she called them "pre-rambles"—and say some words about our Free Library and the companionship of good books. (Hear, hear).

### "Four Essentials"

In the United States, when a town has grown to some eminence as Ilkley has grown in these 60 years, you are almost sure to find four essential foundations—the church, the school, the town hall, and the library; and the library comes last, as a rule, but until it comes the town in the common estimation takes a back seat. Well, the mother church in Ilkley must be more than a thousand years old, but three hundred years ago there was no school house, when Geo. Marshall, an Ilkley man, left £100 by will in the year 1600 "to be employed to some charitable and godly use," as the words run. And then there was trouble over the "charitable and godly use" of the money for five and thirty years, when it was resolved by the inhabitants in town meetings to build a school-house with the funds. Fourteen good men were chosen to see the work was duly and well done, of which number nine were able to sign their names while five made their mark; and in the five I was proud to find Walter Pollard, the village blacksmith, who makes a rude broad arrow as his mark.

### Still There

This was in 1635, and two years after the first school-house was opened for William Lobbey, the master, and remains to this day for proof that the work was well done. The story is told briefly in the history of the town and parish of Ilkley, but at much greater length in a manuscript volume copied from the archives at Weston Hall, which I bought in Leeds at a stiff price, and deposited, after the chapter on the school was written in your museum. The whole story is told of the school down to early in the last century and I commend it to your care.

### Four Square

Then came the first town hall, you did not deem ample or worthy our new Ilkley; and here is the new one which answers and will answer to your desire. And now, with the town hall, stands the Free Library, the home for the

# COLLYER KEY IS RETURNED TO ILKLEY

A key presented to Dr. Robert Collyer when he opened the Ilkley Public Library and Museum in October, 1907, has been returned to Ilkley Urban Council by the widow of Mr. Norman Frederick Eastman, of New York, one of Dr. Collyer's grandsons who died on 15 December, 1967.

This was reported to the Council at its meeting on Monday night by the Clerk, Mr. B. E. Townend, and the suggestion of the Chairman, Dr. D. Marshall, that it should be put in expert hands and returned to its former pristine glory before being displayed with the other exhibits in the Collyer collection was accepted.

When Dr. Collyer opened the Library the presentation of the key was made by Mr. J. T. Jackson, who had made available the land for the municipal buildings, and afterwards there was a public gathering in the unfinished King's Hall. The report in the "Ilkley Gazette" at that time said it was estimated that 1,800 people were present, the largest number of people who had up to that time congregated in Ilkley.

### DESCRIPTION

The key was designed and executed by Mr. E. Earnshaw, of Brook Street, Ilkley, at the time of the presentation was described as follows:

"The shaft consists of a Corinthian column with heather entwined and resting on the column is a heart shaped design of heather with 'the White Rose of York' enamelled in the centre. Above this design is a plinth with two small Corinthian columns, and surmounting this is a model of the Town Hall buildings in oxidized relief. Between the two small columns is a fine portrait of Dr. Collyer in brilliant enamels, and the scrollwork on the columns bears the Latin inscription "Sapientia Est Potentia"—"Knowledge is power". The opposite side of the key is exactly the same design; a capital portrait of Mr. Carnegie occupying the corresponding position as that of Dr. Collyer, while the "White Rose of York" is replaced by a replica of the official seal of the Ilkley District Council.

"The presentation case for the key is of dark maroon plush, resting on gilt braces. On the inscription plate are the letters 'R.C.' in a monogram and underneath the following inscription—'Presented to Rev. Robert Collyer, his opening the library of Ilkley, 1907'."

### SMITH

Collyer spent long a mill in the and escaped from apprenticed to 1 Ilkley black- e was in Leeds easton Road and after serving his Collyer hoped to on the death of rd of the Manor too young. He ow when his first eventually emi- ted States where teacher began to and spread to the States and to this he accepted the arch in New York. conferred upon Doctor of Letters so this country in December, 1912.

### Hunger for Books

When I crossed Denton Moor all those years ago, I had worked in the factory on the Washburn almost seven years, and through most of the time 13 hours, five days in the week, and eleven on Saturday, but I had read all the books I could lay my hands on, all the books in the house that would stay my hunger and all my father could borrow in the factory communc. I brought the hunger with me to Ilkley to read on the old terms—by daylight and candle-light, and when these failed by the open fire, so that Master Birch said I should be blind if I kept on before I was out of my time. And so it has been down to this day.

The story is told of a minister who went to see one of his members, a woman of great age, and said to her: "Would you tell me for what you feel most thankful as you look back on your long life?" and she answered: "Good victuals, sir." It was a good confession in which more was meant than met the good man's ear; yet if you should ask me the question I should answer: "Good books." And so I say with a noble man: "God be thanked for good books that are now within the reach of all who will read them, and genius sends its light and fire into the poor cottages as into the mansions."

SCIENTISTS VISIT ILKLEY MUSEUM



Curator of the Olicana Museum, Mr. Arthur Kitching (seen on left of the picture) points out a piece of sculpture called "War Lord" by Bert Roberts to five members of a party of the British Association of Advancement of Science who visited Ilkley on Thursday of last week. Seen third from the right is Cr. F. Atkinson, the Chairman of the Library and Halls Committee of Ilkley Urban Council.

NO MINI SKIRTS IN THOSE DAYS



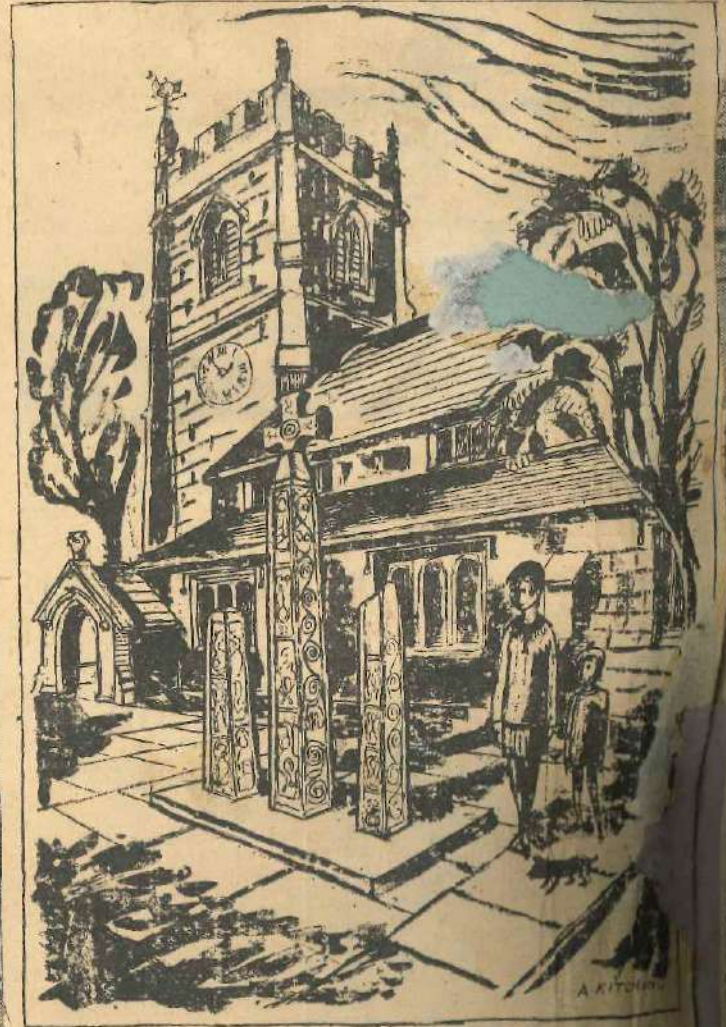
A picture of a bank holiday occasion in Church Street, Ilkley.

May 1965 1967

THE BEASTS OF CHURCH STREET

There has been some speculation about the future of the three crosses in the Ilkley Parish Churchyard when the scheme for removing the gravestones is carried out by the Ilkley Urban Council. Mr. Arthur Kitching, Curator of the Manor House Museum and Art Gallery, has contributed the sketch and article.

17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1967



As the articulated lorries rumble up and down Church Street in the narrow passage between The Rose and Crown and the Parish Church, it is doubtful if the drivers of these monsters are aware of passing under the scrutiny of several monsters of a different day and age. If the dragons of ancient lore (such as the one that had an argument with St. George and breathed fire, doubtless roaring like a lion but with a hotter and more sustained note) can be called to mind then there might be a connection. But the monsters that look out with one eye each from the centre Anglican Cross in the Churchyard do not assert themselves as the lorries do. They are modest monsters content to bite their tails and make a threatening gesture.

NOT KNOWN

Nevertheless, they are monsters, resembling no known beasts and therefore having the ring of mystery and unknowingness without which no monster is complete. The shafts upon which they are carved have for long been in the churchyard and a hundred years or so ago when to the Victorians the past suddenly became alive, and the mysteries of history began to be explored as found in rock margins, sculptured ages and inscriptions, the shapes were copied by rubbing and measuring. The results of this careful scrutiny were then set down most beautifully by artists unknown.

THREE SHAFTS

There are three shafts two feet apart, running in a line east to west, and were placed there by the Rev. J. Snowden who died in 1878. The centre shaft 100 inches in height, is the most complete. The next tallest shaft, to the east is 65 inches high and whilst what carving there is in better relief than the centre shaft, it has been mutilated by use as a gatepost. The shaft to the west is the shortest and only 54 inches high.

The centre shaft has four panels on the south side. The top panel is probably of Christ enthroned, holding a palm branch in his right hand. The second panel is a

length draped figure each holding a book in the hand. The bodies are those of human beings and the heads are those of the man, lion and beasts which symbolise the four Evangelists. The St. Matthew has the head of a man, St. Mark the head of a lion, St. Luke the head of a bull and St. John the head of an eagle. All the figures are set squarely in the panels, the drapery folds being simply and effectively depicted by a series of clean grooves. The crosshead to this shaft, which used to be preserved in the grounds of Middleton Lodge, at the Calvary, constructed by Mr. Peter Middleton, was affixed soon after 1878 under the direction of Mr. H. E. McCall, F.S.A.

Birds Pecking

The designs on the upper stone include a winged angel and birds pecking fruit. Sometimes a lion is inserted in the centre of such a cross-head and there is in the centre of this one a small lion which may have accommodated the shaft which was used as a gatepost (said to be to the church has, in addition to animals, what could be a rendering of the 'man'. At least there are two human figures and between them what could be the serpent and the tree. The shortest shaft has been carved to those on the Collingham Road shaft (Collingwood). In addition to the three crosses described there is in the Manor House Museum a stone, found in the Wharfe in 1889 which, also Anglican, bears most unusual design. The design shows a beast eating grapes, its body, limbs and tail being so naturalistic, still concerned with interlacing the artist has meshed the beast in a complete tangle of foliage.

In Northumbria

The type of carved cross seen in Ilkley Parish Church had its full flowering in Northumbria, notably the Ruthwell Bewcastle crosses and were in the main a blending of Roman and Celtic influences. In the West Riding of Yorkshire there are



**CRAFTSMANSHIP  
IN WOOL  
OLICANA MUSEUM  
SOCIETY**

Mr. R. C. Patterson, Curator of the Castle Museum, York, spoke to the Olicana Museum Society last Thursday evening on "Craftsmanship in Wool".

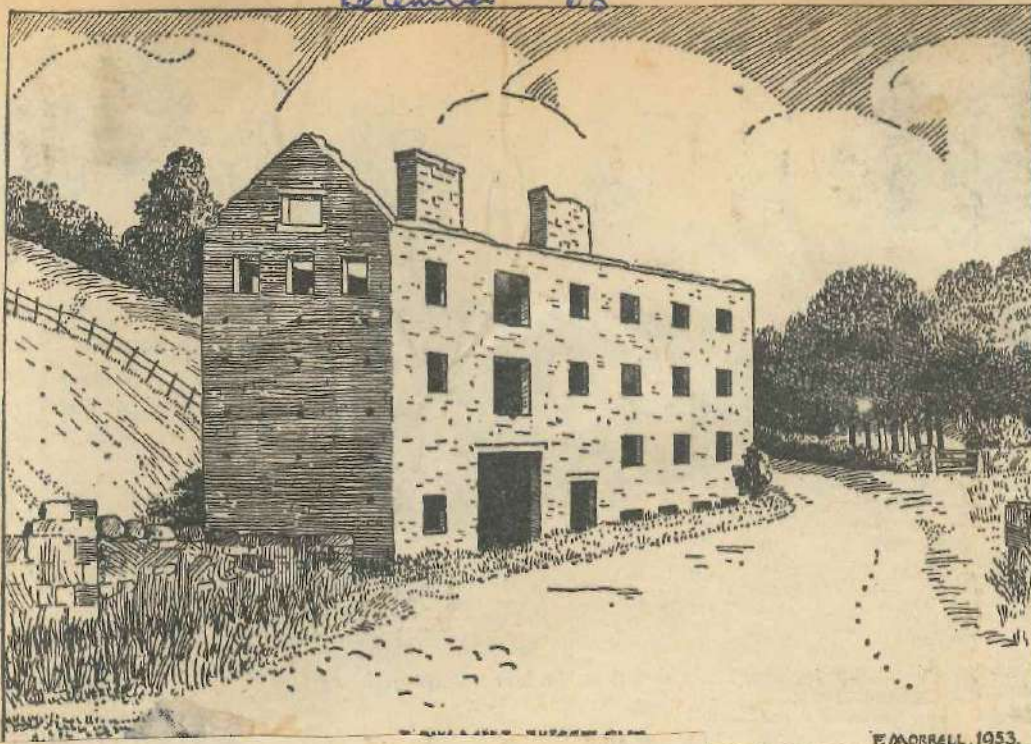
He began his fascinating story five years ago when Mr. Peter Wenham, the archaeologist, was excavating a site in Petergate, York, on which the Fox Inn stood. In an occupation layer ten feet down he came across nine fragments of material amongst charred remains. These were subsequently analysed and dated about 1200. Specimens of cloth of this period had not been found before, so the pieces were of utmost interest.

The nine fragments were a section of a gentleman's wardrobe, from tunic to greycoat. Three pieces of the material were 58 quality, i.e. superfine. The wool was spun, uncleaned, straight from the sheep's back, by spindle and whorl. The result was a type of worsted. One piece was woven in a complicated diaper weave.

Who owned these nine garments? Mr. Patterson said by a clever piece of detective work, experts were able to piece the story together. The material was worth £25 a yard (at today's prices), so the owner must have been a wealthy man. The fragments were sewn together by wool so it was likely they were parts of Kasher clothing. All Jews' houses were burned down by the York mob, who came from Cliffords' Tower, down Petergate and to the Minster between 2.30 and 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 16 March, 1190. As the site was a valuable one, it was likely the owner of the garments was a wealthy Jewish money lender.

Mr. Patterson's story brought history to life. He showed the gathering of the actual nine fragments of material, an early spindle and whorl, hand cards and fullers teazles, a Niddy Nore and an example of the spinning wheel. During the evening he illustrated how these were used.

This was a most interesting lecture. Thanks were expressed on behalf of the society by Mrs. Lloyd.



WEST END

**THE ONE-TIME INDUSTRIES  
OF WASHBURNDALE'S  
'DESERTED VILLAGE'**

By FREDERICK MORRELL

Many older readers may have pleasant memories of long walks to the Washburn Valley by way of Blubberhouses to West End, which everyone locally knew as the 'deserted village'. As a village, however, it was not of the Saxon or medieval foundation one usually associates with a deserted village, but one which merely lasted from the late 18th to the late 19th century, and is really an area or hamlet of scattered farms and farmsteads known as Thruscross.

Today, not only is West End deserted, but is completely lost, the remains lying beneath the waters of the new Thruscross Reservoir. It is difficult to imagine that beneath this placid surface of water there was activity and industry for a period of 100 years, in a place possessing four flax mills and a corn mill, giving employment to hundreds of people.

An enormous change took place in industry in England between 1760 and 1820, known as the Industrial Revolution. Wool spinning and weaving had been carried on in cottages for centuries, but by the close of the 18th century the spinning of wool and flax became a factory trade. Weaving by the hand-loom worker was taken over by new mills, which were being built wherever fast flowing streams gave cheap water power—necessary for the early textile mill. Such a situation came about in the Washburn Valley in 1791.

For generations a corn mill had been in existence in the remote hamlet of Thruscross, which was situated near the bridge over the river Washburn. In 1791 the corn mill, along with the weir and watercourse belonging to it was bought for £380 by a group of enterprising Otley business men, who built a cotton mill of four storeys, and for a number of years both mills worked side by side.

About the turn of the century, corn milling was discontinued and the old corn mill demolished, at which time another mill was built for the purpose of spinning flax, about a mile higher up on a small fast flowing stream which fed the Washburn, and known as Coppelshaw Beck. This second mill became known as High Mill to distinguish it from the first, which took the name of Low Mill. Within a very short space of time the former employed 30 workers, against the 90 odd at Low Mill.

By 1805, John Walker, one of the business men who financed the venture, became sole owner, his partners having withdrawn, and a little later he let Low Mill to Christopher Smith.

At about the same time two brothers by the name of Aked, of Halifax, began flax spinning in the area, having built a large mill higher up Coppelshaw Beck, and they soon had to purchase additional land on the edge of Rocking Moor in order to build a new reservoir. This may yet be

John Patrick, a tenant of John Walker at High Mill, bought the mill in 1822, and also bought a small flax mill (which had been built a few years earlier) for the sum of £3,620. This fourth mill was known as Little Mill and was of two storeys, with two 18-foot water wheels, being situated between High Mill and Aked's Mill.

In the 1822 Returns, the mill owners at West End were listed as James Aked (Aked's Mill), John Patrick (High and Little Mills) and Michael Meek (at Low Mill). However, due partly to a trade depression; an unreliable water supply; the increasing cost of transport to and from Skipton (12 miles), Otley (10) and Knaresborough (12); and also, if not primarily to inefficient manage-

ment, because one has to remember that very few of the early textile mill-owners had experience in running a large mill, as they were tradesmen with capital to spare, or farmers whose knowledge of machinery was limited to hand-loom weaving—due to those factors flax spinning about came to an end at West End.

Patrick's (or High Mill) and Little Mill closed down, although the latter re-opened for a short while as a saw mill, and Aked's, the largest of the four mills, was burned down and never used again.

By 1841 only Low Mill was working, which at the time employed 70 workers, but it closed in 1846. The following year it was leased by Threlfall of Addingham who re-opened the mill for cotton spinning. Its life was short lived as Threlfall, having purchased the large Westhouses Mill at Blubberhouses, unfortunately became bankrupt resulting in the closure of both mills.

The effect on the population when all the mills closed at West End, must have been disastrous, and is reflected in the 1851 Census when the number totalled 338, which had been in the region of 700 in 1836.

Another attempt was made at flax spinning by Francis Thorpe, a millowner in Nidderdale, who either bought or leased Low Mill in 1857, and employed 30 workers.

He must have closed within a few years, as we find the mill was re-opened by Thomas Gill in 1868 for the spinning of hemp and tow and twine-making, and carried on until 1899, when Low Mill closed down for the last time, thus ending the industrial life of this remote hamlet.

The illustration was sketched in 1953, when I had intended including an article about West End in the series relating to the Washburn Valley, and shows the warehouse, which was the last remains of the buildings of Low Mill. The bridge was behind me, and the mill proper, and the large 40-foot water wheel was at right angles to the right of the building shown, but only foundations remained indicating where it had stood. Beyond the gate shown in the background, was the remains of the large dam. The road behind the building led up Brakes Lane and the main road, which it crossed and continued across the moor until it joined Kex Gill road, the route taken by carts and packhorses on the 12 mile journey to Skipton.

(To be continued)

3. 4. 68

ILKLEY GAZETT

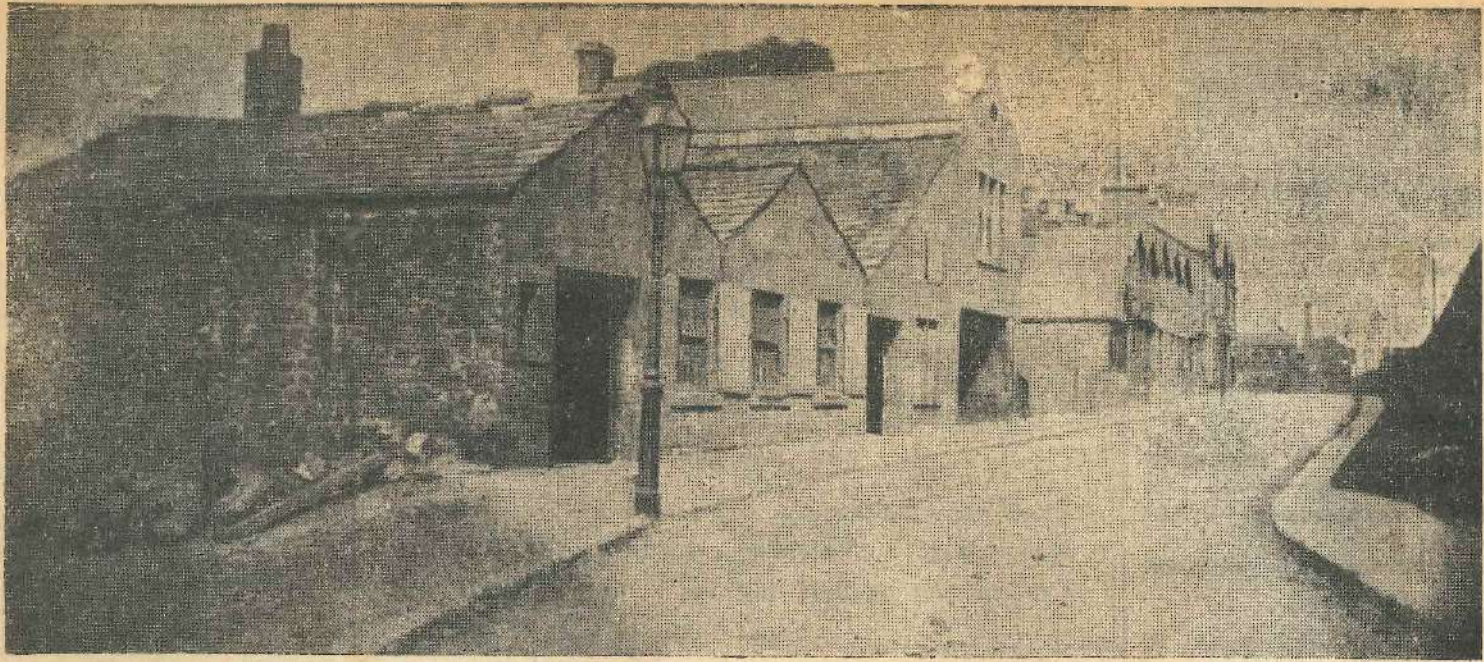
**ACROSS THE YEARS**

**"High class decorative art" in  
Ilkley's Lodging Houses**

100 Years Ago

100 years ago the "Ilkley Gazette" dealing with the preparations for the arrival of visitors in the village, said they had "been permitted an insight into the interior arrangements in some of the higher class of lodging houses. We must say that the proprietors merit great praise, not only for the enterprising spirit they have exhibited, but also for the taste displayed by the adoption of such high class decorative art. Some of them are now furnished and decorated in a most superior style "equal to many gentlemen's mansions" and far surpassing what is often found in lodging houses. We hope that the amount of patronage they may receive during the forthcoming season will be such as to satisfy and repay them for such spirited outlay."

## RAILWAY ROAD BEFORE THE STATION EXTENSIONS



When the Ikley-Skipton Railway track was established a portion of the old Railway Road was used for platform four and the subway. Some property was demolished. The houses pictured here fronted on to the old Railway Road. They were pulled down and re-built in Leeds Road where they stand today.

13.5.68

1960

ILKLEY GAZETTE

12.7.68

## THE UPPER CORN MILL AND DAM IN WELLS ROAD IN 1866



Our feature "Across the years" refers to the preliminary notice of the proposed sale 100 years ago of baths on the site of the old corn mill dam. There were two mills, the one pictured above, and the one lower down at a point between the Wells Road Chapel and the Assembly Hall. The site of the dam pictured above is still easily recognisable. The corn mill is to the right. The cottages on the left of the picture are there today.

## IT STOOD FOR 250 YEARS OR MORE 22.3.68



The home of a family named Hartley for many generations this farmhouse mentioned in "100 years ago" in this issue, stood where the National Provincial Bank and the shops alongside stand now to the south of the Grove. John Dobson, who recorded 100 years ago, much of the changes then being made in Ikley, said the building known as the "Manor House" had outbuildings and a stackyard taking up the road frontage at the site of the Congregational Church. A fence divided Hartley's stackyard from a small croft to the west exactly in front of the church site and along this fence stood a number of magnificent ash trees, one of which was said to have 400 feet of timber in it.

# ARCHAEOLOGISTS VISIT SITE OF FORT AND INSPECT SAXON CROSSES

Visits to the site of the Roman Fort at Ilkley and an inspection of the Saxon Crosses in the churchyard were included this week in the summer meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute. Some concern was expressed over the deterioration of the Saxon Crosses and the suggestion made that this could be halted by putting them under cover.

The party was addressed by Dr. M. Taylor on the subject of the crosses, and afterwards he expressed concern to Miss Mary Booth, Ilkley member of the Institute about the deterioration of the crosses. Miss Booth told the " Gazette " that Dr. Taylor had suggested the crosses would be much better under cover in view of their deterioration. Comments on the crosses had been contributed to the programme by Dr. Taylor and on the Roman Fort by Miss D. Charlesworth. These were as follows.—

## ROMAN FORT

The fort, which underlies the centre of the modern town (including the Manor House, now a museum, and the church of All Saints), covers an area of some 3.23 acres on the south bank of the river Wharfe. It is one of the chain of forts which garrisoned the major crossing of the Pennines, linking Tadcaster in the East with Ribchester in the West, an easier route than the Stainmore pass further north, which is frequently blocked in winter.

The fort is identified as OLICANA, and its only known garrison is the COHORS II LINGONUM, a cavalry unit, which is recorded also at Moresby sometime in the 2nd century and at Drumburgh in the 3rd century. It is not established whether it was stationed at Ilkley first and then moved to Cumberland, but it seems likely. The fort was built under Agricola and held without a break until the reign of Hadrian when the building and garrisoning of the Wall caused major troop movements and the abandonment of many Pennine forts. It was re-occupied probably under Calpurnius Agricola, certainly not later than A.D. 169, and destroyed by fire c. 196-7. The turf rampart of the first and the clay rampart of the second fort followed the same lines and both had internal timber buildings.

## THIRD FORT

The third fort, built after Severus' defeat of Clodius Albinus, was of stone. It is dated to A.D. 197-8 (a very rapid replacement) by a lost inscription recorded by Camden. There is no evidence that this fort was destroyed or abandoned but it was substantially modified by Constantius and the bank behind the stone wall removed to give space for an extension of buildings. At this time the commandant's house was enlarged.

In its final phase, probably under Theodosius, the internal buildings were again altered, an extra granary being provided and stabling demolished. There is no evidence of a final destruction of the fort and the date at which it ceased to be garrisoned cannot be determined for lack of evidence.

## SAXON CROSSES

Three considerable sections of Anglo-Saxon carved cross shafts have been marshalled into a single modern base at the South of Ilkley Church, close behind the road. On top of the tallest of the three shafts there has been mounted a cross-head that was formerly at Middleton Lodge and was presented to the churchwardens in 1914; it is of roughly the same date as the shaft upon which it now stands.

The tallest, central shaft stands over 8ft. high. Its north face has four panels showing the four evangelists who are represented not as normal human beings but with the heads of the symbols that in early manuscripts were often shown with the evangelists: an eagle for St. John; a bull for St. Luke; a lion for St. Mark, and an angel for St. Matthew; each evangelist is shown holding a book, not in his bare hands, but protected by a fold of his clothing.

## ANIMAL HEADS

The symbolic animal heads are not usual in sculpture on stone, but are to be seen on a stone slab at Wirkworth in Derbyshire where also the cross carries the figure

took advantage of the occasion to see the church. There have been critics of Ilkley Council's expenditure on this area, but it has brought about a vast improvement which will be added to when money is available to complete the scheme planned for the church yard. Perhaps there could be official action on the comment that the deterioration of the crosses calls for them being given some form of protection. The Manor House Museum would appear to be conveniently situated.

of a lamb instead of the human body of Christ. The narrow sides of the shaft show vine scrolls of a much less naturalistic character than those on the Angel Cross at Otley, and the south face has four panels of which that at the top is perhaps to be interpreted as a representation of Christ in Majesty; below are three panels of Anglican beasts. This shaft and its two companions all belong to the first half of the 9th century. Collingwood regards this one as the latest and the next two as progressively earlier.

The next tallest shaft, eastward of the first, has a well-preserved and finely cut cable moulding on its edges. Its south face has panels of confronted pairs of beasts entwined in their twisted tails, while the narrower sides have vine scrolls like those of the tallest cross.

The shortest shaft has no cable moulding, and all its panels but one show Anglican beasts. The lowest panel on the east side shows a human figure with a book.

In the Museum are four or five further fragments of heads and shafts of much the same dates.

## WHITE WELLS

Councillors whose curiosity was aroused by the resolution of the Moor and Parks Committee suggesting an exchange of moorland for White Wells indicated that they shared with the ratepayers an impression that the old buildings already belonged to them. They have asked for more information for the next meeting of the Finance Committee. At that time the whole of the minutes of the Moor and Parks Committee were not before them but they were last week and it could have been further understood had they been just as curious about the following minute. Having been told in effect that White Wells did not belong to them, they were told in the following minute that the Surveyor had submitted an estimate of the cost of repairs and renewals necessary to restore the buildings. The Council without question or comment indeed confirmed a resolution that the cost of repairing White Wells buildings be considered again "in connection with the preparation of the 1969-70 estimates" and requested the Clerk to obtain the views of the Civic Society and the Friends of the Manor House on the possible future use of White Wells.

FRIDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1968

ILKLEY GAZETTE

# VIEW OF HAVOC AT THE ILKLEY MOOR HOTEL

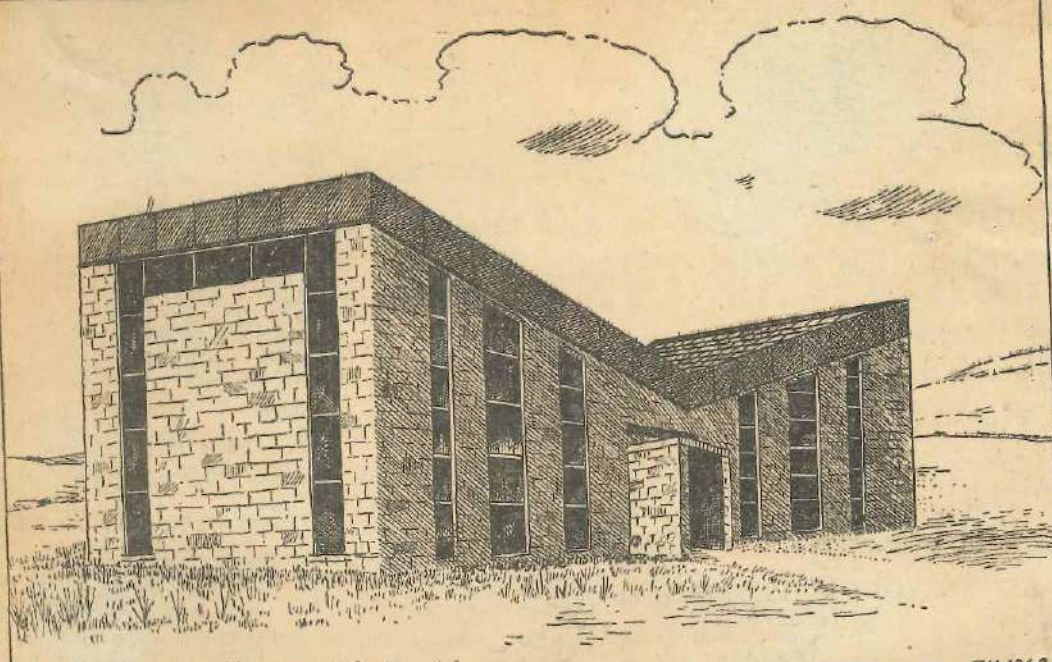


A view of the Ilkley Moor Hotel from the rear of the premises on Tuesday morning after firemen had brought the blaze under control.

## ROOF TOP VIEW OF BURNED OUT LIFT SHAFT



A picture from the roof looking down into the lift shaft of the Ilkley Moor Hotel. It was after the fire had reached this section that it spread rapidly to other parts of the hotel.



The New Church, at Thruscross, Washburndale.

F.M. 1968

WEST END—2

## A NEW CHURCH OF UNUSUAL DESIGN IN A RURAL SETTING

By FREDERICK MORRELL

Situated in the highest part of the valley of the Washburn is Thruscross or West End, a name apparently used without discrimination, although the former is its earliest name, being first referred to in an Inquisition of 1299 as "Thores Cross."

Since the turn of the century West End has been known locally as the 'deserted village', which is understandable as at one time it possessed four flax mills, all of which have been demolished and the remains now lie beneath the new Thruscross reservoir.

In the preparation for the construction of the reservoir in 1961, it was necessary to demolish certain farmhouses in the valley, in addition to the Methodist Chapel and the village Church.

The small church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was a somewhat plain and unpretentious building, seating 150, and having been built in 1841. When the church was taken down, all the remains of the bodies buried in the church yard were removed and have been re-interred on higher ground north side of the reservoir.

### Earlier Churches

It seems evident the small church had been built on an earlier foundation, of which we have scanty information. In a Parliamentary Survey of 1642-3, it was stated there was a parochial chapel at "Thruscross" which supplied a preaching minister who had no maintenance other than a voluntary contribution.

A century earlier, in the Chantry Surveys of 1548, reference is made to a chapel within the parish of Fewston (in which parish Thruscross formed a part), the said chapel had no incumbent nor lands to sustain one, except one copyhold close valued at 14/- yearly, which was bestowed upon such priest who should say mass there. The chapel was "distaunt from the parrish church 3 myles."

the region of £20,000. The building is not quite complete, and there is no information available as to the date of it being completed or dedicated.

It has been said it is a complete waste of money to build a new church in such a remote area as West End on the edge of Rocking Moor, where the congregation would not be more than seven or eight persons. Yet it need not be a waste.

The Washburn Valley is recognised and well-known, and is a frequently visited beauty spot. In spring and summer the roads are full of cars whose occupants have come from far and wide to enjoy the scenery. As I remarked, the new church is intended to be used as a dual purpose building. Would it not be possible to arrange short religious services either in the afternoon or evening during the summer months, and invite motor-

### Unusual style

However, the few remaining residents are not to be left without a place of worship, as a completely new church has been built on the high road between the cross-roads and Whinney Hill. This church, as will be seen from the illustration, is a most unusual style of ecclesiastical architecture and a complete breakaway from the traditional period styles; yet the materials used are the ones best suited for the area, being of the stones taken from the demolished Low Mill at West End.

Whatever one's reactions and opinions are of the exterior, it must be added that the interior is quite pleasing, and should prove an asset to the community both spiritually and socially.

It is to be a dual purpose building, being divided at the point where the sloping roof is lowest, the entrance being by a plain stone porch leading to the body of the church (on the left) and parish hall on the right, complete with a small vestry, a kitchen, and possibly two toilets on the other side of the building.

The 'east' window is not what one would expect to find in the able end, and can best be described as an upturned letter U (if the upper portion is to be glass, as the openings had plastic coverings when the sketch was made).

On each side of the building are six tall slender windows, from ground level to roof, and of varying widths of roughly two, four, and one foot wide, which makes the interior light and airy, with the sloping ceilings of polished wood.

### Cost of £20,000

The church has been designed by the City Architect of Leeds, the Corporation of that City paying the entire cost, which will be in-

ists who have gone to enjoy the quiet and beauty of the countryside, to take part—to share and enjoy the equally satisfying peace, quiet and beauty of a church service, after which tea—and even refreshments—could be provided in the adjoining Parish Hall?

All parish churches are essentially parochial, and the new church at West End would still fulfil the requirements, but with a wider and more outward-looking parochialism.

It is not many years ago since a choir and members of Otley Parish Church visited the old church at West End to take part in a service. During summer months arrangements could be made by parish—from near and far—to allow choirs to visit and take part in service at least one Sunday a year.

(To be continued)

17 10 69

## REPORT ON SAXON CROSSES



Following a report in a daily newspaper that a foreign archaeologist visiting this country considered the Saxon crosses, which are a feature of the Ilkley Parish Churchyard, to be deteriorating and advised their removal indoors, the Parochial Church Council has arranged an examination by an architect of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. He reports he had not seen any positive evidence of deterioration in the condition of the crosses and reaffirmed the previous advice that they should remain in situ. The Ministry's advice on the re-bedding of one of the crosses, and on the cleaning and maintenance of the three is to be followed by the Ilkley Council which has agreed to do the work.

## Grammar School draft scheme

### "excluded poorer classes"

#### 100 Years Ago

After consideration by the Charity Commission had at length presented a draft scheme for a proposed change in the management of Ilkley Grammar School, reported the "Ilkley Gazette" for 1 October, 1868. The draft contained 28 clauses and was exhibited at the school and could be seen by ratepayers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

"We are not aware whether the framers of this scheme have acted upon any suggestion from the trustees; but it is evidently their intention of entirely excluding the poorer classes from enjoying those privileges which ought to be accorded to them by this charitable institution, by the establishment of a superior school and a system of superior education or the advantage of those classes who really are not in want of charity and to aid in the education of the progeny.

"Should the proposed scheme be adopted the great bulk of our village children will be prevented from sharing its benefit as the fee is quite beyond the reach of working people, viz: upon entrance 10s. and a quarterly fee from 10s. to 25s. No one can for a moment deny that a suitable higher class school

is one of the many wants of the place, but can we not surely possess such a one without being under the simple necessity of attacking the rights of our poorer brethren, in order that a wealthier section of the community may be benefited thereby.

"It seems to us, therefore, if the people of Ilkley be at all desirous that this charity should still continue advantageous to those for whom it was originally intended, they must take some immediate action in the matter. We would suggest a public meeting being called so that an expression of opinion may be given and such resolutions adopted as may be thought desirable."

#### 75 Years Ago

Ilkley tradesmen met in September, 1893, and unanimously decided to introduce a half day closing on Wednesday with the exception of July, August and September, Mr. T. J. Critchley presided and whilst a "good attendance" of the various trades was reported it was regretted "that no representatives appeared from the grocery trade."

Between 30 and 40 day boys were welcomed at the formal opening of the Ilkley Grammar School in September, 1893. Supporting two of the Governors Mr. F. H. Humphries and Mr. J. C. Naylor were the Headmaster, Mr. F. Swann, Mr. Baines, Mr. E. Dobson, Mr. Othwaite, Mr. Willis, Mr. G. W. Norfolk, Mr. J. C. Barker, and Mr. E. Mawer. It was stated that when the school was in full operation there would be a staff of nine or ten assistant masters. Mr. Humphries said they had been pushing for a Grammar School for the eleven years he had been in Ilkley and for some years before that the funds of the school were locked up in lands and so forth and they had to get the money out of the lands and eventually they had sufficient to build a school.

The "Ilkley Gazette" for the same week contained protests about a "hideous form of practical jokes which local cyclists appeared to regard as the acme of refined humour. They secrete one of the cycling fog horn arrangements beneath their coats, and walking quietly up behind some nervous unsuspecting pedestrian - lady preferred - for it might not be healthy to try the experiment on a man - squeeze the indian rubber ball and let off a startling screech. The victim, thinking she was about to be run over, makes a wild bound for safety. Then the two legged ultra-gentlemanly jack-asses he-haw at the top of their voices."

#### 50 Years Ago

The first Lot offered at a sale of freehold property and land belonging to the Wharfedale (Ilkley) Estate Company in September, 1918, "consisted of the two closes of meadow land known as part of The Holmes, containing an area of about 31 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches; bounded on the north side by Denton Road and on the southerly part by a footpath along the south bank of the river Wharfe, and on the west by Middleton Avenue and the New Bridge. The property has the frontage of the river Wharfe and the fishing rights were included in the sale. The land is in the occupation of Mr. Edwin Wall at an apportioned rent of £31."

Continued the Ilkley Gazette, "The bidding started at £300, the sum of £1,450 was quickly reached but no advance beyond this figure could be obtained and after consultation the lot was withdrawn."

Lot 2, comprising 39 acres, 3 roods, 22 perches of land and plantation, bounded on the south side by Denton Road, on the north by the centre line of Lionel Crescent and Stubham Rise, on the west by the centre line of Middleton Avenue and on the east by the estate of Mr. William Irwin, was withdrawn at £20 per acre.

The lot included the Ilkley Cricket Field let to the Ilkley

Cricket Club on a lease for 17 years from 6 April, 1902, the remaining land being occupied by Mr. Edwin Wall at an apportioned rent of £15 10s., and the woodland let with other shooting on the estate on a tenancy expiring in May, 1919.

Lot 3 consisted of the Ilkley Football Field and Recreation Ground, with frontages to Middleton Avenue and Denton Road on the east and north respectively, bounded on the south bank of the Wharfe, and partly by the centre line of the river, and on the west by Ilkley Old Bridge and its approaches. "The lot is part of The Holmes and contains an area of about 13 acres, 24 perches, with the fishing rights. It is in the occupation of the Ilkley District Council at a rental of £60 per annum on a five years' lease from 1 January, 1915."

Bidding for this lot began at £400 and at £375 the property was knocked down to Mr. S. Wray, Bridge House, Ilkley.

Missleton Low Hall, an old Tudor House, with the cottage, farm buildings and about 3 acres 2 roods, 6 perches of land adjoining, occupied by Mr. E. Wall at an apportioned rent of £35, was sold to Mr. Irving Smith, of Greystones, Middleton, Ilkley, for £1,950.

#### 25 Years Ago

"Presentation of a handsome plaque, certificates and log books in connection with the recent 'Wings for Victory' Week in Ilkley marked the annual meeting of the Ilkley Savings Committee last Friday evening," said the Ilkley Gazette on 1 October, 1943.

Mr. Percy Dalton presided. The presentations were part of an "unusually interesting meeting." The town's "Wings for Victory" campaign, with an objective of £500,000 to bring Ilkley's total savings to £3,000,000, raised £702,000 and established a national record for a town of over 15,000 population.

From the Air Ministry the town was presented with a fine plaque in honour of the occasion. This was received by William Milnes as Chairman of Ilkley Urban Council, and it was to be on view in the Ilkley Savings Centre and also in Burley and Menston. Its final home was to be decided at the next meeting of Ilkley Council.

Squadron Leader F. D. Marshall, District Staff Officer and formerly commanding officer of the Ilkley Air Training Corps, made the presentation on behalf of the Air Ministry and also presented certificates to Mr. Percy Dalton, as President of the Local Savings Committee and to Mrs. F. J. Hawkins as Chairman of the Savings Group. \* \* \*

The death occurred 25 years ago of Mrs. Hampden H. Illingworth, formerly of Netherwood House, Ilkley. One of Wharfedale's leading social workers she was the first woman magistrate on the Otley Bench and one of the first women to be made Justices of the Peace for the West Riding. She served on the committees and held various offices with Ilkley Coronation Hospital, Ilkley Guild of Help, Addingham District Nursing Association, Communal Food Kitchen, Soldier's Rest Room, and Serbian Relief Fund.

April 7<sup>th</sup>  
**CASTLE MUSEUM**  
**AT YORK**  
**CURATOR AT ILKLEY**  
**LUNCHEON**

Curator of the Castle Museum at York, Mr. Paterson, spoke on "The Living Past" at the Ilkley Ladies' Lifeboat Guild Luncheon Club on Wednesday. He outlined his attempt to conserve information about the dying crafts of Yorkshire, such as spinning, handloom weaving, the blacksmith's trade and agriculture, by showing them in actual operation in the Folk Museum at York.

Mr. Paterson detailed the efforts made to save all usable antique brass fittings in condemned buildings, and to preserve old shop-fronts and interiors when possible in constructing the old cobbled street of shops in the museum. In the "street" were included an old-time post office where imitations of the rare Penny Black postage stamp could be bought as a curiosity.

**CRAFTS RECORD**

Instancing flour-milling, Mr. Paterson said if the crafts were not perpetuated in the life-time of the surviving practitioners, very soon it would be too late to find anyone who knew how they had been performed.

Attendance last year at the Castle Museum was 678,000 compared with 900,000 at the British Museum in London, and the figure increased each year, he said.

Mr. Paterson demonstrated the art of using a spindle and showed a box of stone-ground flour similar to that ground in the mill in action at the museum.

For a most interesting and amusing talk, Mr. Paterson was thanked by Mrs. M. Sutherland.

**THE OLD BROOK STREET COFFEE TAVERN**



The coffee tavern at the bottom of Brook Street, now the offices of a Building Society, was a gathering spot for the girls and boys of the village towards the end of the last century. This picture shows some of the young people outside the coffee tavern on the occasion of the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

21.2.69.

**ACROSS THE YEARS**

**Ilkley's first central development**

An account of the building operations in progress in Ilkley was given in the Ilkley Gazette 100 years ago. It speaks of a new house and shop opposite the Listers Arms, another house and shop at the corner of Bridge Lane, and "at the corner of Church Street turning into Brook Street, four very handsome shops and houses." In Leeds Road on the site of the old "smiddy" nearing completion is a house and shop for Mr. George Ickringill, provision merchant. Four of ten new cottages "in Weston Street are tenanted and the rest are being slated". At the bottom of Wellington Road "is Mr. Stephenson's timber yard, workshop and dwelling house. Opposite are six capital cottages, and eight more contracted for to be built adjoining Brook Street, destined for the great business throughfare, has been replenished, six substantial shops and houses filling up the west side". The new Wesleyan Chapel and Minister's house in Wells Road is described as a "very formidable structure." Higher up in Wells Road are the foundations for the Royal Hotel, the new Queen's Road crossed Mill Ghyll

at the site of the Upper Corn Mill. A little way up Cowpasture Road, on the low side, a terrace of three houses is well out of the ground. Ben Rhydding is going much alteration by the addition of another wing to its already ponderous proportions at the north west corner.

**75 Years Ago**

Described as a "brilliant gathering at the Wells House Winter Gardens", a masquerade ball and fancy dress carnival was held in February, 1894. The Gazette gave a long list of characters. It stated that from seven o'clock to ten o'clock was for the juveniles, and by ten o'clock there was a lively and motley group. Smoke and retiring rooms were provided. There were numerous spectators. Mr. H. J. Rose and Mr. S. Gill were the Masters of Ceremony.

The first general meeting of the Addingham Manufacturing Co. Ltd., formed for the purpose of carrying on the business conducted at Town Head Mill by Messrs. Hartley and Hargreaves was held in the Wesleyan Infants School

ILKLEY GAZETTE

1.7.69

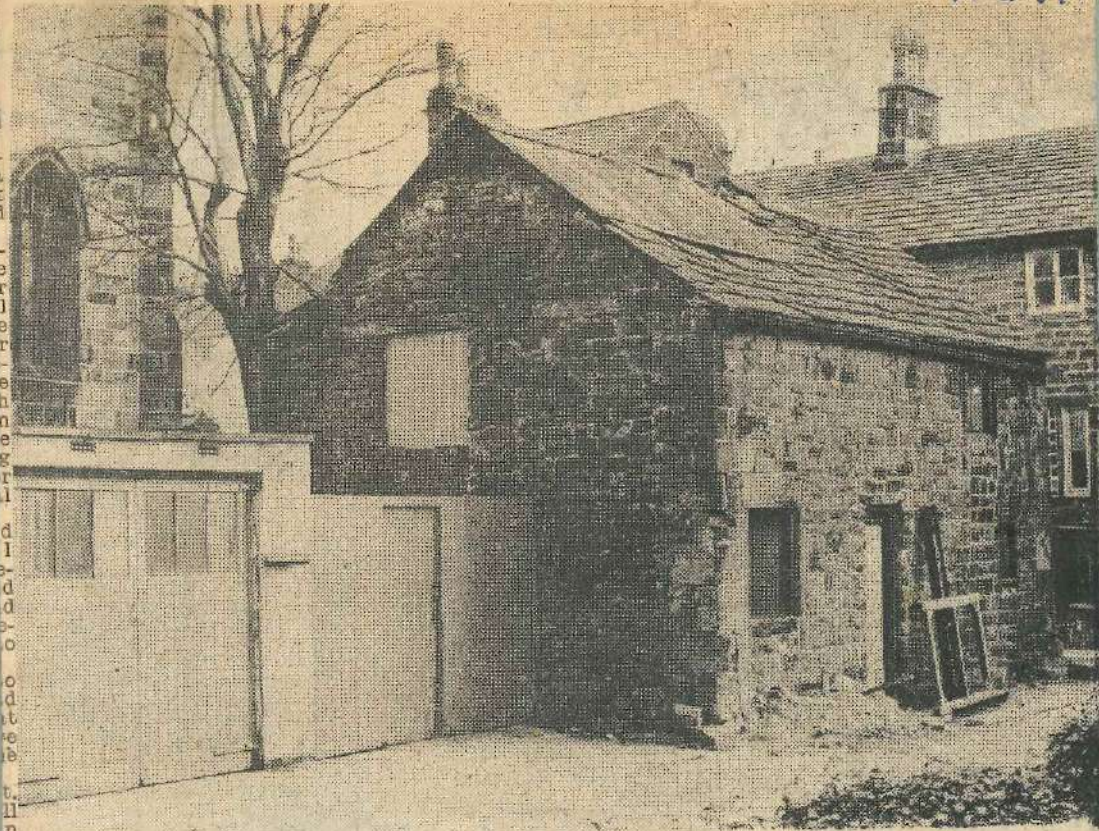
**THE OLD ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL**



An old picture of the Rose and Crown Hotel in Church Street, Ilkley, which came into the market

## ILKLEY'S OLDEST SHOP PROPERTY

18. 4. 69.



Ilkley Council has authorised its Surveyor to discuss with the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works and the Ilkley Parochial Church Council the future of the old stone building in Castle Yard, Ilkley. The building is believed to be the oldest shop property in Ilkley. The Planning Committee has been told that the architect acting for the Parochial Church Council has suggested a new approach to both the Church House and the Manor House, Ilkley. This would include two flights of steps from Church Street, on both sides of an existing tree which was to remain, to a paved area extending to steps down to the Manor House yard level. It would also be desirable to acquire and remove a garage in Castle Yard and provide alternative accommodation for the present occupier. An old stone building, the property of the Church Council, existed in the Castle Yard. This building would seem to be worthy of preservation. The Surveyor has told the Planning Committee that the suggestions were reasonable and if approved some of the works could be carried out as part of the proposed landscaping of the church yard. The Clerk was authorised to institute negotiations for the acquisition by the Council of the garage and site.

## NO WEATHER EROSION OF SAXON CROSSES



A Ministry of Works inspection of the Saxon Crosses in the grounds of the Ilkley Parish Church has revealed no signs of any erosion by the weather. However, work has been carried out by Ilkley Urban Council on a Ministry recommendation for the improvement of the base of one of the crosses. Picture illustrates the removal of the cross on the east side for the construction of a concrete base on which the plinth to the cross now rests. The cross, the smallest of the three and measuring about five feet in length and weighing about three cwt., had become unstable with the settling of the ground. A kerb has also been placed around the crosses to prevent water splashing on them.

23. 10. 69.

## PRIESTHOLES IN YORKSHIRE

17. 10. 69  
Dr. Winifred I. Haward, author of many books on hides and secret rooms, was the first speaker of the season to address the Olicana Museum and Historical Society. Dr. Haward confined her talk to "Priest holes in Yorkshire." The priest hole was a small dark room located close to the chapel and as far away as possible from the entrance to the house, she explained. The holes, or hides, were necessary in the days of persecution, when the penalty for being caught was a traitor's death with all the barbarities of being hanged, drawn and quartered. Mass was celebrated in all the large Catholic households, and in many of the smaller houses. To hide the vestments and chalice was a fairly simple matter, but to provide space for a man to hide was much more difficult. The pursuivants, or searchers, were ruthless people, rooms were measured and sounded, panelling stripped away, floorboards torn up, and holes broken through masonry of walls and chimneys.

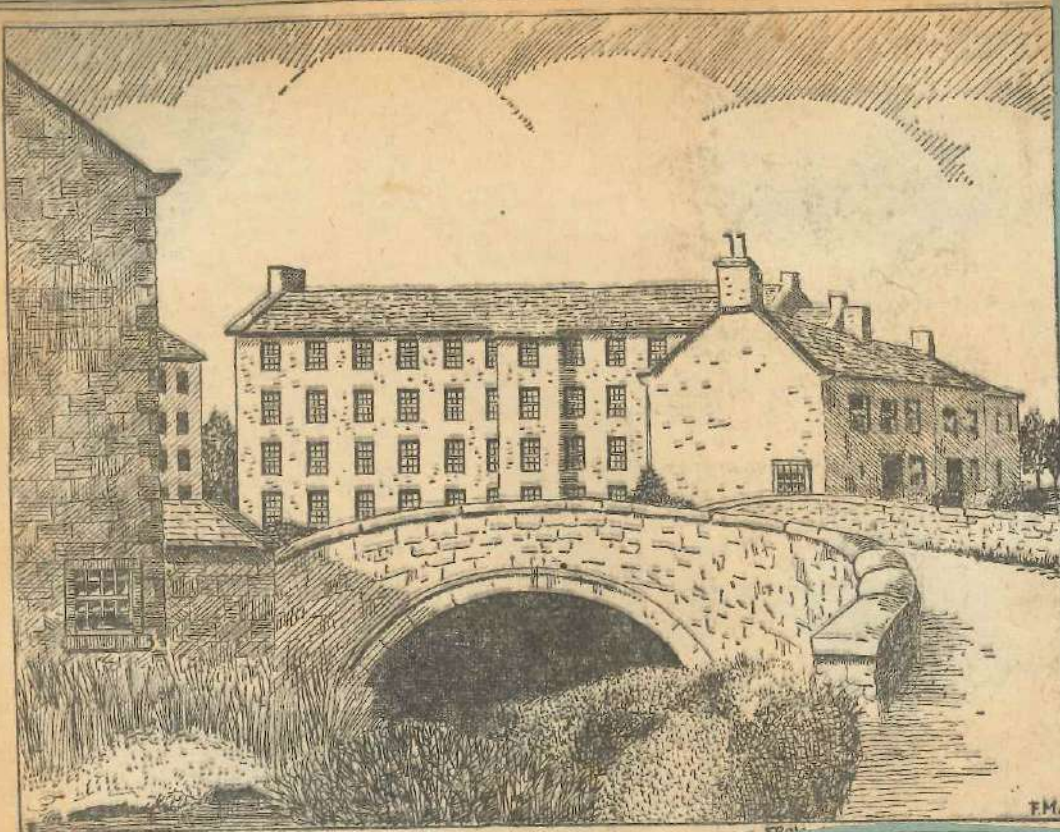
### MOST INTERESTING

Perhaps the most interesting house in Yorkshire was Burghwallis Hall near Doncaster. It had an excellent hide which was believed to have been constructed by the greatest of hide-makers, Nicholas Owen. The hide was between two chimneys and was approached along a cat-walk in the roof beams. The house was built by the Annes of Prickley, a strong Catholic family, in Tudor times. It remained in the family until recent times when it became a convent.

Another skilful hide-maker in the north was Father Richard Holtby, a Jesuit, who worked in the North Riding and County Durham. It was possible that he constructed the double hide at Hawksworth Hall. He was known to have visited Hawksworth Hall in 1581 and the Hawksworths were concealing seminary priests at that time. Hawksworth Hall had a further two hides. Possibly all three were not constructed at one time.

Local houses of interest were Low Hall at Middleton. It had a room over the porch with an oriel window which was still known as the chapel. This was the home of the Middleton family until 1610 when they moved to Middleton Lodge, where there was a secret chapel in the attic.

Houses with hides invariably had a ghost, said Dr. Haward, usually in the form of a white lady. She was seen entering the hide, or following a secret route. In the case of Burghwallis Hall the ghost was a "Grey man" who walked the length of the room immediately below the cat-walk in the roof beams.



LOW MILL WEST END, c.1900

21.2.69.

## WORKHOUSE CHILDREN PROVIDED LABOUR FOR THE MILLS

By FREDERICK MORRELL

The accompanying sketch is from a faded photograph taken some time between 1895 and 1900, at a time when West End was already deserted and three of its four mills already in ruins.

Aked's Mill, the largest of the four, was burned down about 1830 and never re-opened, followed a few years later by the closure of Patrick's (or High Mill) and Little Mill, with only Low Mill working by 1841. The latter, which had been the first in the valley to spin flax, continued after 1841 as a cotton mill, then flax again, and finally for the spinning of hemp and twine, until 1889 when it finally closed the story of the West End Mills came to an end.

As will be seen from the sketch, Low Mill, of four stories, was standing, as were the outbuildings and the mill cottages near the bridge, and also the large warehouse (to be seen between the mill and the house on the left of the sketch), all of which were completely roofed.

However, a great change had taken place within the next thirty years, as when I made some sketches in 1930, all the mill cottages had disappeared; only one gable end of the mill was standing; the warehouse was intact, but roofless; all the outbuildings were in a ruined condition; and the once large mill pond had an island in the middle, surrounded by a little water.

Why was the small river of the Washburn and its tributary, the Cappelshaw Beck, chosen as a site for four mills? The same reason, no doubt, as the city of Leeds had in deciding to build four reservoirs in the Washburn valley—the plentiful supply of water.

The principal factor is the working of early mills, whether they were corn mills, fulling mills, flax or paper mills, was a sufficient water supply to feed the water wheels, and it is amazing the ingenuity and tremendous expense required in the construction of the dams, weirs and water courses necessary in this small deep valley to supply four flax mills.

Aked's Dam, for instance, marked on Ordnance Survey maps on the edge of Rocking Moor, was three-quarters of a mile above the mill of that name, fed another dam (the weir of which is crossed by the present road), and between which was a weir feeding two long leats, supplying power to the three water wheels of Aked's Mill.

A short distance below was another weir and dam feeding Little Mill by a mill race some 500 yards in length, banked up on the South bank of Cappelshaw Beck. Just below was a weir from which ran a mill-race or leat to High Mill, which had one large water wheel. Below the junction of this beck with the river Washburn, another weir supplied the dam of Low Mill, which measured some 200 yards long by 70 yards wide.

As the power was cheap in these

mills, so also was the labour, the mill-owners preferring women and girls, and peupers from workhouses—usually girls, and boys from 8 to 10 years of age.

Wages were poor and the hours of work long. A doffer (a boy or a girl) received about 1/6 per week; a spinner from 4/6 to 5/6, and reelers 6/6 to 7/6 a week, these being the average wages between 1825 and 1835.

The only men employed were those who looked after, or repaired, the machinery, and received about 17/- per week, as did the overlookers, who were usually a type of character selected primarily as being likely to strike fear into the hearts of apprentices, either by word or deed.

The periods of work were somewhat different from the hours worked in industry today. Most mills worked continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day, with the exception of Saturday when the hours were from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., only Sunday being free.

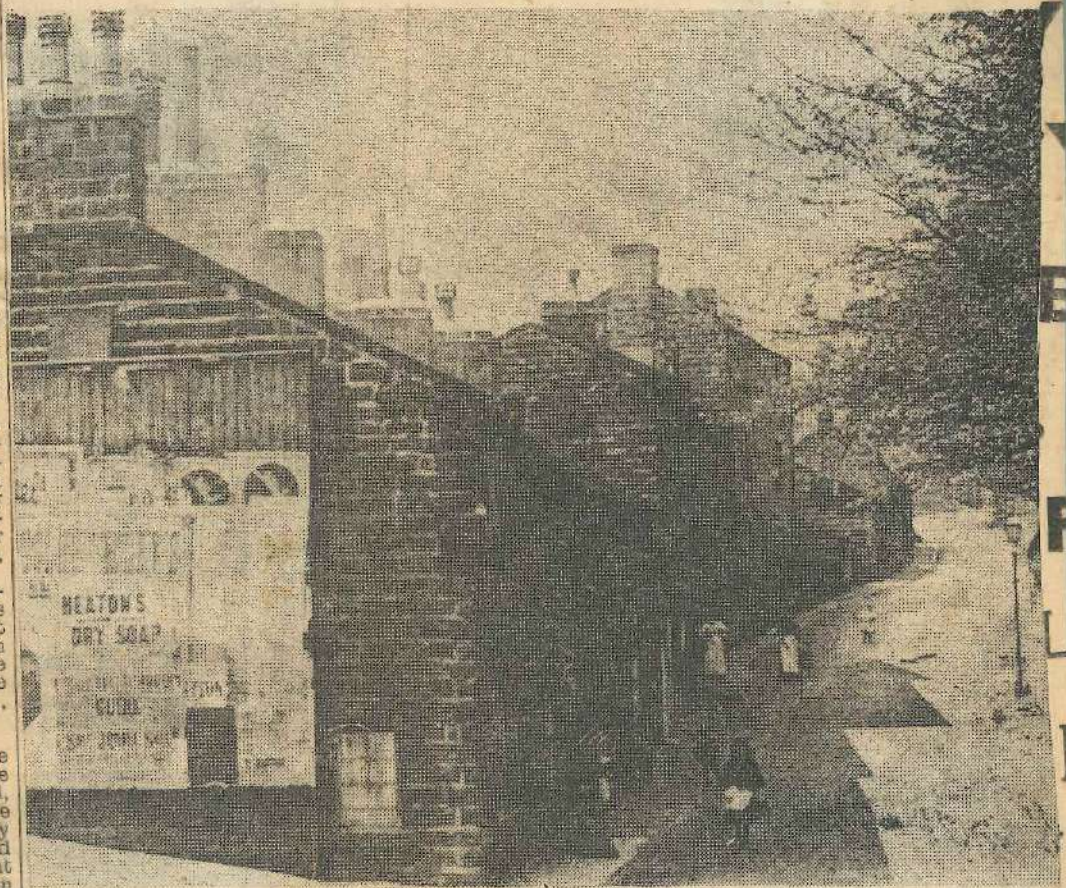
There are many references to the working conditions in mills before the Factory Act of 1833 was passed, and particularly interesting are some MS notes at present in my possession, written in 1830, and headed, "An Eyewitness account of Child Labour in Otley Mill in 1825, by W. Brown of Otley," and from which I quote short extracts:

"Mr. —, the mill-owner, was a man of cruel and excitable nature—the children employed as spinners were combers' children, and all his workpeople who had children had to send them to the mill or be discharged—dozens of boys and girls, eight years of age, were seen at six in the morning going to work until six at night—I have seen them going with their porridge cans, their only source of sustenance for the day—they worked for nothing the first week, and for 2/- after—Flour was 4/6 a stone and wheat 100 shillings a bushel—I worked at this mill and am an eyewitness of the things recorded.—Four boys ran away on Thursday—One day Mr. — seized a comber's hair and pulled it out—I saw him catch a boy wasting oil, he had sore eyes, and he (Mr. —) took a handful of waste soaked with oil and rubbed it in the lad's eyes—We dare not do anything, he would sack us—and much more existed by the overlookers who carried a greasy strap, an eighth of an inch thick, which they used on many occasions—these children in winter were never outside the mill in daylight . . ."

These conditions would be similar in most, but not all, mills before the '10 Hour Bill' was passed.

Dr. Robert Collyer, who emigrated to America, and later became a noted pastor in New York, lived at Blubberhouses and recorded his childhood in the Washburn Valley. He went to school when four years old, and left at the age of eight, to work 'full-time' at Westhouses Mill, where 'there were no half-holidays, but work, work

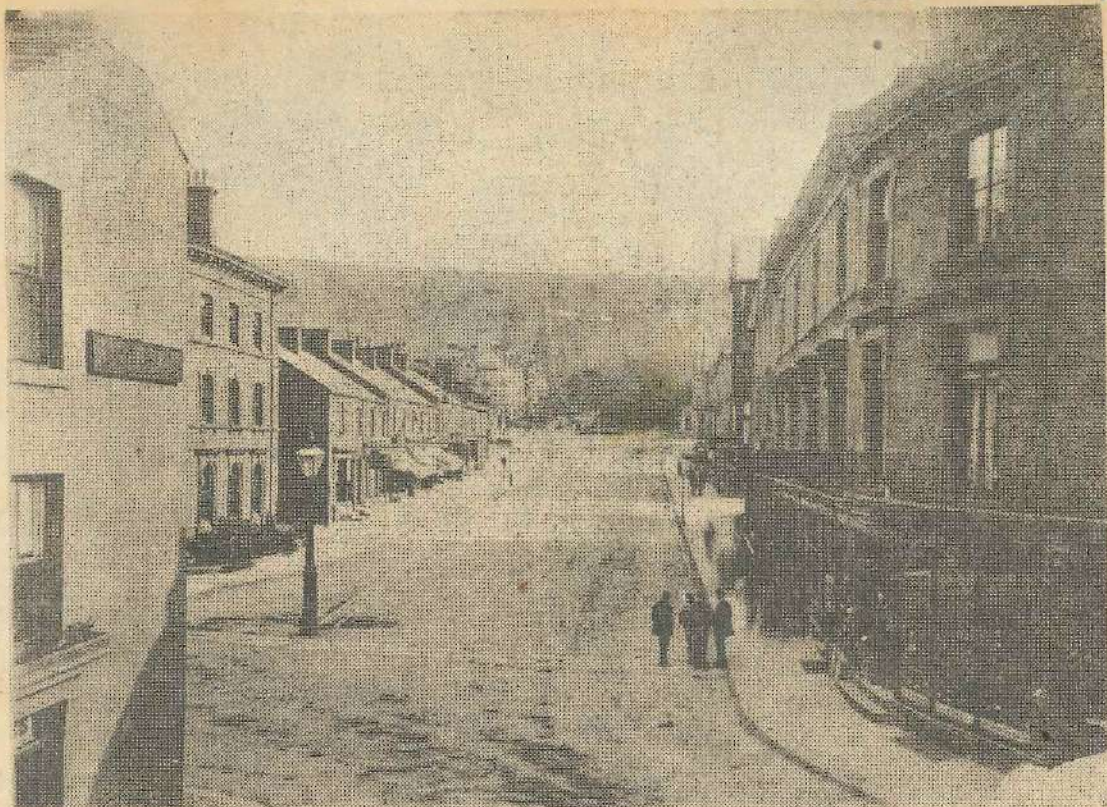
## CHAPEL LANE OF SOME YEARS AGO



In comparison with the illustration above this picture shows Chapel Lane before some of the ages which stood in the lower half of the lane were demolished.

1-8-69





A view looking up Brook Street before the railway was extended to Skipton. At that time there were three inns across the bottom of Brook Street, the Wheatshaf, the Wharfedale and the Star.

**WHARFEDALE RAILWAY**

**HISTORY (PART 4)**

**OTLEY AND ILKLEY LINE  
TOOK TWO YEARS**

Work on the building of the Otley—Ilkley Railway began in July, 1863, and the first passenger trains to Ilkley ran on 1 August, 1865. At the peak period of the work 505 men and 56 horses were engaged on it. Three lives were lost.

This is the fourth of the series of articles on early railway history in Wharfedale. They are based on a thesis by Mrs. Marian Lander of Ilkley.

On 30 October, 1861, the Midland and North Eastern Companies met at the Midland Station in Leeds to appoint a Committee for the construction of the line from Ilkley to Otley. John Ellis, one of the Midland directors was Chairman, and John Hawkshaw was appointed Standing Arbitrator at a fee of 10 guineas for each day his services were required. Two engineers, Thomas E. Harrison and John S. Crossley were appointed.

The next Committee meeting in January, 1863, heard a report from Mr. Crossley that the centre line of the proposed work had been staked out and the section made. He asked the Committee to discredit the stories that the site for the Otley station was to be moved.

**TENDER ACCEPTED**

Two men were appointed to purchase land. Mr. Christopher Bradley was given the job from Otley to Milner Bank and a Mr. Trethewy from the remainder of the way to Ilkley. Advertisements were inserted in daily newspapers inviting tenders, and 9 July, 1863 that of Rennie, Logan, Matthews and Company was accepted. On 12 August, 1863, Mr. Crossley reported that the work was well in hand and requested £12,000 should be made available for the purchase of the land for stations at Otley, Burley, Wheatley (for Ben Rhydding) and Ilkley. By October, 1863, 217 men were being employed on construction work, and nearly 23,000 yards of excavation had been completed. In November Mr. Crossley was complaining of unsatisfactory progress by the contractor whose explanation was that there had been continuous heavy rain.

Plans were submitted to the Committee in this month for goods sheds costing £500 each, Station Masters houses costing £300 and porters cottages costing £100 each. It was reported that the Trustees of the Chippendale property in Otley were asking £3,000 for land required by the railway. Mr. Crossley considered this was almost double the market value. The case was submitted to arbitration and £2,000 agreed.

**LAND PAYMENTS**

At the Ilkley end of the line, the Trustees for the Sedbergh School accepted £2,785 after some argument. People affected by the building of the line were given compensation. In the Ilkley Parish John C. Kay received £2,250 including cost of building a new homestead; William and Lister Bolling £700; James Thackray £600 (lessee and occupier as lodging house keeper, 30 years unexpired); Isabella Gee, £900 similar to Thackray; John W. Usher £550 sub-lessee 15 years, chemist and druggist; Peter Middleton £2,600 including valuable building land in Main Street. A Mr. Watson near Ilkley asked for £6,000 for land which the arbitrator valued at £821. Action was taken for immediate possession of land required for the line against Mr. Hope Shaw and Sedbergh School.

**STATIONS**

Israel Thornton, a local contractor, successfully tendered for Otley (£1,950), Ilkley (£2,770) and Burley (£2,000) stations. Mr. Crossley reported that in April, 1864 progress was still slow even though the contractor was now employing 424 men and 53 horses on the work. Again bad weather was blamed for the small amount of work done. Mr. Crossley, however went on to say that the bridges were almost completed and as good weather could now be expected the contract should be completed by September.

The last statement proved to be wildly optimistic, and in August Mr. Crossley was complaining bitterly about the lack of progress. He felt that with the number of men employed, double the quantity of work should have been achieved. By September the contractor was employing 450 men and better progress was being made with 2,662 yards of the permanent way laid, and all the bridges almost completed. It was agreed in this month that only a temporary booking office and a wooden waiting shed be erected on the site where Wheatley (Ben Rhydding) station would eventually stand.

Mr. Crossley cause for complaint. The platforms at Otley were finished and gravelled, but the roof was not yet on. The engine turntable was fixed and was in full working order.

Meanwhile the North Eastern Company had almost completed their exclusive line part of the line from Arthington to Otley, but there was difficulty before the line was authorised to be opened.

**GENTRY COMPLAIN**

Major Rhodes and Mr. Darwin of Arthington complained that the new approach road to Arthington station was unscreened and that as a result the horses would be frightened by trains. They received little sympathy from the Directors of the North Eastern Board.

Eventually, after a series of curt notes between their Lordships at the Board of Trade and the Secretary of the North Eastern Company authorisation to use the line for passenger and goods traffic was finally given on 20 January, 1865. On 1 February 1865 trains ran from Arthington to Otley for the first time. This caused great rejoicing in the town. The bellringers rang all day for a fee of 1s. 6d. each plus a free ride on the railway from Otley to Pool and back. The chief benefit that the railway brought to the ordinary inhabitants of Otley was no more tolls would have to be paid on coal coming in. A large banner across Kirkgate expressed success to the railway.

**PRIVACY QUESTION**

One final item of interest in respect of this section of the line was an impassioned plea on behalf of Mr. Darwin of Kirsill Hall. His agent pointed out that if the station was built at the southern point of the junction with the Leeds Northern line, it would overlook Mr. Darwin's residence, completely destroying his privacy. Indeed, Mr. Darwin felt if the station were built on this site he and his family would be obliged to desert for ever this place of his birth. He painted pictures of trains stuck in Arthington tunnel with passengers sitting in darkness until trains blocking Arthington tunnel moved on. The Company had the answers to all his problems and the station was built at the southern junction.

By January, 1865 Mr. Crossley was reporting good progress on the Ilkley-Otley line. He told the Committee that more than half the permanent way was completed. He was asked to have the line ready for opening on 1 March. Bad weather and earth movement at Mountstead made this impossible. He was no further in April.

**WATER AND GAS**

The water for the engines and the station at Burley was to be supplied by Mr. H. B. Crofton of Burley at the sum of £12 per annum. In Ilkley, water for the station was to be supplied by Mr. Peter Middleton from his mill stream at a cost of sixpence per thousand gallons. Both Burley and Otley Gas Companies agreed to supply gas to the stations at 5s. per thousand cubic feet. At Burley the Joint Committee agreed to pay £20 towards the laying down of the gas main, but at Otley they were to supply the labour themselves for this work.

By December 1864 the Contractor was employing 505 men and 56 horses together with the use of one engine. The progress still gave

**INSPECTION STAGE**

A month later the whole of the Committee rode the line in an engine and one carriage. After this Mr. Crossley was instructed to provide goods sheds and coal drops at Ilkley and Burley stations and to complete the temporary station accommodation at Ben Rhydding. By 9 May only 4,048 yards of permanent way were left to be laid, and on 30 June the contractors reported the line ready for Board of Trade inspection.

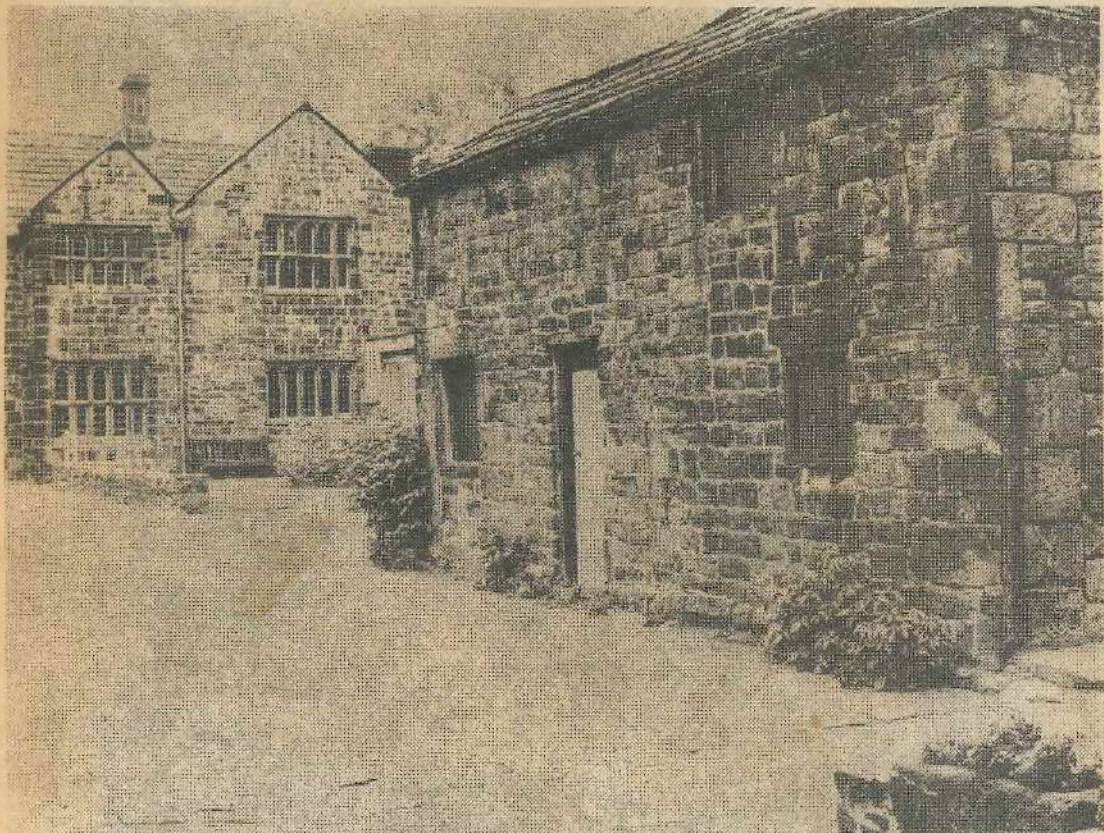
On 21 June Mr. Crossley reported a special Committee meeting that junctions with the Midlands exclusive line from Apperley were being put in and would be finished in a few days. By the middle of July the Board of Trade had authorised the opening of the line and arrangements were made for the first passenger trains to run on 1 August, 1865.

The building of this short stretch had caused the lives of three men employed by the contractor. First Michael McBay was killed by a fall of earth in Milner Wood cutting on 7 September, 1863; Thomas Scott was run over by a tip waggon near Otley, and Richard Holt died after being hit by a piece of rock at Milner Wood cutting.

CONT TOP  
OF 4th COLUMN.

July 1970

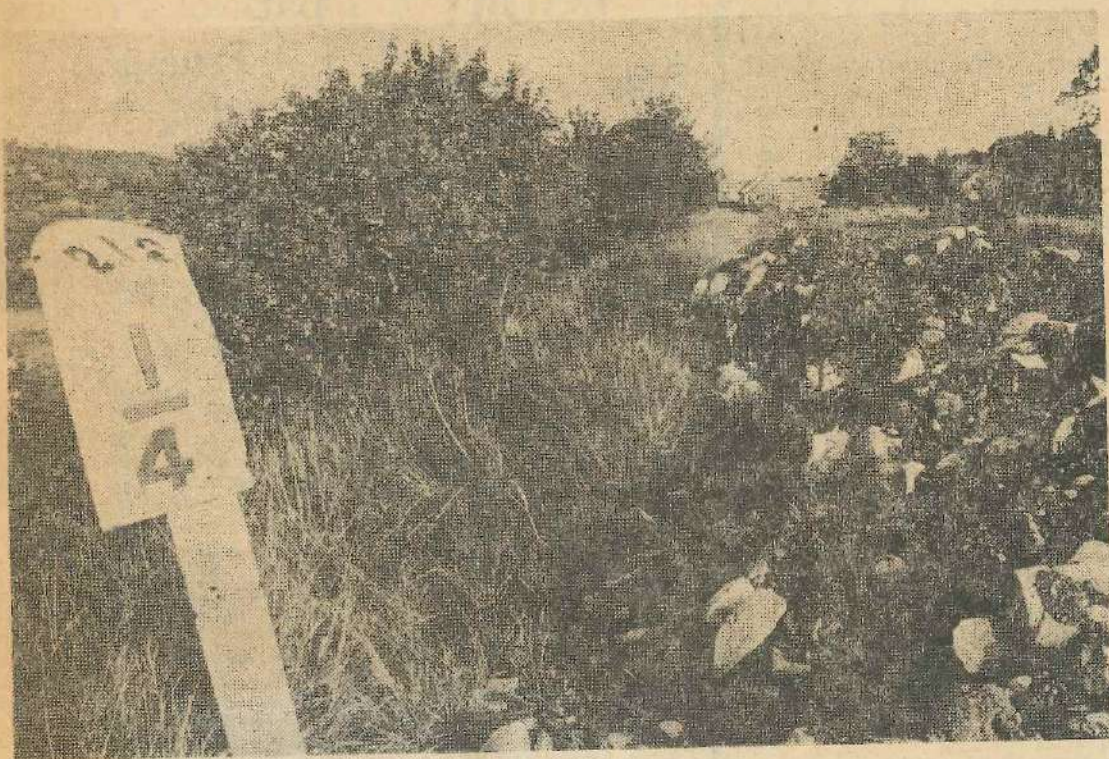
### MOVES TO SAVE BUILDING



Representatives of the Ilkley Civic Society, the Friends of the Manor House, the Ilkley Art Club have met representatives of the Parish Church Parochial Council and the Chairman of the Council's Amenities Committee to discuss the future of the old building in Castle Yard which had been earmarked for demolition. They had before them professional opinions that the building was worth being saved for its former association with the Manor House and later as one of the first three shops to serve Ilkley. It was probably erected in the early 18th century. The building is shown on the right with part of the Manor House in the background.

6. Nov 1970

### RAILWAY RELIC FOR MUSEUM



Standing as a stark reminder of the past this railway indicator on the embankment leaving Ilkley on the former Skipton line, is to be preserved. The indicator, marking a distance of 212½ miles from this point to London, has been donated to the Yorkshire Dales Railway Society which is preserving all that remains of the Ilkley-Skipton line (opened in 1838 and closed in 1965) at Embsay. It is there within the precincts of the railway station and goods yard that a museum of transport archaeology with particular emphasis on railways, is being established.

6 11 70

### Y COMMITTEE

27. 11. 70

### CATTLE DRIVES IN YORKSHIRE

#### OLICANA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Mr. Kenneth Bonser, author of a forthcoming book entitled "The Drovers," addressed members of the Olicana Museum and Historical Society on Thursday of last week. Mr. Bonser has made a detailed study, not only of Yorkshire drove roads, but of the whole system from the Western Isles of Scotland to London. He said a good drover was a man who could get his cattle to London in good condition. A bullock worth £3 in the Highlands would sell for £15-£18 at Smithfield.

The journey would take up to three months. As well as overnight stops longer periods were spent at certain points. One of the principal centres in this area was Great Close on Malham Moor. The cattle were driven across the Solway Firth at low tide, or through Gretna and on to Carlisle. Gradually they made their way south to Malham. Here they rested for a time, grazing the lush meadow in this 732 acre pasture. Often as many as 5,000 head of cattle would be grazing at one time.

#### IN WHARFEDALE

From Malham the journey would continue along Mastiles Lane to Kilnsey, across the Wharfe to Grassington and over into Nidderdale. Others would follow the north side of the Wharfe to Appletreewick, where it is still possible to see the stone drinking troughs on the roadside. A further route from Malham would be to Skipton, Addingham through Wingate Nick and on to Silsden.

A second major route from the North followed the west bank of the North Tyne making for Hexham and Stagshaw Bank. The road south from Hexham went through Blanchland and Stanhope to Eggleston-on-Tees, across the Vale of Mowbray climbing to the Cleveland Hills through Scarth Nick, under the shadow of Black Hambleton and on to Sutton Bank.

#### CATTLE SHOD

Many of the cattle were shod with shoes similar to horse shoes except that eight shoes had to be fitted to each animal because cattle are cloven-hoofed.

As well as taking cattle on this long journey to London, geese and turkeys were also taken. Turkeys were the more difficult, they took longer to gather together each morning because of their tendency to roost in trees. The geese and turkeys could not be fitted with shoes, but their feet were dipped in hot tar and then sprinkled with sand.

One result of the increase in cattle passing through the countryside was an increase in enclosures. Where the cattle stopped for grazing, such as at Great Close, there was a great improvement in the quality of the grass.

The droving trade finally died a natural death in the mid-nineteenth century, when new markets grew up at rail centres. The inns used by the drovers have been converted into private dwellings or have fallen down. We are now left with many miles of green tracks, where it is possible to walk and enjoy the countryside away from the motor car.

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# AN ERA OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP ENDS AT LEEDS ROAD HALL

An era of Christian worship drew to a close last weekend with the final services at Leeds Road Congregational Hall. The hall was opened in 1902, but recently patches of dry rot were discovered in the roof timbers and it was decided the expense of £1,000 for repairs was not justified under present circumstances.

The following report is a merger of two contributions referring to the history of Leeds Road Hall and its final services.

It is with sadness we have to report the closing of Leeds Road Congregational Hall. Three large patches of dry rot have been found in the roof timbers and after a long and difficult period of discussion, both among the members at the hall and also with the members at the Grove Congregational Church, it was decided that the spending of over £1,000 to effect the repairs would not be justified under present circumstances. The final services were conducted on the occasion of the Sunday school Anniversary when services were taken by Mr. Stanley Shackleton, of the Bradford City Mission. Large congregations at both services were urged to look back, not with sadness but with thanksgiving and to look forward to serving Jesus Christ in different places and under different circumstances.

## THANKSGIVING

Mr. Shackleton took the theme of joyous thanksgiving for all that the Leeds Road Hall had stood for during the 68 years it had been open. In the morning, he spoke to the children on "Light and the Word of God," and had them singing a chorus with a similar theme. In the evening he told the people to be joyful, for though the Church Hall may be closing, what it had stood for during the years would never finish but go on and on. The Church was the people and if they had the spirit of God powerfully flowing through them, the Church would be alive wherever they were. Mr. Shackleton ended by encouraging the people to go out of the Hall with a blaze of glory and thanksgiving.

## IN 1899

The plan to build a mission chapel in the Leeds Road area was first raised in October, 1899, during the first year of the pastorate of the Rev. F. H. Blanchford. It was decided to build a school chapel in the Ash Grove district, as a portion of the contribution of the Ilkley Congregational Church to the 20th Century Fund. The estimated cost of the land and buildings was £100 to £200.

In the meantime a house (24, Ashland Terrace) was secured at a rental of eight shillings per week, where a Sunday afternoon class was established and an evening service started. A Mothers' Meeting began in September, 1900.

The erection of the stone building at the corner of Leeds Road and Dean Street was begun in 1901 and four foundation stones were laid on 27 October by Mrs. Mercer Wade, Mr. H. Duncan, M.P., Mr. J. E. Gaunt and Mr. C. J. Muff. The cost of the land and buildings was £1,642 5s. 1d. The first service in the Hall was held on 20 July, 1902, and it was formally opened on 10 September of the same year.

The first committee consisted of Mrs. Hillyard, Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Blanchford, Mrs. Crawshaw, Mrs. Nutter, Miss M. Gaunt, Mr. J. Firth, Mr. A. Gaunt, Mr. E. G. Muff, Mr. W. E. Firth, Mr. M. Gaunt and Mr. K. F. Hood.

By 1904 there were 100 Sunday School scholars on the books, and more room was required. It was decided to extend the Hall at the rear and the foundation stones were laid in September, 1905, by Mrs. J. E. Gaunt, Mrs. B. M. Hood, Mrs. C. J. Muff and Mrs. W. Mercer Wade. The stones were dated 20 May, 1905.

Again in the 1930's, the size of the Hall proved inadequate and a further room was added to the south west corner. This was provided under the energetic leadership of Mr. C. A. Crook. This was built during the second half of 1939 and was known as the "Violet Heaps Room."

The Rev. Thomas Hamer superintended the work of the Hall from its inception until 1902, when he retired owing to ill health. He was followed as Warden by Mr. Nutter (1902-06), Mr. E. J. Boyd (1906-16), Miss Ibberson (1919-33), Mr. C. A. Crook (1933-50) and Mr. A. E. Crook (1950-70).

"Of the many faithful workers who took part in the work of the Hall in its early days, the following should have special mention. Miss Violet Heaps, Mr. J. C. Boyd, Mr. A.

Nicholson, Mr. R. Firth, Mr. W. E. Firth, Mr. H. Coulter, Mr. C. S. Witting, Dr. Chaplin, Mr. E. J. Boyd and Mrs. Duncan."

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee services were held on 29 June, 1952, when the speaker was the Minister of the time, the Rev. R. H. Sabin, and the soloist, Madame Clara Ramsden, of Bradford. On the following day a Jubilee Concert was held.

Other well-known Ministers from the Congregational Church who have conducted services at the Hall are the Rev. J. A. Figures, Minister of the Ilkley Congregational Church before the second World War, sometime Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and now Moderator of the North Western Province; the Rev. John Smith, then Moderator of the North Eastern Province; the Rev. H. Cunliffe-Jones, then Principal of the United Independent College, Bradford; the Rev. A. R. Vine, Chairman of the Free Church Council; the Rev. J. N. Beard, Secretary of the Yorkshire Congregational Union. Those from the Methodist Church include the Rev. T. M. Morrow, then Warden of the Wesley Deaconess College, Ilkley, and now Chairman of the W. Yorkshire Methodist District, and Dr. W. R. Maltby, a previous Warden of the Deaconess College.

## OFFICERS

Later Officers of the Hall were Mr. A. Nicholson, Secretary and Treasurer sometime before 1931 to 1935; Mr. A. S. Dean, Secretary from 1935 to 1940; Mr. C. A. Crook, Treasurer from 1935 to 1950; Mr. A. Bell, Secretary from 1940 to 1953; Mr. A. Wood, Treasurer from 1950 to 1970; and Mr. A. H. Bell, Secretary from 1953 to 1970.

"The Hall had always depended in large measure on the services of lay preachers to conduct the evening services and while it is, of course, impossible to mention them all, this report would be incomplete without mentioning with gratitude the Rev. and Mrs. F. Goodwin Britton, Mr. E. G. Drake, of Bradford, Mr. H. J. Playford, of Bradford, Mr. D. Firth, of Bradford, and many others over the years.

## LAST COUNCIL

"This report included the first committee of the Hall. These are the names of the last Council: Mr. A. E. Crook (Steward), Mrs. C. Crook, Mr. A. H. Bell (Secretary and pianist), Mrs. M. Bell (Sunday School teacher), Mr. A. Wood (Treasurer), Mrs. A. Wood, Mr. N. Clayton (Senior School Superintendent), Mrs. M. Mitchell (Primary School Superintendent and Secretary of the Women's Meeting), Mrs. M. Filewood, Mr. G. Ware (Care-taker), Mrs. R. Ware and Mrs. I. Beecroft (Officers of the Young Wives Group) and Mr. F. Wilkinson.

# He knew White Wells before they were covered in

## 100 Years Ago

It is just over a hundred years ago that the "Ilkley Gazette" moved into the premises built for it in Brook Street (now the Thrift Stores) and among the many visitors to express their good wishes for the future was an old man who, close on 90 years of age, had a long association with the village. He had known as Vicars of Ilkley the Rev. George Benson and the Rev. Holdsworth Fenton, and was a friend of the holder of the living, the Rev. J. Snowden. The visitor, who was not named, said he had come to Ilkley as a young man on the recommendation of his doctor who told him there was something in the air and water which the profession could not account for. On his early visits to Ilkley he placed the credit for living to his matured age. "He bathed at the old white wells which still exist at the side of the moor but at that time were not covered in. He remonstrated with old Betty Butterfield under whose care they were, and was told that if they were they wouldn't be half as sweet." The only conveyance for visitors to reach Bolton Abbey and other places was "Dick Batty cart." He added that the "aristocratic visitors at that time were accommodated with lodgings either at the corner house, opposite the station, occupied by Miss Batty, or at the Low House in Bridge Lane."

## 75 Years Ago

The resignation of Mr. Marshall Hainsworth, Surveyor to the Ilkley Urban District Council, came as a shock to the township at the end of May, 1895. He had accepted

another similar position with the Teddington (Middlesex) Urban District Council. Mr. Hainsworth had been at Ilkley for 13 years and was appointed from over 100 applicants.

Mrs. Lucy Cooke, Summerfield, Ilkley, wrote to draw attention to the purchase of Highfield Villa, above the Cow and Calf, as a permanent home for the Children's Summer Holiday Home and the first batch of children was due from Leeds at the beginning of June. She appealed for gifts of food, toys and books, and any sports equipment, and for young ladies willing to assist with the visitors.

Another correspondent complained about the speed of cyclists passing through the centre of the village and with the season about to open and the consequent number of visitors likely to be about it was requested that the attention of the police be drawn to the matter.

## 50 Years Ago

"The Ilkley District Council workers came out on strike this morning," said the "Ilkley Free Press" and "Gazette" on Friday, 21 May, 1920. It was in connection with their demand for 10s per week increase in wages. "Only the gas workers are continuing work during the day, and they are only working out their shifts," the report indicated.

Between 90 and 90 men were affected.

## Archbishop's Houses in Yorkshire

The President of the Olicana Museum and Historical Society, Mrs. J. Le Patourel, gave the first of the winter series of lectures to members of the Society on Thursday of last week.

After briefly outlining the extent of the lands held by the Archbishops, and mentioning some of the houses owned by them, from Ripon to Bishop Burton, Patrington to Bishop Wilton, Mrs. Le Patourel went on to describe the excavation work carried out on the Archbishop's residence at Otley.

At some time between the 5th and 10th Centuries the ecclesiastical centre for Mid-Wharfedale moved from Ilkley to Otley. The lands held in this area extended from Addingham in the west to Arthington in the east, and from Baildon in the south to Stainburn and beyond in the north, but Denton and Askwith appear to have been excluded.

Archbishop Oswald complained that much of his land in Mid-Wharfedale had been taken from him by the Vikings between 972-992 A.D. Thirty years later much of the land was restored to the ownership of the Archbishops.

## Excavations

The excavations at Otley were carried out by volunteers under the guidance of Mrs. Le Patourel. The site was to become the site for a new school and it was therefore not possible to excavate the whole of the area. No pre-Conquest building was excavated, but by means of plans and slides it was possible to see where the earlier building may have been located.

The excavations revealed a room 120 feet long which formed the wing of a larger building, the base of a circular staircase was unearthed, proving that the building was of two stories. The chapel had been extended on various occasions and the eastern end changed from an apse to a rectangle.

In the course of the dig a great amount of ash was unearthed and it is probable that this dates from 1322 when the Scots sacked Otley.

All associated with the Hall in any way, from the children to the old folk, would wish to record their gratitude for the loyal and devoted service of these people, given unstintingly in love and caring over the years.

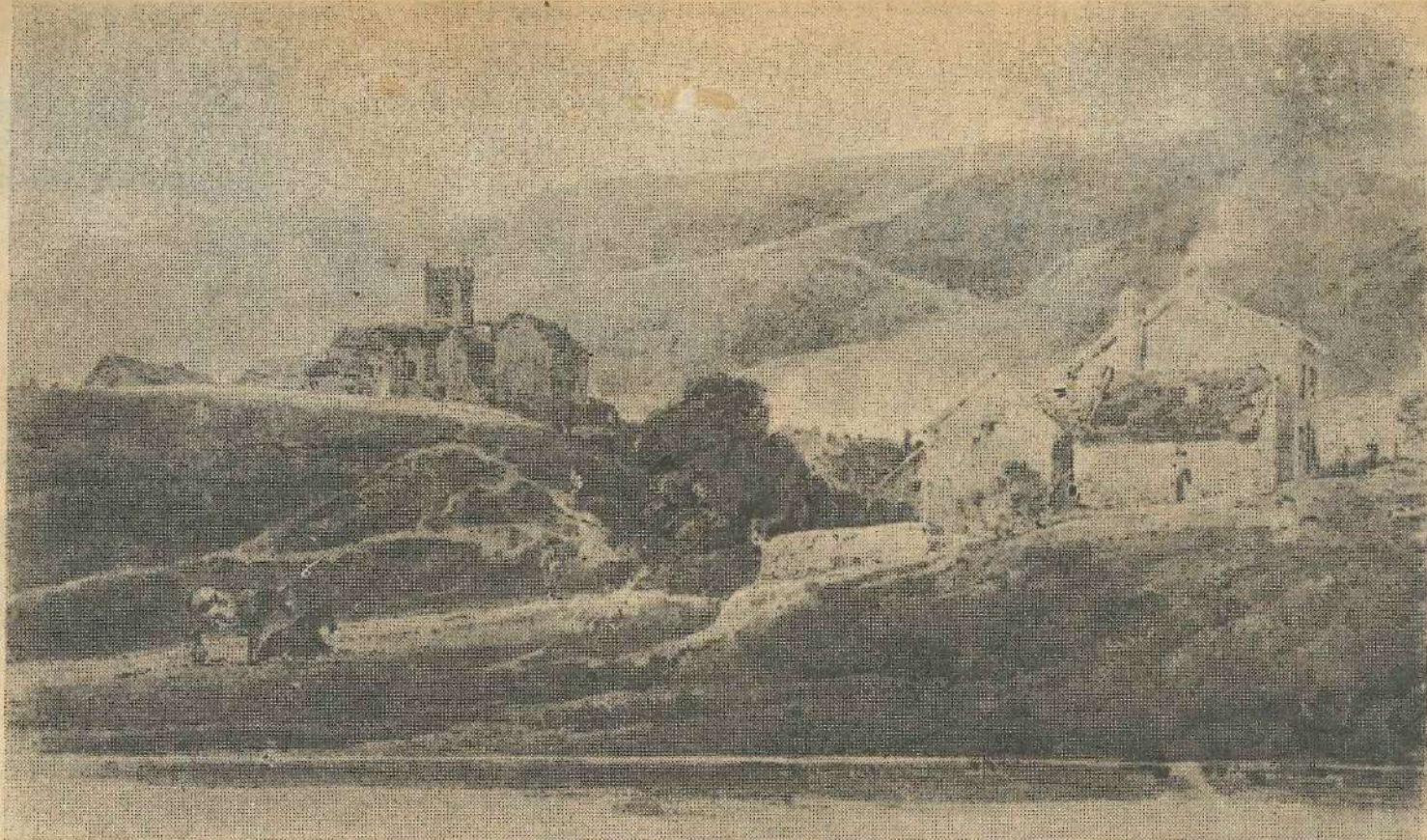
"The Chairman of the Council is the Minister of the Ilkley Congregational Church, the Rev. Micah Hopley, whose Induction to the Pastorate took place on 3 April, 1968.

## WITNESS

"We remember with gratitude the witness and the faithful service of so many people in this area over the years. The warm fellowship among members and friends will remain as a happy memory for so many people. For all the good things at Leeds Road Hall, we thank God and perhaps as we remember the text, Mr. Shackleton chose for the children on Sunday morning last, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path," we shall each go forward guided by the light of the love of God in our hearts."

During last week a party was given to the members of the Church by the Young Wives and presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. A. Crook, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wood, Mr. N. Clayton and Mrs. M. Mitchell, the leaders of the various sections of the Church.

At the Women's Meeting flowers were presented to Mrs. Crook, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Mitchell, who also received a leather handbag. Gifts were also presented to members of the Church Council.



A reproduction of a painting of Ilkley showing the Manor House and a portion of Bridge Lane has been presented to the Manor House Museum by the Friends of the Manor House. The Curator of the Manor House, Mr. Arthur Kitching, contributes the following comments.—

The Earl of Harewood, it is said, set aside a room at Harewood House for the use of Thomas Girtin, the famous landscape painter in watercolours, and that the artist lived there for long periods. It is surely not unreasonable therefore to suppose that Girtin painted his view of Ilkley's Manor House whilst on a visit to Harewood House.

The painting is a beautiful panoramic view of the Manor House area as seen from the River Wharfe. There is no excess of Romanticism, no great distortion of scale which inflicted many works of the early nineteenth century, but is a sensitive down to earth depiction of the aspect that must have presented itself to the artist one quiet early summer morning about 1798.

The view that Girtin drew extends on the east from the roof of the old Wheatsheaf Hotel (demolished in 1962) to, on the west Castle House, still standing, in Bridge Lane. In the centre of the picture can be plainly seen the ditch that was part of the western defence of the Roman Fort. Deeper

than it is now, there is evidence of the sandy stone strewn bed of a stream.

Probably the most unusual aspect of the picture is Girtin's choice of a viewpoint that confused the Manor House building with the power of the Parish Church. The Manor House drawn much as it is today, except for an exterior flight of stone steps to the upper floor, dominates the Roman Fort 'hump' and is itself topped by the Church tower. To anyone not familiar with the architecture, or rather lack of architecture of the north aspect of the Manor House, the general impression is of a single building of curious shape graced by a well proportioned tower.

There is a slight north east wind, and the centre of the town, whilst not seen, is instanced by a quantity of drifting smoke, lying between the Manor House and Castle House. Castle House now differs from Girtin's drawing by having second storey windows, but the general proportions are easily recognisable. Two or three out-buildings to the north of Castle

House, which may have been demolished to make room for later development about 1,900 are also shown in the drawing.

The foreground of the picture is taken up with a large watery expanse. As this water comes to within 50 yards of Castle House or in other words to where Castle Road now cuts along the north side of the Roman fort, either the artist was exercising his traditional licence for the sake of pictorial composition or else what is now the Memorial Gardens was under water due to the Wharfe flooding. In that case Girtin may have made his original drawing from a boat, which was a favourite refuge for an artist from the attentions of the curious whether it was cows or people.

Ilkley Moor, occupying the background, is a large rugged mass with Rocky Valley plainly to be seen. In the drawing the people of pre-Spa Ilkley are shown in all their rustic simplicity, dressed in smocks and gaiters. Two apparently old and spavined horses rest by the water, and in Bridge Lane there is

evidence of activity and a faint perspective of buildings that are no longer with us.

The great J. M. W. Turner, who was an unusual English artist in that he made a great deal of money, is reported to have said "If Girtin had lived I should have starved." This may or may not have been so, but certainly Thomas Girtin was a prodigy of an artist. Working alongside Turner in the growing climate of a Romantic philosophy, he studied and quickly excelled in all the branches of endeavour that artists had to practice in their apprenticeship. For in the 18th century the professional artist was not only a tradesman but probably the son of a tradesman and more often than not his life's labours were started in an extremely unassuming capacity.

Thomas Girtin died when he was 27 in 1802. A short life in which he travelled widely throughout England but the number of drawings he left showing aspects of the Wharfe leave no doubt of his regard for this beautiful valley.

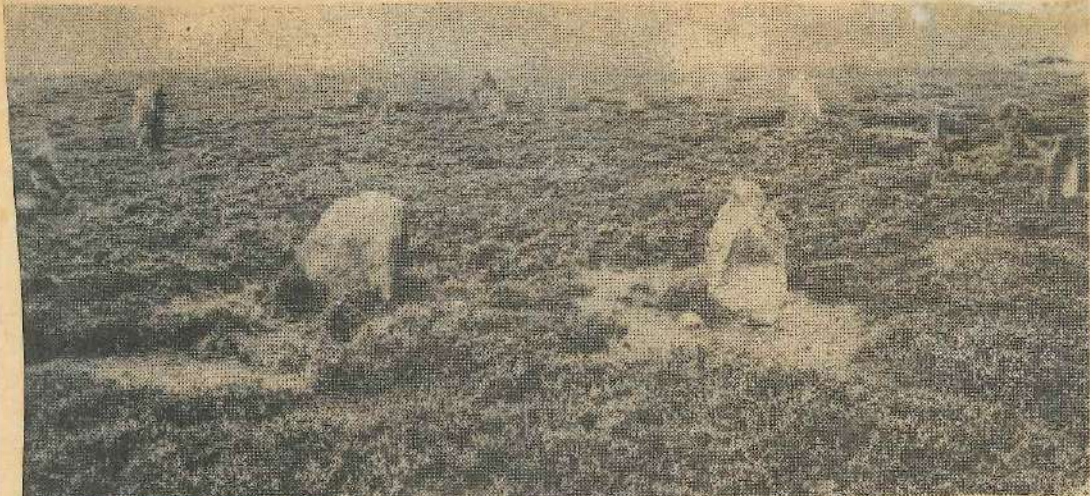
ARTHUR KITCHING.

## AND SEVENTY YEARS AGO



This picture was taken about the time the old Wheat Sheaf and the Star which provide a background for the two women in the picture which stood together at the bottom of Brook Street were demolished. The white building on the left is the new Star, the chimney is part of the old gas work. The gable end to the right is that of the Wheat Sheaf and it will be seen that New Brook Street is in the making.

# TWELVE APOSTLES UPRIGHT AGAIN



Someone has raised from the heather the stones known as the 12 Apostles and restored them to their original positions to form a circle alongside the "Dick Hudson's" road near its highest point close to the well-known land mark, Lanshaw Lad, on Ilkley Moor. It is believed that this is the first in this century that all the stones have been standing, the last three falling about 1914.

There is a reference in "Ilkley: Ancient and Modern" by Dr. Robert Collyer and Mr. J. Horsfall Turner in pamphlets published in 1868 describing this circle of stones and other relics on Ilkley Moor. The circle is described as being 16 yards in diameter composed of 12 upright stones, three or four feet high, and named as a Druidical Dial Circle indicating the hours or the seasons.

Mr. J. Speight in "Upper Wharfedale" published in 1900 some 15 years after Collyer and Turner's book, lists discoveries by several people. On the subject of the 12 Apostles, Speight says Constantine the Great surrounded the Holy Sepulchre with 12 pillars after the number of Apostles. Many pillar-stones employed in the service of pagan ritual were afterwards used as Christian memorials. Many circles are found to consist of 12 stones or multiples of 12. There are other stone circles to be found on the moor, the most important probably the one south-

east of the former shooting tower "supposed to have been a Council or Moot Assembly-place." A correspondent who claims he was one of a group responsible for the recent restoration of the 12 Apostles sends his name but not his address. This has prevented an approach to him for further information. He says the only tools used were three sticks and a length of rope, that the diameter of the circle is 58 yards, each stone buried a foot and a half, and the largest six feet two inches.

## 16. 1. 70 PUDDING TREE

Wharfedale is a great place for tradition. If its residents see any hint of interference with the heritage of the past, they are up in arms. And so it is at Burley, where a suggestion that the Great Pudding Tree in the village Main Street should be felled because, says a County official, it is unsafe, has met with some opposition.

But, however much value we place on tradition, the fact is that what is now known as the Pudding Tree probably never saw a Burley Great pudding.

The genuine Pudding Tree — a mammoth elm—is believed to have stood further back from the road and it was here that the traditional Burley Great Puddings were made every seven years.

An old book, printed in Otley in 1813—36 years after the last pudding was made—refers to it as the Alm Tree commenting: "As they call it in Burley, instead of Elm, of which species it is an immense sample."

The book goes on: "Under the Alm Tree, formerly, the great septennial feast of the Burley Great Pudding used to be celebrated. The last was made in 1787. It is said that about 30 stones of flour and an equal quantity of fruit were generally consumed in the kneading, it was distributed from a platform at the foot of the Elm..."

The theory of local people who are interested in Burley's history is that the original tree was in a farm stack yard further towards the river. And, they point out, the Pudding Tree of those days was an elm—whereas the one now by the name is a sycamore. It is thought that as it may, Burley should have its Pudding Tree. The present bearer of the tree should have to be felled, and his successor — preferably an elm — should be planted in its place to carry on a tradition that dates with the great days of England.



DRINKS FOR THE STATIONMASTER. Mr. J. Spooner, Ilkley's stationmaster, sits among guests at Saturday's centenary celebrations of the Ilkley railway line. Mr. H. Cockcroft, in Edwardian clothes, serves drinks. The celebrations were held on platform 4. (A Yorkshire Post picture.)

## COCKTAIL PARTY HELD ON STATION PLATFORM CENTENARY OF LINE CELEBRATED— BUT FUTURE IS IN DOUBT

Yorkshire Post Reporter

PLATFORM 4 at Ilkley Railway Station went gay on Saturday morning with a cocktail party to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the town's railway line links with Leeds and Bradford.

But by arrangement there was no mention by any of the platform speakers of the fact that the future of the line is still in the balance. The local community hopes the axe will not fall.

After the official speeches, Mr. E. H. Wright, chairman of the Ilkley Railway Supporters' Association, told The Yorkshire Post it had been agreed between British Railways, Ilkley Council and the Association to arrange that no anti-railway propaganda be introduced. It would be purely a social event.

"We have put thoughts about the threatened closures of the line out of our minds for today," Mr. Wright

### SIGNED TICKET

The celebration started with the arrival at 11.18 a.m. on Platform 1 of the train carrying Coun. James M. Shelton, chairman of Ilkley Council, with his wife and their daughter. They had boarded the train at Burley, where they live.

As they stepped off they were met by Mr. Wright, with Mrs. Wright, and Mr. R. A. Crowther, vice-chairman of the Association, with Mrs. Crowther.

Then Coun. Shelton signed the ticket he had used and handed it to the stationmaster, Mr. James Spooner, who said afterwards he intended to preserve it in the archives of the station. Among the guests at the event were Col. Sir Malcolm Stoddart-Scott, MP for Ripon Division, and Lady Stoddart-Scott.

Platform 4 carried bunting and floral decorations, and tables and chairs were laid out in continental style. Posey bowls made by women in the Association were on the tables, and recorded music was played over an amplifier as the people sipped their drinks.

### 'A GOOD FRIEND'

Mr. Wright said that as the railways had been "a jolly good friend of ours," they had decided to have this sentimental occasion. "For today we thought we should part our hair and put a few ribbons in. I have had to convince people we are not having some sort of Bacchanalian orgy on Platform 4," he added.

They had not been able to get any rolling stock from the period, but Mr. Wright said that one member of the Committee was dressed as a "reproduction" of the first stationmaster.

Coun. Shelton said he felt the railways still had an important part to play in the development of small towns, particularly Ilkley. He referred to future developments planned in the town and added: "I think that as traffic chaos increases, so will the popularity of travelling by rail."

Sir Malcolm spoke about landmarks in the history of the railway line to Ilkley. News of the Relief of Mafeking on May 26, 1900, came to the town by rail.

"I believe the railway can still play a great part, not only in Ilkley but in this thickly populated area which is growing all the time."

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## SITE OF ILKLEY TOWN HALL



This is one of the rare pictures of old Ilkley to be found in the collections gathered from the past. It shows the buildings attached to Sedbergh House which were demolished to make way for the erection of the Ilkley Town Hall.

13.2.70

19.6.70

### ILKLEY GAZETTE

## WHEN TWO INNS STOOD SIDE BY SIDE —



At the beginning of the century two Ilkley Inns stood side by side in Leeds Road. Situated between the Crescent Hotel and the site of the former Wheatsheaf Hotel near the Ilkley Parish Church they were known as the Wharfedale Inn and the Star Inn. Behind the Wharfedale Inn on the right of the picture was the old Ilkley Gas Works.

16 1 70 **BURLEY PUDDING TREE IN DANGER**



A matter of pride for the village of Burley in Wharfedale over a great many years the pudding tree which stands in Main Street at the corner near the church is in danger of the axe. It was under this tree, of considerable size originally, that huge puddings were served every seven years during the last century.

The Horticultural Assistant to the Highways and Bridges Department of the West Riding County Council has reported that the tree is unsafe and should be removed. Ilkley Urban Council has asked that action be delayed for a month. Owner of the tree, Mrs. Marjorie Dalton, is eager to save it, but says its condition has deteriorated since a branch blew off and water got into the roots. There is now fungus growing outside the trunk.

At a meeting of Ilkley Urban District Council on Monday night, Dr. David Marshall referred to the affection there was for this tree, and he hoped the Committee in replanning the corner would ensure that space was left for the planting of a tree of equivalent stature.

**ACROSS THE YEARS** 16 1 70

**Ilkley was losing its extreme rusticity to new buildings**

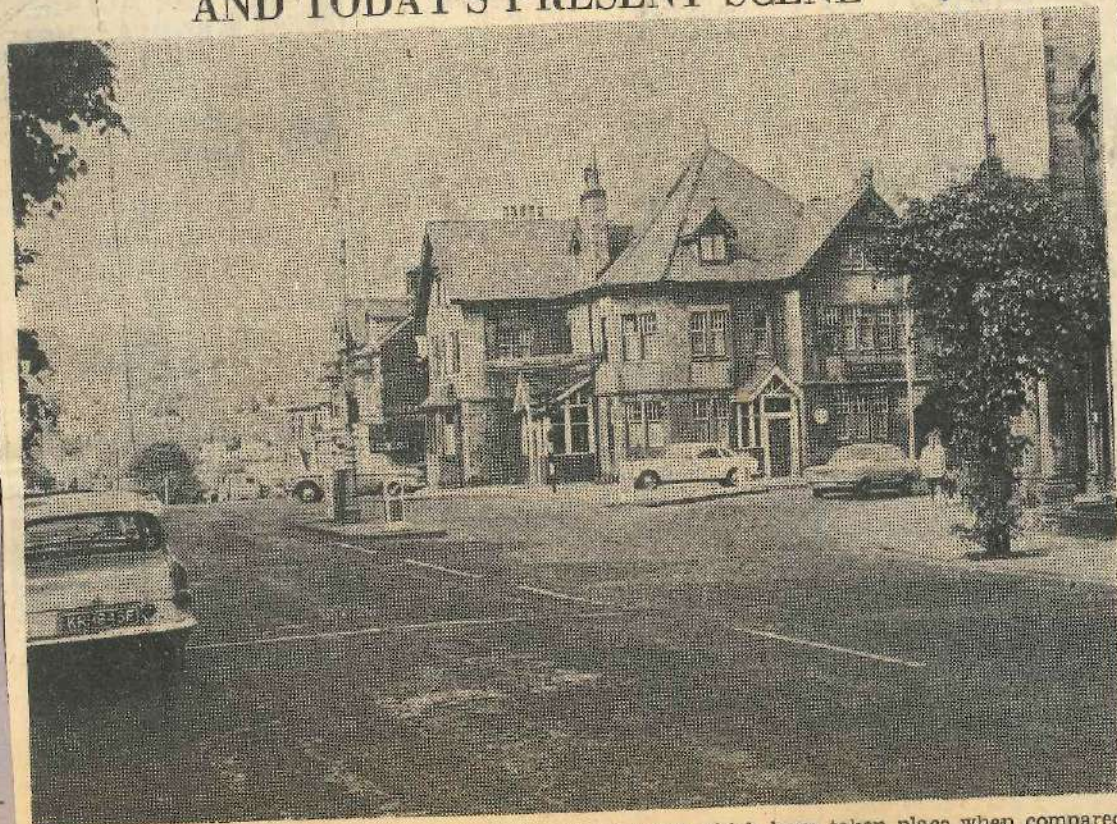
**100 Years Ago**

Writing to the Ilkley Gazette one hundred years ago, a correspondent said Ilkley's extreme rusticity "which in former years has constituted its chief charm, is fast disappearing. The old thatched cottages and huts, peculiar to primitive times, are in course of removal and are being supplanted by handsome villas, substantial cottages, and commodious shops which are rising as if by magic."

There was the hope that the inhabitants are matching this improvement said the Gazette correspondents. He goes on "In former days the advent of strangers among them, for the purpose of settlement, was the occasion of jealousy and evil speaking; so exclusive was the spirit of the natives, particularly of the shopkeepers, that they acquired the notion that a monopoly in one branch of business was a right legitimate thing; and as a consequence they could not brook opposition. But now all this kind of thing is at end. The new element will, at the present rate of increase soon outnumber the old; and if the latter do not bestir themselves, and throw aside old fashioned habits, prejudice and modes of thought—in a word, if they do not adapt themselves to the times, and become modernised they must of a certainty go to the wall and make way for better men.

The recent decision of our local Board to carry on their discussion with closed doors is a proof of the little mindedness and exclusiveness I don't imagine we shall secure an alteration in this decision by ridicule. The writer continues by pointing out the responsibilities of the members when elected, and asks them if they have ever heard of another Board taking a similar action.

**AND TODAY'S PRESENT SCENE** 19.6.70



This present view of Leeds Road illustrates the changes which have taken place when compared the early 1900's and a new Star I two Inns in the picture at the top of the page were pulled down in 1968.

# WHITE WELLS HAVE BEEN

## AN INSPIRATION

### TO COUNTLESS ARTISTS

Mr. Arthur Kitching, Curator of the Manor House Museum and Art Gallery has contributed the following article on White Wells. Local concern is being expressed about the deterioration of the building, a Wharfedale landmark for at least 200 years. When the Rombalds Water Board was formed the White Wells was taken over by them, and there have been negotiations for it to be handed back. Last week at the Council meeting it was suggested that the Ministry concerned was having difficulty over the legal side of this

There was a time, it would seem, when you could ride on a donkey from Church Street or Bridge Lane (the mounting steps are still there) to White Wells. And the famous 'Donkey' Jackson would profit thereby. Nowadays the journey must be completed on foot. Such is progress. Yet in a satirical sheet of 1896 there is a very real fear of progress. A drawing of a dead donkey is flanked by an illustration of a rope railway to the moor, in the manner of the lifts at Scarborough. As White Wells was then, as now, in the news and suffering one of its many threats of demolition, there is a caption 'by paying threepence you can see a photograph of White Wells before it was pulled down'

However a similar satirical sheet of 1897 shows White Wells still intact, but Ilkley itself devastated by a great highway along which horse drawn vehicles of all descriptions, interspersed with cyclists and invalid carriages, tear at full gallop and hard pressed pedal. The heading is 'The Road to Ruin'. These two sheets which can be seen by request at Ilkley Public Library proclaim a horror of the 'vulgar' development of Ilkley and plead for a policy of 'Leave the natural beauties alone'. There is also a particular dislike of soap advertisements, but this may have been a personal dislike of the artist's rather than a symptom of the age.

It would appear that conservatism prevailed, for although we have the Arcade and Public Halls, we avoided the Gin Palace and the Moor Railway.

#### 200 YEARS

One of the many charms of White Wells is that although as the crow flies, it is only a few hundred yards from the town, in spirit it is way back in time. And although there is considerable doubt as to how far back in time, it can safely be said to be about 200 years. Mrs. Pamela Whalley of 'Tamsick' Low Wood Rise, Ben Rhydding, has researched to good account as part of her teacher training studies, in the usual 'down to earth' manner in the Ilkley Gazette office files and it is from her findings that the following picture emerges.

One must first of all give the Romans the benefit of the doubt and assume they treasured spring water above surface water and took advantage of it. In the three hundred and odd years they were in Ilkley there must have been time to do other things than repair the fort, after the annual sacking by the barbarians, and make their roads. After the Romans called it a day (blame the weather) and went back prepared to fight rather than freeze, there is a gap of almost a thousand years in the story of the 'Ilkley Well'. Then it is mentioned in the De Bono Roll of 1314.

#### A MEAN PLACE

About 100 years later, in 1709, a Dr. Richardson wrote 'Ilkley is now a very mean place, and is equally dirty and insignificant and chiefly famous for a cold well, which has done very remarkable cases by bathing and in drinking of it.' So for 80 or more years there could have been a large stone bath a little above the present White Wells, open to all comers, at their own risk as it were.

But the developer now appeared on the Ilkley scene and about 1760/1780 the clear spring began to earn its keep. Two baths (the two now mouldering and moss gathering in the present building) were built, one for men and one for women, with facilities for changing. All seemed to go well until about 1820/30 when the inevitable urge to modernise and capitalise on the great hydropathic establishment boom was evident wherever there was the necessary vital ingredient, magic water. So White Wells was now trying to keep up with the Joneses' and it is probable that after reasonable improvements such as roof and windows, Mr. William Middleton leased it to a Mr. Joseph Bealand, who rented it to a Mr. William Butterfield and his wife who did the work. Also Mr. Middleton had built a 'free' or 'charity-bath to the west of the main building.

By 1843 Ilkley was on the way to success, climbing out of that

equally dirty and insignificant era rightly frowned upon by Dr. Richardson. The magnificent Ben Rhydding Hydro was built, almost as big as Buckingham Palace. Then the Wells Hydropathic Co., took a hand in the White Wells story. In some way they took out a lease that gave them control of the 'charity holes' the use of which they discouraged and allowed to go to ruin. These baths were later to be converted by the local board to the present Public Conveniences.

#### THEIR HEYDAY

So the main building of White Wells had their heyday as a poor mans Ben Rhydding and probably paid their way, whilst Craighlands, Troutbeck and Rockwood House sprouted on the edge of the moor. Naturally there were those who wished to modernise and extend a going concern. Yet curiously all these plans came to nothing. In 1876 the local board wished to replace the buildings with a new design and the long arm of Dr. Robert Collyer reached out from Chicago to protest. He said, "...so I plead they may stand. You have made sad havoc of that wild hillside. Do not improve it to death." What Victorian marvels were we spared at this time?

In 1896 a local doctor wished White Wells to become a memorial to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. But again White Wells was relieved. Again in 1921 at a time of great holiday popularity in Ilkley, the days of the Bullnose Morris, the Plyno and the Bean, there were plans to extend the buildings to form a cafe. But this project was thwarted and the present relatively inconspicuous cafe built to the east.

So for White Wells there followed right up to the present day, a rather sad, but not necessarily fatal, decline into something approaching ruin. Yet from the ambitiously planned avenue of New Brook Street, White Wells still appears as a visual focal point rising above the Methodist Church Steeple and the new flats. It looks like and is a good place to set off for, a landmark with promise of reward when reached.

#### NO WORK OF ART

White Wells as a building or a number of abutting buildings is not in itself a work of art. It has not the quality of building as say, the Old Grammar School on Skipton Road, or the Manor House, nor is there much evidence of the good tradition of domestic building that characterises so many farm houses around Ilkley. It is of cottage quality construction, all bits and pieces, patchings and little sign of good workmanship. But owing to the avoidance of fashionable improvements it has none of the dated mannerisms of many Ilkley buildings.

Inside, the building is unremarkable, and now, unsafe. Except for the baths themselves. These have a quality and rightness for purpose. Oval in shape, with steps down at the ends nearest the central changing room, they cannot, when seen with their attendant ivy and box plant, be seen and felt but as things of value. Not necessarily on account of their age, but their success as constructions.

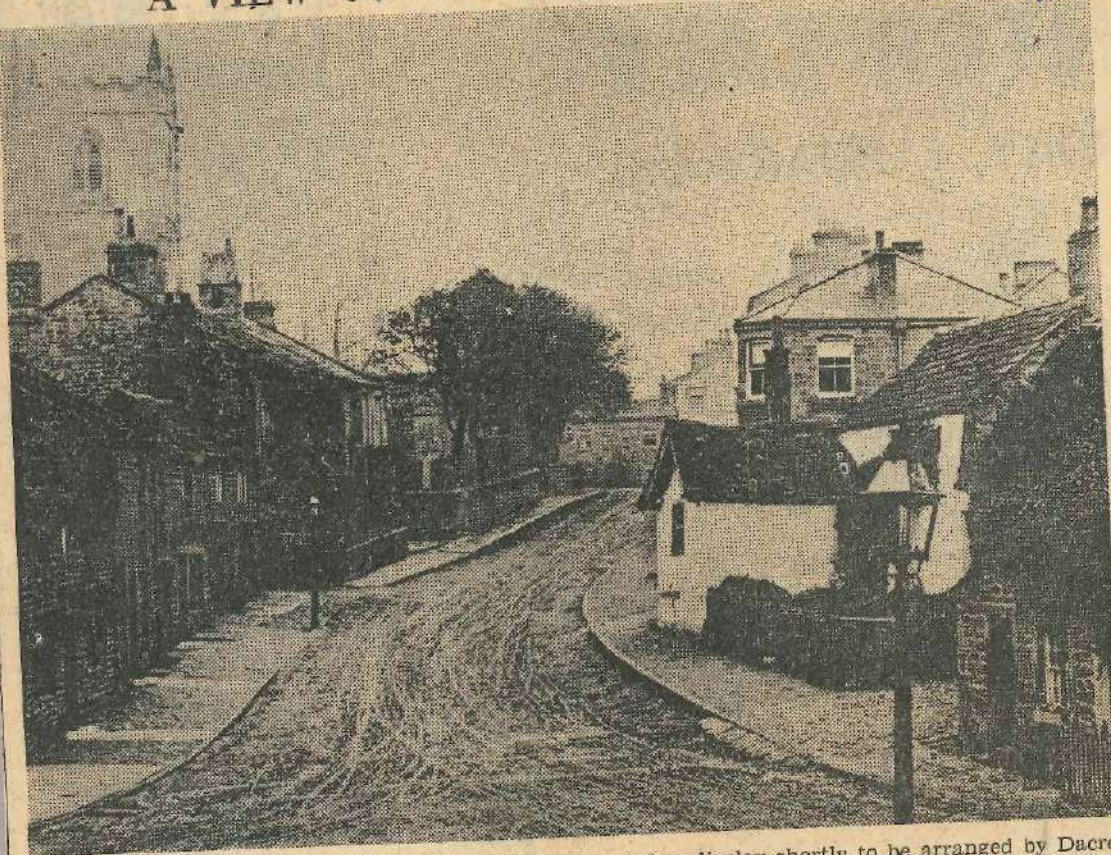
#### AN INSPIRATION

Above all, White Wells has much of the quality of appeal possessed by the old cottages of Robin Hoods Bay or Staithes. Nothing remarkable architecturally but eminently drawable and paintable. The buildings in their moorland setting, complimented by trees, have for centuries and still are, an inspiration to countless artists. White Wells and Ilkley Old Bridge have travelled the world in water-colour and oil paint.

White Wells could with reason be called the Romulus and Remus of Ilkley. Without its clear spring no Spa, without the Spa no railway without the railway no commuters. It remains to be seen whether or not the new professional classes of Ilkley possess the regard for and the ability to fight for White Wells that their fore-runners, the academics and 'woolmen' so ably demonstrated in Victorian times. They have not much time.

## A VIEW OF OLD CHURCH STREET

2.1.70



This old picture will be one to be included in a window display shortly to be arranged by Dacre, Son and Hartley as part of the 150 anniversary of the founding of the original firm. It is a rare one showing Church Street unsurfaced and before the work was done on the footpath to the left. The whitewashed building on the left is the old vicarage, the "charity hole" where began the service which led to the founding of the Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home. The old "Star" Hotel can be seen across the top of the road.

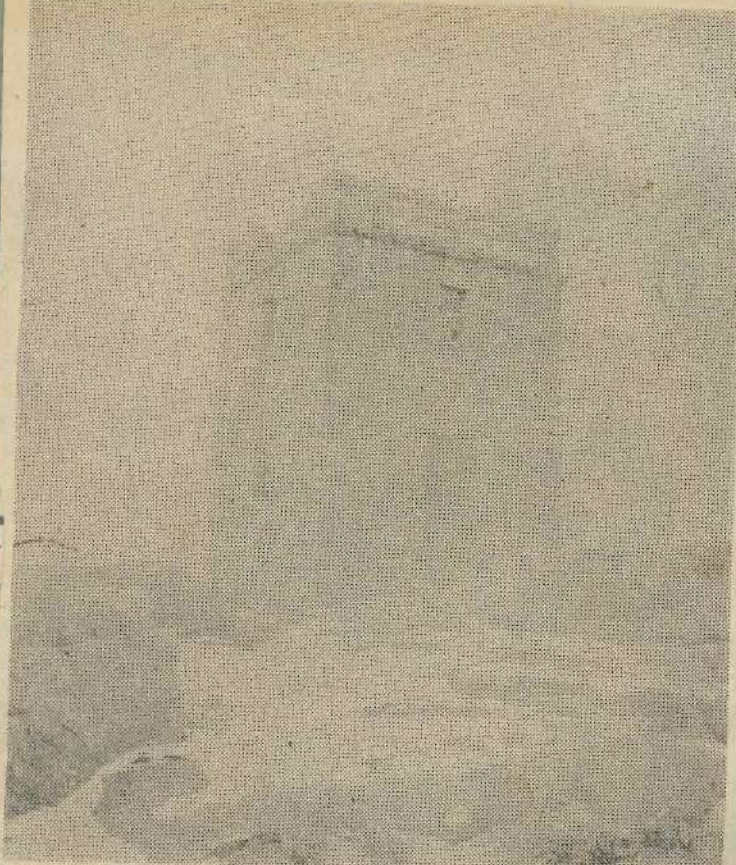
Mr. shooting tells us, put on a great Wakefield Square building

The Burlands in church and the axes continues readers. This picturing church, sh be near ded the



2. 10 70

## AS IT ONCE WAS



Mr. Walter Flesher has loaned the faded print of the shooting box as it once was. About 70 or more years ago, he tells us, the top story was removed and a span roof was put on. The building provided a landmark for many places a great distance away. It was said it could be seen from Wakefield, and Mr. Flesher recalls that he was once told there was a spot of about two or three yards in Foster Square from which it was possible to catch a glimpse of the building between the roof tops and the chimneys.

2. 10 70

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
'THE TWELVE APOSTLES'  
STONES ON ILKLEY MOOR**

Mr. Peter Briggs of Fagley, Bradford, and Messrs. T. and O. Gent of Ilkley, responsible for the re-erection of the Twelve Apostles stones on Ilkley Moor, have contributed the following information further to the article in last week's Gazette.

The circle consists of 12 pillar shaped stones and are roughly the same size, about four feet long and thirty inches wide, with the exception of one large stone which has an overall length six foot two. The stones have all been roughly dressed and have apparently been quarried for the erection of this fine monument.

They have been erected in a slight earthen bank which formed the outside rim of the circle. If one enters the circle a slight depression in the earth can be felt, and it appears that the earth from the centre of the area was scooped out to form the bank.

At first glance the stones appear to be placed in an uneven manner with no set pattern, but on closer observation it appears that the stones have been erected in a series consisting of four blocks of three. The meaning of this is uncertain, but it could represent the four Cardinal directions ruled over by the Mother Goddess in her three forms as, "Source of Fertility, Mother of All Living, and as Guardian of the Dead."

**UNEVEN DISTANCE**

The stones are all of an uneven distance from each other and the overall circumference of the circle is roughly 125 feet. Under one of the pillar shaped stones and about 9 to 12 inches below the turf, a small piece of flint was found. This is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long and triangular in shape.

The first stone circles were erected at the end of the Neolithic period and the beginning of the Early Bronze Age, arriving with the Beaker peoples, who erected circular shrines made from the trunks of trees, whilst the Neolithic peoples used large stones in the construction of tombs in their burial mounds. Due to the mixing of the two peoples the stone circle came into vogue. Although standing stone circles were basically of Early Bronze Age development, there is no doubt that their use and construction was continued into Mid-Bronze Age by the Urn Folk culture.

**EARLY BRONZE AGE**

It appears that the 12 Apostles circle was the most recent Henge Monument to be erected on Ilkley Moor, as all the stones are roughly dressed and its construction admirably planned. Therefore it might well belong to the time when the Early Bronze Age was being transformed into the Mid-Bronze Age.

Another feature of this monument is that it is not near to any known settlement. Although it is near the crossing of Rombalds Way with the track from the Wharfe Valley at Ilkley with that of the Aire at Bingley, and as a learned writer of our district points out that it may have been erected to mark the meeting place of local chieftains "to be witness to the business transacted," which was an essential before the written word came into being, "The circular shape was a sign that the area was under the protection of the Sun God and neutral ground for all."

**BRIGANTES**

The Mother Goddess mentioned here was worshipped throughout the Mediterranean area under various guises and many names, Ishtar, in Mesopotamia, Asherah, by the Cannanites, Cybele, by the Phrygians and Gaia by the Greeks. The Celtic tribe of Brigantes who had a settlement at Ilkley before the Roman occupation called her Brigantia. The Irish Celts called her Brigit or Brid, and portrayed her in triple form to emphasize her threefold character.

In our area the name Bridestones is often given to standing stones and stone circles, and probably is connected with the worship of Brid, the goddess of Fertility. Her worship continued until Roman times and the coming of Christianity.

It was the custom of the early Christian fathers to attribute any remains that were employed in the services of Pagan rituals to the works of the Devil, or to adopt them into Christianity, as they did in Ireland with the goddess Brigit, who is now revered as St. Brigid. It is in this way probably that the circle of stones of Bronze Age date is now a memorial to the Twelve Apostles.

**THE PUDDING TREE AS IT USED TO BE**

The Burley Pudding Tree, which stands in the Main Street near the Church and which is threatened by the axe because it is damaged, continues to arouse the interest of readers.

This picture, taken from an old painting in the vestry at the Church, shows the tree as it used to be near the old Chapel that preceded the present Parish Church.

The picture is loaned by Mr. David Nealy, who was for many years closely associated with the Burley Church and has done much research into local history. He comments that the assertion in our correspondence columns that our present tree outside the churchyard is not the original Pudding Tree is probably right. Although, he says, the painting,

made by a Mr. Dobson, may not be accurate, it shows the Pudding Tree as much nearer the church and in the churchyard, and he concludes "It is doubtful whether the present tree was in existence 200 years ago."

The old chapel stood from 1620 to 1841. It held about 140 people and there is in existence the seating plan, with seat owners.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

## Founder of "Gazette" injured in train crash

### 100 Years Ago

Founder and proprietor of the "Ilkley Gazette," Mr. John Shuttleworth, in June 1870, was one of the many people injured in a train crash between Leeds and London which caused the loss of several lives. He told how they were thrown off their seats, followed by the immediate break up of the carriage and being trailed along at the same time until the carriage turned completely over. The five other passengers in his compartment, four men and one woman, he never saw again. For two hours he was pinned by pieces of debris across his legs and feet, but fortunately he sustained no lasting injury.

### 75 Years Ago

Towards the end of June, 1895, much "commotion" was caused in Ilkley by a runaway horse dashing into Brook Street from Wells Walk. A report in the "Gazette" stated: "it appears that whilst conveying a party of ladies from Wells House to the railway station to catch the 11.15 train, the lock of the carriage broke causing the front part of the vehicle to fall upon the horse's hocks. The animal at once bolted, and, despite the strenuous efforts of the driver, galloped down West View and Wells Road. It passed several other conveyances, but luckily did not come into contact with them; and was pluckily stopped near the station by two cab drivers. The occupants beyond sustaining a severe shock, were none the worse."

At a meeting of the Boundaries Committee of the County Council, an order was made for dividing the Ilkley Urban District into three wards, with three councillors each.

### 50 Years Ago

In consequence of the partial dislocation caused by a dispute in the printing trade, the "Ilkley Free Press and Gazette" apologised in June, 1920, for the holding over of many advertisements. "In other respects, too, this issue is not so complete as usual and for this

short-coming we ask the indulgence of our readers."

Captain Harold Maufe, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Maufe, of Warlbeck, Ilkley, was amongst those presented to the King and Queen at the garden party of V.C. heroes at Buckingham Palace 50 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Maufe were amongst those present.

## ILKLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY

30.1.70

### "The walls of York"

Dr. R. M. Butler, of the Royal Historical Monument Commission, was the speaker at the monthly meeting of the Museum and Historical Society. Dr. Butler began with a brief history of the city of York, then by means of some excellent slides, members were taken on a tour of the Bar Walls.

Joining the Wall at the Old Baile, standing on the right bank of the Ouse, they were given some idea of what the area was like when William built the twin castles on either side of the river in 1068-69. The mound is now the only conspicuous evidence of the castle.

Sadler's Tower and Micklegate Bar were described in detail, then the North Street Postern, which was the connecting link between the West and East lines of fortification. A strong iron chain was drawn across the river from this tower to that on the opposite side, known as Lendal Tower or St. Leonards Tower, now occupied by the York Waterworks Company.

### WATER SUPPLY

It is known that a Smeaton steam engine was installed in Lendal Tower in 1784 to pump water from the river to a cistern on the upper floor, the water was then carried to various parts of the city in wooden pipes. Parts of the city were supplied on alternate days, but during Race Week and the Assizes a daily supply was maintained to all parts of the city. The elm trunks used to carry the water were not replaced by iron pipes until the early 19th century.

### FISH POND

Continuing past Bootham Bar and Monk Bar, Dr. Butler explained why the wall stopped at the Layerthorpe Postern and did not begin again until the Red Tower. The intervening space was occupied by a royal fish pond, this was achieved by damming the river Foss close to the Castle, the result was a large expanse of water which served as a defence, and also provided an ample supply of fish. The area between the Red Tower and Layerthorpe Bridge is still known as Foss Islands.

The Red Tower marks the end of the wall between Walmgate Bar and the River Foss, much of the present structure is 19th century and replaces an earlier stone structure. The roof was added at the end of the 17th century and it is recorded that the tilers asked the corporation for protection from the masons. The masons considered the tilers were taking work from them, an early example of a demarkation dispute. Soon after the plea was made, a tiler was murdered and although several masons were imprisoned they were never convicted of murder.

Dr. Butler concluded his tour with a view of Fishergate Postern, this stood on the bank of the then extensive Foss.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

10.4.70

## Purchase of site and cost of new Ilkley Police Station approved

### 100 Years Ago

An expenditure of £100 for the site and £1,000 for the buildings to provide a police station at Ilkley was approved by the West Riding Spring Sessions in April, 1870. The site was described as situate in the Grove opposite the Ilkley Congregational Chapel and school.

In the history of the Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home it is recorded that in July, 1871, the Trustees sold a plot of land containing 966 yards for £221 17s. for the site of a police station. The discrepancy may be accounted for by some change of site in the following twelve months.

Congratulations were sent from the United States by the Rev. Robert Collyer on the establishment of a Mechanics Institute in Ilkley. His offer to send for twelve months direct from the publishers two American weekly papers was gratefully accepted. He also indicated his intention of visiting Ilkley in the spring of the following year and said he would bring a selection of American books to be placed on the shelves.

letter. The firm themselves were not disposed to meet the demand for more houses as the requirements of their business necessitated a large and immediate outlay of capital upon the mill premises but with a view to providing more houses they would be willing to place suitable land at the disposal of builders at a reasonable rate and on easy terms.

### 75 Years Ago

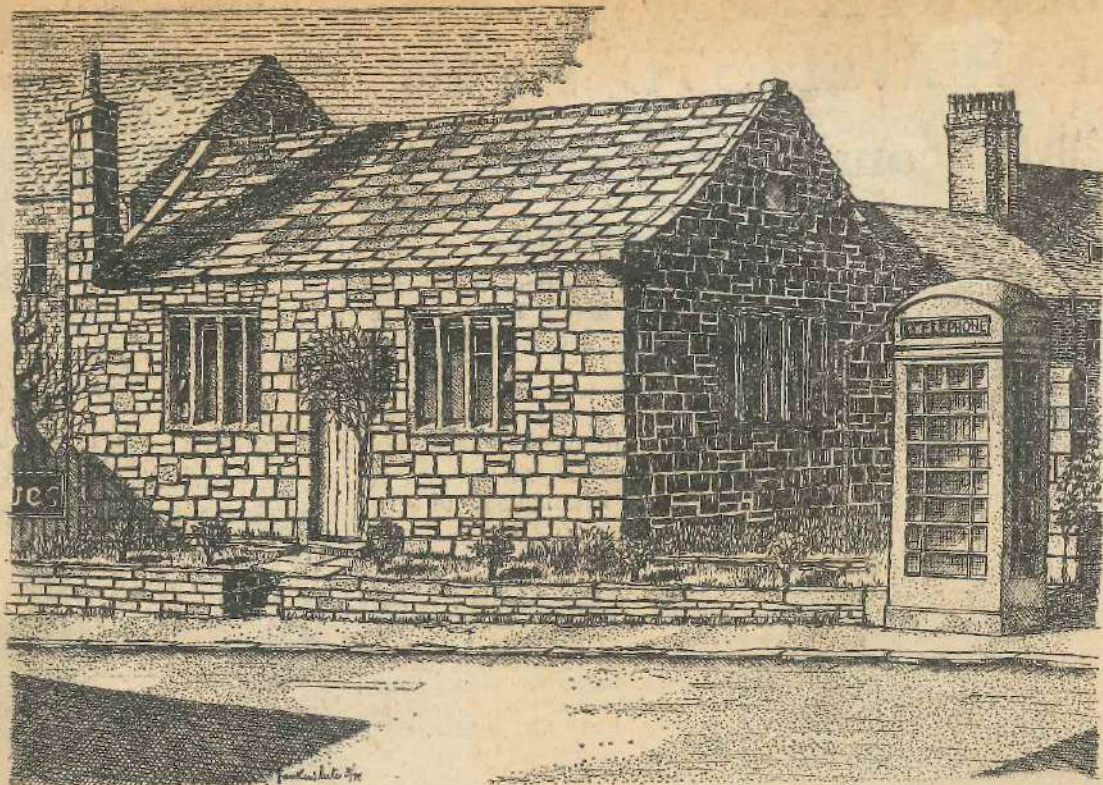
The death was recorded at the end of March, 1895, of Mr. Henry Smith of Railway Terrace, the guard on the first train to come into Ilkley on the occasion of the opening of the line in 1865. He took his first lodgings in the old thatched house that stood at the fountain at the top of Brook Street, then in the occupation of "Old Tom Lister", said the Gazette. He was 58 years of age, and he and his wife died within ten days of each other from influenza, then prevalent in the area.

Middleton Road was described as being in a disgraceful condition when the Ilkley Urban District held its April meeting in 1895.

There were lots of people who would not go down to Middleton stables on account of the road, said Mr. T. Horsman. He said the road had been brought to its condition by the continuous carting to the new houses being erected in the district. Mr. Isaac Dean pointed out that there was a crossing in Railway Road at the top of Wellington Road which was in a dilapidated state.

Concern was expressed over considerable damage done to street lamps in Ben Rhydding Road and it was agreed to offer a reward of £1 for the person providing information leading to the conviction of the culprit.

Wm. Fison and Co., Greenholme Mills, wrote to Burley Urban Council supporting the Medical Officer of Health over his comments on lack of housing. On several occasions houses had been built by those responsible for the firm and on the last occasion in 1891 20 houses were immediately occupied on completion. So great indeed was the lack of suitable house accommodation that at the present time a considerable number of the employees had to walk four miles a day in going to and from their work, said the



A DRAWING BY FRANK WHITE.

16th. December, 1971.

The Vikings in Yorkshire.

Professor P.H. Sawyer of Leeds University, speaking to the Olicana Museum and Historical Society, quickly shattered one long-held belief about the Viking helmet. It did not have horns, as popularly portrayed, it came to a point so that any blows would be deflected. An example can be seen on a cross in the church at Middleton, near Pickering.

The first attack on Yorkshire would appear to have taken place in A.D. 860 when the Danes came across the North Sea looking for farming settlements. In A.D. 866 a band of Danes came to York, seized the city, and placed King Egbert on the throne. Soon the whole of Deira was conquered and from A.D. 867 until the early part of the 10th century, it was ruled from York by kings of Danish origin. These kings had Scandinavian names such as Halfdene, Cnut Sihtric, Grithfrith and Eric Bloodaxe. Coins were introduced during this period, the silver penny was determined by the weight of 32 good wheat grains.

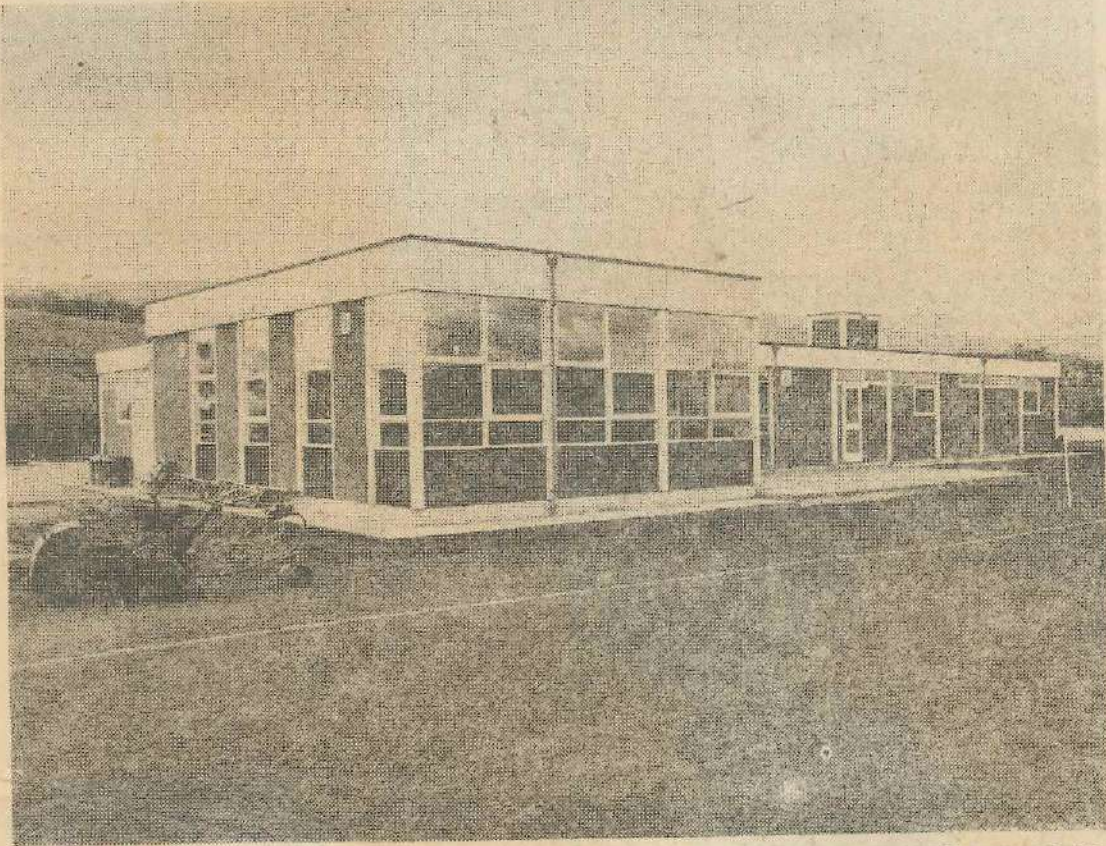
Late in the 11th. century and early 12th. century, there was a religious revival, and many monasteries were founded in Yorkshire. The Vikings were blamed for much destruction to earlier foundations, much of the blame, however, was not justified. The monks of Lindisfarne were driven out by a Norse raid in A.D. 783. During their wanderings in the North, the monks spent four months at Crakye Monastery, between York and Easingwold, which by the 11th. century had completely disappeared. William of Normandy was responsible for devastating much of Yorkshire. In 1069 and again in 1085, the area between the Humber and the Tees was plundered.

The memorials to the Vikings in Yorkshire are 80 pieces of sculpture and a great number of place names. Eight hundred names in Domesday Book are Scandinavian or have Scandinavian influence. "By" meaning a settlement appears 208 times in the Yorkshire Domesday. "Thorpe" meaning a new farm or new settlement occurs 150 times, half of them in the East Riding.

1st Jan. 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

## BEN RHYDDING OPENS NEW CLUBHOUSE



A new clubhouse costing £14,500 at the Ben Rhydding Sports Club has been officially opened by the President, Mr. B. W. Heap. The building contains changing and shower facilities for 88 people, and the main hall, fitted with a hardwood dance floor, is served by a well appointed kitchen. A comfortable, fully carpeted bar adjoins the main hall and overlooks the main playing areas. The new clubhouse will greatly improve the changing and social facilities of the club, which, together with its excellent grounds, will make it one of the finest sports clubs in the north of England. It replaces the original wooden pavilion built nearly 50 years ago at the formation of the sports club. The club has been privileged to stage men's international hockey matches for GB v Holland and GB v Pakistan, and men's and ladies' cricket, tennis, bowls (EBA) and archery.

The club believes there is an increasing need for recreation facilities and this new pavilion will be of considerable benefit, not only to the club but also to the Wharfedale area.

## BACK GROVE ROAD DEMOLITION



Work on demolishing houses in Back Grove Road, Ilkley, has progressed in the past few days. Most of the houses beyond the archway (right) have gone completely.

1st Jan. 1971

1st Jan - 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

### COUTANCES WAY ESTABLISHED



Coutances Way—the stretch of main road between Manor Park, Burley, and Wheatley Lane, Ben Rhydding—was officially named by Mlle Francoise Troude, 16 years old daughter of the Mayor of Coutances. She is pictured here unveiling the nameplate at the junction of Wheatley Lane and Leeds Road. This is a reciprocal gesture to the occasion last May when Coutances changed the name of one of its principal thoroughfares to "Rue d'Ilkley".

### WHITE WELLS INTERIOR



This picture shows one of the baths in White Wells, a creeper growing up the wall and rafters exposed in the ceiling. Repairs are now being carried out.

19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1971

19 MARCH 1971

7

### ILKLEY PREPARES FOR NORTH SEA GAS

#### PIPE-LINE NEARS LEEDS ROAD DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Work began this week in Ilkley on the preparation of the ground to take the pipeline carrying North Sea gas to the town.

In the Ash Grove area through which the route passes trenches have been dug for the pipes to carry the flow of gas into storage holders and the distribution centre in Leeds Road.

The gas will be coming from a north-easterly direction and at the end of February there was evidence of work starting soon in the populated areas when a gash across the countryside had reached Denton Park between Denton Bridge and Askwith.

To take the gas out of Ilkley on its destination to Keighley the underground pipeline will follow a course from Ben Rhydding across Ilkley Moor. The North Eastern Gas Board has sought permission to use explosives on the moor in order to facilitate the laying of the main through the solid rock which they will undoubtedly encounter. A Clerk of Works has been appointed on a temporary part time basis to safeguard the Council's interests and supervise reinstatement work.

it to convert two sectors per week. Normally each sector will take two days and the usual programme is — one sector Monday/Tuesday, one sector Wednesday/Thursday, while Friday is used for re-adjustments and 'clearing-up' of outstanding items.

Monday and Wednesdays (first day).— Crews of conversion men will arrive at 8.0 a.m. and deliver the conversion sets, etc., determined by a previous survey. After checking to see that they are correct for all appliances, a conversion fitter will convert all non-essential appliances including the oven and grill portion of cookers. The hotplates of cookers will continue to operate on manufactured gas.

Tuesdays and Thursdays (second day).— Conversion men will again arrive at 8.0 a.m. and it is essential in the interests of safety that they obtain admission to premises to turn off the gas supply. As soon as this has been done in all the premises in the sector, natural gas can be introduced to replace the manufactured gas.

"Normally, this part of the operation takes about two hours and a natural gas supply will be available by about 10.0 a.m. Conversion of appliances will be completed during the day."

#### CONVERSION

On the conversion of appliances to burn North Sea Gas the North Eastern Gas Board says:

"To change the gas supply, it is necessary to split a town into sectors. The Board's present plan

# DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF LINK BETWEEN CHIPPENDALE AND DENTON HALL

By Mr. Christopher Gilbert  
(Keeper of Temple Newsam House)

Documents indicating a link between cabinet maker Thomas Chippendale and Denton Hall have been unearthed by Mr. Christopher Gilbert, Keeper of Temple Newsam House, Leeds, and himself a member of the Chippendale Society.

In an article compiled especially for the 'Wharfedale Observer' Mr. Gilbert writes:

It is well known that after setting up business in London Thomas Chippendale received a great deal of encouragement from his fellow Yorkshiremen. His patrons included Edwin Lascelles of Harewood House, Sir Rowland Winn of Nostell Priory, Sir Lawrence Dundas of Aske Hall, near Richmond, William Constable, of Burton Constable, and there is documentary evidence that he supplied furnishings to Boynton Hall, Cannon Hall, Baldersby, Newby Hall, and Temple Newsam House.

His many commitments in the county are mentioned in a letter written in 1771 to Sir Edward Knatchbull by his partner, Thomas Haig, who excused a delay in completing an order on account of "Mr. Chippendale being in Yorkshire where he has business in several parts of that county" and he later apologised for "his being so long detained in the North."

## Proof

To this list of clients from Yorkshire can now be added the name of Sir James Ibbetson who, in the 1770's, employed John Carr of York to build Denton Park, situated in Wharfedale only four miles from Chippendale's birthplace. Proof that Sir James commissioned Chippendale to equip his new house comes from a recently discovered document headed "An account of money expended in furniture for the new House at Denton." The first entry records "Chippendale's bill £551" and is followed by the names of eleven other firms who supplied household effects amounting in all to £1,082.7.0. It is interesting to find that Chippendale received a very much larger sum than any of his rivals (Gillows of Lancaster were paid £220 and various other firms of furniture makers lesser amounts). Sir James Ibbetson must surely have been aware of Chippendale's Otley connection and it is tempting to believe that he was moved to

patronise this firm by a spirit of local pride.

## Elegant

Presumably Chippendale supplied elegant furniture for the main reception rooms at Denton while the other less fashionable makers equipped the private apartments, bedrooms, servants' rooms and so forth with more routine inexpensive items.

Unfortunately, the contents of Denton Park were dispersed earlier this century and none of the original furnishings remain there. Nor has it been possible to trace a copy of the sale catalogue which might contain particulars of the Chippendale pieces (any help in locating a copy would be greatly appreciated).

However, there is evidence that a large amount of furniture was removed by the Wyville family from Denton to Constable Burton in the North Riding in about 1902, but once again this collection was largely disposed of at a country house sale held by Hollis and Webb in 1932.

## Catalogue

Luckily a copy of this catalogue which illustrates several of the most important lots has come to light and a very fine drawing room commode and pair of matching pier tables are reproduced which can be identified as almost certainly the work of Thomas Chippendale on the grounds of their striking resemblance in design and decoration to fully documented Chippendale pieces at Harewood House, Nostell Priory, Mersham and Paxton House.

Although little hope now exists of tracing the present whereabouts of these handsome objects it is very satisfying to have identified three of the items which Chippendale made for Denton Park. It is possible that further examples are recorded in the elusive Denton sale catalogue.

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT

19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1971

## MORE THOUGHT FOR FUTURE OF WHITE WELLS

There is a real danger that the White Wells, Ilkley's famous landmark, could become no more than a building with no access to its interior which includes what are claimed to be Roman Baths originally served by a spring which brought the town its reputation two centuries ago.

The Amenities Committee of Ilkley Council is suggesting that the present nearby cafe, which has existed for over 40 years, shall be pulled down and that possibly no further work beyond the present repairs to the roof of the old White Wells be carried out on that building. In the coming year's estimates an amount of £2,200 has been ear-marked for the White Wells. It is believed however, there is little enthusiasm among the committee for incorporating a small cafe with the old building as was suggested when the deterioration of the roof brought the question of the future of the White Wells into consideration.

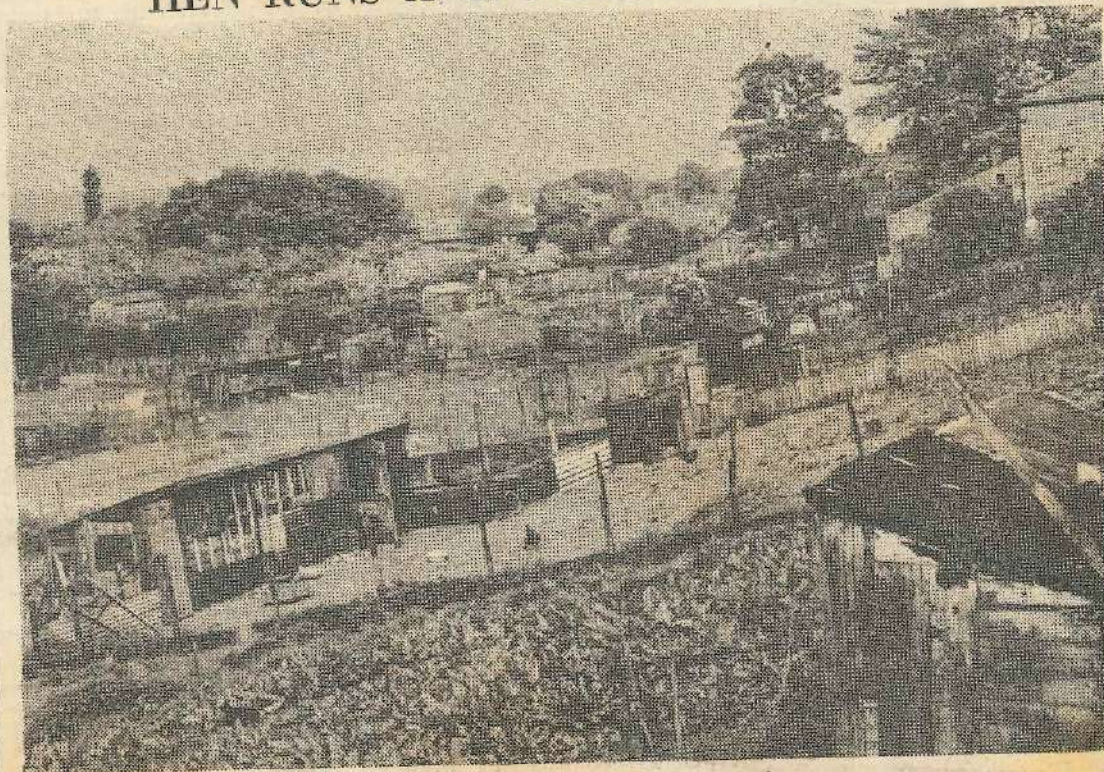
The work of repairing the roof and other essential jobs is at present in progress.

## FORMER SHOP

Another old building to which the Council is giving consideration is one in Castle Yard believed to be the last remaining of Ilkley's shops which existed at the beginning of the last century. Various local societies have interested themselves in its future with the cost of repairs a difficulty to overcome.

The Amenities Committee has been told that it will cost £200 to carry out essential repairs and the Council has been recommended to enquire whether the owners, the Ilkley Parish Church, will be prepared to sell the building to the Council with the object of carrying out repairs and then making it available to the interested societies.

## HEN RUNS AND NURSERY GARDENS



It is just 25 years ago that the area between the river and Bridge Lane was cleared of its hen runs and nursery gardens to make way for the Memorial Gardens.

14 MAY 1971

Photo

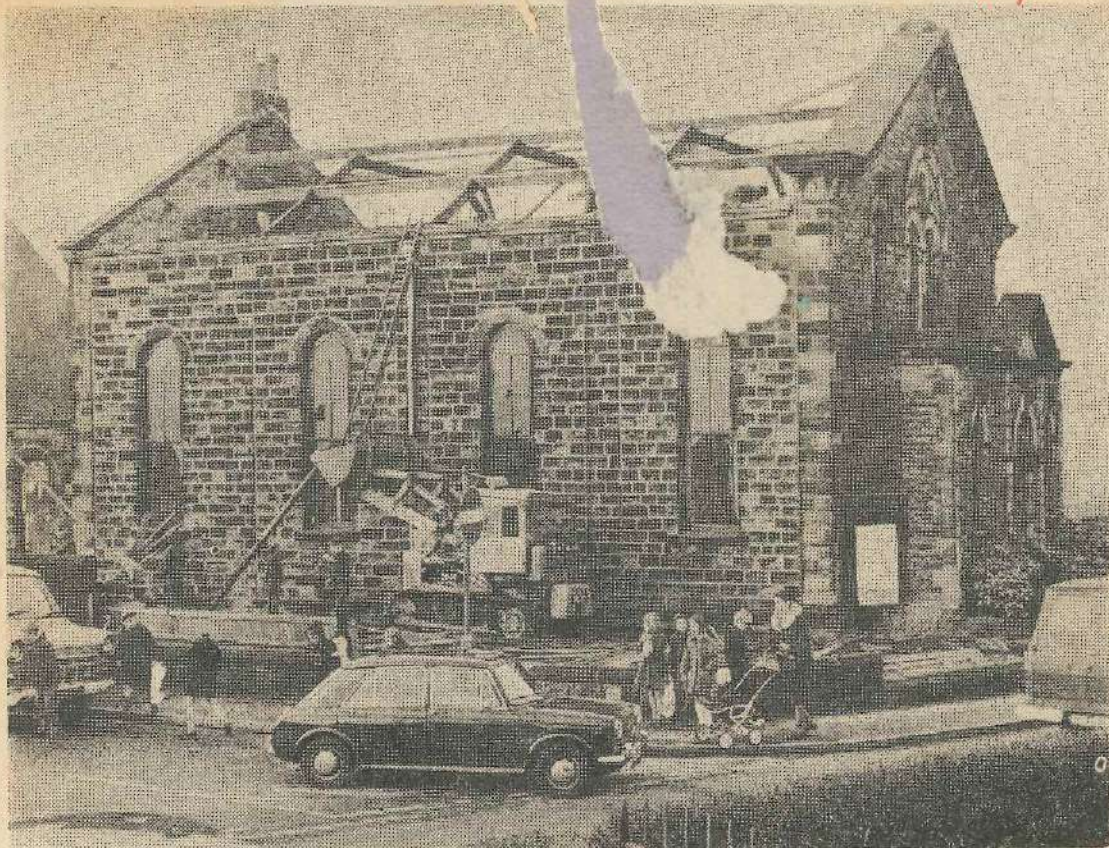
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## NEARING FINAL STAGES

29/1/71



The former Primitive Methodist Chapel in Leeds Road is now reaching the final stages of demolition. It is pictured with the walls still standing but with the schoolroom demolished and most of the roof gone.

youthful climbing enthusiasts from far and wide.

The view from the Cow Rock, a place said to have been used for Druidical rites, extends from York Minster to the upper reaches of Wharfedale. Ilkley lies at your feet and this view of the richly-wooded dale bounded by rolling moorland is unforgettable. From certain angles the Cow Rock bears the profile of a sphinx, a resemblance readily noticeable in a photograph. The Pancake Rock, farther to the east, may have Druidical associations along with the Cow Rock.

We can now walk to Rocky Valley and Ilkley Tarn, the latter very popular during winter skating. The nearby White Wells, picturesque white-washed buildings dating from the eighteenth century, contain deep circular baths hollowed out of the solid rock and fed from a spring of pure icy water from the moors above.

The nineteenth-century St. Margaret's Church is a large, spacious building in a commanding situation high on Queen's Road — an attractive church, especially inside. In the

public garden opposite the church we can see good examples of the strange cup-and-ring marks carved in rock, a feature for which the Ilkley moors are noted.

A most delightful walk can be enjoyed by following the path up Hebers Ghyll, a lovely wooded glen. It is a steep climb all the way, the path crossing and recrossing the stream by a series of rustic bridges. There are many waterfalls, and, in springtime, when the trees are coming into leaf and the woods are fragrant with bluebells, this is a walk of great charm. Panorama Rocks are within easy reach of the top of the glen and the view, being to the west of the town, gives charming prospects towards Bolton Abbey and Beamsley Beacon. To the west of the top of Hebers Ghyll is the renowned Swastika Stone, a relic of the Bronze Age about 2,800 years ago — hence the Nazis used a symbol of great antiquity. Swastika Stones are great rarities and the one at Ilkley is an extremely good example and remarkably well preserved.

Ilkley Moor verges into Rombald's Moor, a vast region of great interest to the archaeologist and once far more populated than now. The motorist can drive almost to the top of Keighley Gate, 1,247 feet above sea-level, but it is very rough going beyond the end of the tarred road and most drivers turn at this point. There are magnificent prospects of Ilkley and Wharfedale and it is only a short stroll to Cowper's Cross, one of the many crosses on this extensive moor and a splendid viewpoint for the grandeur of upper Wharfedale.



Cow and Calf Rocks, Ilkley. 1/100th sec. at F/5.6 X 2 yellow filter. Gevaert film. Lens-hood

Photographer's County

YORKSHIRE LIFE  
NOV 1954

# THE CHARM OF ILKLEY

Described and Photographed by  
G. DOUGLAS BOLTON

ILKLEY, the gateway to upper Wharfedale, owes much of its charm to its situation. There are wooded slopes leading to glorious moorland to the north while to the south the houses and roads creep up to the fringe of the celebrated Ilkley Moor famed in song and legend — the ever-popular "On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At" being appreciated far beyond the boundaries of our county. Ilkley, although its activity as a Spa is comparatively modest, is pre-eminently an inland holiday resort noted for the beauty of its surroundings and the fine moorland air sweeping down from the heights all around; it is a sparkling, refreshing town — colourful and bright, with much to attract its many visitors; it is the gateway to both upper and lower Wharfedale and as a base for exploring singularly photogenic surroundings it is almost unexcelled. The hotels, cafés, shops and other amenities — from cinemas and concerts to an open-air swimming pool — cater for a wide range of tastes. There are zig-zag roads climbing to the residential areas overlooking the valley.

wooded glens of great charm and many colourful gardens. Also, and this may prove surprising, Ilkley is of great historic interest, the famous moor, a part of the larger Rombald's Moor, being rich in prehistoric remains and of great interest to the archaeologist.

Before climbing to the heights there is much to see down in the valley.

The Parish Church, though restored, reveals much of earlier days — the thirteenth-century doorway, Elizabethan altar table and ancient font are of special interest. The church occupies a Roman site and probably supersedes former Celtic and Saxon churches. There are three Saxon cross-shafts, possibly preaching-crosses, in the churchyard revealing carving at least 1,000 years old, and two Roman stones inside the church. It is likely that Ilkley was a stronghold of the early days of Christianity.

We can see a remarkably picturesque three-arched bridge across the Wharfe; this was originally a packhorse bridge and is now closed to motor traffic; its graceful outline and

attractive surroundings make it an ever-popular subject for photography.

The Ilkley Museum — above the Public Library — contains many well-arranged relics of Stone Age, Mesolithic and Roman times in addition to various medieval exhibits.

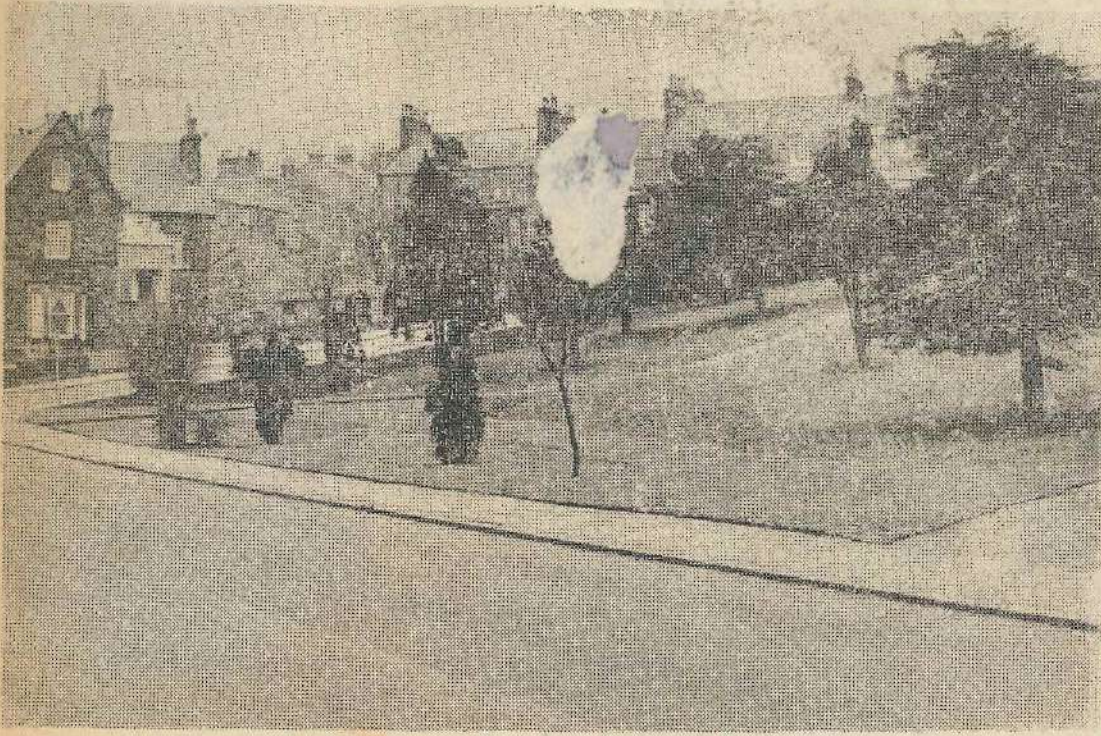
Middleton Lodge, an Elizabethan mansion on the northern slopes of the valley, is now a retreat of the Passionist Fathers; on application permission may be given to visit the Calvary in the monastery grounds.

The most convenient approach to the Cow and Calf Rocks is from the hotel at Moor Top on the verge of Ilkley Moor, a viewpoint only surpassed by the glorious panorama of Ilkley and Wharfedale from the top of the Cow Rock, a vertical cliff of Millstone Grit readily climbed from the sides and rear; rock-climbers favour a frontal assault but this is not for the amateur. The Calf Rock, a huge block which looks as if it might roll down into the valley at any minute, has an abundance of out-of-balance hand and footholds and is very popular with

5 MARCH 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

### BELLE VUE GARDENS IMPROVEMENT

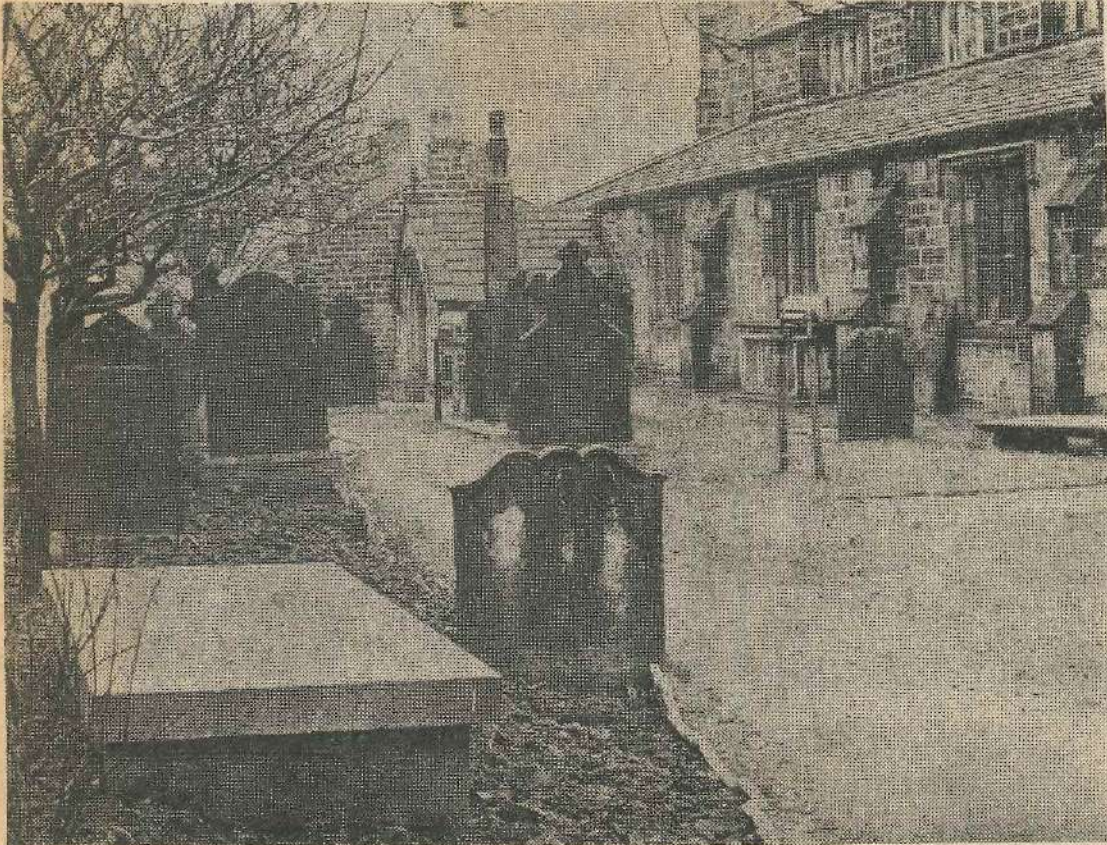


Belle Vue gardens in Cowpasture Road has been improved by the removal of some of the shrubs and the extension of the grassed area.

5 MAR 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

### ILKLEY PARISH CHURCHYARD SCHEME



As part of the improvement scheme now in progress, the gravestones at the south side of the Ilkley Parish Church are to be removed, leaving the Saxon crosses in "splendid isolation."



COWPER'S CROSS  
KEIGHLEY SATE  
ILKLEY MOOR

YORKSHIRE LIFE  
Nov 1954



## REMOVAL OF CHURCH GRAVESTONES



A view of the rear of the Ikley Parish Church graveyard where gravestones have been removed. The black stone standing alone marks the grave of Robert Collyer's first wife and infant daughter and his step brother. In the background to the right of the church tower can be seen the old building whose preservation is under consideration at present time.

5 MARCH 1971

## PLANS TO DEMOLISH OLD SHOP



Believed to be Ikley's oldest shop property this stone building near the Manor House at Ikley is to be demolished, the Ikley Parochial Church Council has decided. Ikley Council had agreed to buy and restore the building at a cost of £300.

12-3-71

## 12 MARCH 1971 OLD SHOP NOT TO BE SOLD BUT DEMOLISHED

A stone building near the Manor House, believed to be the oldest shop property in Ikley and which Ikley Council agreed to buy and restore, is now planned to be demolished. Following restoration, work for which £800 was allotted, the building was to have been made available by the Council for use by local organisations.

The building is owned by the Ikley Parochial Church Council.

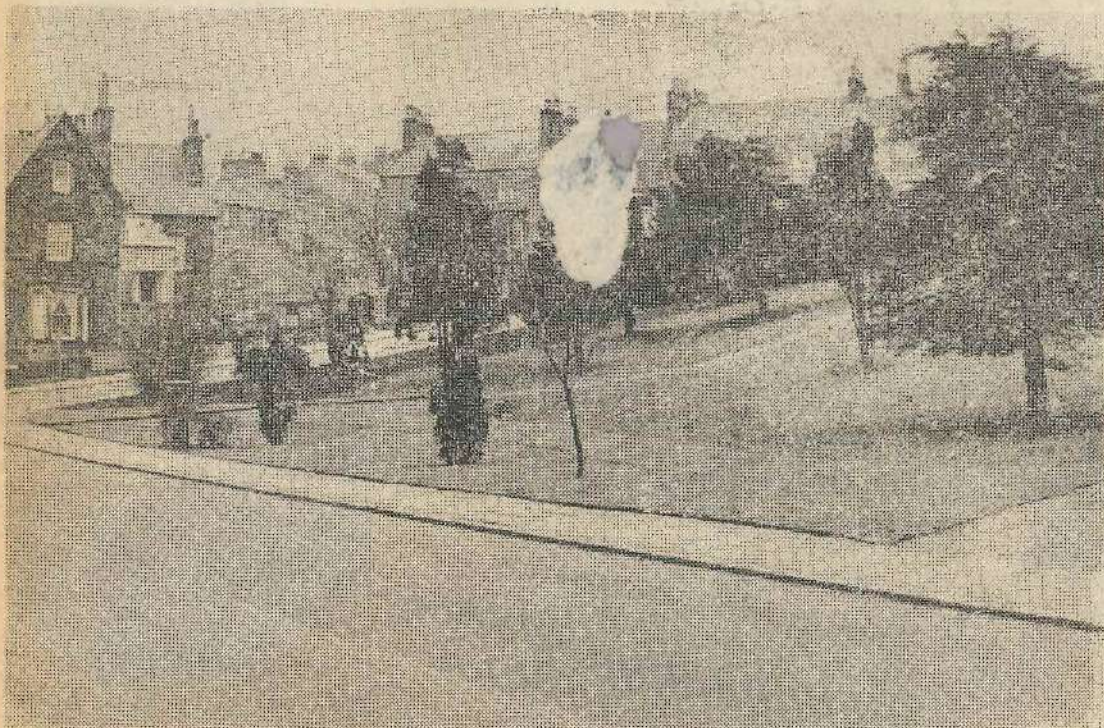
Chairman of the Friends of the Manor House, Mr. W. R. Hill, commented this week, "It is strange that a body, the surrounds of whose property have been so much enhanced by the vision and activities of the Council, is now unwilling to co-operate with a scheme which, after several years of effort, had produced a concrete and lasting plan for the preservation of this ancient building for Ikley."

He added, "It is fervently hoped that, at this late hour, the Parochial Church Council will have a change of heart. It would be a tragedy to lose this building when at this very moment plans are being made to protect this area with a preservation order."

5 MARCH 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

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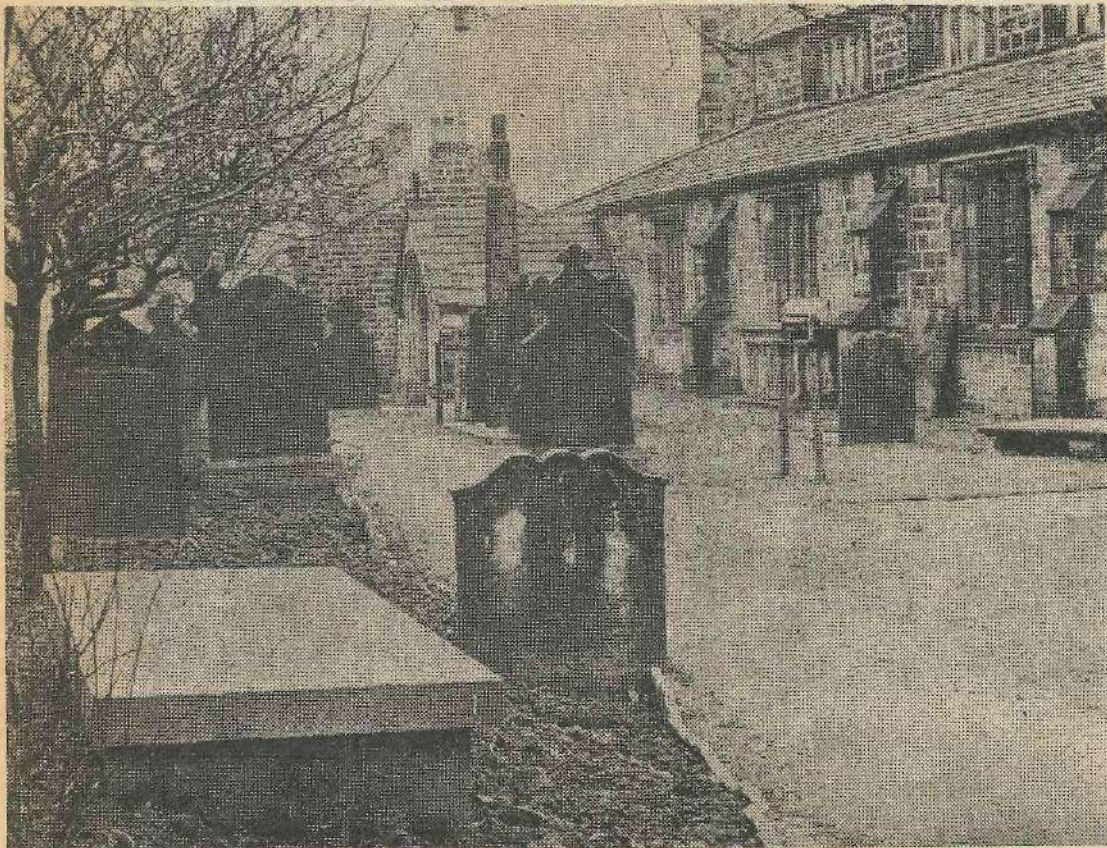


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5 MAR 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

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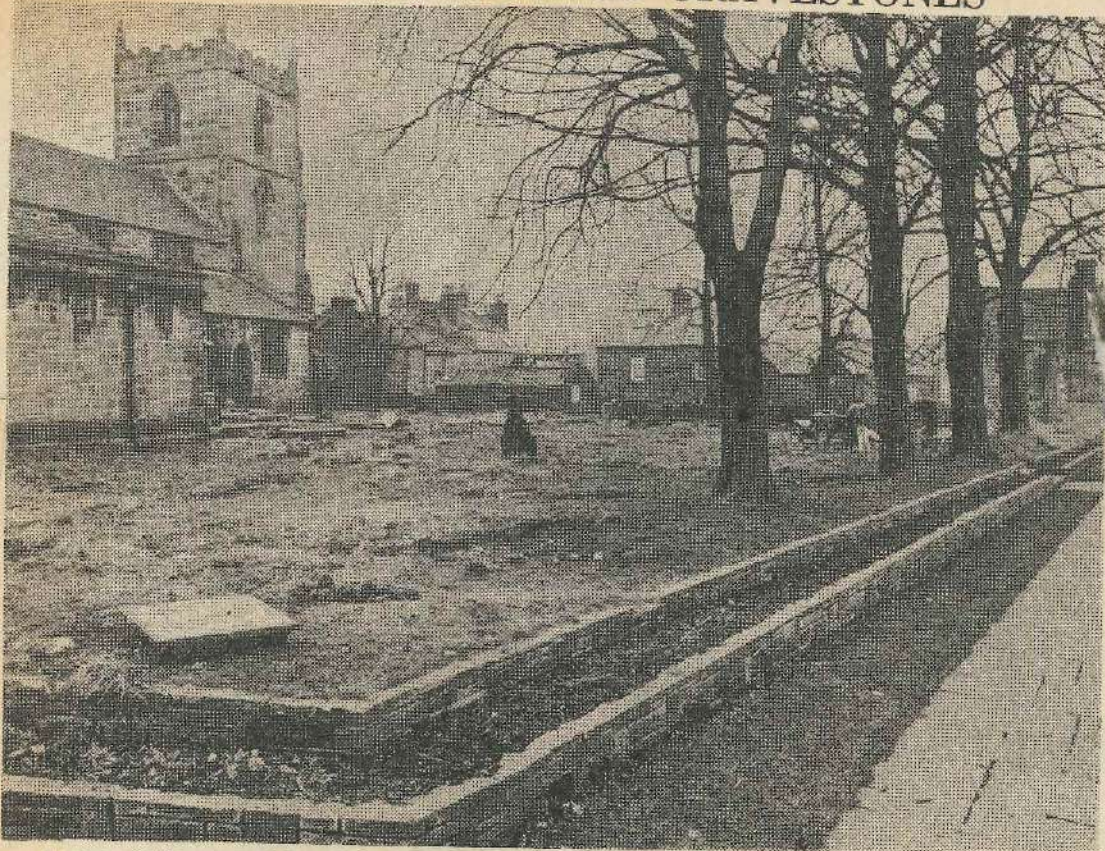
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COWPER'S CROSS  
KEIGHLEY GATE  
ILKLEY MOOR

YORKSHIRE LIFE  
NOV 1954

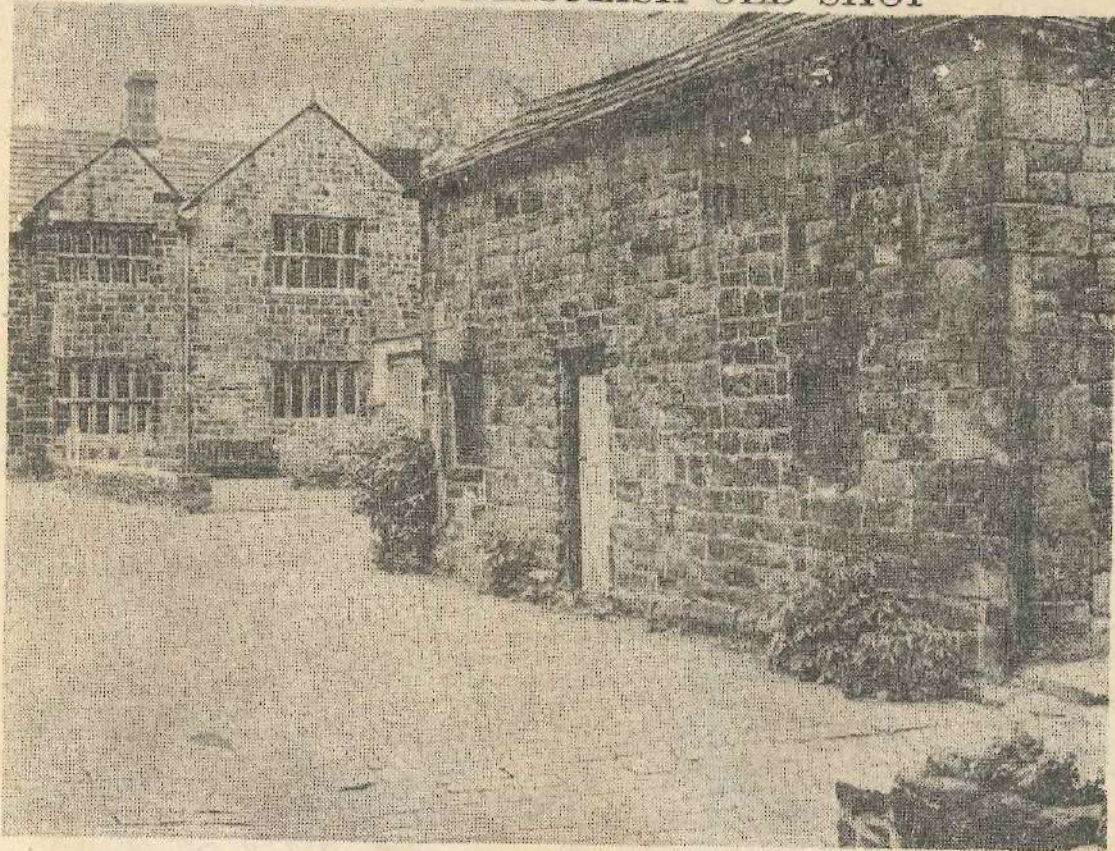
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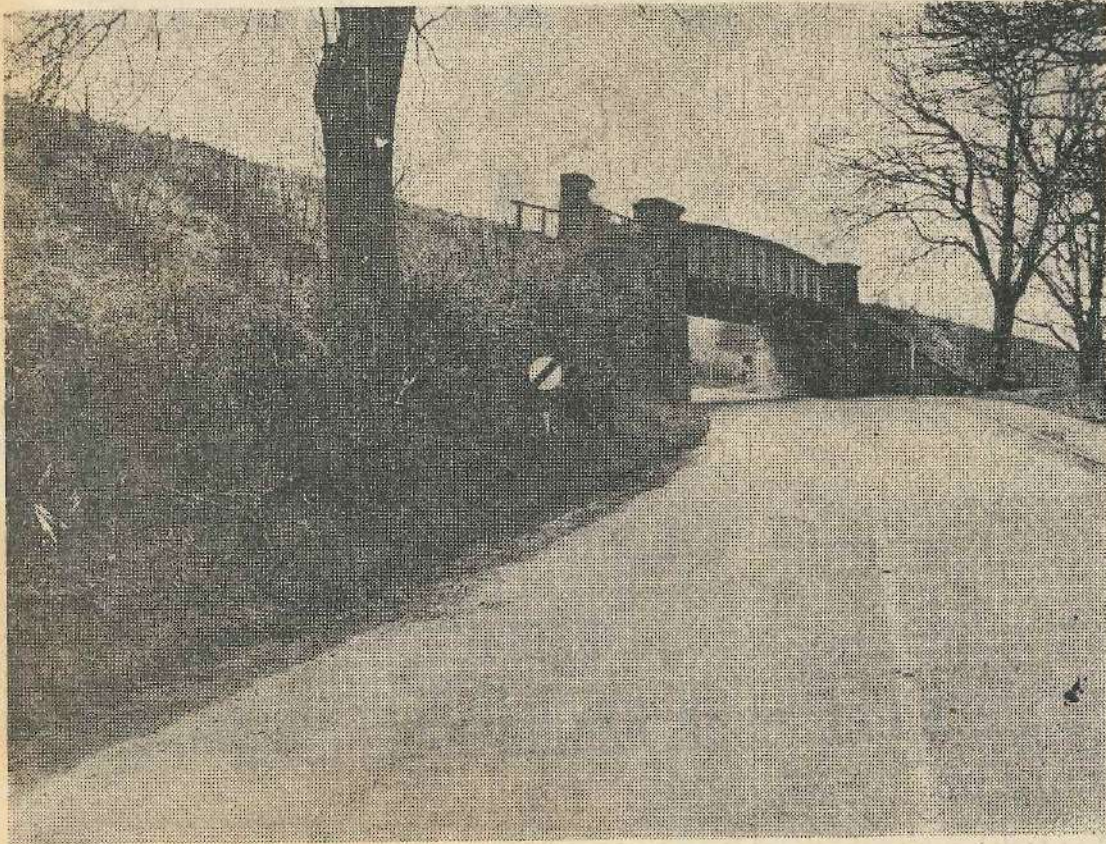
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19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1971

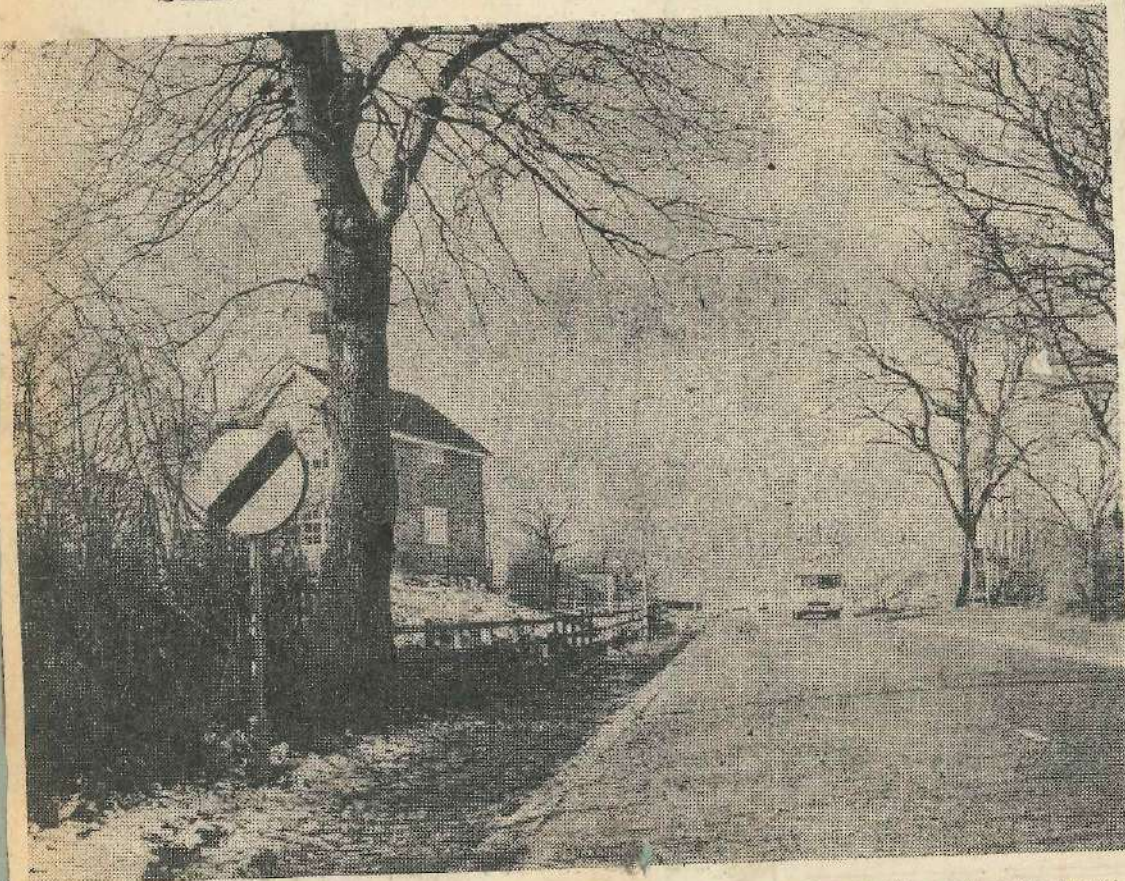
ILKLEY GAZETTE

### SKIPTON ROAD IMPROVEMENT (1)



Skipton Road before the bridge and the railway embankment were removed on the outskirts of Ilkley and the housing development carried out on the left.

### SKIPTON ROAD IMPROVEMENT (2)



The wide stretch of road presented following the removal of the railway bridge and embankment, and further improvements carried out. The house on the left is the fringe of the development.

19 MARCH 1971

29 26 MAR 1971  
**GAS PIPE-LINE  
AND ANCIENT  
REMAINS**

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society has told Ilkley Urban Council that the laying of the pipe-line carrying North Sea gas across the Burley Moor will desecrate the area, and especially "Green Crag Slack."

The Secretary, Mr. C. E. Hartley, of Harrogate, has written to the Clerk to the Ilkley Urban Council, Mr. B. E. Townend, claiming that the operation will cause "destruction and loss of scientific knowledge."

He goes on, "It will be quite impossible to rescue archaeological information while the excavators are cutting the trench. Such work requires weeks of careful and minute investigation under expert archaeological supervision."

At the meeting of the Ilkley Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday night Crs. J. R. Broadley and Mrs. Renton made similar appeals for care to be taken by the Gas Board team. They said that there was danger of something which had existed for thousands of years could be endangered.

The North Eastern Gas Board says it has consulted the Commission for Ancient Monuments before making a move and that no more modifications are possible.

Mr. Walter Flesher, for many years gamekeeper on Burley Moor, told the "Ilkley Gazette" that he had examined the proposed line and did share the fears that something could be lost or damaged as a result of the pipe-line.

23 APRIL 1971  
**WHITE WELLS NO  
LONGER ABLE TO  
SUPPLY TEAS**

After nearly 200 years as a place where moor visitors could obtain refreshments, the White Wells is no longer to perform this service if a recommendation of the Amenities Committee is accepted by the Ilkley Urban District Council.

Considering its future, the Committee agreed to investigate a suggestion that it could provide a field centre for those following the nature trail, or that it be let to some local organisation to be used for a useful purposes connected with the moor.

The idea of its use as a small cafe appears to have been abandoned by the Committee.

A request for re-imbursment has been received by the tenant of the cafe and White Wells. She claims a sum of £346.11 to cover losses which, she says, have resulted from the Council's delay in reaching a decision about the future of the cafe.

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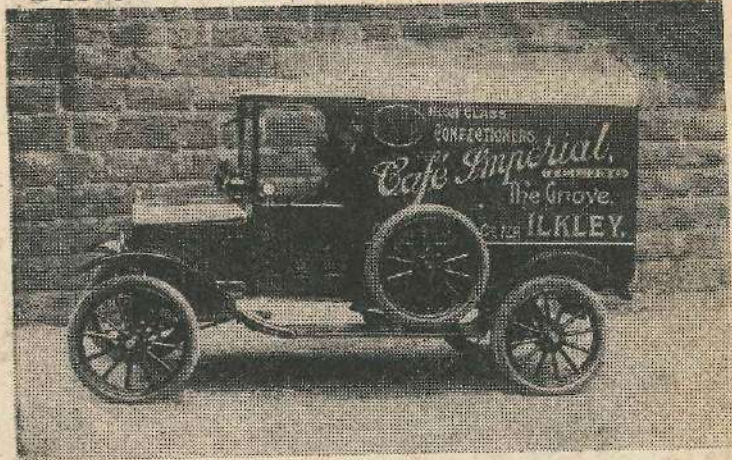
## PIPE-LINE UNDER RIVER



Two pipe-lines converging on Ilkley at the moment is the one from the east carrying North Sea gas and this one from the west which is to carry sewage from Addingham to Ilkley for treatment. One of the most difficult operations concerned with the pipe-line link to Ilkley from Addingham was the crossing of the River Wharfe on the Addingham boundary. This involved the installation of the pipe four feet below the river bed which was carried out at the end of last week. At Ilkley the pipe-line crosses the river again but this time by being slung underneath the suspension bridge.

19 MARCH 1971

## FIRST VAN FOR ILKLEY CAFE



Ford model "T" van—registration number WR 9842—was the first motorised vehicle used for deliveries by the former Cafe Imperial, Ilkley. The year was 1921 and pictured at the wheel is Mr. William Thackray, who now lives in retirement at Lawn Walk, Burley-in-Wharfedale. Of American manufacture with a left hand drive the van sported oil lamps on either side of the windscreen and headlamps operated from the dynamo. Mr. Thackray's brother, Mr. Charles Thackray, of Colbert Avenue, Ben Rhydding, told the "Gazette" that the van even had pneumatic tyres measuring 30 x 3 at the front and 30 x 3½ at the rear. Before the van deliveries were made by horse and cart, said Mr. Thackray.

18 JUNE 1971

26 MARCH 1971 ILKLEY GAZETTE

## IMPROVEMENTS OUTSIDE RAIL STATION



Amongst the improvements referred to 100 years ago outside the Ilkley Railway Station was the disappearance of these cottages which stood where the Midland Bank Ltd. stands today

19 MARCH 1971

FRIDAY, 19 MARCH, 1971

### ACROSS THE YEARS

## Railway station in end of that

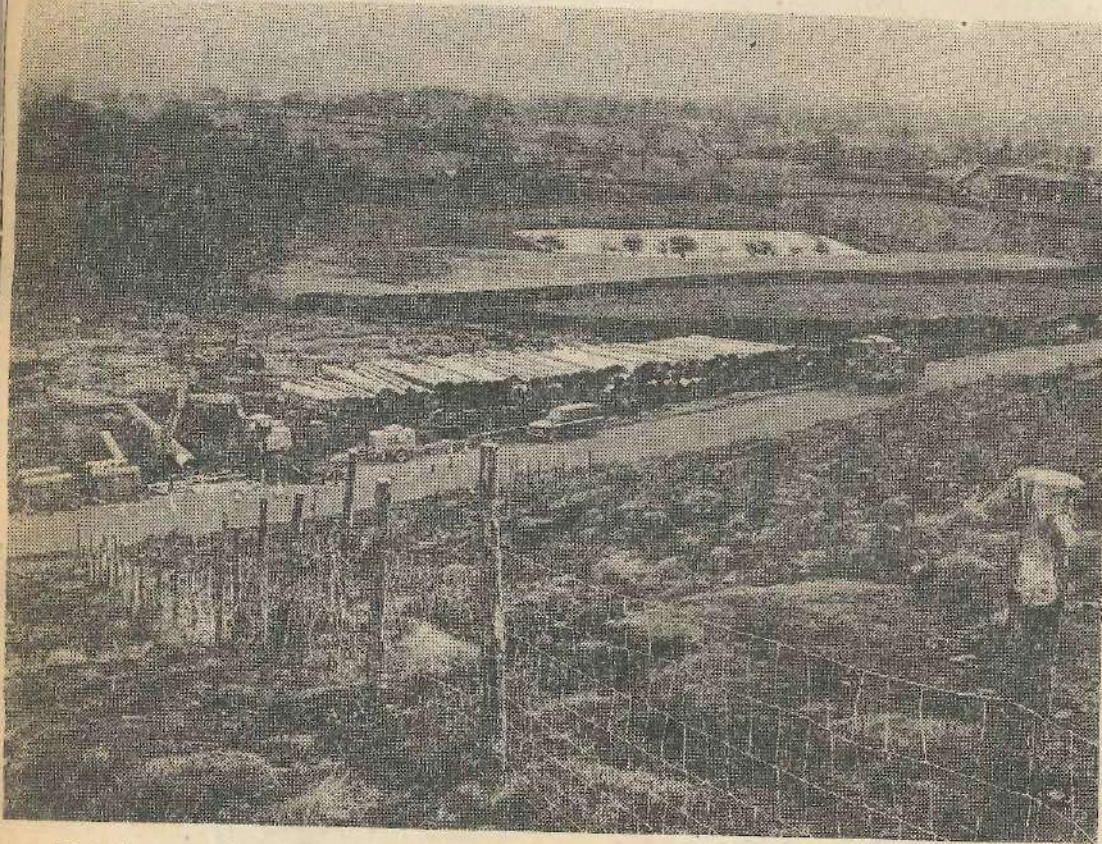
### 100 Years Ago

"Perhaps of all the alterations none will strike the visitors' attention more than that which meets his gaze on emerging from the railway station," said the "Ilkley Gazette" in March, 1871. "A short time ago low thatched dwellings were the objects which first met the eye, now, however, are lines of tall handsome shops, hotels, houses of superior class and a fine open space at the top of Brook Street where formerly stood the post office.

The precincts of the railway too which were so long enclosed by unsightly wooden palings, have now been fenced off with a noble wrought iron palisading. New approaches for passengers and conveyances have been made, a portion of the enclosed ground has been formed into a lawn and planted with trees, and the causeway outside the iron fencing has been flagged. These improvements outside the station have long been in progress and it is only now that we have been able to realise the very decided and noble effect they produce. Nature has lavished upon our locality some of her richest stores of beauty—may art never interpose in such wise as to undo or place the two at discord.

2 APRIL 1971 ILKLEY GAZETTE

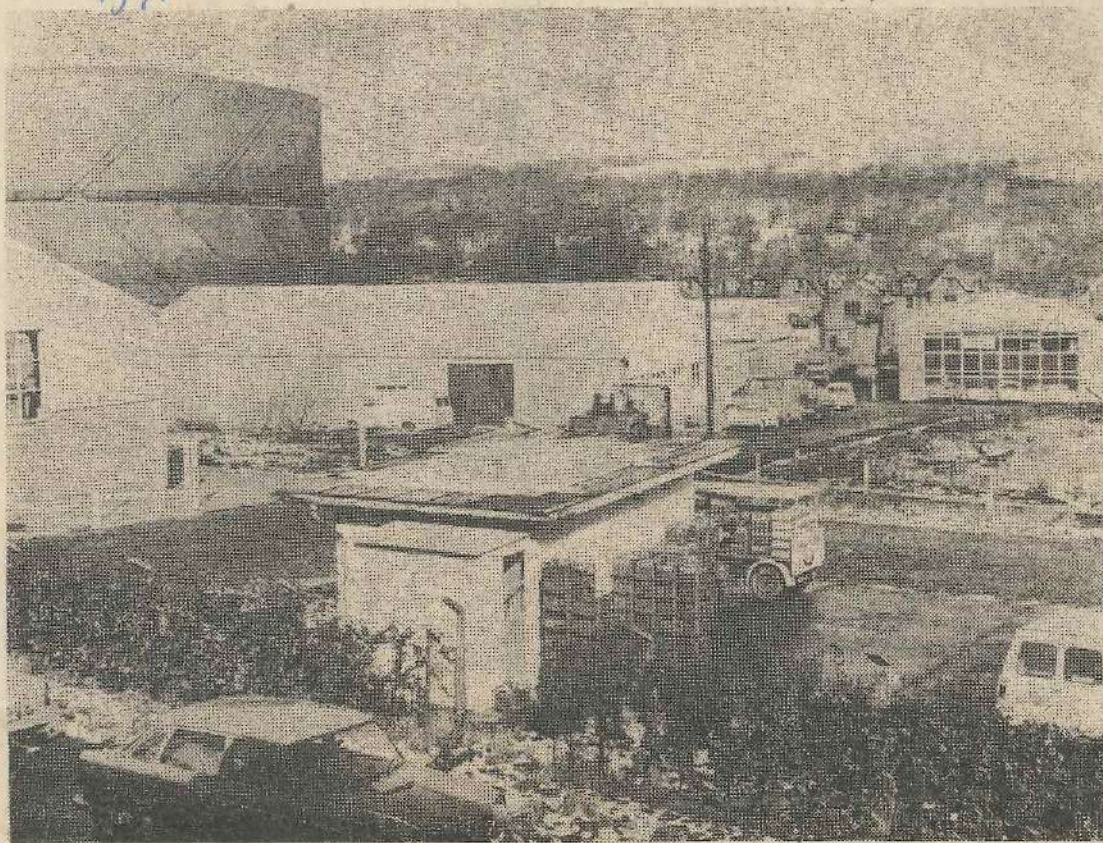
## NORTH SEA GAS PIPELINE ON MOORS EDGE



Work has now started on excavating a trench to carry the North Sea gas pipeline across the moors to Keighley. Looking from the edge of the moors at a point between the Cow and Calf and Burley Woodhead towards Denton this picture illustrates the course the underground pipeline will take between the two fences. This line continues down the hillside to Leeds Road near the Ben Rhydding sewage works and then links up with the main from the east.

8 APRIL 1971

## ILKLEY INDUSTRIAL SITE (2)



The Ilkley Industrial site between Little Lane and Leeds Road as it is today.

2 APRIL 1971

## GREEN CRAG SLACK

Sir,—As a member of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society I appreciate their concern that pipe laying for the North Sea Gas may be disruptive of Archaeological evidence on Green Crag Slack.

Also I agree with Mr. Walter Flesher that this may be an excellent opportunity for "pick out" for other mementos of the "Iron Age" forbears. For example the flat circular stone discs sometimes found thereabouts, which were possible used for throwing at birds to catch them.

However it is up to the Y.A.S. to keep expert watch on the proceedings and record any findings. The Olicana "Museum and Historical Society," whose concern it is to keep track and record Ilkley's local history, will certainly be doing so, and we hope to swell the Museums' records and finds.

Time has unfortunately brought a closure to my active participation in these exciting doings, so I should like to make a comment here for future enthusiasts, which I hope will bear fruit.

One day whilst working on the Fawkes Monuments, kept in the vaults of the Y.A. Society's old house in Park Place, Leeds, a visitor to the district came in. Some years previously he had been working for a waterworks company, laying a water-main pipe from Keighley to Ilkley. They had found an old coffin, and also the lining of an old pipe line, similar to that in the museum, some oak pipe lining of Roman origin found when Brook Street was made. (This is now in Leeds Museum). He was hoping that one day he would be able to investigate the matter when he retired. Unfortunately I have not his name and address, but luckily this information survived,—site about 2½ miles from Ilkley, 1,050 feet ordnance survey, near the Ilkley to Manchester Roman Road.

This may throw a light on the often discussed question of the White Wells Bath House;—Roman or 18th century? Definitely the latter, built by the Squire of Middleton in 1758 when the benefits to health were just realised by a plunge into cold water. However the benefits of the Spring & Well could have been realised in Roman times. Their baths would naturally be nearer the fort—one in the fort itself has been excavated and there was possibly one for civilians outside the East Gate of the fort, as in the allotments there, a stone lined drain was found some years ago, leading diagonally into the river.

The continued wet and sorry state of Castle Road does give credence to the idea.

Please, no scratching or digging about without someone in authority there, important evidence, never to be regained can easily be destroyed.

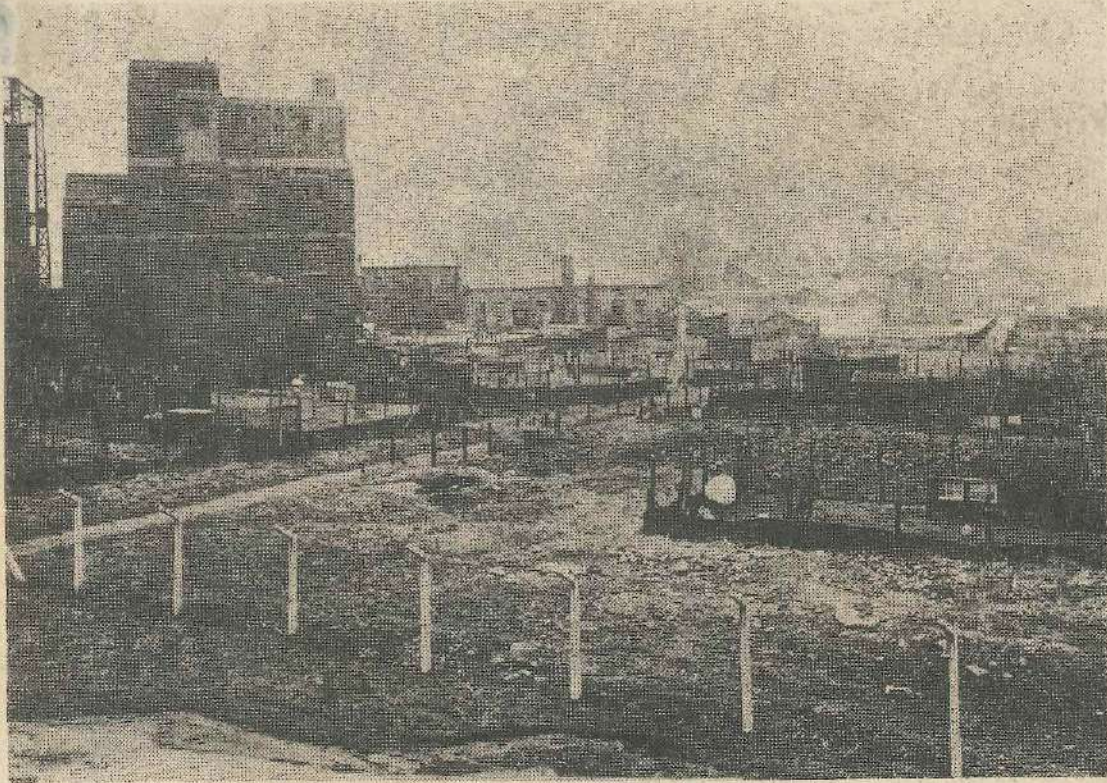
E. M. FLETCHER

Past curator of the Manor House and organiser of the Museum.

8 APRIL 1971

ILKLEY GAZETTE

### ILKLEY INDUSTRIAL SITE (1)



A view of the Industrial site before it was altered in recent years.

### OLD MILESTONE UNCOVERED



Tree felling and lopping in the copse to the north of Middleton Lodge at the top of Lodge Hill has again uncovered the ancient milestone. This indicates, "To Keighley 5m; to Rippon 15m." These references are in old English miles.

30 APRIL 1971

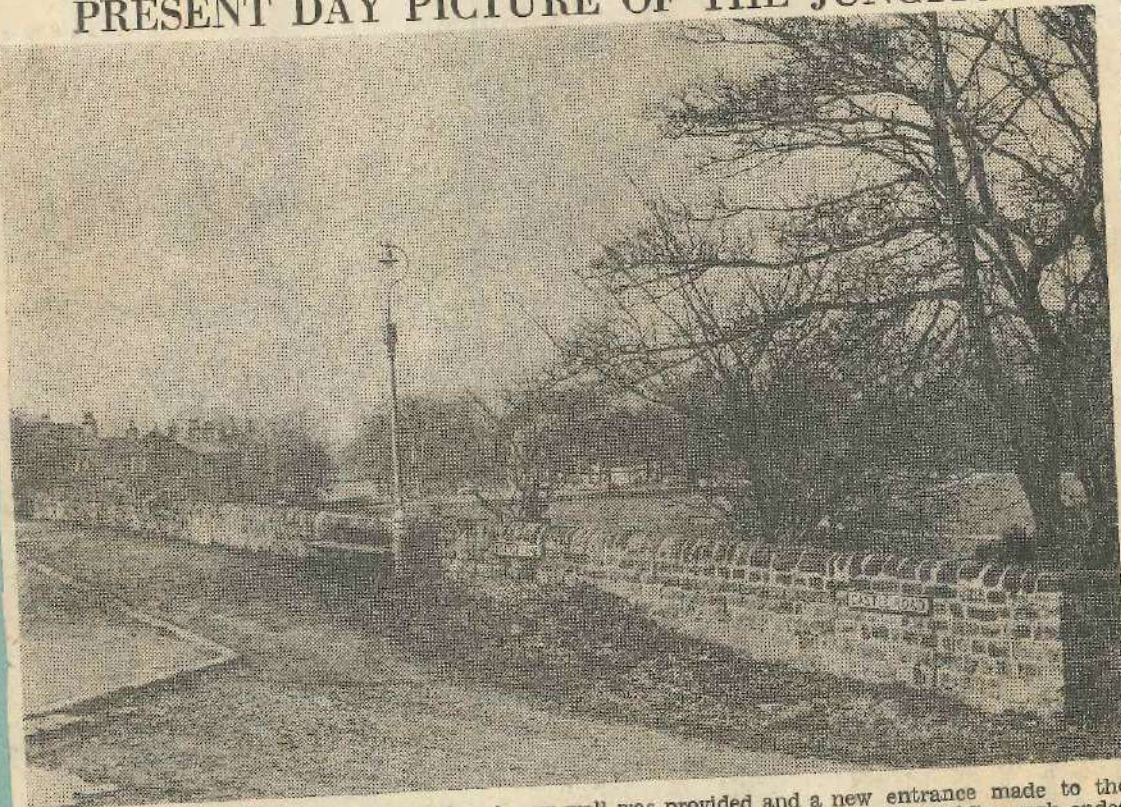
30 APRIL 1971

# CHANGES AT CASTLE ROAD-BRIDGES LANE JUNCTION



Picture shows the buildings which stood for some years at junction of Bridge Lane with Castle Road. They were occupied by a joiner, a clock repairer and an antique dealer.

## PRESENT DAY PICTURE OF THE JUNCTION



The buildings were removed in 1955. A new wall was provided and a new entrance made to the Memorial Gardens. It was at this point it is believed that the Roman Road from Aldborough ended its journey across the moor and approached the Roman fort on the last few yards of its journey.

## WELLS AND ROMAN BATHS

—SO CALLED *UNDATED*

By Elsie M. Fletcher

(Honorary Curator Ilkley Manor House Museum)

It seems the fashion in these days to debunk many of the historical stories which enlivened the dull facts in old history books. It is the same with legends and stories connected with old buildings, which, persisting through the ages, we have come to accept as facts. So let us look at some of these in our own district.

Because of Ilkley's Roman tradition it is quite understandable that the White Wells Baths should be thought of as Roman. But, though certain aspects of them indicate Roman influence, they were actually built in 1756 by a Middleton squire who was a great benefactor to Ilkley. The idea was just beginning to emerge that a plunge in cold water was beneficial to health and the spring gushing from these rocks was of exceptionally pure water.

In Menston, too, a similar, though larger Bath, has for several generations been called a Roman Bath. For many years a room at a house, Well Cottage, has been built over it which has only just been excavated. Here, too, this idea seemed quite feasible as Roman pavement was discovered at the beginning of the century a few yards higher up the lane and only this year whilst drainage was in progress on the Homestead Estate undeniable indications of a Roman roadway were discovered. Though we have still no factual evidence of its origin it seems probable that this Bath too was built about the same time as White Wells. Measuring roughly eight feet square and five feet deep, a pipe into it brings fresh water from the near-by well, a huge plug draining into it a sort of tank and drainage nearby. As a child I used to hear it stated that it had been undecided whether to establish a spa here or at Ilkley, the Well then had such importance. But whether that referred to the White Wells or to Hydrotherapy in Ilkley a century later, I cannot say.

### At Guiseley

At Guiseley there is another so-called Roman Bath in the grounds of the Rectory Hall. This certainly seems to have an earlier origin than the other two, for we have written evidence that that outstanding character, the Rev. Robert Moore, who built the Rectory Hall on the old site in 1603, used it for baptism by total immersion. It certainly looks exceedingly old and hoary, the steps leading into it are rougher than the neatly rounded edges of the Menston Bath. Guiseley itself grew up around its Well, situated nearby.

Many of these wells do seem to date from Roman days. The Romans worshipped the spirit dwelling in the wells and often built altars to the God or Goddess to whom they dedicated them, of which we have authentic examples in Ilkley. Often they were near or at some road junction. That in the grounds of the Blue Bird Cafe, at Ilkley, probably marked the spot where the prehistoric tracks crossed from North to South and from East to West indicating to the Romans the desirability of building a Fort in such a strategic position and later in engineering roads on the tracks to Aldborough, Manchester, York and Ribchester.

After the coming of the Angles and Saxons about the middle of the 7th century and when later Christianity was established, names of Saints, indeed of Gods and Goddesses, were given to wells and the healing health accruing from bathing in them was ascribed to miraculous healing by the Saint

### DENTON

At Denton there is St. Helen's Well. Helene was the mother of Constantine who was proclaimed Emperor of Rome in York in 306 A.D. Helene was a Christian and went on a pilgrimage to Palestine and was instrumental in preserving many of the sites associated with our Lord. It seems likely that it was through her prayers that Constantine eventually became a Christian himself and proclaimed Christianity as the official religion throughout the Roman Empire. Old legends relate that the site at Denton on which the present Hall or its predecessors was built was the spot on which Constantine set up a camp to which he brought his mother—another myth, I'm afraid, but which I heard repeated only last month. That she was British though is a fact, Colchester claiming her as a princess and St. Ambrose, a Saxon Chronicler, describing her as a British innkeeper's daughter. Most interesting for romantic fiction, but alas, not for historical fact, but the name of Denton's Well is certainly of interest.

In the 18th century that indefatigable traveller and diarist Celia Fiennes, talks of bathing in the well at Copgrove near Knaresborough which is dedicated to St. Mungo, who was associated with St. Wilfred, Bishop of Ripon and Hexham at the time when Ilkley Church was part of the see of Hexham. Knaresborough is St. Robert's well where many miracles were supposed to be wrought. In

fact Yorkshire abounds in such wells, many having most fascinating stories attached.

### LITTLE INFORMATION

The history of baths is not so easy to unravel. We know about Roman Baths—but after that, blankness. The Romans attached much importance to their baths and bathing and built many imposing and important buildings to contain them as we see in Rome and other places in Europe and in excavations now being conducted in Asia. The finest in England is at Bath itself, and the best example of a military bath is at Chesters on the Roman Wall. The nearest to us is at Slack, near Huddersfield. Comprising a Caldarium, or hot room, Prepidarium or warm chamber, Frigidarium or cold room, with dressing rooms and a basin for washing, an elaborate system of procedure was indulged in until the final rubbing down and scraping with a strigil—soap not having then been manufactured. Baths were social centres, too, where games, dice, gambling, gossip and other amusements were indulged in during leisure hours. These diminished in size and importance according to the status of the town or villa, e.g. Langton Roman villa in E. Yorkshire; to even the smallest cohort fort which had a bath house, e.g. Hardknott Fort in Cumberland. The excavations at the Ilkley Fort 1921-23 revealed a Bath House in the Commandant's house which had been rebuilt of stone after the earlier one of timber. This new building had an elaborate hypocaust system for heating and a drain leading from what was presumed to be the frigidarium. But that was a private bath and it is strange and disappointing that no other bath has been discovered. It is possible, however, that there may have been one just outside the



## NORTH SEA GAS VALLEY PROGRESS

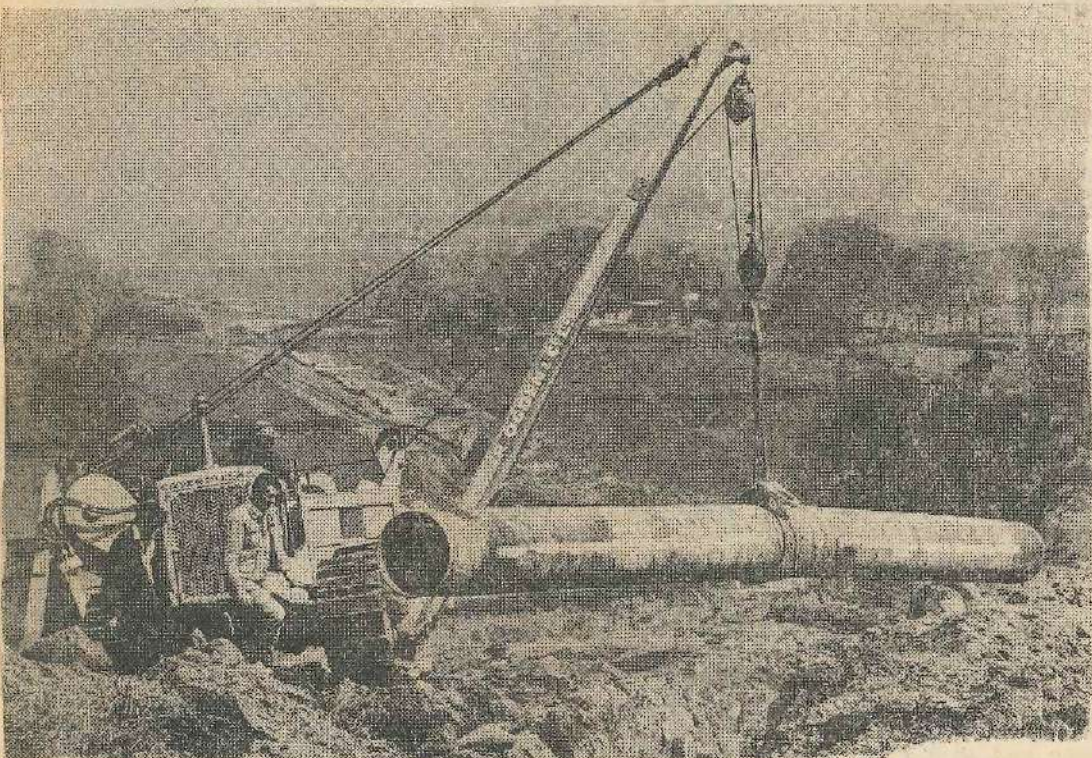
Making the river link with the pipe-line from Denton Road with that across the sewage works and on to the Ilkley gasworks. The vehicle in the background dredged out a trench on the river bed and then dropped the shaped pipe into it.



7 MAY 1971

7 MAY 1971 ILKLEY GAZETTE

## NORTH SEA GAS MOOR PROGRESS



Lifting a pipe to be placed in position where the Burley moor leaves the road. In the background the line of approach to the moor is clearly visible.

E. Gate as a drain of Roman design, leading to the river, was discovered in the allotments in Castle Road a few years ago. The wet and damp state of that road and vicinity has been a constant source of trouble even today.

At Otley, too, prehistoric life began around the mound on which the Church was built where there was a deep well, which has only been filled in in recent days. With the coming of Christianity in Anglo-Saxon days Paulinus started the conversion to Christianity hereabouts by baptising thousands in the River Wharfe and at Dewsbury and Catterick. From this time baptism by water was the distinguishing mark of a Christian. This continued until the reign of James I. In a book published by Sir John Floyer and Dr. Edward Baynard in 1722 we read that in this reign " . . . people grew peevish with ancient ceremonies and through the Love of Novelty and the Niceness of Parents and the Pretence of Modesty they laid aside Immersion which never was abrogated by any Canon but is still recommended by the present rubric of our Church which orders the child to be 'dip'

So we find that by the end of the 17th century baths had become unpopular; for one thing, immorality was much attached to them. It was one hundred years later in the 18th century that bathing started in earnest, and became popular and that is, most probably, the origin of these local baths.

### WATER CURES

By the 19th century the idea of properly organised cures by water had gained attention. On the Continent hydrophatic spas, where spring water was plentiful and pure, became popular. In England a gentleman of wealth, Mr. Hamer Stansfield of Leeds and Windermere, who had received benefit from this treatment conceived the idea of introducing it into this country with the result that the first Hydro in England was built at Wheatley and names the Ben Rhydding Hydro in 1843. A company was formed and Dr. Rischank from Silesia (Austria) was appointed as physician. Other hydros followed and Ilkley's prosperity as a Spa became assured. Harrogate, because of its medicinal springs, quickly arose to fame as a social and fashionable

But to return to the old Ilkley Wells and Bath on the moor. The water at the White Wells has not medicinal value like that at the top of Heber's Ghyll, nor the Chalybeate well in the garden on the Grove, but was of exceptionally pure quality.

A Dr. Martin Lister, who lived at Embay, was physician to Charles II and in his "Discourse on the Mineral Waters of England," published in 1682, he makes these pungent comments on the Ilkley waters :-

Children: "The weakest and most emaciated children have gained daily strength under its use—both bathing and taken internally mixed with a little milk, which is found in such excellent quality in the neighbourhood."

Youth: "When youth is fast ripening into manhood there frequently occurs in persons of both sexes a manifest deficiency in the vital functions, with a tendency to more serious complaints—weak, sallow and emaciated, they seem scarcely to exist or by such existence merely to point out their dissolution. In several instances of this nature where the balance of life and death seemed equally poised the waters of Ilkley have

turned the scale in favour of the former."

Here follows a horrific list of maladies which the water of Ilkley can cure, ending by urging young men with spottiness or scrofula to take a walk with their lady loves on to the moors, where the sterling quality of the well water, combined with the pure mountain air will do wonders for them.

How surprised these emaciated young people of the 17th century would be if they could meet their athletic counterparts of today and how would they re-act to cocktails at the hotel in lieu of the "pure fresh water" we wonder? However, from the foregoing I think we may safely assume that the Wells was known there before the Bath at the White Wells was established.

### Menston Bath

Noted on a map dated 1851, published from a survey made in 1847, the property is marked and referred to as "Gooseland Well and Menston Bath." This is situated at the junction of Burley Old Lane and Menston Old Lane, and is known simply as Well House. The lane was formerly called Gooseland Lane and led through the village up Derry Hill, which, by the way, was so nicknamed because of Irish people who settled there when a linen industry from Ireland was established, to where it crossed Mattha Dykes (Matthew Dykes to be correct!) over the moor corner to "The Gaping Goose" which in times past was an inn. "Goose"—a tantalising word—has been conjectured as deriving from the Anglo-Saxon "gus" meaning a wood. Returning from here, a moment might be spared to look on the hilltop at the recently discovered base of the cross built into a field wall. At Well House the line continues, still quite lovely, to the main Ilkley to Bradford road where a new demolished Toll House formerly stood.

### OLD LETTERS

Some old letters have come into my possession describing the locality of Well House about a hundred years ago and we can see how, in the 17th and 18th centuries, village life had grown up near a well. Opposite West Point a spring gushed out from the bank, which must have been a delightful spot with primroses, violets and early spring flowers enhancing its beauty. Around a rowan tree a seat provided a centre for gossip, jousts or wrestling, a group of sword dancers (from Guiseley) and cock fighting. Facts, these, but possibly there would be a fiddler for dancing. The coming of the railway in 1865 may have spoiled all this, but it was here the people of Menston boarded the train, buying tickets at the signal box. To the men working there the old lady living at Well House used to give her refreshing home-made beer which caused her to be heavily fined, for by then home brewing was prohibited except by special licence. So no longer were hens seen staggering about after eating the thrown-out leavings of barley and malt, nor the pigs grunting their approval! No more did children go to the Malt Shovel with their pint pots and one penny to obtain yeast from the weekly visit of the dray carrying it and the malt kilns up Derry Hill were closed "Maitkin 'oils" they were called locally. On the Ordnance Maps of today they are called "Markingholes."

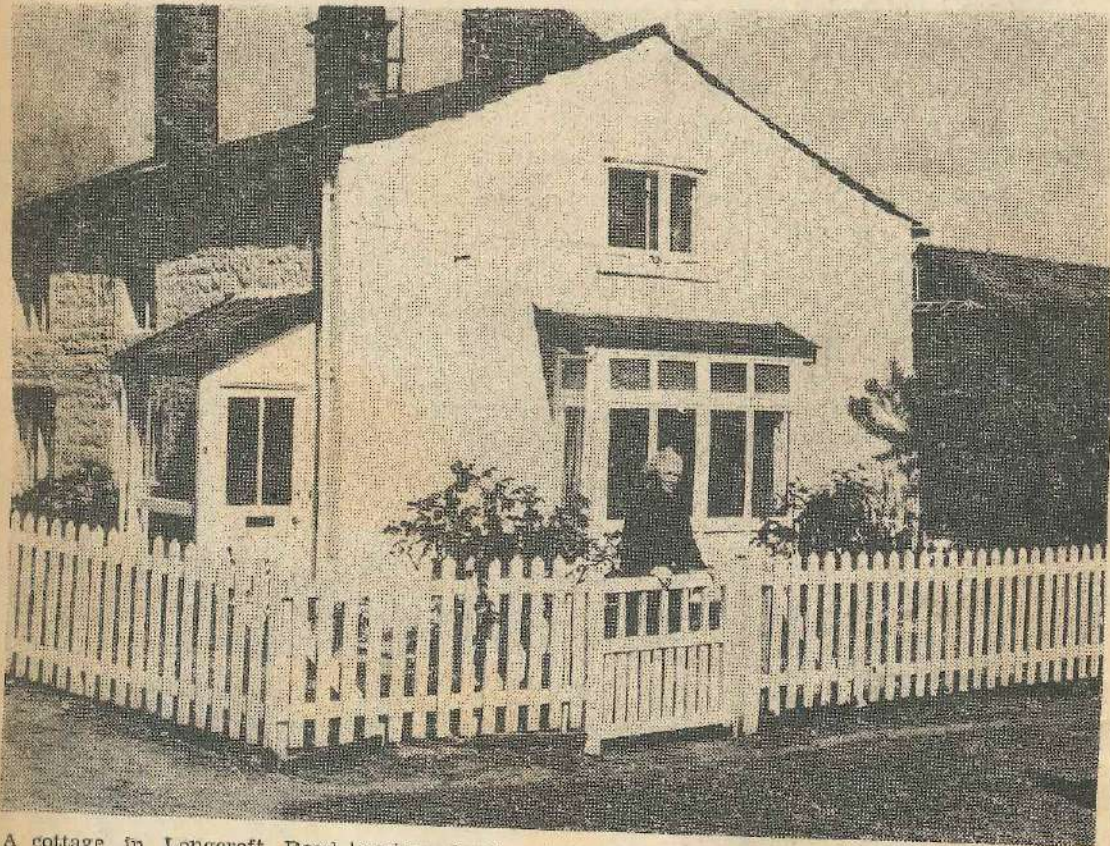
But why a Bath House at that particular spot? True, the well which supplied the water for the bath was exceptionally pure and provided "special" cups of tea on a Sunday afternoon when people came to fill their kettles from the sparkling water.

Since beginning this article I have become "immersed" in baths and wells—or rather the subject thereof—myself! I am constantly hearing of others as many readers will be doing. Also descriptions of excavations where Roman baths are being found, the latest being from "The Times" for 18 November where a Roman Bath House at Caerleon in Wales has been discovered. The article ends with the following paragraph:—"Large bath houses are a regular feature of Roman military stations, where a careful watch was kept on the hygiene of men living in crowded barracks. The Baths were usually erected outside the defences because of their size and because of fire risk from the hypocaust, though they were occasionally found inside the legionary fortress."

So perhaps there are grounds for thinking that possibly Ilkley's Roman Bath might be not on the moors but outside the E. Gate, for Ilkley was a Fort not a Fortress. This, of course, can only be substantiated by excavation and must not be taken as fact to be perhaps debunked in the next generation, as is so often happening in these days of archaeological excavations.

21 MAY 1971

# SEVENTEENTH CENTURY COTTAGE HAS A BIRTHDAY



A cottage in Longcroft Road, Ben Rhydding next week reaches its 300th birthday and to celebrate the fact, the owners the Misses W. S. and V. M. Margerison are to invite a few friends to a party. Through the years since 1935 structural alterations have been carried out. The main alterations were made in 1935 and a programme of modernisation was carried out in the early 1960's. Included in the guests next Thursday will be builders painters and joiners who have been associated with the conversion of the cottage.

At present Miss Winifred Susan Margerison (pictured above) is the sole occupant of the white walled "Rose Cottage." Her sister Miss Victoria Mary, points out that the family has no connections with the widely known Mar-

gerison family at Ben Rhydding. Their family came from Leeds to Ikley.

The cottage during the first world war was owned by Mr James Hartley. When Mr. Hartley died the cottage passed to his step-daughters, the Misses Mary and June Whitaker, of the Drive, Ben Rhydding. The two Misses Whitakers allowed their eldest sister, Mrs. Margaret Currie, and her husband, Robert, to live at the cottage for some six years up to 1935.

After the Curries left, the cottage came into the possession of the Margerison family through Mrs. Margerison who bought it at the age of 75 in 1935 and lived there with her daughter, Harriet Jane from 1936 until Harriet joined the A.T.S., and Winifred Susan joined her mother at Rose Cottage.

The structural alterations to the cottage in 1935 included a bathroom being installed upstairs and the small mullioned windows in the dining room being made twice as big to let in more light without losing its original character. Miss Victoria Mary Margerison, who is a joint owner of the house stressed that the cottage was classed as an ancient monument.

When Miss Harriett Jane Margerison was afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis after the war a large portion of the ground floor was converted into a specially adapted flat for her. These included a bedroom and a bathroom with a shower.

Mrs. Margerison died in 1953. Then Miss Winifred Susan Margerison (the present occupant of the cottage) moved in with her sister, Harriett, who died in 1965. There are five sisters, these include the two Misses Margerison, and Mrs. Anna Ruth Goodison, of Hereford. Mrs. Ethel Margaret Wallis, Torquay and Mrs. Frances Evelyn Margerison, of London, who carried on the family name after she was married. Mrs. Goodison has come up specially for the event next Thursday. Also present will be Mrs. Milnes, who was already on a visit to her old school colleague, Miss Victoria Mary Margerison, who since April has made a permanent home at 4, Merergison Road. Before that Miss Margerison lived alternate six monthly periods at her home in Ben Rhydding and in Halifax.

Among the antiques included in the house furnishings are a very high backed sewing seat and a wall clock made in Nottingham which is well over 200 years old.

A new 1945. "Not long last it the "Ikley 20 years, but the building the avenue the highway

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11 JUNE 1971

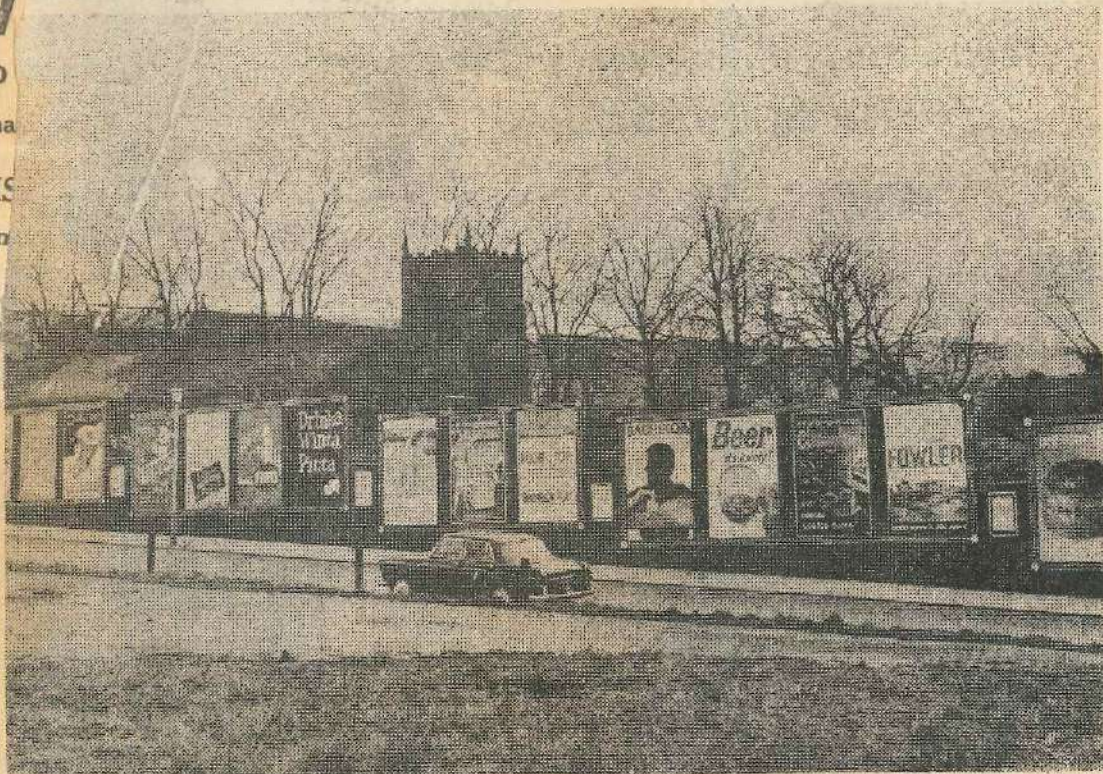
VALLEY DRIVE 26 YEARS AGO



A new link road between Ilkley and Ben Rhydding was being constructed along Valley Drive in 1945. "Not the least valuable development associated with the new housing scheme at Ilkley is that at long last it will provide the road link between Little Lane, Ilkley and Valley Drive, Ben Rhydding," said the "Ilkley Gazette" at that time. "That this road link would come one day has been clear for over 20 years, but it has taken longer than most people expected," said the "Gazette". Picture illustrates the building of the new road from the end of Valley Drive looking past Riddings Farm, on the left, into the avenue of trees of the Grange Estate. A group of German prisoners of war who helped to construct the highway are seen working in this picture.

18 JUNE 1971

WHEN HOARDINGS STOOD IN NEW BROOK STREET



The west side of New Brook Street, Ilkley, has seen a complete transformation since this photograph was taken in 1962. Hoardings which stood there for years against the embankment were removed and the former stables to the old Wheatsheaf Hotel (on left of picture behind hoardings) were demolished with the hotel. This opened up the whole area and gave Ilkley Urban Council the opportunity to landscape the site as illustrated in the picture at the bottom of this page.

## Ilkley Carnival Procession In Skipton Road 60 Years Ago



For several years the Ilkley Charity Carnival was an annual event in Ilkley and usually took place at August Bank Holiday. Mr. F. A. Adlington, of Comley Road, Moordown, Bournemouth supplies the above picture which illustrates some of the business displays on decorated drays which formed part of the 1911 procession.

A Gazette reports of the event said that.—

"The Annual carnival in aid of the Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital took place on Bank Holiday Monday, and with the best of weather prevailing it proved a most enjoyable and interesting affair."

### BRASS BAND

The procession was headed by three patrols of Boy Scouts. The Ilkley Scouts under patrol leader A. Vallender, and patrols from Yeadon and Keighley. They were followed by the Ilkley Brass Band conducted by Mr. C. Lister, then came the draught horses, tradesmen's turn-outs, business displays, fancy dress on foot, comical pairs, historical costumes, decorated parasols and character costumes. The horse ambulance wound up the procession.

The procession formed in front of the Town Hall and started off at 1.30. The route was along the Grove, Bolton Bridge Road, Skipton Road, Church Street, Leeds Road, Nelson Road, Railway Road and down Brook Street to the "Holmes" for judging and where other festivities took place.

### CROWDED STREETS

With glorious weather, the streets were crowded with people and a very large number were admitted to the field. The picture shows the three leading decorated drays along Skipton Road, near the junction with Bolton Bridge Road. The leading dray belonged to a Bradford tea firm, and depicted Samuel Johnson taking tea with his friend Boswell. The second showed spotless linen and coloured dresses which were the work of the exhibitors. The Ilkley

Sanitary Laundry Company, and the third a display of sweets and confectionary shown by a Guseley firm. These were followed by many other excellent displays by local businesses, including Bealand and Sons of Brook Street.

Prizes were given for the various turn-outs, best groomed horses with harnesses, and costumes. There were two competitions for the Scouts one for the smartest patrol and the other for drill on the field both won by the Ilkley Patrol.

### HUSSARS PRESENT

A detachment of the Yorkshire Hussars gave a varied and attractive display. Athletic sports for adults and children were also held. A famous Yorkshire mystic, Mr. W. Watson was engaged to give character readings.

At nightfall, the proceedings were brought to an end with some cinematograph pictures and an illuminated confetti dance. The Ilkley Brass Band played for the dancing. Refreshments were in the capable hands of the Ilkley Branch of the British Temperance Association.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Grant for new brought total

### 100 Years Ago

The Privy Council, recorded the Gazette, on 1 June, 1871, has made an educational grant to the Ilkley Parish Church National School of £350 12s. The Diocesan Building Society has given £40. The subscription list now amounts to nearly £900, which together with the sums here named make a total of about £1,290, so that the sum yet required is above £700. "Too much praise cannot be given to those who have taken such an active part in the raising of funds for this laudable object and we trust that the sum yet required may soon and easily be obtained," said the Gazette.

The weather for the Whit holiday could not have been more desirable said the Gazette, and thousands of visitors took advantage of it to come to Ilkley. They included about 150 Wesleyan Sunday School scholars from Charlestown near Shipley, accompanied by the Saltire Brass Band. They marched in procession to a field owned by Mr. W. Lancaster on the east side of Backstone Beck and adjoining the new Ben Rhydding Road where marquees had been erected and every preparation made for them. Tuesday, as it always was, proved to be the main day. Each train that arrived whether ordinary, relief or special, was crammed even to the guards vans. It was computed that the number of people who left from Ilkley station on the return journey was over 10,000.