

OLICANA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL HISTORICAL  
INTEREST

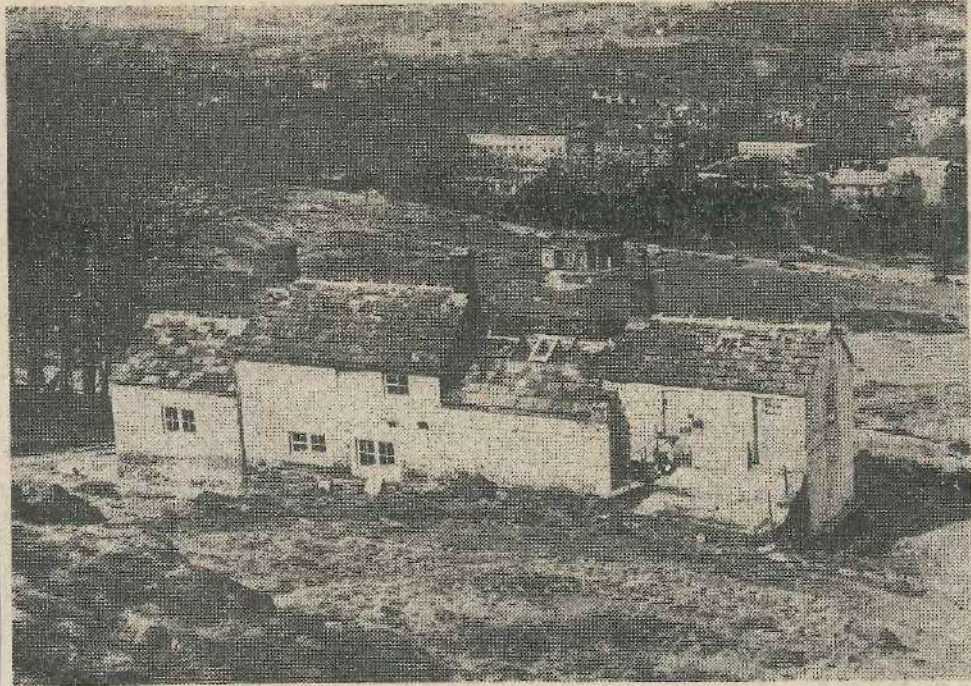
VOL IX 1974 - 1978

69

scrap book

26/4/74

### WHITE WELLS IMPROVEMENTS



Considerable headway is now being made with the improvements to the White Wells and especially to the window spaces on the south side. In the background is the College of Education showing the extensions there.

### 4/7/73 White Wells

Sir.—With reference to Mr. Harold Cockcroft's letter I can confirm exactly his recollections of the Roman pavement found by workmen on the level ground below the wood just above the White Wells about forty or fifty years ago. I will remember how surprised I was at the apparently high quality of tiling, particularly at such a remote spot, and was given to understand that it was part of the floor of a Roman villa built alongside the road which crossed the moor from Olicana fort into Lancashire at this point.

I often wondered why no further investigation has been made at this point because it would seem likely that this pavement was part of a much larger construction. I can still remember the spot and would estimate the depth as quite considerable, probably about six feet below present ground level.

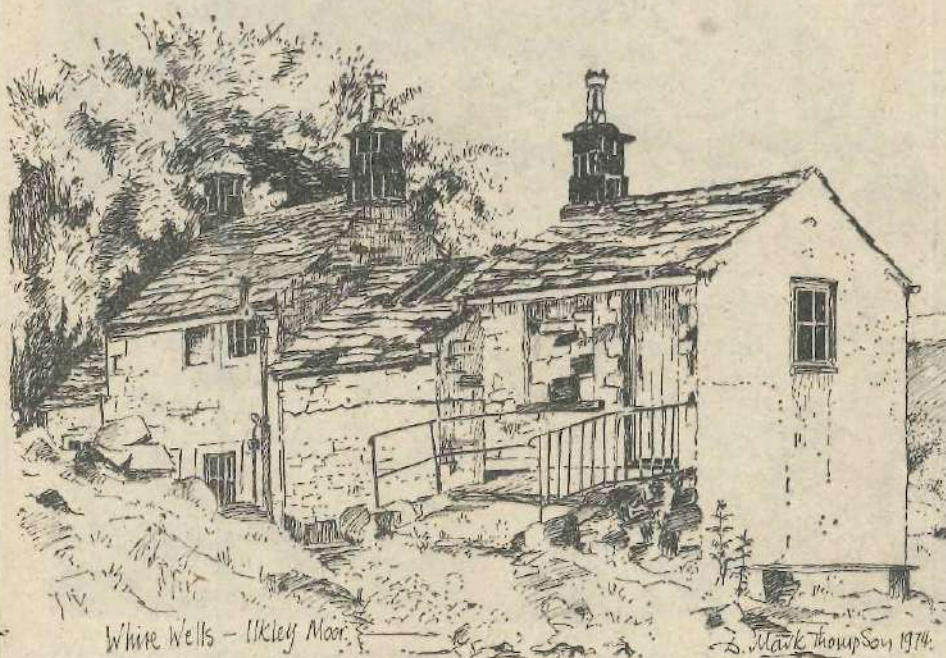
Yours sincerely,  
RONALD IBBETSON  
Curly Hill Cottage,  
Ilkley.

Note: It has always been understood that the line of the Roman Road south of Ilkley to Manchester was up through the Riddings and through the site of the Weary Hill Reservoir and then to the east of the moor road to Keighley. In October, 1929 what was believed to be the original spring of White Wells in a stone bath was found in the flat portion of land to the south of White Wells building. At that time Mr. H. B. of Ilkley, editor of the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal thought the newly discovered was not Roman in origin but medieval constructed to amplify the supply of White Wells.

Editor.

2/8/74

### RENOVATED WHITE WELLS



12/74

### RESTORATION OF WHITE WELLS



Work on the restoration of White Wells on Ilkley Moor took place during the past year.

March 1975

## ACROSS THE YEARS

# Improvements to White Wells proposals cause objections

### 100 Years Ago

Protests against a decision of the Ilkley Local Board to carry out improvements to the White Wells which had been described as in a derelict state were sent to the Board from the Vicar of Ilkley, the Minister of the Ilkley Congregational Church, Mr. E. W. Pison, Mr. E. H. Wade and others. They noticed "with much regret the Board's proposal for altering the Old White Wells. Taking into account the historical interest (so far as Ilkley is concerned) of the building, and its picturesque appearance, we are of opinion that any alterations other than is required for keeping it from decay would be most strongly objected to by a very large number of the inhabitants of Ilkley and would also be a source of great regret to the numerous visitors to the district. We therefore hope that the Board will not sanction any alterations until they have taken the opinion of the inhabitants on the matter."

A pack of Beagles for Ilkley were given their first outing by the Club and visited Ilkley Craggs, and then on to Blackbeck where a halt was made for half an hour. Unfortunately two of the best beagles died there, the belief being that they had picked up some poison. A further run of two hours later in the day brought a good run, the beagles getting close to a hare before being called off.

Work started on a further extension to Ilkley College. Following the recent opening of the large hall, it was decided to add a new wing, observatory tower, gymnasium and art room. "When completed it will be undoubtedly one of the most perfect private educational establishments in the Kingdom," said the Gazette. The building for some years housed the Wesley Deaconess College.

### 75 Years Ago

The outbursts of Mr. Oswald Lister and Mr. Septimus Wray on the eve of the Ilkley Urban Council elections in March, 1901, caused the Gazette to look closely at some of the things Messrs. Lister and Wray had said previously. It recalled that Cr. Wray some months previously had said in relation to electric lighting, "I don't think the rate-payers object to anyone sitting here and doing a little bit for themselves, but they (the Wharfedale Syndicate) do a little bit too much." In view of that significant expression, commented the Gazette, it wondered whether the enclosure of those 300 or 400 yards of land was the "little bit" Mr. Wray supposed he was entitled to for the year's service he had thus far rendered the town as a member of the Urban District Council. Even Mr. Lister said the Gazette, was evidently not above making what he could out of being a councillor. There was reference to other actions of the two gentlemen which the Gazette thought indicated attitudes of mind more in their own interests than that of the Council.

Not unexpectedly there were repercussions. Oswald Lister published a four page leaflet in which he attacked the Gazette. Apparently he had some difficulty both at Ilkley and Otley in finding a printer willing to take the risk. "Like our army in South Africa he appears to be always in pursuit, always on the track, but never captures," the Gazette said of him. Mr. Wray was more subtle. He consulted his soliters, and they wrote a letter which the Gazette sensibly published. This indicated that Mr. Wray was only the occupier of the land and that he had only done what Mr. Lister had advised him he had a right to do.

After withdrawals by Messrs. W. Hartley, M. Hawksworth, H. Moislely B. T. Gibbins and J. A. Middlebrook there were left four candidates for three places on the Board of Guardians. They were Mrs. Fanny Dawson, and Messrs. F. E. Pearce, B. Stuttard, and W. Hoffman Wood. The retiring members were Mrs. Dawson, Mr. J. A. Middlebrook and Mr. John Brown.

### 50 Years Ago

Sister E. M. Jones was appointed matron of the Ilkley Coronation Hospital, in succession to the late Sister Gorham. Sister Jones had been acting matron in the interim period. She had spent most of her training period in South Africa, and had been senior sister at the Coronation hospital for a year.

Mr. A. Colbert was elected to the position of Chairman of the Ilkley Urban District Council, and he welcomed to the first meeting representatives from the residential part of Middleton for the first time. He hoped that they would take a great interest in the affairs of the town, and not confine their interest to the Middleton.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club announced at their annual meeting in April, 1926, that they had paid £720 for the purchase of the land on which their courts were situated, leaving a mortgage of £1,300. They also announced that as well as in addition to the usual annual tournament there would be an inter-county week held at the club in July.

The previous year's committee was re-elected with Mr. E. Fletcher as president, and Mr. W. F. C. Kitson, hon. secretary, Mr. B. T. Akers, treasurer.

Housing conditions for the working class population of Menston were described as "disgraceful" at a meeting of the Wharfedale Rural Council, and it was proposed to remedy the defects as speedily as possible. The Chairman, Mr. A. W. Hargreaves said that delay had arisen because the Ministry of Health's valuer had not been able to come to agreement over the price of the land for the very necessary new houses.

### 25 Years Ago

Mrs. F. S. Hampshire pointed out to a meeting of the Ilkley Festival of Britain Committee that so far there had been no plans put forward for celebrations for the over 70 year old people in the community. She approved of the provision for the young people, but pointed out that the senior citizens of the town had done a great deal for their country over the years. It was suggested that as there were about 240 eligible people in the town over 70, they should be given a tea and entertainment in the public hall. The estimated cost of this would be in the region of £60. It was agreed to take this matter through the proper channels.

The official film of the Bikini Atom Bomb test was presented in the King's Hall, sponsored by the Civil Defence Movement to encourage recruits. Mr. F. Keighley, area Civil Defence Officer for the West Riding pointed out that if a big enough force could be built up thousands of lives might be saved. It would be too late to join at the outbreak of a war. If a bomb were dropped on Bradford or Leeds there would be thousands of refugees in a place like Ilkley and therefore many welfare workers would be vital.

The meat ration for a week in April, 1951 remained at 10d per week per head.

Mr. H. A. Thorpe was elected as Chairman of the Ilkley Round Table at their annual meeting. The Vice-Chairman was Mr. B. C. Tidy, hon. secretary, Mr. K. G. Dixon and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. V. Myers. They reported a year of achievement and activity.

## WHITE WELLS RESTORATION PLAQUE UNVEILED

The Lord Mayor of Bradford, Cr. Mrs. Doris Birdsall, unveiled a plaque at White Wells, Ilkley, yesterday (Thursday), to commemorate the restoration of the Wells during 1972-74 by Mr. Eric Busby, the proprietor of Goosewell Gallery, Menston. Mr. Busby who saw the venture of restoring the building as a challenge, said that he decided to do something when he saw the poor state it was in, and heard that it was to be pulled down.

The Lord Mayor felt that having restored the building it would once again be a great tourist attraction for Ilkley. "Some things from the past have to go, but some things must not," she said. She expressed warm appreciation to Mr. Busby and congratulated everyone involved. But for the efforts of Mr. Busby the place would have fallen into decay, she said.

Mr. Busby expressed his thanks to the people who had helped him, and to the caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lister, who live there with the two children, Sarah (5) and Simon (2).

The plaque reads, "Former bathhouse built by Squire Middleton for the people of Ilkley in the eighteenth century. Restored by Eric Busby during 1972-1974. White Wells. The Wells were officially opened to the public on 13th May 1976 by the Lord Mayor Councillor Mrs. Doris Birdsall Hon.M.A."

14 May 1976 JG

March 1974

# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS SUGGESTED BY CONSULTANTS FOR CONTROL OF MOOR

A Management Committee, including the appointment of an experienced Land and Recreation Manager; the improvement and 25 per cent extension of car parking facilities; the creation of a well defined main path network; provision of toilets, litter bins; an equitable balance between users and control of the extent of grazing are proposals of a team of consultants for the restoration of Ilkley Moor in relation to its designation as a country park. These proposals were considered by a meeting attended this (Friday) afternoon by representatives of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, the Ilkley Urban District Council, the Countryside Commission and representatives of various interested organisations.

The introduction to the report says Ilkley Moor is a renowned feature of the West Riding and national landscape, whose natural charm is subject to increasing pressures. "As an area of easily accessible open countryside, its popularity amongst visitors and local residents is widespread, ranging from those who value the wilderness of its moorland tops to those who are drawn to its Cow and Calf Rocks.

"Unfortunately," says the report, "the characteristics of the Moor and the resources currently available for its management and maintenance are such that it cannot accommodate all the user requirements without suffering physical and visual deterioration. This is understandably a cause for concern at both national and local levels."

The introduction tells how in 1973 the Countryside Commission in conjunction with the Ilkley Urban District Council decided to promote an experimental restoration project on the moor. In July, 1973, Brian Clouston and Partners of Durham were appointed as consultants to assist the project "by conducting surveys, followed by the preparation of restoration plans and management proposals."

Those responsible for the project recognise the need for full discussion with representatives of the interested user organisations, in order that the most appropriate courses of action can be established. The prime purpose of the report is said to be to provide the basis for such discussion.

## CAUSES

The main causes of erosion and related problems on the moor are said to be the imbalance between the forces which make demands on the moor and the nature of its resources and supporting management. The pressures come from both the local residents and day visitors. It is anticipated that the moor will receive increasing attention from visitors.

"The erosion which gives the greatest cause for concern is in the Cow and Calf zone, Hangingstones quarry, along the road verges, on Ilkley crags, and on the various main footpaths, steps and routes between the Cow and Calf car park and White Wells. "Despite this erosion the human carrying capacity of the moorland fringe zone is very much greater than the Moorland tops, which are valued for their solitude and are at the same time extremely sensitive to foot pressure and drainage. "However, the moorland fringe zone, in spite of its greater robustness is not without features which limit recreational carrying capacity, notably: the relatively inclement weather; the large area of bracken; limited funds for restoration and maintenance; the limited area for car parking.

## DOMINANT USES

Figure Two of the Survey Findings says recreation, grazing and water catchment are dominant uses, and the range of uses includes rock climbing, orienteering and school studies. Approximately 950 cars and 4025 car-borne visitors came to the moor during a nine hour period on August Bank Holiday Sunday. Peak times are regarded as week-end afternoons and on these occasions up to 1,000 car-borne visitors are on the moor at one time. The average length of stay for 85 per cent of visitors is less than one and a half hours though active/specialist users tend to stay longer.

"A high proportion of visitors are car-borne and many such visitors do not venture far on the moor. Middle aged couples and/or young couples with children predominate. Active specialist users are mainly school children and young men. The main areas to which visitors are attracted in the fringe zone are: Cow and Calf Rocks, quarries, car park and Hangingstone Road, White Wells, The Paddling Pool, The Tarn, Westwood Drive, Keighley Road, and Weary Hill car park and Bracken Wood (Hebers Ghyll).

The total number of cars parked at peak visiting were Keighley Road (35), Westwood Drive and White Wells car parks (65), Hangingstones Road to Crag House (102), Cow and Calf car park (93) making a total of 295.

## OPPOSITION

There was no general awareness of erosion by the majority of visitors and there was general opposition to changes being made to the moor. Deficiencies were stated to be inadequate litter control facilities, an expressed need for toilets at the Cow and Calf car park, and a need for more and safe car parking spaces.

Under Resources Aspects the report sets out the character of the moor, pointing out that "apart from the immediate northern fringe areas the wilderness character dominates," and adds "if this is to be conserved, the human

carrying capacity is, in visual terms alone, significantly limited."

Over grazing is largely given as the cause of the advance of crowberry and bracken at the expense of heather and eroded areas "occur where vegetation has been bared due to a combination of weathering and human pressure activities. These are found where public pressure is high or where there has been drainage/burning. Slopes of 20 per cent or more are particularly prone to erosion by foot pressure. Areas most vulnerable to public pressure are those "high on the moor which are covered with peat and are vegetated by crowberry/heather. These are not currently affected by, or under great threat from public pressure.

"Areas most resilient to public pressure are those which (although eroded in places support a relatively hardy grass and bracken vegetation. They occur along the Northern fringe of the moor where the most attractive features and sheltered spots are to be found.

"Footpaths are generally in keeping with the moorland setting. Some are said to be dangerous / uncomfortable whilst the paths leading to and from the main attraction points appear unkempt.

## PARKING NEEDS

The report comments that "in view of the increase in recreational demand which is expected in the short-term and the fact that, provided adequate management resources are made available, the moorland fringes should be capable of accommodating higher visitor numbers, it has seemed prudent that consideration be given to increasing the car parking provision by some 25 per cent, from the 295 peak total on August Bank Holiday Sunday up to 380 spaces.

"With these survey findings and analysis results in mind, attention was focussed in the preparation of a restoration plan for the Moor on those main problems or imbalances appearing to require priority solution."

## SOLUTIONS

In formulating solutions, the report continues, certain assumptions were made. These were: Visitors to the Moor need to be provided with a safe and pleasant experience; the existing range of visitor uses of the Moor should be capable of being continued; the uses made of the Moor in the future may change; changes in land use should not be permitted which would be incompatible with either the existing uses or the resources; the essential character of the Moor must be conserved.

Improvement of car parking access and circulation, provision of litter collection and toilet facilities and a seeking of greater public participation are among solutions suggested. It is assumed that on the road, verge and niche parking will be discontinued except in the case of on the road parking in Westwood Drive and some niche parking in the Keighley Road zone where it is felt to be neither particularly dangerous nor unsightly. "In this event it will be necessary to accommodate approximately 120 of the present peak number of cars in designated car parks with facilities for orderly and safe parking. In addition it is suggested that provision be made for a 25 per cent growth in demand, that is an extra 85 places. These measure taken together with the existing car parks, which themselves need to be improved in terms of sighting and orderliness will require the provision of 380 spaces in total.

"In providing these facilities it is recommended that a clear distinction be made between primary parking areas which need to be able to withstand regular use, and overspill areas which only receive occasional use, maybe just on peak visiting days, and whose surface does not therefore need to be formalised or so robust.

## NEW PARK

In the Cow and Calf zone it is recommended that all the road, verge and niche parking be accommodated in a new car park, approximately opposite the south facing side of the Cow and Calf hotel. This car park would largely provide overspill facilities. The existing parking below the Cow and Calf rocks should be sited nearer to the road, but at the same time be properly screened from it, in the interests of minimising erosion and improving appearances. The arrangements within should be so designed as to result naturally in orderly parking without the use of white lines. It is recognised that wardens will probably need to be employed during summer weekends to direct parking operations.

It is envisaged that the function of Westwood Drive car park will largely be of an overspill nature as far as visitors are concerned, since it does not afford direct access to the

moor. However, in the event that on-road parking was no longer permitted on Westwood Drive, it would be necessary to upgrade this car park to primary status; unless a new car park which would require extensive screening is provided.

Forty vehicle spaces are calculated as necessary at the northern end of the Keighley Road and a favoured solution for the problem here includes a creation of a new car park alongside Moorland House School, in addition to the existing pull-ins.

## SAFETY METHODS

The abolition of all on-the-road and haphazard parking along Hangingstones Road and Keighley Roads, the report continues, will require adoption of one or more of the following methods, in the interests of improving safety and reducing traffic congestion: Road-side ditches, boulders and possibly sections of yellow line if other measures fail; the filling in or blocking off of dangerous roadside parking niches; no waiting signs and the use at peak times of traffic cones; car parking wardens at week-ends and other busy days.

"The need to improve safety along the moorland fringe is of paramount importance. As far as possible the methods chosen should not detract from the moor's appearance.

"There are many good grounds for retaining the major part of the Keighley Road in an unmetalled state. These include safety for people and sheep; conservation of moorland character; prevention of conflicts between users and likewise erosion in a vulnerable area, and not least cost.

## PATH NETWORK

The report favours the creation of a well defined main path network based on selection from the existing paths and the provision of any new paths required, but whichever plan is adopted operations for providing and maintaining a dry path, particularly drainage, are essential. Patching operations, it is considered, are unlikely to succeed and a waste of money. Use of tarmac should be kept to a minimum. Main paths should be way-marked and wide enough where required to accommodate use by four persons walking abreast. Erosion would be reduced by clearly defining the edges of paths with a hard surface such as rocks. For the same reason the slope of paths should, wherever possible, be reduced. "It is important that the interest groups concerned should meet to decide upon the separate and well defined routes which are clearly required for horse riders, thereby resolving the present conflict with walkers."

## LITTER

People should be encouraged to take their litter home as one way of solving the problem, but such litter bins as are provided should be carefully sited near to the access roads and should be more robust than the present variety.

The need for toilets at the Cow and Calf car parks should be met initially by the discreet siting of portable facilities. In time, the provision of more permanent facilities, possibly involving conversion of the Filter House may be merited."

Erosion area regarded as requiring priority treatment are noted as the Cow and Calf car park, paths and quarry; the main footpaths; Hangingstones quarry, Ilkley Crags, Road verges. The preferred general treatment for these areas is a complete re-dressing operation rather than patching up. It is better that treatment of a main path or neglected untidy quarry should be delayed until it can be undertaken in its entirety. If finances are restricted it will be appropriate to think in terms of a restoration project phased over several years.

The report goes on to deal with prescribed treatments for different areas with special treatments of the two quarries and the areas adjacent to them. "This will enable both quarries, but in particular the Cow and Calf quarry, to be put to more varied and exciting uses than is presently possible.

The principal aspects of the moors use "apart from the horse riders and the walkers" which may give rise to conflict of interests, are, says the report; the grazing of the moor by sheep and the activities of specialist users, such as educational study groups, rifle and grouse shooters, etc."

## SHEEP PROBLEM

The report suggests that "sheep have in the past been allowed to overgraze the moor, thereby causing vegetational changes which are regretted by naturalists. To overcome any conflict of interests, sheep numbers on the moor will need to be controlled, preferably as one flock under a single management. Provided that a flexible stocking policy is adopted, a single flock is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

15 March 1974  
**ILKLEY MOOR PROPOSALS**

(Continued from page nine)

likely to be useful not only for agricultural purposes, but also as an aid in managing an area of moorland and its fringes for passive recreation. Once the broad policies for the moor have been agreed it is suggested that a grazing and management plan be prepared in close consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Wharfedale Naturalists Society and the holders of the grazing rights. Any conflicts arising between specialist users can be reconciled by allocating particular land areas to particular users or by an agreed rationing of the use of a shared piece of land.

**MANAGEMENT**

It is considered that for the moor to be effectively restored and maintained, a significant increase in management resources is required. Management is probably the most important single factor determining the success with which multiple activities are pursued on the moor in future. This management structure is suggested as comprising Management Committee, a site manager, full time and qualified: grounds maintenance staff with support from voluntary labour from schools, Council for Youth, etc; voluntary part-time Countryside Rangers for guiding visitors and monitoring pressures; traffic wardening staff part time.

The Management Committee is envisaged as comprising Local and County Council officers, or site managers and, in addition, representatives possibly of the Wharfedale Naturalists Society, the Ilkley Civic Society, The Nature Conservancy Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry Commission, the Water Board and the Game Conservancy.

With this management structure established full advantage could be taken of the benefits of both passive and active public participation. The appointment of an experienced Land and Recreation Manager is essential in order that the public are properly informed about the restoration work, and that voluntary work groups taking part in the restoration and maintenance of the moor are supervised so that their contributions are turned to greater effectiveness.

Concluding, it is stated that the report has been prepared in the hope that from the resulting discussion with the interested user groups, guidance will be received in a number of topics including: Any matters which it is felt have not received adequate mention in the report; the policies which are regarded as being the most appropriate for the moor; the nature and the extent of the restoration which is considered to be desirable; the areas which should receive priority treatment in the event of limited financial resources; the management structure proposed; the most effective means of enabling members of the public to participate in any restoration work.

15/3/74 FRIDAY, 15

**ILKLEY MOOR**

Perhaps the most significant comment in the consultants report to Ilkley Urban District Council on Ilkley moor in the minds of some people will be the one which states there is no general awareness of erosion by the majority of visitors and that there is general opposition to changes being made to the moor. Not only does this comment apply to visitors, it also applies to the residents. Observations of the moor over a period of more than 50 years bring the conclusion that on the matter of erosion, at least, the changes have been so minute that apart from the growth of the crowberry and bracken at the expense of heather, and the Naturalists now tell us that heather is returning, the changes do not justify comment. Certainly some untidiness has tended to creep in, paths and steps may need a little attention, but nothing of serious proportions since the quarrying on the moor ceased in the middle twenties. Undoubtedly quarrying made its mark on the moor. There was heavy activity of men, equipment, horses and carts and so on. Channels were cut in the moor to provide access for the waggons carrying the quarried stone to the horse and carts. Especially was this so in the vicinity of the Cow and Calf rocks, above White Wells, and alongside the Keighley Road. The Cow and Calf rocks area was the biggest sufferer. Some of the scars have become overgrown, some still remain but the point is that they have been largely unchanged for 50 years or more. There is no deterioration of any great significance. There is not the demand on the moor that existed up to the outbreak of the second world war. Where thousands once walked, the numbers today can be counted in scores.

22 March 1974

**WORST AREA OF MOOR EROSION**



Consultants reporting on erosion on Ilkley Moor describe the area around the cow and calf rocks as the worst due to the increasing number of motor cars which park in the vicinity of the rocks.

**Ilkley Gazette**

Established May, 1861.

Wells Road Telephone 3493 (2 lines)

Wharfedale's Oldest Newspaper

FRIDAY, 22 MARCH, 1974

dried bracken and the smell of the peat. Vigilance is necessary it is not so long ago that the Councilors and the public found to their astonishment and dismay that with the water rights they had handed over also included a part of Ilkley Moor.

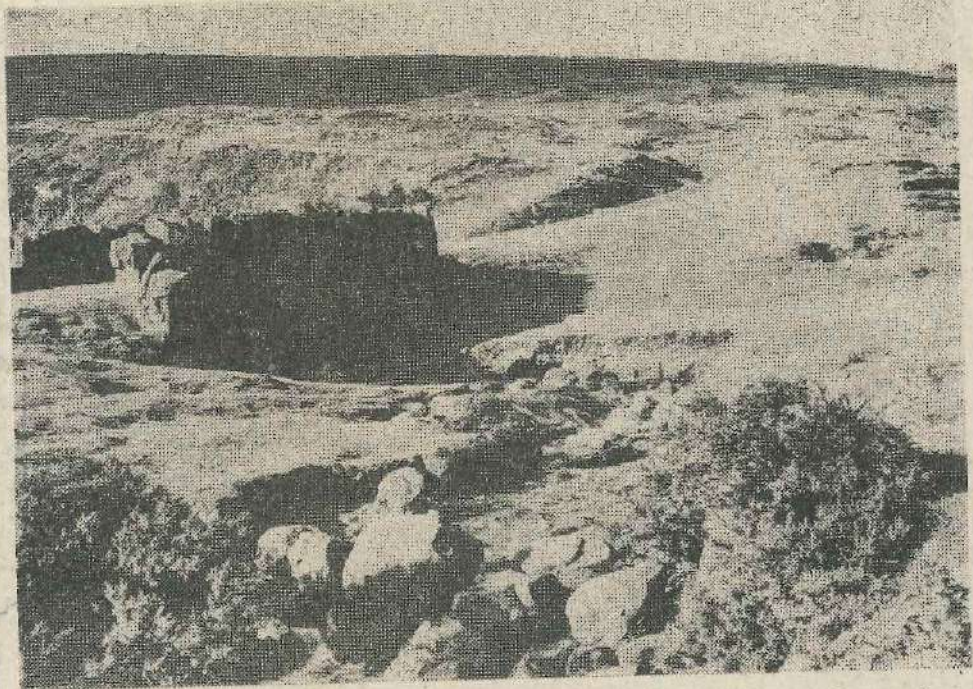
**ILKLEY MOOR**

Not since the War Office just over 100 years ago gave serious consideration to turning Ilkley Moor into a military camp has the area been threatened with so many changes. In the period of ownership of the Middletons, walkers were expected to keep to the main footpaths to Bingley and to Keighley, and there were keepers to see they did so. This continued for a time during the first few years of the Council's ownership and offenders were taken to court. The recent report of the consultants contain many protestations that there are to be no changes in the character of the moor. It was accepted at last Friday's meeting that there would be a certain amount of tidying up in the area around the Cow and Calf and steps such as those from the end of Rocky Valley to the Dick Hudson's footpath would be repaired. Some attention was paid to the proposals of the consultants in one of the Sunday papers last weekend. Under a five column width picture of the Calf Rock there was reference to local opposition to recent proposals for Ilkley Moor.

The use of part of the Moor as a golf course, the move to place sculptures behind the White Wells the cost of Mr. Eric Busby's scheme for improvement of White Wells. It is stated that Ilkley Urban Council is shortly to disappear. The article said that all the suggestions in the report should be looked upon as a bare minimum for saving what is undoubtedly one of the best amenities owned by local authority in the North of England. Why "for goodness sake" asks the article is camping prohibited on the moor, and odd that it seems incredible that a controlled amount of camping cannot be permitted. This is one effort in support of changes to Ilkley Moor, changes probably which would bring within easy access the higher parts to the transistor carrying visitors with no interest in what nature has to provide. Let us continue to welcome those people who look upon the wilder parts of the moor as something worthy of the effort to reach it. These are the people who regard the warning calls of the grouse and the cries of the peewit as something to enjoy rather than a challenge to throw something, who love the music of rushing water, the sound of the wind through the

22 March 1974

# STOP MOTOR TRAFFIC NEAR HERE



An area around the stream which flows alongside the Keighley moor road, a popular parking place for visiting motorists. The meeting discussing the report on erosion on Ilkley Moor last Friday was told by Mr. Roland Wade that this road should be closed to motor traffic.

## BAN MOTOR TRAFFIC FROM MOOR ROAD TO KEIGHLEY ILKLEY MEETING TOLD

A suggestion that the Keighley Moor Road should be closed to traffic on the Ilkley side was made by Mr. Roland Wade, at a meeting held in Ilkley on Friday afternoon to receive the Consultants Report on Ilkley Moor. Mr. Wade, a member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, also suggested that much of the erosion of the moor in the vicinity of the Cow and Calf rocks was due to intrusion by motor cars.

Before the meeting in the Winter Garden, slides were shown in the King's Hall of the erosion in the vicinity of the Cow and Calf Rocks, the two quarries nearby, the main footpath to Rocky Valley from the Cow Rock and from the White Wells, the vicinity of the Upper Tarn, and the Keighley Road.

Mr. R. Cobham of Brian Clouston and Partners presented the slides, spoke to the meeting in the Winter Garden and answered several questions and comments. There were present representatives of various interested organisations.

Mr. Cobham assured Mr. Wade that any car parking arrangements would be screened from all but the highest points. On the Keighley Road there was a great intrusion by cars but the report did not seem to do anything but to let it be. Now was the time for the Keighley Road to be closed to cars, said Mr. Wade.

On the question of improving areas affected by erosion, Mr. Wade said they spent far too little money on protecting places like that. They must get away from the idea that beauty must be preserved as long as it did not cost anything. Car parks should be available but should not intrude into the moor.

**ROAD SAFETY**  
A police representative agreed that the car parking problem had increased and was likely to increase and this created the further problem of road safety in the area. If car parking increased, he pointed out, it would generate great traffic on this particular moorland road. He hoped the police would be consulted frequently with regard to the siting of car parks with particular emphasis on the exits. He asked if he could take it that there would be no car parking on the road at all. What methods were likely to be adopted to prevent this. He would hate to see yellow lines on the road.

Mr. R. M. Green, Editor of the Ilkley Gazette, whilst accepting there was evidence of erosion on some parts of the moor, particularly in the region of the Cow and Calf Rocks, did not think the position was as serious as the report appeared to suggest. He pointed out that where thousands walked in the past hundreds walked today. Much of the recent erosion was due to motor traffic. Mr. Green appreciated the need for toilets and waste paper baskets, but spoke of the damage done to other toilets in the area and of the way in which the contents of wire mesh litter baskets had been strewn along the riverside.

Mr. D. J. A. Alexander of the Ramblers Association saw two sides to the problem. There was the pressure on the lower area where some tidying up needed to be done but he too shared Mr. Green's anxiety about any interference with the higher parts of the moor.

**SHEEP GRAZING**  
There were comments about sheep grazing affecting the growth of heather and comments about the bracken and crowberry, and Mr. Cobham said it was not the intention as the report emphasised, to change the character of the moor. What improvements were decided could be effected bit by bit.

Mr. C. R. Atkinson, Director of Development Services for the new Bradford Metropolitan District, was certain that authority would wish to make resources available to prevent areas such as Ilkley Moor from deteriorating. He regarded that meeting as providing one of the most important and useful discussions he had attended for a long time.

The report will be discussed by Ilkley Urban Council at its final meeting on Monday and decisions as to work to be done will be taken by the Bradford Metropolitan Council.

WASHBURNDALE'S  
TERROR MILLS

ROBERT COLLYER'S EARLY YEARS  
BEFORE HE BECAME A BLACKSMITH  
AND THEN A FAMOUS DIVINE (1)

Six year old orphans with their tiny supple fingers as their most important commendation formed the junior working age group in the linen mills of the smaller dales at the beginning of the last century. Washburndale before the mills gave way to huge reservoirs to serve the city of Leeds was found with its slopes and its waterways ideally placed for building by flax manufacturers and the employment of young people. These small children were recruited with few to say them nay or to care for them. The long working hours affected their physical status and no sooner had they toppled wearily into bed than they were being roused to resume work again. In Washburndale, a great many, physically crippled from their labours died before they had reached twenty years and others not long after them. Some relief in their time at work was brought by Government intervention yet it was continued hard work and still too much for many of the youngest.

The abundant water power available led to the establishment of several factories alongside or near to the Washburn. It was reckoned that in the early days of the industrial epoch there were several thousand factory workers there living in terraces of stone wall cottages with thatched roofs. West End itself had a population of two thousand. There fathers were lost at sea or died at an early age leaving widows with the impossible task of caring for young families. These children were put into asylums as they were then called. Robert Collyer's father at the age of ten, his mother at the age of nine, answered this call to Washburndale. Robert once recalled that the working hours of his parents and of himself when he first started were 13 a day. The wages were two shillings per week. At 5.30 a.m. the factory bell sent its hideous call clanging through the valley and at six o'clock the children some of them mere tots, were tending the whittling spindles.

TILL NOON

"Here they stood till noon-time with never a moment for rest and recreation. They were not even allowed to sit down at their work and if they were caught by the overseer easing their weary limbs for a moment on some stray box or barrel they were brought instantly to their feet by the stinging lash of a heavy leather strap across their shoulders. Each day brought its burden of exhaustion to even the strongest among the children so that when the work stopped in the evenings (on Saturdays at six) they were tired beyond all the telling. The crippling of the children in their arms and backs, and especially in their legs, was inevitable."

For Robert Collyer there was some relief at the age of ten after two years at the factory, the 1833 Factory Act provided that children between 9 and 13 should not work more than 48 hours a week, and so his working hours were reduced from 76 to 48. It was also decreed that night work (between 8.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m.) for persons under eighteen in cotton, wool, worsted, hemp flax, tow and linen spinneries and weaving mills, should be prohibited; that children from nine to 13 should work not more than 48 hours per week, and that young persons from 13 to 18 should be restricted to 68 hours per week.

TO BE A SMITH

As Robert Collyer reached and passed his 14th birthday the question of his future became of even greater concern to his parents. Collyer years later was to write of it in this way "There was one article in our home creed that would

admit of no doubt or denial; the boys must learn some craft better than those we were taught in the factory, and this would cost money because they must find us in clothes through our apprenticeship when we had no money. If I stayed on in the factory this would be a step down from the rank my father had attained as a smith.

"So it was ordained by the firsede Council of which I was a member that I should be a smith too and the money to clothe me would be found somehow, while my mother would stand true to her colours and her counsel—'childer no matter how poor you be, when you have to do for yourselves don't look poor and don't tell.'—The smith who had taught my father was still living and kept his forge six miles over the moor. He agreed to take me as an apprentice. I was then turned 14 and was bound till I was 21, he giving me house, room and food, week day shirts and leather aprons. So in this way I came to work at the anvil, the utmost limit then and for many a year after of my ambition."

He was then, in August, 1837 bound to John Birch and started work at Ilkley for him in that month. He always reckoned he never became as good a smith as his father but when Birch died suddenly in 1846 Collyer was named by him as successor. The Lord of the Manor however thought him too young and let the smithy to Sampson Speight of Middleton for whom Collyer remained in charge at 18 shillings a week.

Many years later he told how his legs in his mill working years became twisted and bowed like those of his companions. It was his belief that only his later work as a blacksmith which required a firm grip of a horse's hoof between his knees ever straightened them out again. He was big and strong for his years, but he was so tired when he left the factory each day that he was scarcely able to drag one aching limb after the other. On those days, he remembered, it seemed that the hours of release would never come "and when at last the spindles ceased their turning and the doors flew open to the clear night air, nothing was wanted but home and bed." He said later that the darkness of this period of his life was never lifted from him.

It was the fear of his young life that his work as a doffer to the Blubberhouses factory would make him bowed and misshapen like the older children he knew. The parish register for the period at Fawston contains a long list of the deaths of young people from the age of nine and ten to 18 and 20 years.

He was convinced that it was his escape from this Washburn factory that rescued his physique and contributed to his long life. He thought when he moved to Ilkley and made headway as a smith his future was assured. There was however still a new life and great distinction to come his way.

To be Continued

R. M. Green

25 Jan 1974  
75 Years Ago

Dr. Robert Collyer wrote to the Minister of Ilkley Wesleyan Church in January, 1899, and the Rev. Joseph Dawson read extracts from the letter during his sermon on the Sunday morning. Dr. Collyer was referring to the death in Canada of the man whose sermon "saved" him. It was the Rev. Flesher Bland, preaching in the local chapel, who brought comfort to Dr. Collyer after the death of his wife and child. Dr. Collyer recalled that he had known the Rev. Bland for 60 years, had loved and respected him in that period. "When I came to Ilkley in 1838 he was already a man of mark as a local preacher. Always when he came to Ilkley the chapel would be crowded, and I date my own conversion to a sermon he preached from the text, 'restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation and uphold me with Thy free spirit. It is a lovely story, the story of his life in Addingham and those forty years in Canada."

When it was reported to the Skipton Rural District Council that Lumb Lane at Addingham was in a very bad condition, a letter was read from the road contractor saying he could not keep the road in proper repair as long as the occupant of Lumb Gill farm kept stopping up the drain. It was said the road was 400 yards in length and cost the Council more than any two miles of other road. The Surveyor's view that they could not pollute a man's water supply by turning the road water into it was accepted and it was agreed that 80 yards of new drain should be supplied.

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## ROBERT COLLYER'S HAPPIEST PERIOD ENDS TRAGICALLY WITH DEATH OF HIS WIFE AND BABY DAUGHTER

The first, most successful period in the life of Robert Collyer came when he was apprenticed to the village blacksmith, Jackie Birch, and the years immediately afterwards. He had qualified in his trade, married Harriet Watson, his boyhood sweetheart and on the death of his master had taken over the smithy. Had the Lord of the Manor, William Middleton, agreed he would have succeeded as owner but William Middleton thought him too young, and the ownership went to a Middleton man. However he was in charge, his wife was expecting their second child. But tragedy was on the doorstep and Robert Collyer was plunged into black despair by the death of his wife in child birth and of the infant daughter. The solution he took changed his life completely, took him to another country and turned him into a clergyman with an international reputation.

In August, 1837, Robert Collyer walked out of Blubberhouses village, over the Washburn and began his climb over Denton Moor on a ten mile walk to Ilkley. He was leaving behind him a fear of a twisted physical physique from which he had seen so many of his small companions suffer and indeed die. Ahead of him was an apprenticeship as a blacksmith with Jackie Birch, the man who had trained his father, Samuel Collyer. He could not possibly know then that this was an important milestone in a remarkable life which was to follow, a life which was to bring him fame both through personal visits and the printed word.

As he climbed steadily up the long slope he had time for an occasional backward glance to West Houses Mill at Blubberhouses before it was lost to him and the view changed to one of Ilkley and Wharfedale. Ilkley was a thriving provincial centre just at the beginning of the great advance and transformation that was to bring thousands of visitors every summer and holiday period to the new hydros hotels and boarding houses. It was occupied by men and women trained to deal with holiday people, trained tradesmen in the town proper, busy farmers and dairy men in the surrounding dales country. Contrasted with Blubberhouses it had no factories with their tall chimneys, whirring wheels and clouds of smoke, and no factory workers with their poverty and disease. In 1831 Ilkley had a population of 691 persons, in 1834 a population of 940 and from 1407 in 1861 it grew at a rapid rate.

### ELSIE FLETCHER

Miss Elsie Fletcher who taught Ilkley much about its background and was also an authority on Menston village used to tell how the environment of Washburndale used to bring some measure of comfort to the growing lad in his days of despair when the future appeared to hold nothing for him except the possibility of an early death to bring relief to a crippled body. The grandeur of the hills, the song of the birds, the rustling of the wind in the trees by the murmuring or rushing Washburn "stayed and comforted him, and influenced him for the rest of his life."

So he came to Ilkley and his quick mind and natural gift of observation helped him forward and prepared him for the greater life which was to follow the tragic loss of his first wife. It was at Ilkley that he was to meet John Dobson, a member of the famous Ilkley family. He knew and acknowledged handsomely in later years the debt he owed to John Dobson, Primitive Methodist local preacher, botanist and one of the most widely read men in Wharfedale. Young men who sought to improve themselves by the reading of good books and discussion found John Dobson always ready to help. They studied the Bible, read William Shakespeare and argued about him; they saw how the choice of words and

much to be learned from the seasons had started with him at an early age, and what Washburndale had begun, Wharfedale was able to continue. He used to say that his courting days were taken up more by his reading to his girl friend of passages from the latest book to come into his hands which occupy the minds of young lovers. Fortunately for him the bonnet maker who shared his leisure hours understood and encouraged him.

### STRANGE MAN

Jackie Birch was a strange man for Robert Collyer to have become so closely associated. He was a hard drinker, equally free with his language and quite unaccustomed to the things which brought Collyer so much pleasure. Not for him the week-end visits to the quiet places on the moor, the long walks and the discussions, the argument and the ready reference. Jackie Birch had other things to interest him. Yet he valued what Robert Collyer was doing, and he valued also his skill and his workmanship.

Robert Collyer as he learned the craft of a Blacksmith did not share the pleasure Jackie Birch found in his work. "I was never a good blacksmith, not nearly so good as my father; for to do anything supremely well you must give your whole mind to it, yes and your heart, and these by me were given to the books," said Robert Collyer some years later. As part of the same comment he tells how he made the iron gates for the All Saints Church at Ilkley. "This sort of work is usually done by the whitesmith but I took the job with no proper tools or skill for that work, and the result was a pair of gates as homely as a barn door — so homely that I would dream of them after I came to this new world and tell myself that some day I would ask to have them replaced." Yet, he never did, and they are still there.

### GROUP OF LADS

Just as Robert Collyer's father had been taught years before by Jackie Birch at the factory forge so he had at that time during Robert's apprenticeship a group of lads learning the trade at his prosperous Leed, Road smithy. Robert had been bound for seven year or until he was 21, giving his labour and receiving in return house room and food, week-day shirts and leather aprons; the teaching of an ancient master at his trade. It was reckoned a fair bargain both by the parents and the boy himself must have regarded it as the settling of the problem of life; it was as happy as it was final.

"The hunger for books grew from what it fed on. Two of my shopmates were hard drinkers, and Master Birch had fallen away from the grace of sobriety but my love for books fought the fiend with a finer fire. For many years I never ate a meal, if I could help it, without a book

at my elbow. I did worse than this, for when I went a courting I would still be reading; and if my sweetheart had not been the best lassie in the world for me, as well as the bonniest, she would have given me the mitten and served me right.

### SUNDAYS

The courtship admitted Collyer was conducted under some difficulties. He was a working lad and she a working girl. "Nor was this available time the most propitious. I lost my heart in May and spent the summer trying to secure another to fill the vacancy. We were both busy week-days and so we took Sunday evenings. I counted thirteen Sundays in succession when it rained and we had to court under an umbrella. All this was forgotten when the banns were said, and the union joined and the lad and his wife safely escaped in a house on the north side of Church Street. Here they passed the first radiant days of married life, wrote an old friend of those times, here in due season was born a son, Samuel, and here for many a happy day still were cherished the confident and eager hopes of youth.

Robert, following the death of Jackie Birch, had become in charge of the smithy. Jackie Birch had left it to him but Lord of the Manor William Middleton thought him too young but old enough to run the place. It was an ideal situation for Robert Collyer.

### CATASTROPHE

Then on 1 February, 1849, the world crashed about him. First his "beloved lassie" died in child birth; three days later his newly born daughter died. They were both buried in the graveyard of the nearby parish church of All Saints. The house in Church Street was closed. Robert took his first born Samuel with him and they took refuge in the home of Thomas Stephenson and his wife next door to the blacksmith's shop.

Robert Collyer was to enter into a period of great sadness, a period which ended only with the preaching of a sermon by the Rev. Fletcher Bland, of Addingham and the start of a long greatly cherished friendship.

R. M. GREEN.



Feb 178

## A SERMON THAT SPOKE

# ADDINGHAM LOCAL PREACHER HAS ADDRESS WHICH PROVIDES KEY TO PROBLEM PUZZLING ROBERT COLLYER

Robert Collyer buried his wife and their three days old baby daughter on the north side of the All Saints Parish Church in February, 1849. Their deaths had come as a tremendous shock to him and immediately the funerals were over he closed the cottage in Church Street and went with his small boy to live with close friends Mr. Stephenson and his wife in Weston Road. Everything previously had gone so well for him. He had made a success of his working life and he and his wife were looking forward to the birth of their second child. Then his life was shattered by this tragedy. He found no comfort anywhere, stayed away from his friends, ignored his books. No explanations he could accept. Chapels and churches could provide no solutions. He roamed the moors, talked to the sheep, went back to Blubberhouses and to the hillside Sunday school where he had his first religious training. And then he heard a sermon by Flesher Bland.

At the start of the year 1849 Robert Collyer and his wife Harriet were happily and comfortably placed. He had completed his apprenticeship with Jackie Birch, who had trained his father to become a blacksmith. Jackie was so impressed by Robert's skill and the way he led his life that it had been his wish when he died that Robert should take over the Leeds Road smithy and he said so in his will. When Jackie died, however, the Lord of the Manor, William Middleton, considered Robert, in his early twenties, too young for the responsibility and the forge passed to another man with Robert in charge as a manager. So in 1849 Robert and his wife and their small son Samuel were in a cottage on the north side of Church Street. He was well paid at one pound a week and they were awaiting their second child.

In a moment everything had changed. It was the beginning of a period when his entire life was altered by tragedy to a completely different pattern, one which he could not possibly have envisaged. At the beginning of February his wife died in childbirth, followed only three days later by their newly born daughter. It was said of Robert Collyer many years later that the death of his wife and child brought to him the supreme crisis of his career. His biographer, the Rev. John Haynes Holmes wrote of this event, "He was strangely reticent throughout his life. It constituted a crisis of such moment in his career that he could never pass it by without some mention. But he would refer to it in writing and in speech only as a vast and awful sorrow, and say no more. This was a silence which seems to have begun as a kind of necessity at the first moment of his loss. For he tells us that he consulted not with flesh and blood, not even with his dearest friend and 'good helper' John Dobson. It was as though there were feelings here that were too deep for words, as well as for tears. From the first black hours of his grief to the last sunny moments of his active years, he kept his experience as a place of holiness. A man, the windows of whose heart were always wide open to the day, he had yet deep and at times unexpected reserves, and this memory as previous as it was pitiful was the deepest of them all.

### "SUPREME"

"The effect of this tragedy upon the young husband and father was immediate and overwhelming. It marked indeed the supreme crisis of his career. For the first time in his experience, the beauty seemed to go out of the world, and the joy of living to vanish from his heart. For the first time the hammer rang dull and lifeless on the anvil. For the first time his beloved books failed to hold his mind and stir the deep places of his soul. Friends, even the dearest were shut completely from his life.

"The secret lay between God and my own soul," he said in his biography. "Such a grief, however, though sacred beyond all expression, must have an end and this ended in the only refuge there is for us when life grows dark in the shadow of death."

Robert Collyer found himself thinking in his loneliness and sorrow of the Sunday School on the hill where he had gone as a lad, of the hymns that his father had sung, of the prayers that his mother had said, of the Bible on the book shelf in the old stone cottage. When he moved to Ilkley he had in accordance with early habit always attended Ilkley Parish Church, but never as a young man been what is commonly called religious.

### WESLEYANISM

Now therefore his tender and deeply wounded heart was ready for a real experience and it was the blaze of Wesleyanism which was still burning hotly over the northern moors which caught him.

He had attended Ilkley Parish Church, chapels at Ilkley and at Addingham, he had gone tramping over the moors, even talked to sheep as he struggled to find the words which he felt were eager to be related to what he felt was within him, but the would not come. Somehow the solution to his problems escaped him, the words could not find expression.

Continues Mr. Holmes, "Little by little, just how, he never explained, he found himself going to meetings of the Methodists—They were his neighbours and friends all of them—in a little chapel on the outskirts of Ilkley. Gradually he was moved to tell them in so many words how it was with him, and they gave him a warm welcome.

Yet his struggles continued. The light had not just come to him. His hearers provided the encouragement but not just what he hoped to hear and what he prayed would come to him.

### THE SERMON

Then one night at Addingham he listened to a sermon by an Addingham born man, Flesher Bland, who was winning a reputation as a preacher. The text was from Revelations Chapter 20 verse six. It was "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."

The sermon took "wondrous hold" on Robert Collyer. At last "the light came." It was the key for his hand which opened a door to greater things; it was the beginning of something which eventually led to Collyer's work becoming known and fruitful and winning the acclaim of people in several lands, and a doctorate from Leeds University.

From the moment the sermon by Flesher Bland had ended, Robert Collyer knew what he had to do and started to do it. He had been moved from the flood of despair into the sunshine of hope. The tragedy of his loss had marked the end of a part of his life; now he realised it was not the end of the whole, he was moving forward.

His studies of the Bible with John Dobson and others, his reading of William Shakespeare and of other writers of English literature had given him a conviction that he knew what he wanted to say and he was learning how to say. The gifted Flesher Bland became his close friend. Their exchange of views had advantages for both.

### FLESHER BLAND

Some 21 years later Robert Collyer had occasion to refer to his association with the local preachers of Craven which was just about to begin. It was from them, he wrote, that he "learned the first simple lessons in the art of preaching and still thinks as he thought then that Flesher Bland, who was a local preacher in those days, but is now in the front rank of preachers in Canada was one of the finest and most impressive pulpit orators it was ever his good fortune to hear."

Mr. Bland was a native of Addingham. He died at the beginning of the present century at Smith's Falls, Ontario. Harry Speight, local author, whose books included Upper Wharfedale, wrote of it. "A more thorough and earnest worker never entered the Ministry; his whole life being one of continual self sacrifice for the benefit of others. He won the greatest respect not only of his own people but also of his clerical brethren, and besides discharging many and various duties he was for three years Chairman of the Canada Conference."

### IN CANADA

Robert Collyer's version of this time paid another tribute. The death of his wife and daughter was referred to as "the coming of a great darkness—a void and emptiness that was almost unbearable. I began groping about for something I could cling to eternally. I attended the Methodist chapel more regularly and one Sunday I heard a sermon by a local preacher named Bland who is now in charge of a Methodist Church at Quebec. His sermon struck home. There was no revival going on and but few signs of religious life in the old chapel; I hardly ate or slept for three weeks....."

The sermon was not only the beginning of Robert Collyer's religious vocation; it was the beginning of a friendship as dear to him as that with his earlier mentor, John Dobson, who had turned his mind to such fine writers and great thinkers. After Robert Collyer went to the United States he wrote frequently to Flesher Bland on a host of subjects. With John Dobson and Flesher Bland he had been given a start which was to prove of great worth to him in the days to come.

R. M. Green

To be continued

April 77

## COLLYER PREACHES FIRST OFFICIAL SERMON AND FORGETS MIDDLE PART

The sermon in Addingham chapel by the local preacher Flesher Bland brought "the light to Robert Collyer" and set him aware of the things for which he had been seeking since the death of his first wife, Harriet, in child birth and soon afterwards their three day old daughter, Ann. He studied and he preached and in a quiet way his reputation began to grow. People in the dales sought the days of his visits and learned to treasure what he had to say.

In about a year the preacher in charge of the meeting came to see me and told me how the brethren in the quarterly meeting had risen one by one and said that it had been borne upon their hearts that I had a call to preach the gospel.

They were local preachers, with a gift for this work and rustical men with one exception who made their own living as artisans and small farmers. They preached on Sundays for the love of God and of human souls, while some of them answered well to the canon of the great Swiss reformer. A man who is truly called to preach the gospel may know many things but must know two—God and how to speak to the people, wrote Collyer.

Shall I say there have been moments in my life when what friends call the inward life has shone or flashed for me on turning points always as I see now. Well this was one, and the first, I told good old Michael that I should be good to try, and he said I must be ready when he called. So I went to think out my sermon from the text "As I live saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of a sinner."

### FIRST SERMON

The word came duly that I must preach at the chapel in Addingham three miles up the river. It was Sunday afternoon. Luther loved to preach on Sunday afternoons because the men servants and maid servants could come to hear him then in great numbers, but I found only a handful. And here I must make a confession. The sermon was in three parts: the firstly and the lastly were my own; the secondly I stole from a sound Scotch divine.

I must have no paper so I had none but managed somehow to get through. There was no greeting from the hearers as I came out of chapel to go home; but half way I halted for I found I had forgotten the secondly I had stolen. And then came the painful conclusion that it served me right, and my text should have been by good rights "Thou shalt not steal," while from that time to this I may say in all honesty I have stood true to Paul's words, "Let him that stole steal no more."

There was no inward light for me then. I had meant to do a mean thing and had failed, but by heaven's grace the failure opened the way to my ordination as a Methodist local preacher. I felt no great eagerness to try again; my sin had found me out. They did not know my secret, and old Michael sent me on a Sunday to preach in a farmer's kitchen on the lift of the moor where they only had preaching now and then, and where I may suppose he thought poor provision might pass where the feasts came few and far between.

### FRAGRANCE

It was in June. I see the place still, and I am aware of the fragrance of the wild uplands stealing through the open lattice on bars of sunshine, to mingle with the pungent snap of the peat fire on the hearth which gives forth the essence of the moorlands for a thousand years. And still mind how heavy my heart was that afternoon. I had been trying all the week to find a sermon in a parable; but there was no pulse to answer, no vision, and Bishop Horne says "If you distil dry bones, all you will have for your pains is water."

Still, there I was, the preacher, and they were simple-hearted folk up there of the old Methodist election unto grace, eager and hungry for the word of life, ready to come in with the grand Amens.

### KITCHEN FULL

The big farm kitchen was full, and they were just the hearers to help a poor soul over the bars on the lift of their full hearts. So they sang with a will; and where in the world will you hear such singing, with a will, as in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Then I must pray. Father Taylor said, "I cannot make a prayer" nor can I. But with those hearts filled from the springs of life I felt that day that prayer was making me. Then the time came for the sermon. Some stammering words came to my lips, and then some more, while gleams of light began to play about my parable. And their eyes began to shine, while now and then the grand Amens came as a chorus from the chests of the men who had talked to each other in the teeth of the winds up there from the times of the Saxons and the Danes. And now after all these years I feel sure it was given me that day what I should say.

### ORDINATION

So the service ended, and the good man of the house came and laid his hands on me, and said very tenderly: "My lad, the good Lord has called thee to preach the Gospel. The Lord bless thee and make thee faithful in the truth." And all the people said Amen, while I have always said this was my true ordination.

The service on the moor side and ordination from the hands and heart of the old farmer helped me greatly

to feel that I had a call to preach, and if I was true to my calling need not filch from any Scot or indeed anybody for such sermons as I could compass. But I feel sure also that I was exalted above measure and needed to have my thorn in the flesh to buffet me."

Next I had word from our Minister to preach at Ilkley on the Sunday night, and the following Monday one of the members of our small Society told me, (he was a shoemaker and a thoughtful man) "We think thou will never make a preacher like what we want. Thou wants to reason ower much and that will never do. We want our preachers to preach from the heart, not from the head: to say 'thus saith the Lord' and be sure about that. The preaching may do for some folks but it winnat do for us." Then good old Tom went his way and I went mine. I was not glad for the thorn, yet I have thought many a time since that he was not a Messenger of Satan sent to buffet me but a very honest man who said what he most surely believed.

### SO MUCH LATER

Seventeen years later when he was Minister of six years denomination and on his first return visit to Ilkley Robert Collyer met this old man again. He did not remember him but said the preacher was absent that night and invited Collyer to take his place. Then I told him I was no longer a local but "still preached a bit, though quite a different brand."

The old man's face fell as he said, "What made you leave us? I asked him if he remembered telling me I should change reason myself out of the Methodist body if I did not change my methods, and I thought his words had come about. We clasped hands, said good-bye and I saw the old man no more on th earth.

The old miller in the town also gave me a piece of his mind after my first effort. He said I should make a preacher in time, and be right useful; for they would use me for a spare rail to fill the gaps, and we needed such a rail to keep things straight.

### BURNSALL AND BACK

Dr. Collyer tells how once he had walked the 12 miles to Burnsall and then had to walk home to be ready for more. When an eminent judge had been asked how long he thought a sermon should last, he had replied "Twenty minutes with a leaning to the side of mercy". Collyer took for his text "I am the light of the world" and as he went on and on an aged sister all out of patience with him after some time cried out: "John, if thou's the light of the world, I think thou needs snuffin."

I have never done the like again in all these years.

R. M. GREEN

## GOLDEN HAired GIRL WHO SAILED TO NEW YORK WITH COLLYER

The Wharfe Valley was filled with sunshine. As she bent her golden head over the sewing she was tending Robert Collyer stopped in his stride and gazed upon her. He wondered. Might she not be, he pondered, the one woman in all the world whom God had placed in his path to make good the broken life which had been stricken with great sorrow. So wondering Robert Collyer gazed upon the 27 year old Ann Longbottom. He stayed to talk to her as she sat there in the sunshine of the Ilkley hillside. He told her of the tragedy in his life brought about by the death in child birth of his first wife, his intention of emigrating to the United States, the feeling aroused in him. His proposal of marriage was accepted immediately. In a few days they were bound on the sailing ship Roscius and in a month were landing in New York in May, 1850. For some years their life was a hard one, but when he allowed his religion to be his guide, Collyer found success and fame.

Robert Collyer after spending the working part of the first 14 years of his life as a doffer in a mill at Blubberhouses was afraid that the physical handicaps which affected the children around him, would become his inheritance too. He could see signs of this happening. So he became apprenticed to Jackie Birch an Ilkley man who had taught his father, Samuel Collyer, to become a blacksmith.

When he had completed his apprenticeship Birch saw in the young man his successor to the forge and made provision in his will for Robert to succeed him. The Lord of the Manor William Middleton, thought Robert too young to take over the responsibility of the forge but had no objection to Robert managing it and this was the arrangement, with Robert as manager and another man from Middleton village as owner.

Nevertheless Robert Collyer and his wife Harriet were comfortably placed. They lived in a cottage on the north side of Church Street. Robert was well paid, they had one small boy, Samuel, and were expecting their second child at the beginning of 1849. Then came tragedy. His wife died in childbirth, their daughter Ann three days later. Collyer's life was shattered. He and his son gave up their home and went to live with a man called Stephenson in a cottage alongside the Leeds Road smithy.

### SOUGHT ANSWERS

Distracted, he sought answers to his questions in what he heard at the Parish Church and the local chapels. He read the Bible, walked the moors but not until he heard a sermon by a local preacher of Addingham, a man of rare and outstanding talent, did he find that a key had been pushed into his hand which opened the door to what he had been seeking. He studied and he preached; he found his feet were firmly placed on a well defined path. His listeners were eager for his message.

For Robert Collyer the arrival of Ann Longbottom was the work of God. His first wife had meant so much to him and he to her. It was almost as though he had found in Ann the one person who could fully replace his beloved Harriet. When she agreed to marry him she told him that whither he went she went too, where he lodged so lodged she and that his God would be her God. They decided to go to the States immediately and straight after their marriage they went to Liverpool and boarded a sailing ship. They travelled steerage because they simply could not afford to travel by one of the steamers that were available.

### LAST ACTION

Almost the last action before they went to Liverpool was a visit by Robert Collyer to the burial ground of the Ilkley Parish Church "in the quiet after-glow of evening." There, he said, as he thought, his farewell to his beloved Harriet and their daughter, Ann. His wife and child were buried with his half brother, William Wells, born to his mother in her first marriage. There was no grave stone to be placed there for some years. Now it rests close to the door of the Church Hall rescued by the present Vicar, the Rev. Richard Cleland, when the church-yard was landscaped.

Then Robert Collyer and his second wife were off to Liverpool. Their ship was named "Roscies," but Collyer said some years later that it should have been "Atrocious", because the voyage was anything but agreeable. Bilge water was in their little cabin, neither of them found much to please them. Despite the fact that they had paid well for their food it was poor and it was scanty. Collyer wrote years later that he could not believe that any workhouse, or prison for that matter, would have dared provide such food. It would have created a riot, he said.

### WELL RECEIVED

In the previous year when he had talked about emigrating to the States Collyer had been advised not to go there. "They'll take the teeth of you," he had been told. His experience however had not been at all like this.

They arrived exactly to the month from leaving and wondered how they had listened to the gloomy stories about the States. On setting foot on land the first voice they heard was that of a Yorkshireman. He was a boarding house keeper who had gone down to the dock to see if there was anyone seeking accommodation for the night. The bed he provided was most welcome after their month on board. What is more he had a sister in Philadelphia who also kept a boarding house. He supported Collyer's belief that Philadelphia was the place they should make for.

### HELPING HAND

Next morning Mrs. Collyer was not well and their Yorkshireman friend directed them to a druggist who supplied her with what she wanted and refused payment. "There will be

another opportunity when you get settled," he said. On to Philadelphia and almost immediately in the local newspaper there was an advertisement, for a blacksmith at Shoemakerville about seven miles away. Collyer was away early. It was a hot morning and Collyer was trudging along, the perspiration running down his face. He was overtaken by a man driving a gig who asked him if he would like to ride.

On their way Collyer told him his story. When the man set him down he shook Collyer's hand and told him he had been impressed by his story and the way he had told it. "I am sure you will do well" he said. For Collyer it was a new experience even to be offered a lift. Many times people had overtaken him but never asked him in England if he would like to ride.

### LILACS

He passed a cottage which brought him a touch of homesickness. It was covered with masses of lilacs. It was his favourite flower and reminded him so much of Blubberhouses and Ilkley. He buried his face in them as the tears ran down his cheeks.

A woman with a happy, cheerful face came out. Would he like some of the blossom? she asked. Just a piece please, said Collyer. She covered his arms with them. Collyer went forward and got the job. It was making claw hammers and he was there for nearly nine years. He made good money earning twice as much for a less period of work each day than he had made in England. When the factory was closed for new boilers to be put in he found jobs where he could and earn useful money and his wife helped by doing some sewing.

### HAD TO RESIGN

His religion fervour had brought him early contact with the local Methodists but their beliefs were narrow minded and Collyer found them hard to accept. He sought the opportunity to preach sermons and found his dialect a handicap. Nevertheless he managed. They listened to what he had to say, sought his explanations afterwards. His instincts were against the slave trade, he objected to the tolerances that existed and one day as he stood in the pulpit as a substitute preacher, he said so. As a result before a tearful congregation he was required to resign his membership.

He had many friends who believed in him and he became a Unitarian. Before long he was recommended as an assistant to the unitarian minister in Chicago and moved there. When the minister took another job Collyer was an applicant for it and was appointed. He had problems due to his wife's illnesses but found many ready to help. His homely sermons were winning attention over a wide area and there was not enough room to hold all who wished to listen to him. A new church was built only for it to be destroyed in the Chicago fire and yet another was built of much greater size in remarkably short time. Invitations came steadily for him to take up positions at other churches in the States.

### CHURCH CHANGE

For some time he resisted, but finally at the end of September, 1879, nineteen years after his arrival in New York, he returned as Minister of the Church of the Messiah. There he built up a great reputation as a preacher, as a man who knew from experience the every day problems of life, and there was for him the great love and affection of the people amongst whom he ministered.

The American Civil War troubled him deeply. The blood shed, the prison camps which were just as bad as the Nazi concentration camps nearly a century later filled him with horror. He became a member of the Sanitary Commission of the United States, he earned the public thanks of the Government and the individual gratitude of many thousands of soldiers and private individuals.

### BACK TO ILKLEY

Collyer made several return visits to Ilkley. The most outstanding one was probably in September, 1907 when he opened the Ilkley Public Library. Thousands greeted him, they took the horses out of his carriage and pulled it back to Wells House whilst hundreds of others lighted the way with torches. On one of his visits Leeds University conferred a doctorate upon him.

Yet his first return visit some years before was at the expense of the people to whom he ministered. They appreciated that the intense work of the preceding years had made their mark. The zip had gone out of him and he obviously needed a rest. So they sent him back for a spell to his old home and when he returned to New York the old enemy had gone.

Writing of his preaching skills at the end of his life, a colleague who knew him well and who had heard him frequently wrote that his sermons were remarkable not for their learning, eloquence, art, homiletical form, but for their simple and lonely disclosures of personality...His sermons were not sermons at all. They were nothing better than irresponsible ingenuous confidences from one man to his neighbours...This man was himself. He hid nothing, disguised nothing, pretended nothing. And if because this self of his, if we may so express it, was of beauty, strength and purity of spirit, seldom seen he attained to fame and influence. Robert Collyer was not a great scholar, a great artist, a great orator, a great administrator, not even a great preacher—he was a great man.

Robert Collyer's life was long, full, happy, very beautiful. His youth was given the hardness that makes tough fibre in flesh and spirit and the grace as well that saves the soul from death. He won his place by labour, effort and unconquerable faith, and looked upon a fame which had been achieved and not conferred. He was left in the end a mead of serene and quiet years when he 'could sit in the sun,' a figure of unmatched loveliness and welcome.

He was granted transcendent joys and was not denied sorrow. He tasted agony, but never fear; clung to the old with passionate devotion but ever gave welcome to the new. He saw great days, served liberating causes, was himself a potent influence for good. The applause of men was never strange to him; their blessings were his crown. Like Enoch of old, "he walked with God as with a dear friend," voice answering voice, hand touching hand, face reflecting face from the beginning to the end of his life." As with Enoch, death cast "no more shadow on his spirit than it were the spirit of a yearling child." His secret was the secret of the stars and winds, God lived close to him as to the flowers and now that he is dead they are not divided.

R. M. Green

## ACROSS THE YEAR

## Local Board's Horses poorly stabled, meeting told

100 Years Ago

Horses owned by the Ilkley Local Board were not kept in the best of conditions it was reported at the monthly meeting of the Ilkley Local Board in late December, 1876. The Finance Committee had suggested that several points made in respect of the management of their horses should be looked into and it had been decided to ask Mr. Hainsworth to look after them for at least a month so they could know what they did and what they cost. The Board apparently had no check on those under whose care the horses were supposed to be. Mr. W. Hartley said the Board should have better accommodation for their horses for they were put in a most unhealthy place. He complained that one of the horses had to stand with its head to the dark and he understood that if a horse stood long in a dark stable it would go blind. Horses also were required to stand in the damp in the Board stable. Mr. Hainsworth said he would see to the matter. It was a very unreasonable thing for a horse to be worked both night and day as he understood had been done with the Board's animals.

It was said by Mr. H. J. Cooke that the way in which the local roads were being mended was not at all the right way. He did not find the Keighley Road for instance to be in a proper state of repair. Other roads also could be criticised. They had paid £70 the previous month and £80 the month before and he did not think the Board got value for its payment. He could not help feeling that their men had got into a very careless way. Mr. J. Rhodes felt they could not be critical of the way the present man did his job. The truth of the matter was that they required an extra man, and Mr. Hainsworth said they could not be critical of the way the present road man did his job in view of the amount of work he had to do, especially if they took him off that work to look after something else.

75 Years Ago

The building trade at the end of 1901 had been "practically at a standstill" said the Ilkley Gazette reviewing the year in its first issue of 1902. "The position has caused many working people to leave the district and working class property in numbers of cases to become empty." It was felt there were hopes of some start being made with the planned Brook Street extension scheme and with a new bridge over the river Wharfe as part of it but events were to show that this was still some years away. The local events to mark the passing of Queen Victoria were of outstanding recollection in view of the long reign of her late Majesty. The town also lost by resignation the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. Howard Kempson, and by an appointment to another living, his son, the Rev. J. H. Kempson who had been curate for five years. The new Vicar was the Rev. Dr. W. J. Stephen Muntz. The summer was notable, recorded the Gazette, for the long period of drought experienced and the inconveniences associated with it. There was now in course of construction at Panorama a new storage reservoir to hold 8,000,000 gallon (possibly a matter for thought in view of the growth of Ilkley in subsequent years). Notwithstanding the glorious weather the visiting season was anything but a good one, the South African war, as usual, being accounted responsible for the scarcity of money in the country for purposes other than absolute necessity."

Over 100 people associated with the Church of the Sacred Heart were present at the annual tea, and dance held at the Assembly Room. The tray holders were Mrs. Brumfit, Mrs. Emmott, Mrs. Pickles, Mrs. T. Pickard, Mrs. J. Robinson, Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Jerrard, Mrs. Knowlton, Mrs. J. Hudson, Mrs. Blackmore, Mrs. C. Hudson, Mrs. Bald, Mrs. E. Hudson, Mrs. H. Hudson, Mrs. Middlebrook, Mrs. Shackleton, Mrs. Pate, Miss Connelly, Mrs. Caffrey and Mrs. Ed Middleton. A Pierrot troupe consisting of Messrs. J. W. Hudson junior, T. Hudson, M. Hudson, S. Lightbody and J. A. Middlebrook "afforded no end of fun." The Rev. Fr. Galli welcomed everyone and hoped they would all have a prosperous new Year.

50 Years Ago

The new movement to unite the churches in Ilkley, began in the King's Hall on the first Sunday in the New Year, when a monthly evangelical service was held by the Anglicans and non-conformist churches of the town. The Rev. Norman Gibson, pastor of the Baptist Church was largely responsible for bringing this about. The first service was conducted by Canon Hamer, the vicar of Ilkley and the Rev. S. Tonkin of the Congregational Church gave the address.

Dr. A. V. Garscadden took over the practice of Dr. Hebblethwaite of Dial House, Burley in Wharfedale. Dr. Garscadden was previously assistant Medical officer at the Middleton Sanatorium.

Under the dole administered by the Burley Urban Council, 97 aged and needy people received a New Year gift of 4s per head on New Year morning. Local councillors delivered the gifts to their own small districts.

Children's coats were offered in the sales for 14/11 each. Ladies fur trimmed velour coats at £1 19s. 11d., but pure silk stockings were still somewhat expensive at a sale price of 2/11 per pair.

25 Years Ago

Proposed improvements at Burley Lecture Hall and caretaker's quarters estimated to cost £1,149, and a new dance floor and replacement of chairs at the King's Hall, Ilkley at a cost of £2,750 were approved by Ilkley Council at their first meeting of the year in 1955. It was expected that these improvements would be of great benefit to almost all the local organisations.

A possibility of linking up the Ilkley-Ben Rhydding bus service with the Ilkley-Keighley services instead to the Ilkley-Bradford service was indicated in a letter from the Traffic Manager of the West Yorkshire Road Car Company Ltd., to Ilkley Council.

A fifteen year old Ilkley Scouter, Anthony M. Warnes, of Sunset Drive, Ilkley, took part in an "Everest climb in miniature" on Mount Snowden in North Wales.

Some 400 children of the Ilkley Young Citizens Matinee Club were present at a Christmas party given by the Star Cinemas London Ltd., at the Grove Cinema. The party opened with the children singing "Auld Lang Syne" followed by a comedy film and musical entertainment by several of the members. Four year old Bobby Saunders sang "I see the Moon" and several children gave recitations, Ikka Moor Bah't 'At was sung at the close.

## Reports asked for on working hours of Local Board Horses and their food costs

100 Years Ago

Described at the previous meeting as being poorly stabled and much overworked the horses of the Ilkley Local Board were not in any state of distress, reported in January, 1877. Mr. M. Hainsworth who had investigated the matter. He agreed the horses were hard-worked and thought it essential they should have as much as they could eat. The cost of horse corn had been £1 a week for each horse. Each horse went 15 times a day into the station yard with loads of stone, the weight of each load being 25 to 30 cwt. Some members thought this price was too much for corn, but Mr. J. Stephenson thought it was a shameful thing to work a horse like that. Mr. Hainsworth said his own horse had cost him a £1 a week in keep and recently this had gone up by five shillings. Mr. Rhodes did not think it right they should work their animals 14 or 15 hours a day. There should be a fair average and he asked for a report on the matter. It was the view of the Board that the horses should be given all they could eat. It was agreed that a report be supplied on the number of hours worked by the horses and the cost of their food.

There was under consideration the purchase of a field near the Ilkley Brewery for

the purpose of erecting a store-shed and stables. Mr. Hainsworth said there had been criticism about the condition of the present stable but he wished his own was as dry as the one used by the Board. The field under contemplation was known as the Little Field and it was understood the price was 2s. 6d. a yard. This was considered reasonable and it was thought it could also be regarded as a suitable site for the proposed new slaughterhouse. It was decided after a long discussion to make an offer for the land, the voting being seven votes to five.

A Band of Hope was formed in Ilkley at a meeting presided over by the Rev. E. J. Brailsford. Addresses were given by Mr. J. C. Naylor, Mr. L. Eagle and Mr. R. Begg. It was remarked that there was a great deal of drunkenness "even in Ilkley" and that there were many public houses in the town. It was an urgent necessity to train the young people in temperance habits.

75 Years Ago

A representative gathering at the Lecture Hall in January 1902 on the question of whether Ilkley should be advertised a health resort and heard the Chairman of the Council, Mr. E. Fletcher, say in his opening remarks that he agreed with a view that all had not been done that might have been done to make Ilkley popular throughout the length and breadth of the country. After several similar comments, and pressure being sought for such things as making the moor free, creating more amusements, and for a new town hall, a resolution by Mr. J. W. Benson "that it is desirable that an organised effort be made to advertise Ilkley as a health and holiday resort," seconded by Dr. Bampton, was carried.

50 Years Ago

Frost and snow were followed by a thaw, giving little hope of skating on the tarn at the weekend. Some young people however tried their skill on the old gravel pit near the Rugby football ground although the surface had been spoiled by the fall of snow.

Mr. Duncan S. Rabagliati, son of Dr. Rabagliati of Ben Rhydding was appointed Chief Veterinary Inspector under the West Riding County Council. He was educated at Bradford Grammar School, and served in the Camel Corps during the war attaining the rank of Major.

Mr. W. B. Dornan was installed as Worshipful master of the Olicana Lodge of Freemasons to succeed Mr. H. Schofield. The Annual Banquet following the initiation ceremony was held at the Middleton Hotel.

The death was announced of Mr. E. P. Arnold-Forster formerly of Burley-in-Wharfedale at the age of 75 years. Whilst residing in Burley, he was a member of the Local Board being Chairman from 1879 to 1890, and was for several years a member of the West Riding County Council. He was a prominent member of Burley Parish Church, and took a keen interest in all the affairs of the villagers and the village.

25 Years Ago

Three thousand pounds worth of damage was the result of a fire at the Denton Youth Club premises which were completely gutted. Camping equipment belonging to the scouts and the boys Brigades was also lost in the fire. The alarm was given by Mr. and Mrs. P. Robers of Eaton Road, Ilkley, who spotted the blaze from Menston when they were returning home from a dance.

On a held quickly churned up in a thaw following a keen frost and with the heavy, greasy ball difficult to handle Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club managed to defeat the Vale of Lune by 14 points to three, with Melville scoring his 34th try of the season, breaking the individual record he had established the previous year.

The fourth anniversary of the opening of Burley Cinema was celebrated by the manager, Mr. N. Wilkinson inviting children whose birthdays fell in the same week as guests. Three children answered the invitation, Peter Knowles, Ronald Davy and G. Clough. Also present as guests were the first two patrons, Mr. and Mrs. E. Binns of Lawn Avenue. A competition to guess how many feature films had been shown since the cinema was opened attracted nearly 200 entries and was won by Mrs. L. Brown.

14 JAN 1977

## ACROSS THE YEARS

# Grave danger of serious accident on Ilkley-Burley Road due to neglected condition

### 100 Years Ago

Commenting on the neglected condition of the road between Ilkley and Burley, the Gazette at the beginning of 1877 criticised the Roads Commissioners and asserted there was a grave danger of a serious accident taking place unless something was done. "Just before the turn to Wheatley there is a very steep and deep embankment which continues for about 100 yards, and along its edge, which is the road side, there are 66 stone posts which are about three foot high with a large hole at the top about four inches square for a strong iron rail. The rail is not there, there is no protection for the road and in the event of any accident the posts in their present condition would only render matters worse... By day the road is dangerous but on a dark foggy night with a spirited horse it must be perilous. The road is in a far worse condition now than it was and as the Road Commissioners' authority shortly expires it looks as if they have been grossly negligent and careless in the matter of handing the road over to their successors in bad condition.

Conditions which obtained every morning at Ilkley Railway station caused another complaint. Ilkley was served both by the North Eastern line and the Midland line and no train was allowed to pass the signal box at the Ilkley station until the preceding train had passed the signal box at Burley. The result of this was that the 9.10 a.m. Midland train could not pass the signal box at Ilkley until the 9.5 a.m. North Eastern train had passed the signal box at Burley. Consequently whilst the Midland train left the Ilkley station on time it was held up at the Ilkley signal box for several minutes. The Gazette thought nothing would be lost by changing the time of departure to five minutes later but something would be gained by keeping a large number of passengers uselessly waiting in cold compartments.

### 75 Years Ago

A letter from the West Riding County Council offering to contribute an amount of £17,000 towards the construction of the new bridge over the river Wharfe at Ilkley was couched in such terms that it threw the responsibility of replacing the old bridge if it was washed away on the Ilkley Council, some member argued at the January meeting of Ilkley Council in 1877. Mr. J. T. Jackson said this was quite contrary to what they had been led to believe when last they discussed the matter and as a result of what they had been told had agreed to increase their contribution to £2,250. He moved that they declined to enter into any agreement which threw any responsibility on to them for the Ilkley old bridge. Seconding Mr. W. Horn said it was a very serious matter "accepting responsibility for the old bridge which is in a shaky condition and likely to be swept away by any flood."

There were several questions about when the letter from the county had been received. The Gazette had

apparently known about it the previous week and published the contents. The Chairman said they should not worry about the newspapers, "They are not always truthful," he commented.

In this case, members pointed out, they had been. The Clerk, Mr. F. Hall, said he had shown the letter only to Mr. E. Fletcher, Chairman.

Mr. S. Wray who was insisting that members should have had the information earlier, angrily objected to interruptions as he was trying to speak. He called on the Chairman for protection and dissatisfied with the Chairman's response said excitedly, "You are not talking to Mr. Lister now."

Mr. J. C. Naylor was also interrupted as he was speaking and demanded to know why the thread of his remarks was being broken in that way.

Mr. Jackson said it was possibly because Mr. Naylor was always interrupting other people.

As the discussion continued with several personal remarks about one thing and another the points of which are lost on us today, Mr. J. W. Benson protested that as a young and new member he was pained to find so much personal feeling was introduced into matters of that kind. Instead of being what it should be, a legislative chamber, that place was too often a cockpit where personal differences were fought out. Continuing to deal with the County communication and speaking at some length he referred to views expressed only recently that the old bridge would last a very long time and now they had the same people crying out that the old bridge was in a most dilapidated condition and liable to be washed away at any time.

Mr. Horn asked to whom Mr. Benson was referring.

When Mr. H. Ellis, Ilkley's County representative attempted to speak he was asked by Mr. Jackson not to do so "as he is interested in the land on the other side."

Mr. Ellis said he was trying to be helpful, and Mr. Jackson said they did not want his help.

After much more argument a resolution was approved accepting the terms of the letter provided that the agreement shall include a clause that in the event of the old bridge being washed away this Council shall not be called upon to expend more than £1,000 in constructing a bridge to be used for light traffic only."

### 50 Years Ago

The New Year 1927 was welcomed with much "gaiety and jollity" by a large company at the fancy dress dance and whist drive held by the 9th Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades Association in the King's Hall and Winter Gardens. Mr. A. Emmott and Mr. W. Hart were the M.C.'s for dancing and music was supplied by Harry Glover's Orchestra. Mr. W. Brown and Mr. A. Clark took charge of the whist drive. As midnight approached the deep notes of Big Ben marked the coming of the new year, as wireless had been installed in the Winter Garden.

A record number of guests were entertained at a New Year Party held in the Winter Garden for the old folks of Ilkley, 126 people all over 70 years of age were entertained to tea and a concert. One of the guests Mr. William Redshaw sang two old songs, and a troupe of minstrels from the Ilkley Baptist Church, Messrs J. G. Spence, H. Craven, W. Pennock, L. Allinson, T. Hawkins, J. Franklyn, J. Anderson, J. Anderson, S. Green, T. Gordon and N. Gell sang others. Miss Madge Spence was the accompanist.

The wife of a man working on a grave at the Wharfedale cemetery, who was nine feet down excavating, delivered a message to her husband and slipped and fell into the grave. She was wearing a white apron at the time, and it was dusk. His mate, working the windlass had not heard her coming and glanced round, saw the white figure arising from the grave and with cries of "Oh help, I'm off," he took to his heels and fled.

### 25 Years Ago

Not since 1936 had the Ilkley first team defence of the Rugby Union Football Club conceded 40 points or more until the New Year match against the Vale of Lune at Lancaster. This was due in some way to several team changes, but they were also handicapped by the fact that several reserves were unable to make the journey.

To mark his retirement after 18 years as the Vicar of Burley the Rev. E. N. Pedley was presented with a cheque for £245 from church members and residents of the village. The presentation was made in the National Schools before 150 people. Mr. E. G. H. Mitchell, as one of the senior members of the congregation made the presentation. The platform party consisted of Mr. J. V. Slater, Col. F. W. B. Maufe and Mrs. Pedley.

With a temperature 20 degrees below freezing point, and 18 degrees the next day following a fall of snow Ilkley was really in the grip of winter. Skating on the lake at Denton Park and the tarn was possible after three continuous days of severe frost.

Addingham Girl Guides repeated their Christmas Play "The Three Roses" for parents and friends on Twelfth Night, and the senior members were guests of the Silsden Army Cadets at their Christmas Social.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Gas Price reduction should be earlier, said Local Board

100 Years Ago

A reduction in the price of gas as from 1 April, 1877, was reported to the Ilkley Local Board in January 1877. The price was to be 5s per thousand feet subject to a discount of four per cent on all accounts paid within one month of the due date. The Board felt a greater advantage would be for the reduction to date from 1 January because the benefit of reduction would be much greater in that period. It was agreed to make this suggestion to the Gas Board.

After a hearing in which two pupil teachers at Burley Church of England School were involved and occupied the magistrates at Otley for more than two hours it was decided to make no order in respect of an application by the woman teacher against the man. She had alleged that "on certain specific dates the defendant stopped after school hours and effected her ruin, and that also on a rail journey to Menston he had taken liberties with her." The little village had been excited about the matter for some weeks, said the Gazette, and the court was gensely crowded during the hearing. The Vicar of Burley, the Rev. C. I. Black said he had made inquiries and there had been some public dissatisfaction because he had kept the defendant at the schools but he had "neither convicted or acquitted him" and his proceedings had been approved by the Bishop of the Diocese.

There were 150 people present at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Congregational Church. The Rev. S. D. Hillman presided and he expressed especial thanks to Mr. Begg, Mr. Wade and Mr. Conyers for their great help with the Bible Class. The Treasurer, Mr. Hartley, said collections amounted to £420 and subscriptions to £141 but there had been a slight balance against them. Church expenditure had amounted to £557 14s. 6d. and their receipts to £561 12s. 9d. Reports were also presented on the organ fund and on church improvement costs.

75 Years Ago

A meeting in January 1902 of representatives of local organisations at which it was decided to advertise Ilkley brought some criticism about the lack of entertainment and shelter for visitors. It was decided to look into the matter and see what could be done. The suggestions brought letters to the Gazette together with a reminder from the newspaper that the cost in all probability mainly would be borne by the rate-payers. Mr. Henry Ellis, who was the local County Council representative at the time, still felt the best idea was one of about 14 years pre-

viously to provide a tramway or some mechanical means of reaching the top of the moor at a cost of a penny or so. The Gazette recalled that some pushed this idea with considerable fervour and plans were prepared and one or two schemes published. Many residents, however, were bitterly opposed to the idea. A winter garden seemed to be the most popular idea the Gazette thought. It recalled the success of the open air concerts by the Town Band during the previous summer and thought something of the sort with a pleasant place provided as a reserve when weather was against outdoor performances would be most useful.

The second volume of the life of Professor Huxley written by his son made reference to Prof. Huxley's visits to Ilkley and the amount of pleasure and health giving recreation he got from walking round the district. "I can hardly believe I felt so ill and miserable four and twenty years ago. I have been improving wonderfully in the last few days. Yesterday I walked from Wells House Hotel where I am staying to Bolton Abbey, the Strid etc and back which is a matter of 16 miles without being particularly tired, though the afternoon sun was as hot as mid-summer." Professor Huxley wrote to his wife saying he had spent three hours on the moor with only the peewits and the grouse for company and "it was perfectly delicious." He came in April 1886 to spend a few days and was here three months. He returned to Ilkley in December 1886, and 24 hours after arriving wrote that he was "wonderfully better."

50 Years Ago

The Ilkley Amateurs were busy preparing for their new production "A Country Girl" to be held during the first week in February. Miss Marjorie Crawshaw was to play the leading part, and the show was to be produced by Mr. D. Knowles.

Ilkley Ladies held a bridge drive at the Winter Garden and raised £33 in aid of the Leeds University Development Scheme. The organising committee consisted of Mrs. W. Ambler, Mrs. Appleton, Mrs. Lister Booth, Mrs. Brierley, Mrs. Burnham, Mrs. Diggle, Mrs. H. H. Illingworth, Miss J. Johnston, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Millson, Mrs. H. Preistman, Mrs. Reith, Miss Steinhil, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Veale, Mrs. Wawn, Mrs. F. Wilson and Mrs. Wraith. Mrs. Appleton was in charge of the 28 bridge tables, Miss Alice Holmes, Miss Hilda Holmes, Miss Gwen Illingworth, Miss P. Waring and Miss Woodman assisted with the tea.

Capt. R. S. P. Bates, son of Dr. W. R. Bates of Ilkley was mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished services in the field in Waziristan.

25 Years Ago

For the first time in the history of the hospital, winners of T.A. certificates of the British Tuberculosis Association at Middleton Hospital received their certificates and badges at a special ceremony, attended by the Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, Mr. S. Ryder Runton who made the presentations. Dr. H. Raeburn (Medical Superintendent), Miss K. Platt (Matron) and representatives of the Management Committee. The awards were made to Staff Nurses A. Bott, E. M. Deves, C. Eastell, K. Fowler, E. Hartley, C. Molkin, C. Schoenig, N. Thornton, P. Timms, E. Volkman, J. Wood and Sisters V. Glenn, D. Jones, M. Pease, V. Scatchard and E. Yeardon.

It was a momentous occasion for the inhabitants of 12 houses in Bolton Abbey, when for the first time they were lighted by electricity. No longer would their paraffin lamps have to be trimmed and filled each week. However residents living in Storriths and Hazlewood would still have to use their lamps for some time to come.

Strong and active support was promised to the Church of England School, Leeds Road by the newly formed Parent Teachers' Association, judging by the large number of parents who attended the first annual general meeting in January, 1952. Miss E. Dickinson (headmistress, Junior school) was made chairman, with Mrs. J. Clarke secretary, and Mr. H. Fairbrother, treasurer. It was recognised that in the interest of economy the school life of the children would have to be cut by one year, and the general view appeared to be that it would be better if they entered school one year later, at the age of five, rather than call upon them to leave school one year later. The P.T.A. agreed to forward a resolution to this effect to Col. M. Stoddart Scott, M.P. for the Ribon Division expressing the view that the present standard should be maintained.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Mr. J. Wilde refused certificate of membership of Local Board

100 Years Ago

Mr. John Wilde appeared at a special meeting of the Ilkley Local Board in February, 1877, and claimed the seat which he said was rightfully his after the previous election. Saying that he was acting under legal advice Mr. Wilde asked the Chairman, Mr. John Milner, to give him a certificate that he had been duly elected a member of that Board. The Chairman said he had no instructions of his authority to act in the matter and he had no power to proceed in the way Mr. Wilde asked him. It was not a matter of refusing to do what Mr. Wilde asked; when he was advised officially that he had the power he would issue a certificate. Mr. Wilde said he was only required to serve notice calling the attention of the Board to the Act and this he had done. He now held the Clerk responsible for that document. The Clerk said he had called the notice of the Board to the Act but he was not going to act without the instructions of the Board. If the Board instructed him he would not put anything in the way. The Chairman pointed out that they met for a special meeting and that business could not be dealt with there.

The board then dealt with the matter for which it had been called. This was the signing and sealing of the document for the purchase by the Board of a part of Little Field off Little Lane.

Two early lambs were reported at Helling Hall farm.

Work was begun on the Brook Street portion of the Ilkley sewerage at the end of January, 1877. Although the Ilkley Local Board had shown "a determination that the work should be hastened, they have certainly committed a mistake in not setting about it earlier. It will take many months to get a solidified and well macadamised surface on again," commented the "Gazette."

75 Years Ago

The Ilkley Company of the 2nd West Yorkshire Royal Engineer Volunteers numbered 105 members, of whom 96 were classified as efficient and nine extra efficient, reported Capt. J. B. Hordern, Commander of the Company, at the second annual prize distribution and ball held in the Winter Garden of the Wells House at the end of January, 1902. Nine men from Ilkley formed part of the detachment the battalion sent out to South Africa and they had been principally engaged in building block-houses and erecting wire entanglements. Capt. Hordern was supported by Lieut. H. E. Aykroyd, Capt. W. Johnstone (Leeds), Mrs. F. Steinthal, Mr. S. Robertshaw, and Mr. T. S. Carter. Thanks largely to Lieut. Aykroyd, the Ilkley Company had won the

Gascoigne challenge cup for shooting. Mrs. Steinthal distributed the prizes and offered to present a cup for the best rifle shot in the Company, and Mrs. Maude of Hampton Grove had offered a silver medal for shooting.

Mr. A. T. Akeroyd, organist and choirmaster of St. Margaret's Church, was presented with an ivory silver mounted baton and an illuminated address in recognition of the great improvement which had taken place since he was appointed to his office. The presentation was made by the Vicar, the Rev. Irton Smith at the annual supper held in the Middleton Hotel. Supporting the Rev. Smith were the Rev. H. R. Hughes, curate; Mr. Oswald Birchall and Mr. John Beanlands wardens.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Ilkley District Nurses Fund, Dr. W. R. Bates suggested that it would be useful to raise a sum of money by means of a bazaar, concert or sale of work rather than rely entirely on subscriptions. Dr. Richardson agreed with this idea and on their proposal it was decided to form a Discretionary Sub-Committee to consider ways of raising money. Officers for the Fund were elected as follows — Chairman, Rev. Irton Smith; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Milton; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. S. Kellett. The Rev. Dr. Muntz presided.

50 Years Ago

A draft agreement for the purchase of land abutting upon Hawskworth Street for the purpose of providing public car parking space was approved by Ilkley U.D.C., and application was made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow £1,250 for the land purchase.

Maroon and white, the colours of Ben Rhydding Sports Club formed the colour scheme for the decorations at a whist drive and dance held by the Hockey section of the Club in the Winter Gardens. Mr. H. B. Rose, Mr. H. M. Coggill, and Mr. S. Wormald were the M.C.'s for dancing and music was supplied by Stuart H. Cliffe's orchestra. Mr. Jones was in charge of the whist drive in which prizewinners were 1. Mr. Beanlands; 2. Mr. Duell; 3. Mrs. Waite, consolation Mrs. Hainsworth.

St. Peter's Church, Addingham was filled with Girl Guides when the Addingham flag was dedicated. County Commissioner Dunlop was present and Captain Bristow of Addingham, guides from Ilkley were led by Captains Senior Smith and Reay. The colour party consisted of I. Bancroft, M. Hargraves and J. Lester. The Rev. J. W. Hall conducted the service.

25 Years Ago

Several days of keen frost and heavy snows brought

ideal conditions for skating and sledging during the last week in January, 1952. The tarn was crowded with skaters and spectators, and there were excellent conditions for skating on the flooded fields near the river at Addingham.

Mr. H. C. Brabban, headmaster of the Ilkley Secondary School was told by the Chairman of the School Governors Mr. W. Hanbidge to be of good heart and not become too despondent regarding the lack of extra accommodation at the school. Mr. Hanbidge warmly congratulated the headmaster and his staff for the improvement in the atmosphere and appearance of the school which had taken place during the previous twelve months.

A whist drive held in the Winter Gardens by the Parents' Committee of the Ilkley Youth Club was exceptionally well supported. Those present included Cr. Wolfe (Vice-chairman Ilkley U.D.C.) Mr. L. Davidson (Chairman of the Ilkley Youth Council), Messrs. B. Eagle and C. Chubb (Scout Leaders), Mrs. M. Ridgeway (Guide District Commissioner), Mr. J. Rayner (Burley Youth Leader) and Mr. Lee (Area Youth Officer).

4/3/77

ACROSS THE YEARS

Ilkley draper applies to High Court over Local Board Seat

100 Years Ago

Mr. John Wilde, who claimed that he had been elected to the Ilkley Local Board at the election in April, 1876, and had made several legal approaches in support of his claim, moved at the High Court in February for a rule nisi for a mandamus calling upon John Milner, the returning officer of the Ilkley Local Board to certify under his hand that John Wilde was elected a member of the Local Board at the last election. Counsel said the real point at issue was whether Thomas James Critchley or John Wilde had been elected. When the votes were collected and counted Critchley came last in the candidates elected according to the Returning Officer's figures and Wilde was next leading the unsuccessful candidates. Wilde protested, and after a scrutiny of the voting papers returned claimed that he should have been shown as receiving 373 votes and Critchley as 369. It had previously been the decision of the Returning Officer that certain errors having been corrected Critchley and Wilde each had 372 votes and the Returning Officer declared Critchley elected. Critchley took his seat as a member of the Local Board but following legal action by Wilde announced his resignation. Wilde's claim was that Critchley had never legally been elected and was not in a position to resign. Their Lordships, however, found they could not grant a rule with reference to an office that had been resigned. They could not really do it; it was impossible. The Rule was refused accordingly.

Mr. Wilde's decision to approach the High Court followed an amazing scene at the previous Local Board meeting. At the end of this meeting Mr. J. Rhodes and Mr. W. Busfield moved that Mr. Wilde be appointed to the seat on the Board vacated by Mr. Critchley. Mr. Sewell was asked by Mr. Wilde not to be bashful when he suggested the matter be discussed in the absence of Mr. Wilde. Mr. H. J. Cooke asked if Mr. Wilde would accept the decision of the Board, whatever it was, or would he continue to seek what he wanted by further recourse to law.

Mr. Wilde was replying to this, maintaining that he had been legally returned at the previous election when his words were drowned by the noise of the majority of members as they rose from their seats and left the room "with all possible speed."

This scene led to comment by the Yorkshire Observer, the Gazette reprinting it with the view that "it has evidently been written in the murky atmosphere wherein the newspaper was published," and asserting that had the writer been better acquainted with the subject his sentiments might have been differently expressed.

Mr. Wilde's lack of success at the High Court caused further comment to be pub-

lished in the Gazette but he had to wait until the April election to know the view of the ratepayers. There were seven vacancies, the last for two years. The voting resulted in Mr. Joseph Moon being elected to this seat with 499 votes. Mr. Wilde was eighth with 315. Objections made on his behalf to three or four matters were not accepted. For some days previously election activities had caused great excitement, said the Gazette.

75 Years Ago

The Ilkley Gazette at the end of February, 1902, published a remarkable photograph of a large ice-wheel which had attracted a large amount of attention as it rotated slowly at the Crum Wheel in the River Wharfe at the bend to the north-west of the Cemetery. The wheel was some 20 yards across and had resulted from the keen frost which had frozen large parts of the river. There were several stretches of frozen water in the district and the skaters of the town had enjoyed excellent sport. The other side of the coin was provided by the several instances of near destitution brought about by the lack of work. Relief had been generously forthcoming said the Gazette but still more open-hearted charity would be necessary before "the crying needs and necessities of hunger and privation amongst us are removed."

The first distribution of prizes to the choir boys of the Ilkley Parish Church took place in the vestry in February. To help to increase the higher standard of efficiency achieved under the direction of Mr. Isaac Hirst it was thought the boys section would benefit by awarding prizes for regular attendance, good conduct and musical progress. The prizes were copies of Messiah, St. Paul, Creation and Judas Maccabeus. A special extra prize was awarded to C. Fairburn whose good behaviour during the year had been "particularly marked." The other prizewinners were G. Dean, H. Sykes, N. Scott, F. Hawkins, F. Lister, F. A. Gummer-sall, H. Ingle, W. Bradley, N. Wigglesworth, R. Green, C. Forsyth, E. Ingle, G. Elliott, W. Dean, P. Fairburn, A. Collyer, J. R. Ridealgh, W. A. Wood and W. Hirst.

The first Medical Supt. of the new mental hospital at Scalebor Park was announced as Dr. Gilmour. The hospital designed to cater for private patients was to cost "considerably over £100,000. Dr. Gilmour was to receive £500 a year together with a house. There would be accommodation for 120 patients. The opening was some months away.

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## 50 Years Ago

Ikley Urban Council were negotiating a major purchase of land on the North side of the river, which had been the property of the late Mr. William Irwin of Neil Bank. This land comprised an extensive area reaching from the New Bridge to the Crum Wheel, together with the playing field of the Ikley Cricket Club. The total area was 24 acres on the North side of Denton road, 12 acres on the south side of Denton Road, 18 acres of woodland and 10 acres in the river bed. The land was required to provide public lawn tennis clubs and sports generally.

Mr. Edward Fletcher, for many years a prominent member of Ikley Conservative Association was elected President of the Ikley Constitutional Club in succession to the late Mr. J. T. Hemingway at the annual meeting in February 1927.

Ben Rhydding Parish Church held a successful social gathering in the Winter Garden, Ikley, with a whist drive and dancing taking place. Mr. C. Carr and Mr. L. P. Hitchon acted as M.C.'s for dancing and the music was supplied by Stuart H. Cliffe's Orchestra. Mr. P. Crawshaw and Mr. H. Diggle were in charge of the whist drive and the prizes were presented by Mrs. W. Mullholland. The Rev. W. Mullholland expressed his pleasure at the large gathering of some 200 people.

## 25 Years Ago

After further consideration following the February, 1952, meeting of the Ikley Urban Council, the decision not to re-let the entertainments halls for Saturday night dances was re-affirmed. Mr. Midgeley pointed out that the hall had been re-decorated and provided with special lights and it seemed a great pity for it to stand empty on Saturday evenings. Mr. Atkinson, chairman of the Entertainment Halls Committee said that the Winter Gardens would still be available for public dances but not on Saturday evenings. This was owing to the state the hall had been left in, and the fact that "serious damage had been done by the rough type of persons who went on Saturday nights." He added that he had been to these dances to see for himself and this was a fact. Mr. Hargrave said that it would be a slur on the town to let these places be turned into a "bear garden" and that it seemed that the patrons of the Lecture Hall, Burley, behaved in a far more gentlemanly manner.

Ikley Urban District Council debated a proposed scheme for a by-pass road at Ikley, starting from the Gas Works in Leeds Road, continuing along Castle Road, Bridge Lane, and along the line of the footpath from the Old Bridge to Ikley Lawn Tennis Club and emerging near the railway bridge at Hadfield Farm. A decision was postponed until their April meeting to give members an opportunity of studying the map.

1/4/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Organised effort to defeat Local Board Candidate

#### 100 Years Ago

Strenuous efforts were to be made to prevent Mr. J. Wilde from being returned to one of the seats at the forthcoming Local Board election. It was agreed by his opponents at a meeting in the town that those candidates to be supported were named as George Newbolt, T. J. Critchley, Ellis Hartley, Jabez Dobson, William Holmes, Joseph Moon. These names were highly recommended as worthy of support by James Rhodes, E. H. Wade, Lewis Sherlock, Joseph Beanlands, George R. Mossman, T. P. Muft, Abraham Holmes, John Lee, John Cole, Alfred Ward, Gavin Martin. Some heavy spade work was accomplished and all Mr. Wilde's opponents were elected. He led the list of unsuccessful candidates. Elected were Jabez Dobson (569), George Newbolt (564), William Holmes (546), Joseph Hammond (522), Thomas J. Critchley (515), Joseph Moon (499). Unsuccessful candidates were J. Wilde (315), William Benson (123), Thomas Clarke (116), James R. Freeman (113), Edward Smith (107), John Wood (86), William Dobson (78).

#### 75 Years Ago

Mr. John Ramsden who was buried at Denton churchyard 75 years ago was a man whose forebears had occupied Hangstone Farm for some hundreds of years. As a youth he worked on the erection of

Wells House, he was then night boots at Wells House, he worked as a butcher, a farmer, made himself an expert in veterinary matters, a sheep dog trials judge and was a great friend of Dr. Collyer.

Nominations for the April elections at Ikley, seventy five years ago, were as follows. — North Ward: George Henry Smith, contractor, West Terrace; Benjamin Robinson, grocer, Clifton Terrace; George Cliff Gambles, architect and contractor, Mayland Terrace, Ikley; Frederick James Cross, gardener, Beanlands Parade.

South Ward: James Crowther Naylor, dental surgeon, Bardly Villa; John William Dixon, accountant, Ashburn Place; George Henry Smith; Norman Daniel, nurseryman, Victoria Avenue; James Robinson Harper, lodging house keeper, West View.

East Ward: Frederick James Cross, gardener; John Sunley, general dealer, Church Street; George Cliff Gambles; John George Doxford, gentleman, Woodburn; Oswald Lister, contractor, Tivoli Place; Norman Daniels.

West Ward: Henry John Chesney Johnston, works manager, Wilton Road; Henry Moisley, boot merchant, The Grove.

Two members were required for the south ward and for each of the others.

#### 50 Years Ago

Miss Margaret Crabtree, of Hathaway, Ben Rhydding, was interviewed on leave after spending 4½ years in Hanyang in China as a teacher in a Methodist Mission School. The teachers had been advised to leave some time previously but on account of their feeling of responsibility to their pupils they had disregarded the advice of the British Consul and carried on with their work.

Ikley Grammar School boys proved their strong interest in drama by producing no fewer than six plays or extracts from plays. The principal feature was the presentation by the senior boys of three scenes from John Drinkwater's "Oliver Cromwell." J. H. Pell was in the title role and other leading parts were played by I. G. Drayton, and T. Walker.

Allowances paid to members of the Ikley Urban District Council when transacting business away from Ikley were under discussion at their April meeting. It was proposed to increase the allowances from 21/- to 30/- per day. Mr. W. Rhodes moved an amendment that the allowance should only be 30/- to London whilst 25/- was quite sufficient to pay for all other visits to provincial cities. In addition to this they received their first class rail fares. Despite the opposition of Messrs. Mott and Rhodes the increase in allowances was granted.

#### 25 Years Ago

At an extra-ordinary general meeting of Ben Rhydding Sports Club members discussed a resolution proposed by their general committee to re-sectionalise the club. The club secretary, Mr. George A. Collinson proposed that the subscriptions should be unaltered but that each section should be held responsible for an extraordinary maintenance and the upkeep of its equipment by its own efforts.

Mr. Sam Ledgard, owner of a fleet of blue buses which bore his name, died in April, 1952 at the age of 77 years. He owned 100 buses, a Rolls Royce and two other cars, but continued to draw the beer for his customers at the Nelson Hotel in Armley Road, Leeds, usually wearing a cloth cap. He started with £24 as a caterer for race meetings, bought his first petrol driven vehicle in 1912 from which grew the fleet of blue "Sammy Ledgard's Buses" so well known in the district.

Mr. Harry Ramsden, who founded the well-known fish and chip business at White Cross, decided to sell out and retire from trading. The largest single order he had ever received was from an Army Unit who ordered "fish and chips 490 times." Mr. Ramsden was to retire to Bournemouth, because as he said the sea had always given him his living.



ACROSS THE YEARS

Newspaper letter brings printer and tradesman on libel charge

100 Years Ago

When Mr. John Wilde read in the Ilkley Free Press of March, 1876, a letter about the local elections of that time, he thought its appearance had been inspired by Mr. John Milner, chairman of the Board. Accordingly, when he decided to respond to the letter he had much to say about Mr. Milner, who had no part in the publication of the first letter as events turned out. Mr. Milner took legal action against Wilde and also against Charles Denton, owner-printer of the newspaper. In April, 1877, Mr. Milner in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court called up Wilde and Denton to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against them for libel contained in certain letters which were published in the Ilkley Free Press. The proceedings were reported in the Ilkley Gazette to the extent of two columns. It was eventually agreed that both parties should withdraw and that Mr. Wilde accepted responsibility for the costs. The Lord Chief Justice asked about Charles Denton's part in the matter and one of the Counsel agreed that he was not at all sure that Denton ought not to pay them more than Wilde. The Lord Chief Justice considered Wilde had acted wisely "in withdrawing and retracting his language, and apologising for it and agreeing to pay the costs."

A valuable horse was struck by lightning when it was drawing a carriage at Burley Woodhead during a storm of short duration. The journey was continued without any apparent ill-effects until the party of four women reached South View, Crossbeck Road, when the horse fell dead.

75 Years Ago

Results in the April Election, 1902, were as follows—North Ward: Benjamin Robinson 141, George Cliff Gamble 91, Majority 50. South Ward: John William Dixon 120, Joseph Robinson Harper 103, James Crowther Naylor 103, George Henry Smith 91. Two vacancies. East Ward: John George Duxford 69, Oswald Lister 56, Majority 13. West Ward: Henry Moisley 179, Henry J. C. Johnston 94, Majority 85.

After some argument Ilkley Floral and Horticultural Society decided to continue the show as previously rejecting a suggestion that instead a small show for cottagers be held. Mr. L. T. Learoyd was invited to be secretary and Mr. J. Fry was appointed treasurer. Messrs. J. Bullman, W. Seaman, W. Bower, J. N. Renton, C. Cowgill, J. Wharton and C. Turner were appointed as Committee with power to add.

The whole of the Denton Park estate belonging to Mr. M. D'Arcy Wryvill late member of Parliament for the Otley Division was to be sold by public auction in Leeds in May either in 23 lots or as a whole. The estate comprised an area of 4309 acres with a total estimated rental of over £5,000 per annum. It originally belonged to the family of Thwaites who came with the Conqueror to England and passed into the family of the Fairfaxs about 1515 through the marriage of Sir William Fairfax with the daughter of John Thwaites. Thomas Fairfax, second Baron of Camero, was born at Denton in the year 1611 and had much to do with the Civil War. The Ibbotson family came into possession of the Denton estates by purchase about 1710. After them the estate was occupied by the Wormald family of Dewsbury. There is also a large family residence on the estate known as Nighfield which has been for some time in the occupation of Mr. Wryvill. There were 28 convenient dairy and rearing farms, 11 acres of grouse moor, 300 acres of woodland and a number of small holdings with dwellings.

tor of Addingham. In charge of the Guides was Miss P. Holmes of Addingham (District Commissioner) and Mr. Best was in charge of the Scouts.

At the first annual meeting of the Ilkley Conservative Association, since the amalgamation of the men's section with the women's section, County Alderman, Mrs. S. Ryder Runtou, was elected President. The hon. secretary, Mr. R. H. Tolson reported a membership of 1,558.

The tapestried hall at Burley Lawn, Main Street, Burley was crowded with over 150 people when the property was offered for sale by auction but there were no bids for the property which was the former home of the late Mr. Walter Jackson.

50 Years Ago

Mr. T. H. Firth was elected Chairman of Ilkley Urban Council at the annual general meeting. Mr. Fred Sugden, the newly elected representative of the West Ward was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee. As this was the first occasion on which Mr. Sugden had taken his seat in the Council Chamber, his election to this position was unusual.

For the first time since 1919 a meeting under the auspices of the Ilkley District of the Bradford Branch of the National Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children was held at Heber's Mount, Ilkley by invitation of Mrs. Denton Waring. The two secretaries of the Ladies' Collecting Committee, Miss Wurtzburg and Miss M. G. Sutcliffe had resigned, and the meeting was held with a view to interesting local ladies in the work in order to appoint their successors.

A footnote to this meeting tells the story of an official of the N.S.P.C.C. who called at a certain house to ask for financial support. The daughter of the house came to the door and went inside to consult her mother. She returned saying "Mother does not approve of cruelty".

25 Years Ago

Headmasters of schools in the Ilkley district were requested by the Ilkley Education Committee to take part in a drive to end the "wholesale slaughter" of wild birds in Ilkley. Members reported instances of extreme cruelty by school children who walked the streets carrying air rifles and catapults.

A combined parade incorporating, scouts, guides, cubs and brownies from an area extending from Addingham to Harewood was held in Ilkley Parish Church. The Vicar of Ilkley, Rev. E. C. Cooke officiated at the service and the address was given by Rev. J. F. Wrantham Hardy, Rec-

ACROSS THE YEARS

Ilkley people in daily subjection "to most horrid nuisance"

100 Years Ago

"The people of Ilkley are in daily subjection to a most horrid nuisance in the shape of the most inharmonious noises aroused by the brakes attached to the carts leading stone from the quarries on the moorside," commented the "Gazette" at the beginning of February, 1877. "The noise thus produced is calculated to disturb the even tenor of the strongest nervous system, and there can be no wonder that such mad freaks as riding on horseback at untimely hours, habilitated a la brigand should occasionally happen in Ilkley. We have reason to believe that the thing has been the cause of many people leaving Ilkley altogether. We understand the Local Board is about to take the matter in hand, and we trust they will find that there are legislative enactments which will enable them to put a stop to the nuisance. And we also trust that means as effectual as those now in use with other power driven machinery will be easily provided."

Mr. T. J. Critchley presided over the annual supper of the Ilkley Cricket Club held at the Midland Hotel. It was announced that Mr. E. H. Wade had offered to give ten guineas worth of prizes for the best batting and bowling during the coming season. Mr. W. Dean was at the piano.

A start with the building of the permanent S. Margaret's Church was anticipated in the immediate future. The plans submitted by Mr. Norman Shaw had created great satisfaction. The new church was designed to seat 900 people and "a good effect will be produced without a tower. It will be a building of magnificence when completed and we understand the Committee intend to start building the nave and west end at once," said the Gazette.

75 Years Ago

Trustees of the late Mr. H. J. Cooke enquired of the Council in February, 1902, what they were prepared to offer for 7520 yards of land adjoining Spences Gardens and gave them to the end of March to reach a decision. The Council agreed to offer 6s. per yard "subject to the surrounding owners or others interested contributing one-half of the purchase money in the meantime and to the Local Government Board sanctioning a loan for the amount required by the Council." A proposal by Mr. W. Horn and Mr. A. Waugh that instead of offering six shillings per yard, six members be appointed to meet the trustees with power to purchase on reasonable terms, met with no support.

The Fire Brigade sought approval for the acquisition of the following equipment: one horse fly to accommodate four men; top boots for fireman; one horse winder; slipper for engine, wood protectors for stand pipes, several hose jackets, a few hempen tassels to assist firemen in boarding the engine quickly. It was also recommended that an estimate be obtained of the cost of fitting electrical communication to fireman's houses. The cost of the appliances was estimated at £65.

The annual meeting of the Ilkley Liberal Club was held in the Assembly Room. Mr. H. Feather presided and the report presented by Mr. Norman Bland showed an adverse balance £87 17s. The worst feature of the balance sheet was the number of unpaid subscriptions due to several people leaving the district owing to the bad trade. Mr. Bland said he was

sorry to say there were many people in Ilkley who supported the Liberal cause but were not prepared to support a Liberal Club. He offered a cordial invitation to such people to join the Club and help to restore the glory of former years. Officials elected were: president, Mr. H. J. C. Johnston; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Mordock, H. Feather and J. S. Cowling; patrons Messrs. J. E. Duncan M.P., C. J. Muff, P. E. Pearce, W. Prest, J. R. Freeman, S. Harland, E. M. Hood, J. Hilliard, J. Wood, Committee W. Mennell, E. Hornby, J. Hanson, J. W. Benson, A. W. Thomson, T. Beacock, James Stoddart, G. Mennell, D. Robertson; treasurer, W. Tomlinson; secretary, N. Bland; auditor, R. M. Green.

50 Years Ago

A suggestion that all the various places of worship in

Ilkley should band together to mark the thirteenth centenary of the preaching of Christianity in the district by Paulinus was made by Mr. J. W. Holroyd, hon. secretary of the Ilkley Parish Church Council, reporting to the annual parochial meeting in the Church Institute.

The Ilkley Gazette reported that the Ilkley Amateurs had scored again with their production of the "Country Girl," calling the production a "triumph," tuneful and full of colour.

At the monthly meeting of the Old Age Pensions Committee, a welcome was expressed to Dr. W. L. Crabtree who succeeded the late Mr. J. Emmott as a member of the Committee. Three pensions of 10s. per week were granted. Three applications were refused, one pension was reduced from 6s. to 2s. per week and two pensioners were disqualified from receiving the pension. Mr. W. Dobson was in the chair, and members present were Mr. A. Flows, Mr. H. Harvey, and Dr. W. L. Crabtree, together with the Clerk Mr. J. W. Lund.

25 Years Ago

A "spate of resignations" was reported at the annual meeting of Ilkley Grammar School. They were those of Miss M. Beadman, Miss E. B. Steel, and Mr. A. Radford. Miss Beadman was to be replaced by Miss Jean Edwards, and Mrs. Hood was to be appointed temporarily to take the place of Miss Steel.

A recent spell of cold weather, with ice and snow had cost Ilkley Urban District Council £521. The council had cleared 33 miles of roadway and 18 miles of footpaths. During January they had used 70 tons of gravel and 230 tons of ash and grit on the roads.

Mrs. F. S. Hampshire, Chairman of the Ilkley Education Committee officially laid the foundation stone of the new infant's school being built in Leeds Road, Ilkley, and the Rev. E. C. Cook, Vicar of Ilkley pronounced a dedicatory prayer.

Ilkley Council sent a message of sympathy to the Queen and members of the Royal family following the announcement of the death of the King on 6 February. The proclamation of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was to be read from the steps of the Town Hall on the Friday morning. All flags on public buildings and churches were flown at half-mast. The two cinemas were closed on Wednesday evening.

## Local Board finally accept land in front of Middleton Hotel

### 100 Years Ago

Opposition to an acceptance of land in front of the Middleton Hotel and villas adjoining dwindled during the course of a debate at the meeting of the Ilkley Local Board in February, 1877. The land was offered on condition that the Board provided a footpath and accepted a reservation on the part of the owners of a right to lay water mains. Mr. J. Wilde who was in attendance claiming that his right to be a member of the Board had now been determined was told by the Chairman, Mr. J. Milner, that he persisted with this attitude at his own peril. Not until he was possessed of a certificate to show he was a member of the Board could he claim the rights of office. Mr. Wilde said the Chairman could issue that certificate but Mr. Milner indicated he had no intention of doing so until the Board resolved that he should do so.

The footpath from Little Lane to Sunset View (a subject of complaint for hundreds of years) was described by Mr. H. J. Cook as "the worst in the town" and it was the duty of the Board to repair it. This claim was challenged by Mr. A. Sewell who said it was the duty of the owners to carry out the repairs. On being told that the Local Board had erected turn-stiles along the footpath Mr. Sewell withdrew this objection accepting that the Board had thereby made itself liable. It was agreed that the footpath be "mended forthwith."

The condition of the fire brigade hoses was not at all satisfactory, a cause being that the pressure of water in different parts of the town was very unequal. In some places the hose-piping was not equal to the demands made on it. It was reported. The Fire Brigade Committee was asked to deal with the matter and if necessary buy leather piping.

There was a prolonged and animated discussion concerning the plans submitted by Mr. John Squire for houses and a workshop in Lister Street. It was contended that the area shown on the plan was insufficient and ultimately the matter was referred back to the Committee.

### 75 Years Ago

The newspaper "Truth," said the Gazette in February 1902 had commented that the Ilkley Council's vandalism was again causing lamentations in the town. It observed that "in the last few years these gentry have done not a little to spoil the amenities of the neighbourhood. They seem to be the sort of people who would paint the lily and perfume the violet. Instead of leaving the natural beauties

of moors and woods undisturbed, they are never so happy as when they are scouring the landscapes by the construction of superfluous roads and paths, the erection of ugly fences and similarly barbarous devices. Even a refuse tip appears to be regarded as an adornment of the scenery. The latest proposal is to crown Romald's Moor with a road over the highest part which besides being unnecessary—there are already drives on the east and west sides of the moor—is bound to prove a nuisance and eyesore. It has even been rumoured that the Council contemplates pulling down the old White Wells containing the ancient baths and building modern baths in their places on the moor. But surely Ilkley is sufficiently alive to its own interests to put a stop to these mischievous projects, more especially now that it has embarked upon a scheme for advertising the attractions of the place."

Commenting on this criticism, the Gazette agreed there might be some truth in the Council's gloominess in catering for visitors and that the Local Authority had been guilty of many acts of vandalism, yet no-one could say the remarkable salubrity of the locality. It was almost unrivalled in that respect, and judging by the Medical Officers report a large percentage of the inhabitants had the prospects of living to be over 75 years of age. The Medical Officer had reported that in 1901 only five deaths occurred from infectious diseases. On several occasions the death rate had been the lowest in the West Riding.

Mr. J. T. Uzzell of Ossett was appointed clerk of works to the new reservoir at Panorama at a salary of three guineas a week but had to pay his own removal expenses. After a further inspection of the site it was decided to move it two yards further west than shown on the plan and to provide an emergency outlet pipe emptying into Hebers Ghill for letting off water and cleaning the reservoir when required.

### 50 Years Ago

Ilkley Chamber of Trade decided to purchase a silver cup for competition at the Wharfedale Musical Festival to be used for the class for school orchestras. Mr. W. Dobson (President) had approached the Festival Secretary, Mr. A. T. Ackeroyd who suggested the award be for this class.

A suggestion that each individual woman should bombard the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and their local M.P. with demands that women should be able to vote at the age of 21 was made by Mrs. Aldridge at a meeting held by the Ilkley Society of Equal Citizenship held in the Wesleyan Ladies' Parlour.

That the Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club were engaged in negotiation for the purchase of their playing field was announced by Mr. Douglas Thomson, Hon. Secretary at a whist drive and dance held in the Winter Gardens. The club had come into possession of their new ground just after the war, and they had gone to considerable expense and labour to level and fence it. The ambitions of the officials were realised in the building of the stand with dressing rooms, and now the club had decided at the earliest possible time to purchase the land.

A large advert for Beaulands and Sons Ltd of Brook Street advertised "Baht 'At" Whisky of which they were the sole proprietors.

### 25 Years Ago

Places of worship in the Ilkley District held special services in connection with the death of King George VI. The Chairman of Ilkley Council, Mr. B. A. Smith invited members of the public to join him and other members of the Council at a special service at Ilkley Parish Church.

An Ilkley police officer Constable George Raymond Howlison was selected to represent the entire West Riding Constabulary in the actual funeral procession in London.

Ilkley Chamber of Trade recommended that all the shops in Ilkley and District should be closed from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. the time of the funeral of the late King.

## Poachers and Keepers in savage encounter at Middleton Farm

### 100 Years Ago

An Addingham man and a Bradford man, each reputedly a notorious poacher, received gaol sentences at Otley Court where they were charged with poaching on land belonging to Mr. William Middleton, at Green's Farm, Middleton, and assaulting gamekeepers in the service of Mr. Middleton. They were found guilty of poaching for which they received three months with hard labour and one month with hard labour for the assault. Thomas Joy, game keeper, together with Joseph Harrison and John Tennant who were described as watchers, told how they went to Green's farm and followed two dogs which returned to two men in a nearby field. The men hid in bushes but on being approached one struck Harrison with a "flail" and then attacked Tennant. The two men were overcome by the keepers and taken to Ilkley Police station. A large quantity of netting, sticks and about a dozen rabbits were gathered by the keepers. Dr. Thomas Johnstone said Harrison was suffering from a large contused wound on the left side of the head and had lost a good deal of blood. There was another wound on the other side of his head. The Bench thought the case a serious one and said it was not the first time the two defendants had appeared before them. Each had previous convictions at Otley Court and neither denied the charge of night poaching on this occasion. They had claimed self defence in reply to the charges of vicious assault. In addition to their gaol sentences they were bound over in two sureties of £10 each to keep the peace for 12 months, or, in default, be imprisoned for twelve months. The Gazette commented that the affair had "created considerable excitement in the neighbourhood and many of the inhabitants of Ilkley 'sported' the railway fare for the sake of hearing the case."

### 75 Years Ago

Efforts to provide financial help for the Ilkley National Schools were the vogue in Ilkley in February and March 1902. One of these entertainments took place in St. Margaret's Hall and was given by the girls of the National School under the direction of the Headmistress, Miss Jowett and her assistants. Among those taking part were May Gordon, Alice Dean, F. Clarke, L. Ramsden, G. Topham, C. Binns, N. Cooke, L. Houldsworth, L. Higham, M. Pinder, M. Keighley, L. Robinson, W. Harrison, A. Dean, Ellen Wray, Ethel Richardson, Elsie Dean, A. Beech, A. Oldfield, A. Mounsey, F. Stead, O. Mumford, Ethel Rhodes, L. Evans, M. Gill, M. Gill, W. Morris, M. Crowther, H. Weatherill, R. Curwen, Ivy Towers, F. Small, A. Mills, Gladys Walmsley, Flossy Forsyth, Zillah Duell, A. Dean, Lena Houldsworth, F. Foster, A. Debenham, W. Harrison, E. Porter, Irene Mason, Alice Hatch, Elsie Denby, Daisy Ingle, Lena Dawson. As the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. Dr. Muntz, was preaching away from home, the Vicar of St. Margaret's, the Rev. Irton Smith, expressed thanks to all who had contributed. Mr. Smith said Dr. Muntz had assumed a heavy responsibility in regard to the finances of the National Schools since he became Vicar of Ilkley. There was a heavy debt and an amount of £300 was required annually to keep them in a sound financial position.

An article reprinted in the Gazette from the Yorkshire Observer, in February, 1902, was condemnatory of the

recent efforts of the Ilkley Urban District Council which described as having the effect of killing the goose which lays the golden eggs. "Having 'improved' the Farm upon the moor until it only needs an edging of Oyster shells added to its stone Kerb to be the very embodiment of tea-garden vulgarity, the public spirit of the place threatens other beauty places of Ilkley, and the imagination is active in devising fresh means of wasting money," said the article. It continued, "The latest scheme is for a grand carriage road along the edge of the plateau of the moor from above Wells House to the Cow and Calf Rocks. The road it is evidently thought ought to rival the esplanades of Morecambe in popularity.

"But there is little chance of it being constructed, not because the scheme has struck the authorities as a ludicrous waste of money in destroying the most valuable asset of the place but because Ilkley can not afford just now the £12,000 or more it is estimated to cost. During the past few weeks the Council has destroyed absolutely one of the most lovely spots in the neighbourhood of Ilkley. One of the favourite walks in the locality has hitherto been that along the water's edge from the Old Bridge in the direction of Addingham. So much ruin as was possible was done to this walk some years ago by the erection of some unclimable iron railings. About half a mile away on the Addingham side is a small copse called Cockin-end rising steeply from the river and running backward into a wooded ravine of great beauty, especially when the primroses and wild hyacinths with which it was carpeted in Spring are in flower. It is almost incredible that this spot should have been chosen as a refuse tip but that is the fact. Hundreds of tons of refuse from the houses in the town were dumped there." The article goes on to list other notable assets of Ilkley which it claims have been spoiled or noted for action by the Ilkley Council.

MR. DAVID M. DUNN was elected Chairman of the Ilkley Young Conservatives at a meeting in the Bluebird Cafe. The secretaries were to be Miss Sheila Foster and Miss Sheila Marshall, and the treasurer Miss Joan Wooler. Committee members: Misses B. Payne, M. Bolton, M. Boardman, E. Hardaker and P. Smev and Messrs M. Gott, D. Heston, M. Glover, M. Brook and G. Carter. Social arrangements after the meeting were cancelled owing to the death of the King.

# OBSERVERS RUN FOR THEIR LIVES AS HUGE SLABS OF ICE ARE CARRIED BY RIVER IN FLOOD

25/2/77

Over the centuries there must have been occasions when the frost took a firm grip of the Wharfedale countryside and matched advantages in the form of winter sports with the disadvantages of transport problems and interference with a steady supply of food-stuff. Some periods of frost were marked by their continuity of several weeks; others were exceptional in their intensity. One of these was that which began at the end of December, 1825, and ended in February, 1826. The ice on Greenholme Dam was 18 inches to two feet in thickness it was stated.

There was no fall of snow for some days and in consequence the ice on the dam was like a dark sheet of glass. Hares on the Denton side came over at night in search of food. Greyhounds exercised during the day set out after them but their feet went sprawling whereas the hares with the advantage of hair between their pads were able to make some headway leaving the greyhounds in difficulties on the ice. The hares fed on turnips in a field known as Brownsholme.

The thaw came suddenly and we have a description of it by two observers, first from Denton Ford and later from nearer to Burley in Wharfedale. It must have been a magnificent sight.

Describing the thaw they stated, "At first the process was slow, but this was soon changed and an exciting scene began.

Suddenly there was a crash, then a roar higher up the river. This was caused the strong platforms of ice breaking up in the deeps above. Presently huge masses came floating on the increasing stream. These were carried with force against what was still bound fast and crushed in amongst, shivering the still adhering masses.

"We stationed ourselves where the present Mount Stead Lodge stands. Here is a sudden bend in the river, and the deeps lower down were covered with ice from 18 inches to two feet thick, still intact and unbroken. But the water was rapidly rising, and its volume constantly increasing, great slabs came careering on the stream, till arrested by the solid platform, upon which many were pushed or hurled with a great crash.

## GREAT SLABS

Some great slabs as soon as they reached the barrier became depressed or submerged at the upper side, and this was tilted downwards by the force of the current and acted as a floodgate. Other large slabs following in the same manner, very soon a block in the river took place, and caused the water to rise, filling up the huge ice-floes in fantastic form. Then as the flood increased, the pressure on the barrier became greater and it disrupted, with a loud noise and the whole mass was sent grinding and roaring down the valley, there to meet with another similar impediment to its seaward course. There were loud reports like thunder as the solid and thick ice was broken up and the great transparent flags were piled one upon another.

"We followed down the banks of the river until we got into the field called Brownsholme and we stood opposite an elevated scar where we could look on to the outlet of a brook which comes through the Denton property. This was at the head of Greenholme Dam which extends to about three-quarters of a mile lower down, and on which the ice was still intact. From the place where we stood the view was most exciting, for below and opposite to us was a great barrier propped and upheld by the compact platform of ice in the dam. Looking up the river as far as we could see were great slabs piled up in

most picturesque forms and mixed with huge conglomerated masses of frozen material. This filled up the river from bank to bank, and blocked the current which now being diverted from its regular channel, began to inundate the fields carrying great quantities of ice with it. The large field in front called 'Denton Crook' on the opposite side of the river was soon flooded and looked like a large lake with small icebergs floating in it.

## WATER RISING

"The water was constantly rising and it gradually ascended up the slope of the embankment until it had attained within about two feet from the top where we were standing; a nervous feeling began to steal over us, but we were anxious to see the start of the break-up of the thick ice in the long dam, although our position was becoming every minute more perilous.

"We were at last about to move to a less risky place when one of our companions shouted 'Run! run for your lives'. About two hundred yards above where we were standing the embankment had burst, and the pent up flood poured through the crevices, carrying a mass of ice with it.

"We certainly did run for our lives, for it was doubtful whether we or the flood would the sooner attain the cross embankment at the bottom of the field for Brownsholme was filling with water. Fortunately we were the first in the race; only just so for the water was passing down the embankment in small trickling and lapping waves just as we got to it, and the large field looked like a lake.

"We hurried on to the embankment in the next field called Terry Holme. Between the two fields is a brook called the Swamp, and there was a culvert formed to carry the stream into the river. But the arch in this culvert was not sufficiently capacious to carry the great additional body of water and before we could get to this place the plantation above it was filled and we had to rush through the water which was already passing a few inches deep over the top of the embankment.

## BARRIER BURSTS

"Now we were safe and we stayed to contemplate a scene which defies description. The great barrier of ice at the top of Brownsholme had burst and the mighty flood was rushing down the river, hurling up the great flags of ice into the air and grinding them together in a chaotic mass. The noise was like thunder mingled with the roar of artillery. The solid ice in the dam was heaved up and broken,

and many of these enormous slabs were piled into most peculiar and wondrous forms.

"The trees on the banks in Denton Gill were shorn or cut by the great ice blocks as if they had been merely parsnips. But the grandest and most exciting sight was to watch the ice break up in the dam near where we were standing.

"Higher up the river the great flood had not only overflowed its banks but had nearly reached the top of the embankment and this immense volume of water was carrying on its surface enormous masses of ice, and smashing and breaking up the solid ice in the dam. Immense slabs were pushed up the banks and shoved up the boles or stems of the great trees which were barked to a tall height.

"One transparent slab of ice of almost a yard in thickness was raised into a vertical position at least thirty feet in height and was held by the slabs which supported it on each side as all were crashing onwards. This great upright block of ice was coming down the centre of the river and acted as a huge ploughshare, cutting a grip in the fixed ice and turning over the large flags on either side. These were hurled afar and fell with a report like that of a cannon, making with the noise of the rushing waters one continual deafening roar. Whilst we were watching a large otter emerged from the roots of a great tree on the opposite side of the river and came cantering down on the still unbroken platform on which great slabs of ice had fallen from higher up the river. The crash behind him caused a great acceleration of his progress; he disappeared in an open space in the ice on the dam and we saw no more of him.

## HUGE SHAPES

"We moved to the site of the house later built by the Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster and had an uninterrupted view. As far as we could see up the river the flood was bringing down a conglomerated mass of ice piled up in huge shapes and forms and here and there were large trees which had been torn up by the roots.

"It was some time before all the ice flood had ceased, for there were the accumulations from various places for miles up the river. After all the ice had disappeared the water in the river rose to an immense height for there had been a great depth of snow in the country and the heavy snow and sudden thaw and heavy rain soon caused a freshet which submerged much land.

Near Escroft such enormous blocks of ice were left it was some time before a passage could be made through them. The house called Terry Holme was almost filled with great blocks of transparent ice, many more than two feet in thickness and some of these and some in Burley Holm had not thawed out in the month of April following."

R. M. Green

## 50 Years Ago

The need that existed in Ilkley for accommodation for the treatment of maternity cases where home conditions proved unsuitable was fully aired at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Corporation Cottage Hospital when a proposal to alter the rules to admit such cases was defeated. The rules already admitted the treatment there of special cases and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee had for some months been agitating for an extension of these facilities. The wards, however, were already over-crowded and as the Committee had felt unable to extend private accommodation for this need the doctors had started a private Nursing Home in Ilkley for this purpose.

The interior of the Ilkley Winter Gardens was beautifully decorated for a successful "Floral Dance" promoted on behalf of the Yorkshire Cancer Campaign. The effect achieved was that of "A bower of roses." From the sides of the balcony boughs floor, which bore huge floral of trees arched over the dance decorations. Flowers were festooned round the pillars and the edges of the balcony, and from the door the scene was of a beautiful flower garden. There was a large attendance both for dancing and for whist. Mr. L. S. Fielden and Mr. W. A. Abbott were M.C.'s for dancing, and Mr. A. G. Wood and Mr. T. Ingle were in charge of the whist. Refreshments which had all been donated were

served by a Committee of ladies.

## 25 Years Ago

The Ilkley Grammar School production of George Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" was described as a blaze of colour in the costumes and settings." The cast was headed by Patricia Binns and Valerie Welton (St. Joan), T. A. Preston, G. E. Smith, J. P. Bradley, G. Teasdale, D. A. Myers, C. J. Stillman, H. McCone, R. King, Janet Parker, Helen Carter, J. A. Rose, D. Grainger, R. A. Peace, A. Butler, J. Wilcockson, J. M. J. Turnbull, G. Dale, J. Hartley, T. D. Robinson, T. E. M. Midgeley and W. B. Dale. The play was produced by Miss Kidd.

Mr. J. Stanley Snowden, of Ilkley, was adopted by the Dewsbury Division Liberal Association as their prospective Liberal Candidate.

Mr. L. S. Moss succeeded Mr. H. W. Brumfit as president of Ilkley Cricket Club, when tributes were paid to the retiring president. Mr. J. Brumfit was elected captain for the seventh successive year. The new Secretary was Mr. F. G. Cottam. Mr. J. Brumfit was congratulated on winning the league batting prize with an average of 42.56 and Mr. R. Cliffe on the all round performance of a batting average of 33.53 and a bowling average of 12.42. The second team had given a fine performance and were the winners of the Birtwhistle Cup Competition and runners-up in the second division. The first team, however, had ended the season in sixth position, their lowest for many years, this was largely due to weakness in bowling.

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## ACROSS THE YEARS

## Primitive Methodist Chapel tenders are accepted

### 100 Years Ago

The acceptance of tenders for the erection of a primitive Methodist Chapel in Wharfe View Road, Ilkley, and with the main entrance to Leeds Road, was announced in the Gazette early in March, 1877. Once the work of clearing the site had been completed it was expected that the building of the chapel, planned to seat 1200, would start. Successful contractors were—Matlock, Keighley, masonry; Eagle and Mawson, Ilkley, woodwork; Lee, Guiseley, plumbing; Ward, Idle painting. The foundation stone was to be laid at Easter. The chapel was pulled down a few years ago, and is now a car park.

The Gazette report of a performance of Handel's Messiah in the Ilkley College hall by members of the Otley District Philharmonic Society augmented by members of the Yeadon Orchestral Society included references to which objection was taken by a correspondent in the following week's issue. The reference to the absence of the "elite" of the neighbourhood and that to the musical taste and critical acumen of the non-elite present was criticised. The correspondent suggested that the pertinent query might be what was the element which in Ilkley constituted the elite and the answer given that few of the esteemed residents could be found "to lay claim to that ambiguous title or accept the greatness thrust upon them but rather repudiate it as savouring strongly of pretension, snobbery and sham." The Editor of the Gazette hastened to explain that no reflection as to social hearing was intended to be cast on those who honoured the performance with their presence "but we think it must be admitted that the social position of the inhabitants is not on a par and therefore the term 'elite' is not inappropriately applied."

### 75 Years Ago

"Few places with pretensions to a health resort are possessed of such dirty roads and side walks as there are at Ilkley," wrote a contributor to the Ilkley Gazette in March, 1902. The weather had been anything but conducive to cleanliness but surely a stronger effort could be continually employed clearing away horse droppings and litter but in some of the main streets they might now and again take a turn at the side-walks. "The condition of some of our private streets is really abominable, it being almost impossible to cross East Parade and North Parade without dropping over the shootops in mud. Surely the working class population in this neighbourhood, who have such a struggle to raise their rates ought to see a little return for their money, whereas they frequently complain how much their interests are neglected by our Council."

The membership of the Ilkley Constitutional Club was 380, it was reported at the annual meeting in 1902, the steady growth being maintained. Since the last meeting the Club premises had been altered and improved. Mr. J. W. Whittaker, Hon. Secretary, presented the report, and he also read the financial report for the treasurer, Mr. W. A. Dawson, whose arrival was delayed. There had been a surplus of £18 13s. on the year. Mr. John Gaunt was re-elected president. Mr. A. Holmes chairman and Mrs. E. Fletcher and J. C. Barker vice-chairmen. The secretary and treasurer were also re-elected.

Property alongside the Bay Horse Hotel on its Brook Street side and bearing the initials "T.L.M." and the date 1801 was demolished in February 1902. The initials were those of Mr. Thomas Lister Marzerson, a member of a family which owned a considerable amount of property at one time in the village. The property, said the Gazette, was giving way to more pretentious structures the Hammond Brewery Company, owners of the Crescent are erecting on the site and also on the vacant piece of land adjoining.

An Ilkley parent who had given as his reason for keeping his son away from school certain charges against the teachers, had been given every opportunity of setting these out in writing but had failed to do so, the Ilkley School Board was told at its meeting in March, 1902. It was three months since the case had been brought to the Otley Court and letters had been written to the parent pressing him for the information but without success. Teachers at the Ilkley National School were also eager to know the charges so they could answer them. So far as they were able they emphatically denied them. Mr. A. Holmes made a long statement about interviews he had had with the parent and referred to letters he had written but up to that time he had received no information. Mr. B. M. Hood thought the School Board should press the matter. If they could get at that gentleman they should do so, he said.

### 50 Years Ago

The Ilkley Development Association had a very small attendance at their annual meeting in March 1927. Mr. F. S. Eekersley reported that sketches had been made for a pictorial poster by Mr. R. G. Brundrit in connection with the advertising which had been arranged with the Midland Railway Company. The railways had promised as from Easter to put on an improved service between Ilkley and the Lancashire coast towns.

Mr. Muschamp, of Colbert Avenue, and Mrs. W. Dobson,

of Dean Street, were appointed officers of a new company of the Boy's Brigade to be formed in Ilkley. Sixty boys had enrolled following an initial football match on the recreation ground, but premises were needed in which they could meet.

Ilkley Ladies' Hockey team scored 49 goals in their last five matches, the team being—Misses Vickers, Edleston, Barron, Hickson, Blankley, Hitt, Walker, Hitchen and Thorpe and Mrs. Knox and Bradshaw.

The death was announced of Mr. Jabez Dobson, of Woodbank, Ilkley, who had been a leader of public life in the town since he was first elected to the local board in 1870. He was one of the five sons of Mr. Michael Dobson who founded Craiglands Hydro and was responsible for its growth from being able to accommodate 60 or 70 visitors to 200. When the business was floated as Craiglands Hydro Ltd., in 1906 Mr. Jabez Dobson was elected Chairman, a position he retained until his death. Mr. Dobson was Chairman of the Local Board for some years, and was given charge of the laying out of the grounds of the Ilkley Cemetery which was opened in 1877. The pine plantations to be found on various parts of the moor were planted to mark the 21st anniversary of Mr. Dobson's membership of the Local Board.

### 25 Years Ago

Ben Rhydding 1st Scout Group held a successful whist drive and dance at the King's Hall Annexe to celebrate their coming of age. There was a large attendance of 500 people with Mr. W. Flower acting as MC.

Another coming of age celebration was held to mark the 21st year in the parish of St. Margaret's Church of Canon A. H. Wellington. Mr. F. W. Robinson (people's warden) presented the Canon with a vellum bound volume of "Essays on the Life of Mary" and paid tribute to the work of Canon Wellington and his wife over the previous 21 years.

Ilkley Urban District Council agreed to levy an unchanged rate of 19s. 9d. in the pound, increased expenditure due to rising costs was emphasised and a refund of income tax was mainly the reason why the rate had not had to be increased.

The Inner Wheel Club celebrated the fifth anniversary of their Charter Day at the Blue Bird cafe with invited representatives from many other clubs who were welcomed by the president, Mrs. Binns. Ilkley Rotary President, Mr. H. Jack and Mrs. Jack and Miss Reid Brown President of Ilkley Soroptimists were amongst the guests.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

## Primitive Methodists lay foundation stone of chapel

### 100 Years Ago

Primitive Methodists from a wide area met at the Brook Street fountain and marched in procession to the site in Leeds Road for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Ilkley Chapel in May, 1877. It was reckoned there would be over 1,000 people when the proceedings opened with the singing of the hymn "Before Jehovah's throne." A somewhat lengthy address was given by the Rev. T. Dearlove of Bradford, who traced the history of Primitive Methodism from its beginnings 67 years previously when ten persons took part in a prayer meeting. They had at the time of the laying of that foundation stone 180,000 church members, 12,000 regular ministers, and 60,000 laymen. A public meeting was held in the evening in the Congregational Church.

A dull Whitsun brought the Ilkley visitors to only a meagre number, the fact that Sunday School festivals were being held at most of the surrounding towns and villages also keeping people away. On the Tuesday there was a much livelier influx of visitors in the village. "During the afternoon the members of the Ilkley Brass Band equipped in their new uniform, which to say the least, is a very handsome and becoming one, paraded the streets, discoursing sweet music at intervals.

A party led by Professor Green of the Yorkshire College of Science visited Ilkley and found much to interest them as they began a walk from Cow Close Gih up to the Cow and Calf Rocks. They were able to trace four of the several faults which had brought the rocks into being. There was one at each end of the rock cutting off the rock and throwing it down. Apparently a reference to the Calf.

### 75 Years Ago

Discussion of the plans to be made for the celebration of the Coronation of King Edward VII took place at "a large and representative public meeting" in the Congregational Lecture Hall in May 1902. "The Town Band, who prior to the meeting played several selections outside the hall, also rendered the national anthem inside," said the Gazette. Mr. J. T. Jackson Chairman of the Ilkley Urban District Council presided and said he would like the occasion to be a "red letter day" in the lives of the children. Mr. Sidney Kellett had offered to provide a tea for the Sunday School children and the clergy in the district were making an appeal for funds to be subscribed to enable a medal to be given to each child. It was hoped there would be a procession through the village and hymn singing before the children moved to their various schools for the tea. For the adults Mr. Kellett had given a bullock to be roasted and Mr. Jackson did not doubt there would be plum puddings to follow. He was prepared to give £50 towards the cost of medals. It was agreed on the motion of Mr. Kellett to join in the coronation celebrations and to appoint a committee." This was accepted, and a large committee named.

One or two prominent members of the new Urban Council were in favour of the enlargement of Spences gardens, said the Gazette, and there appeared to be a good chance of this being brought about. The matter had almost been resolved some years ago but the trustees of the late Mr. Cooke asked 7s. per yard whereas the local Council would pay only 6s. The land required was 7520 yards and the cost would be £2444 if the trustees would meet them and accept 6s. 6d. a yard. It was suggested that the Council pay half that and surrounding owners the remaining half. The Gazette did not like this idea. It gave a reminder that similar places had cost the town nothing. Mill Gill, the Canker Well and the Riddings had been given by the Lord of the Manor, and Belle Vue Gardens had been bought by owners of property in the vicinity and then given to the Council. Something similar it was thought could be arranged about Spences Gardens.

### 50 Years Ago

Special gatherings were held at Ilkley Primitive Methodist Church to mark the Jubilee celebrations of the opening in May 1877. The Rev. Jackson Harding explained that this was the first of a series of meetings with which they intended to celebrate their Jubilee.

The value of the work carried out by the Council of Social Welfare in Ilkley was expressed in a report by the secretary Mrs. R. S. Dowker at the annual meeting. They had given particular assistance to the old and the sick. They had been active in providing nourishment for the dying and those convalescing from serious illness.

### 25 Years Ago

Staff changes were announced at a meeting of the Ilkley Grammar School Board of Governors meeting in May. Resignations had been received from Mr. S. T. Trett (chemistry master) and Miss H. Dickens (Scripture mistress). Staff appointments were announced as follows. Miss P. Glover (domestic science), Mrs. V. P. Cobrey (needlework), Mr. A. S. Nutter (physical training), and Mr. E. Harrison (Chemistry).

The work of re-wiring and redecorating the Ilkley Coronation Hospital was nearing completion, and it was expected to be fully opened within a fortnight. The hospital had been closed to male patients since before Christmas. There would be accommodation for 27 patients when the hospital reopened.

13/5/77

12/8/77.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Primitive Methodist Chapel nearing completion

100 Years Ago

When the building of a chapel by the Ilkley Primitive Methodists was first proposed, a site was chosen and purchased at the top of Brook Street. This was later sold to the railway company and formed a part of the railway station site. A sum of £50 representing profit on the transaction was handed over to the Rev. J. S. Stanwell as the erection of the chapel on Leeds Road-Wharfe View Road land made rapid headway. It was reckoned in July, 1877, that as the building neared the state when the roof would be put in position there was a fair expectation that services would be taking place by the beginning of winter. The minister appointed to take charge at Ilkley was the Rev. G. Furniss, who had already made his home in Ilkley.

Speaking at the second annual meeting of the Ilkley branch of Fattorini and Sons watch, clock and jewellery Association Mr. Thomas Gill said that, in common with other places, trade in Ilkley had suffered from depression. He hoped that the prosperous times of a short time before would soon return. He could remember the time when the rateable value of Ilkley was not a fourth of what it was at the time he spoke.

Some 190 children attended the annual treat of feast of the Ilkley Wesleyan Sunday School, meeting first in the schoolroom and then being conveyed in vehicles to Beamsley. There was heavy rain as the journey began but some improvement later which allowed some games to be played. After tea in the new schoolroom rain set in again and the rest of the time was spent in singing and listening to addresses by the Rev. E. J. Brailsford and others.

75 Years Ago

To mark his retirement as a wool broker, Mr. W. H. Longbottom the occupier of Middleton Lodge entertained some 70 former workpeople at the Lodge. They were brought to Ilkley by special train and on arrival were presented with a medal struck to commemorate the event. A "splendid knife and fork tea" was served by Mr. W. A. Johnson of Victoria Restaurant to 130 guests. Mr. Longbottom explained that the original intention of the event was to celebrate the Coronation of the King and secondly his own retirement. A day or two later Mr. and Mrs. Longbottom entertained about 400 villagers and tenants of the estate. A "sumptuous" meal which included salmon, lamb, roast beef, veal and ham pie, pressed beef, Yorkshire ham and tongues, together with numerous delicacies together with a portion of a 30 lb. Coronation cake was served in a huge marquee to the west of the mansion.

The new Coronation Hospital was not to be used just for accident cases, but for emergency cases and for the treatment of poor people suffering from various illnesses requiring great care and attention. So said Mr. Nussev in a statement to the townspeople. Said the Gazette, "Founded for such purposes the hospital is likely to prove one of the most useful and beneficial institutions we possess and in many cases is sure to prove a great blessing."

It was thought that a start to the work on the Brook Street extension was imminent. Roads to be constructed on the estate were being largely used by pedestrians and one in particular, Lionel Avenue, which led up into Middleton Village "affords, as charming a walk as anywhere to be found in the district."

50 Years Ago

Wharfedale was well in the track of a great rain storm which passed over the North of England giving eight hours of solid rain causing considerable damage to crops and flooding the River Wharfe.

King George V arrived in Wharfedale to stay at Bolton Abbey as a guest of the Duke of Devonshire to be a member of the Duke's shooting party. The King's arrival attracted large crowds to the Abbey and to the railway station, where he was met by his own Daimler, a "handsomely furnished, chocolate coloured car." The King, looking remarkably well as he stepped from the train wore a blue lounge suit with a bowler hat, a Guard's tie and a white carnation in his buttonhole. He was greeted by the Duke of Devonshire and the Marquess of Hartington.

Driver J. Beech of Ilkley drove the Royal train from Leeds the previous year.

"again had that honoured post," and told assembled Pressmen that "an engine was an engine no matter what train it is on."

Ilkley Grammar School (founded 1607), headmaster Mr. N. L. Frazer, M.A. Camb., advertised as admitting boys from the age of seven to a "first grade endowed day and boarding school."

25 Years Ago

Owing to heavy showers, Ilkley's first carnival for many years had to be held in the King's Hall.

It was even impossible for the procession of decorated lorries and floats to take place, and the organising secretary, Mrs. W. D. Green was extremely disappointed as a carnival band from Skipton had been hired to accompany the procession around the town.

However £100 was raised for the fund for a playground for Ilkley children, and stalls were arranged around the side of the King's Hall. There was a display of club swinging, trained by Mrs. Ellum, a square dancing display by members of Ben Rhydding Parish Church Youth Fellowship, with Miss Sheila Gell as trainer and caller. The fancy dress competition was won by Group I: Christine Rushley, Hilary Low, Gillian Russell. Group II: Susan Robb, Shawna Bradley, Audrey Wade. Group III: Miss J. Whiteman, Peter Clegg, Miss M. Brown. Group IV for decorated doll's prams was won by Miss G. Swainton. Group V winners were John Lund and Susan Green.

Ben Rhydding Tennis team headed the Wharfedale Tennis League after the final matches of the season. The Ben Rhydding team included—D. B. Jackson and Mrs. A. Codd; G. Carter and Miss G. Codd; J. Proud and Mrs. P. Cresswell.

April / 78

ACROSS THE YEARS

Primitive Methodists search for new Ilkley Chapel site

100 Years Ago

When the Primitive Methodists of Ilkley were looking for land on which to build their new chapel their first choice for a site was where the railway station is now. For some 30 years their meeting place under the auspices of the Primitive Methodists of Silsden had been at different places in the open air. The Ilkley group had many hard knocks to suffer before some land was made available to them and they were as a result much encouraged. But said the Rev. J. S. Stanwell, when he told something of their early history as their first chapel was built "the generous donor turned traitor, the land was lost and they were unable to build where they had hoped." He went on, "before the Wesleyans built the chapel on the Addingham Road they began to worship in a room at the bottom of Brook Street and they met there with some success for some years. Then the room they used was needed for the building of the Crescent Hotel. Again they were in the position of sheep without a fold and continued so for some years. Mr. John Dobson, the great friend of Robert Collyer and his brother Michael, purchased a site where the railway station was built; at least they paid a deposit, but through the inactivity of the vendor the land was never conveyed. When the Midland Railway began to proceed with their development the site was sold to the railway company and a profit of £70 was made but this dropped to £60 owing to the cost of expenses. It did become a part of the building fund. The old Methodist chapel on the Addingham Road which they were using came into the market but they had not nearly enough money to buy it and once again they had to use the open sky. They were, however, able to hire the Working Men's Hall as a temporary place of worship but eventually they put down a foundation stone for their present chapel and sums were contributed by many generous people. They had a hard task before them but he was certain the chapel would thrive."

75 Years Ago

A new Conservative Club at Addingham to take the place of two old and inconvenient buildings was formally opened in March 1903. It had been intended that the opening should have been carried out by Mr. Walter Morrison but he, had been taken ill at Lucerne and his duties had to be taken over by Captain Roundell the prospective Conservative candidate for the Skipton division. Captain Roundell referred to the spirited work which had caused Addingham to be complimented on its fine achievement due to Conservatism with vigour. The Gazette commented that the workers of Addingham well deserved Captain Roundell's warm eulogy of their successful enterprise.

Another organisation which fully deserved in Ilkley the praise given to it was the soup kitchen at the P. S. A. Hall with which all the religious denominations in the town were identified. There had been 583 families relieved by its efforts in January and 2674 individuals. The situation had improved considerably at the end of January and it was thought there was little further need for the kitchen. Over £14 had been spent on bread, meat, vegetables, gas and coke in addition to many gifts.

Candidates nominated for the District Council election were as follows: North Ward: Frederick James Cross, John Sunley, Henry Bruce, William Dobson, Thomas Smith, William Rooks, Lewis Turner Learoyd, South Ward: Martin Hawksworth, Joseph Robinson Harper, George Henry Smith, East Ward: Oswald Lister, William Hoffman Wood, James Booth Walker, Joseph Fisher Mason, James Crossley Barker, John Alfred Middlebrook, Lewis Turner Learoyd, William Dobson. West Ward: John Edward Wilson, Martin Hawksworth, Thomas Smith, Alfred Oscar Lister.

50 Years Ago

Whilst it was impossible to give any accurate statistics as to the number of Easter Monday visitors to Ilkley, an observer at "Dick Hudsons" counted 2,000 people pass up the stony lane leading to the moor and Ilkley in the three hours before lunch. Many thousands of people poured in by train and the bus queues which were cleared at a rate of 650 people per hour lasted from 4 p.m. until midnight. The total number of visitors was estimated at 40,000.

The weather for once was delightful, and besides the riverside and the moors, the sports facilities were well used, boating on the river was in full swing, and Band concerts in West View Park were heard by large audiences.

A larger membership was reported at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Junior Conservative Association, when Mr. R. A. Crowther presided over a large attendance at the Troutbeck Hydro.

Miss Baul and Miss Hutton were elected joint secretaries, with Mr. C. B. Bridgland as hon. treasurer. The meeting was followed by an informal dance.

A short paragraph in the Ilkley Gazette reported that a young Mr. Winston Churchill seemed to have "abandoned his more youthful vagaries in hats and now frequently wears a topper." The then "youthful Chancellor was in his 54th year, but "young in appearance".

25 Years Ago

For the first time in years the Ilkley Rugby Union Football Club beat their long standing Otley rivals twice, in one season, and at Cross Green for the first time in 23 years. Unfortunately, however, there were not many spectators for neither team were anywhere near full strength.

Mr. C. Wall appealed to Addingham Parish Council at their monthly meeting to help to provide more facilities for the old age pensioners in the village. He pointed out that the only available meeting place for them was the hut in the Memorial Close which did not offer enough comfort.

A nine year old Ilkley girl, Susan Green of Denton Road, and her Nannie, Miss Betty Sykes left Ilkley for an eight day trip on horseback to Heacham in Norfolk. They planned to spend a three day holiday there and return to Ilkley by train.

Only six months after the official opening of the new Burley Scout Hut behind the Lecture Hall, considerable damage was sustained by fire, with the hut being almost gutted. The Scouts had been without headquarters for 18 months following a fire in their previous H.Q. in Peel Place, Burley. The damage to the new hut made it once again uninhabitable.

AC. A called T. P. Cook they and the A critic vided Bradl Railw electe recall a sim been before A dep way certai obtain to wa opene Shipl monthl ments the p few th Bradl they expres ordina take r day. betwe Mr. A ings vsonal almost agreed the acted furthe forwa who I They Legge Chas. Steph resolu put t most From train an ex arriivi a.m.: 11.20 (inste 6.30 conce p.m. 7.20. train) and a The re to 10. there in Ilk filled and new train. 7. As Panor velope that questi site s hill to the e had Gazet had l voir there were thoug be be above if it h ornan that tive t Tho gener future Club. fixtur arran second groun first hardl was o Gazet who club had "gran cricke prosp ances thus and a

## Passholders complain of Bradford and demand more trains

### 100 Years Ago

A meeting of passholders called by Messrs. E. H. Wade, T. P. Muff, F. W. Pison, H. J. Cooke, Chas. Hastings, Matthew Todd, Charles Lund, and Wm. Busfield was held at the Assembly Hall to discuss criticisms of the service provided between Ilkley and Bradford by the Midland Railway. Mr. Cooke was elected to the chair and he recalled previous meetings of a similar nature which had been held about a year or so before that date, March, 1877. A deputation visited the railway directors at Derby and certain concessions had been obtained. They had been told to wait until the new line was opened from Guiseley to Shipley, but that was three months before and improvements were still awaited. At the present time there were few trains between Ilkley and Bradford. Mr. Cooke thought they should ask for two expresses a day and that ordinary trains should not take more than 40 minutes a day. After an argument between the Chairman and Mr. A. B. Kemp (Ilkley meetings were noted for the personal views expressed at almost all of them) it was agreed to express thanks to the Committee which had acted in previous years. A further six names were put forward to join with those who had called the meeting. They were G. Newbolt, H. B. Legge, — Aitken, — Skinner, Chas. Illingworth and T. Stephenson. The following resolution was accepted to be put to the Company. The most desirable train service: From Ilkley to Bradford—A train at 8 a.m. to meet the train from Otley to Guiseley; an express train at 8.30 a.m. arriving at Bradford at 9 a.m.; also trains at 9.15 and 11.20 a.m., and 1.30 p.m. (instead of 2.55 p.m.), 4.44, 6.30 p.m. (convenient for concerts) and the last at 9 p.m. From Bradford to Ilkley: 7.20, 10.5 a.m., 1.25, 4 (new train), 4.55, 5.50 (express) 7, and a new train at 10 p.m. The meeting decided to alter the request for the last train to 10.30 p.m. One speaker said there were 200 houses empty in Ilkley and if they could be filled it would help the town and the railway company if new occupants travelled by train.

### 75 Years Ago

As the excavation for the Panorama Reservoir developed, it was not surprising that Mrs. Horn and Lister had questioned the safety of the site so near the brow of the hill taking into consideration the eight million gallons it had to contain, said the Gazette. Whilst those who had long experience of reservoir construction assured there was no danger, there were people who seriously thought the reservoir would be better placed on the moor above Wells House, especially if it had taken the form of an ornamental sheet of water that would have been attractive to visitors.

Though there had been general misgivings about the future of the Ilkley Cricket Club, the fact that excellent fixture lists had been arranged for both first and second teams, an excellent groundsmen appointed and a first rate coach engaged hardly suggested the Club was on its way out, said the Gazette. This being so those who had the welfare of the club at heart and those who had any love left for the "grand old English game of cricket" would help it to prosper in Ilkley by appearances there during the season thus encouraging the players and assisting the finances.

A writer to the correspondences columns of the Ilkley Gazette said in March, 1902, that he had lived in many country towns in England but "I have seldom seen a case where the beauty of God's acre has been so sacrilegiously outraged as in the case in the surrounding of Ilkley Cemetery. I do not know and will not pretend to judge the merits of the case but as money could be found for less scared objects, I feel sure all earnest Christians would raise no objection to the payment of public money to remove this scandal."

### 50 Years Ago

The Ilkley Angling Club was dissolved after an existence of over 40 years, largely owing to changes of riparian

ownership along the club's fishing length of the River Wharfe. It was succeeded by a new organisation under the title of the Myddleton Club, which took over the assets and liabilities of the old club. The Ilkley club had had a long and honourable record, particularly in keeping the river well-stocked with trout. Mr. Ellis Beaklands took a leading part in fish breeding for that length of the river.

It was agreed at a Nesfield-with-Langbar Parish meeting to restore the postman's shelter to its old position at the bottom of Nesfield Dene. At that time the shelter was lying neglected on its side on the village green. The shelter was originally erected many years ago for the residents to use to await the arrival of the postman, and under its cover they could purchase stamps etc., from him. At the end of the previous meeting it was agreed to raise funds to secure a new shelter, and this had been obtained. It was of a design as to be an ornament to the village.

"Les Bons Amis d'Olicana" an obtrusive charitable organisation held a dance in the Winter Gardens in aid of the funds of the Coronation Hospital. The committee for this event consisted of Mrs. Heap, Mr. G. P. Dorman, Mr. F. Hawkins, Mr. J. R. C. Leach and Mr. B. D. Shackleton.

### 25 Years Ago

Mr. E. G. Carter, the retiring President of the Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club reported the club as being in a "strong and virile position." The club had taken out £300 worth of defence bonds and showed a profit on the season of £284. Mr. Edmund Butler was elected as the new President.

Until the new Infants school, then under construction was completed there was great pressure on places at the two Infants' schools at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding. There were only three available places at the Ben Rhydding school, and eleven applicants. The Ilkley school could only take a maximum of 200 and this owing to the fact that the hall had been converted into a classroom.

A competition run by the manager of the Grove Cinema who awarded 2s. 6d. to the first child to put salvage into a Council collection vehicle at the Picture house was won by Peter Dowling of Wellington Road, who was there by 7.25 a.m., he was closely followed by Judy Padley of Nelson Road, who was also given 2s. 6d.

Ben Rhydding Sports Club Cricket section, elected Mr. B. Cowling to be their new President at their annual meeting. Mr. B. W. Heap was elected to captain the first team, with Mr. F. W. Noble as Vice-captain. The second team was to be captained by Mr. G. F. Laxton, with Mr. H. E. Milnes as vice-captain. Mr. R. H. Darby was elected general and fixture secretary.

## School Board anticipated at Ilkley in a few years time says Vicar

### 100 Years Ago

Speaking at a meeting of subscribers to the Ilkley Church National Schools in the School-room in March, 1877, the Vicar, the Rev. J. Snowdon, gave a history of the schools from 1843 when his late wife came to the village and interested herself in bringing the schools about. After her death efforts were made to raise money as a memorial to her and one of these was a garden party at the vicarage which brought in £150. A bazaar raised £1,000 and by other events the sum was brought to a total which enabled them to build the then schools at a cost of £3,000. Mr. Snowdon referred to efforts to form a School Board, and said one of the reasons for raising that money had been to save money expended on rates which the poor people could ill afford. The Rev. Danks of St. Margaret's thought however that it was only a matter of time before a School Board came into being in Ilkley and he thought church people had nothing to fear from it.

Thirty acres of building land which formed a part of the estates of T. C. Lister and John Ounliffe Kay on the Leeds Road and the Addingham Road shortly would come on the market, said a preliminary notice in the Ilkley Gazette. Six "first class residences in Stourton Gardens" were also offered for sale. In Moor Lane, Burley-in-Wharfedale, 28 acres of building land near to the railway station were to be sold.

There were 13 nominations for seven vacancies on the Ilkley Local Board for the April elections.

### 75 Years Ago

A suggestion from a group that Ilkley Moor be thrown open to the people was the subject of a petition from the Ilkley Tradespeople's Association and letters from several people were deferred by Ilkley Council for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that a return should be prepared showing the revenue derived from the shooting, the respective areas which are entirely restricted and those which are free. Approved was a plan prepared by the Surveyor to erect two footbridges and other incidental work required to make a piece of common land between Keighley Road and Wells House grounds available for band concerts. The cost was estimated at £75. The footbridge over Backstone Beck on the footpath from the Tarn to the Cow and Calf Rocks, destroyed in the 1900 flood, was to be replaced. There were several reports to this meeting of sods having been taken from the Moor and where offenders were known it was agreed to demand an explanation. There was some argument about the proposal to provide a bridge between Keighley Road and Wells House grounds. Mr. E. Fletcher being especially critical. He thought the great sweep of the moor should be splendid as it was and he would not like bridges nor anything of that character spoiling it.

Mr. Oswald Lister claimed £80 19s. 2d for expenses incurred in erecting a footbridge over the Wharfe eleven years previously and nine years interest on the cost. The Council's Street and Drainage Committee recommended that this claim should not be entertained, but Mr. W. Horn thought there should be further consideration of the matter and he reviewed the events leading to Mr. Lister's claim. Supporting him, Mr. S. Wray recalled there had been trouble over a hoarding which the County Council claimed had been erected on their land. He thought some of the Councillors were too much in the know of things. When this hoarding was pulled down he knew nothing about it, but certain members of the Council "were there laughing and sneering." When it was suggested that the Council should be given an opportunity of considering the fact of the matter, the Clerk (Mr. F. Hall) said they had already had a resume of them. The Chairman (Mr. E. Fletcher) gave his casting vote against an amendment that the matter be referred back to the Committee.

The erection of a building at Escroft to supply refreshments to cyclists and others on their way to Ilkley was progressing. Burley Council, however, had turned down a proposal on the part of Mr. W. R. Wilkinson of Leeds to build a landing stage and provide boating on the ground that Mr. Wilkinson was not the riparian owner. Mr. Wilkinson said he was and could prove so. Some anticipation of a lively struggle was caused by Mr. Wilkinson's intention of having the matter settled in court.

### 50 Years Ago

The winter rally of the Wharfedale Division Girl Guide Association was held in the Wesleyan Assembly Hall, Ilkley, with 200 guides and rangers assembled. The salute was taken by Miss Shepherd of Burley. One of the best displays was given

by the Burley Guides who in a display of counter marching, inter-wove in fluid designs. The 3rd Ilkley Company danced a Scotch Reel, and 2nd Ilkley Company gave a happy Swedish Mass dance. Miss Bristow and Miss Shepherd played a pianoforte duet and there was a jazz band provided by the guiders and officers.

The winter session of the Wesleyan Band of Hope finished with a tea, concert and prize giving. Recitations were given by Mr. Loveday, Marion Clayton, Linda Loveday and Rene Galer and songs by Laurence Clayton. The prizewinners were: — Linda Loveday, Violet Fletcher, Doris Smith, Annie Bell, Gladys Roberts, Dorothy Roberts, Harold Roberts, Elsie Rogerson, Mary Head, Francis Beaumont, Marjorie Clarkson, Emile Gale, Moyra Wade, Mabel Galer, Irene Galer, Margaret Gardner, Eileen Hindle, Eileen Beaumont, Mary Bedford, Nellie Holmes, Maud Spencer, Margaret Thorp, Daisy Frankland, Charles Barrett, John Whitehead, Harry Sharples, Donald Sinclair, M. Beaumont, George Nunn, Albert Nunn, Jack Galer, Laurence Clayton, Jeffery Clarkson, Edward Beaumont, Jack Hennessey, Eric Bradwell, Harold Scott, Jerry Percy, Miss Bedord, Mrs. Loveday, Miss Lyon, Mr. N. Head and Mr. G. Smith. Mrs. J. C. Naylor presented the prizes, assisted by Miss Thackray and Miss Lightfoot.

## 25 Years Ago

Addingham Parish Church Parochial meeting reported a red letter year for the Parish of Addingham. The Rev. J. F. Wrangham Hardy said that the work of reconstructing the ancient roof and repairing the ancient fabric of the Parish Church was successfully carried out. Money raising efforts had been spectacular and there had been a series of special services attended by Bishops, Archdeacons and Rural Deans.

Three paintings by Bramwell Bronte, were presented to the Bronte Museum by Mr. Harold P. Ingram of St. Nicholas Road, Middleton. They depicted Mr. Ingram's grandmother and her aunt and uncle and were painted at their home in Bradford.

Ikley offered a good programme of entertainments for the forth-coming Easter weekend. As well as "Alice in Wonderland," "Scrooge," and "Frenchman's Creek" at the cinemas, there was to be a fair on the Wheat Sheaf ground, and dances and dinner dances at all the leading hotels. The Essoldo ballroom offered non stop 50/50 dancing, a teenagers' dance, and Old Time dancing as well as classes. There was a partner whist drive and dance at the King's Hall to Bradley Hustwick and his band, price 2/6. The Playhouse production was "The Druid's Rest" and every church offered a full programme. British Railways offered many trips from 2/- return.

7/4/77.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Cart brakes, poor stabling and domestic refuse in streets

#### 100 Years Ago

The opposition of Mr. John Wilde and his supporters having been effectively dealt with at the Local Board elections, returned members considered the cart brakes nuisance and the poor stabling of their horses.

There was some strong argument about the stables and it was finally decided to call in the help of a veterinary surgeon.

Various suggestions were put forward as solutions to the cart brake nuisance.

One was that a piece of old pit rope placed on the surface of the brake would stop the nuisance, but Mr. Hainsworth thought a piece of hard old oak would be best means of effectually stopping the nuisance.

Tradesmen or private residents were warned that if they were found sweeping dust or other refuse from their premises into the street legal action would be taken.

#### 75 Years Ago

With reasonable weather Ikley attracted a large number of visitors for the Easter holiday. Excursion trains were well filled, there was heavy vehicular traffic on the roads and hundreds of people walked the two main paths from Airedale and followed them back at night. The Cow and Calf Rocks, the Tarn, White Wells and other portions of the moor and riverside were besieged by visitors; others found their way to Hebers Ghyll. The Brass Band contest at Wray's pleasure gardens proved a great attraction. Hepworth Silver Prize Band proved to be the winners and Bradford City was second. This was in the march contest. In the waltz contest the results were 1. Bradford City; 2. Castleford Subscription; 3. Hepworth Silver; 4. Bramley Old; 5. Birstall Old; 6. Clayton Subscription. Unsuccessful bands were Mirfield Prize, Lee Moor and Stanley, Castleford Temperance, Bilton, Elland Silver Mariners Brass and Harrogate Temperance. There was dancing in the Pavilion and "a capital string band was in attendance for dancing."

The increasing demand for a parish church at Ben Rhydding was steadily becoming recognised and it was announced that the Vicar of Ikley, Dr. Muntz, was arranging services in the drawing room at the Hydro at nine o'clock on Sunday evenings. The surplice clad choir was in attendance and Mr. Isaac Hirst, Ikley Parish Church organist and choir master played the accompaniments. It was hoped to appoint a senior curate in the near future and much of his work was expected to include responsibility for a large portion of Ben Rhydding.

#### 50 Years Ago

Four thousand, one hundred and thirty eggs were collected in Ikley and Ben Rhydding in connection with the annual collection of eggs for the voluntary hospitals in the West Riding. The receiving depot was at the corner of The Grove and Brook Street, outside Mr. P. Dalton's shop. Miss J. Johnston was the sub-collector for Ikley and was assisted by Mrs. F. Wilson, Mrs. and Miss Holliday, Mrs. A. Duncan, Miss D. G. Sutcliffe, Miss S. Blankley, Mrs. South, Mrs. Fruim and Mrs. C. Duncan. At Ben Rhydding the collectors were Mrs. Carr and Miss Carr, assisted by Mrs. Garnett and Miss Hardaker.

A dance was held by Ikley evening class students to mark the end of their winter session. Mr. C. H. Hodges and Mr. W. H. Peacock were M.C.'s at the dance held in the Congregational Lecture Hall. The programme of modern dance music was provided by the Havana Quartet. Two spot dances were won by Mr. H. Calvert and Mr. J. Saunders and Miss H. K. Adams and Mr. J. H. Pell. A musical mat competition was won by Miss D. Saunders and Mr. L. Saunders.

Ikley Cricket Club engaged Emmott Robinson, the well-known Yorkshire "all rounder" to coach Ikley players on three days to start the coming season. Mr. W. A. Dobson was to captain the first team with Mr. E. F. Goodall as vice-captain. Mr. J. Denby was elected to captain the second team.

#### 25 Years Ago

Streams of traffic poured into, and through Ikley at Easter weekend. The bus service provided totally inadequate to deal with the flow of people coming into the town and leaving at night. Nose to tail traffic made its way through the town centre and on to the gales and the West Coast. In the early evening bus queues reached to the bottom of New Brook Street and beyond from the Leeds bus stop and at the Bradford bus stop visitors queued round the back of the Town Hall and along Whitton Croft Road.

Members of Burley Parish Church Youth Fellowship presented an outstanding performance of the passion play "Himself Once Offered." It was produced by Mr. J. Rayner, and the cast was—Miss Jillian Chadwick, Mr. R. W. Gill, Mr. R. Littlehales, Mr. A. Rogers, Miss A. Garrett, Mr. P. Atkinson, Mr. T. Jordan, Mr. L. Littlehales, Mr. A. Atkinson, Miss E. Taylor, Miss A. Lofthouse and Mr. C. Winder.

"Druids' Rest" by Emlyn Williams was the play chosen by the Ikley Players as their Easter production. Leading

parts were played by Edgar Paley, Mabel Harrison, Dorothy Allen, Donald Gane, Hector Hughes, Ken Kempster and Allan Stead. The play was produced by Dorothy Fenwick.

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22/4/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Neglected appearance of some parts of Ilkley

#### 100 Years Ago

Mr. J. Milner was elected Chairman of the Local Board for the third year in succession on the motion of Mr. E. Sewell seconded by Mr. Ellis Hartley and supported by Mr. J. Rhodes in April 1877. Acknowledging the distinction Mr. Milner felt proud of what had been accomplished. Two years ago they had begun the business of a Local Board and then they had started on such works as the Waterworks, Sewerage and the new cemetery. He hoped there would be harmony about all their work. Committee Chairman were Burial Board (Mr. H. J. Cooke); Street and Drainage (Mr. J. Rhodes); General Purposes (Mr. W. Hartley). The Waterworks Chairman was appointed at each meeting.

#### 75 Years Ago

Peering through the carriage windows as trains pull into Ilkley station the passenger is enabled to see one of the most neglected sites in the town centre, remarked the Gazette in April 1902. It was commenting upon a suggestion that £300 should be spent on raising and improving the east side of Brook Street and thought the Town Hall site had a fair claim for more immediate attention. On the lower side of the railway station the old cricket field (Nile and Victory Road today) was adorned by a multitude of hen pens, coops and all manner of wooden buildings. What a vast improvement could be effected by laying out the Town Hall site "at a tithe of this £300" and how much better Brook Street would look if the railway company could be prevailed upon to plant the enclosure near the station entrance gates with flowers and plants... Then again look at the desolate appearance of Mill Ghyll and the fountain adjoining both so close to the station and the main thoroughfare too. How delightful it would have been to Easter visitors to see thousands of snowdrops and crocus adorning the fountain rockery and the present waste patches throughout the whole length of the Ghyll which could be transformed into veritable Elysium at a most trifling cost."

Writing to the Gazette, Mr. T. A. Carpenter of Moor Cottage thought the immediate surroundings to the cemetery were a disgrace to the Council and to the owner of the property. Something should be done about the poultry farming operations and it would be as well if steps were taken to prevent the invasion of cemetery grounds by fowls. Under the present arrangements hen-roosts were reared

against cemetery walls and the birds allowed to fly over the wall into the cemetery

#### 50 Years Ago

Glorious Easter weather made the Bank Holiday weekend in 1927 memorable for its enormous crowds of visitors into the town. The hydros and hotels were full, and day "trippers" thronged into the town each day.

The roads were filled with motor traffic from 6 a.m., with a large number of motor charabancs laden with holidaymakers. The path from Dick Hudson's was the scene of a continuous line of pedestrians, but thousands more arrived by buses, trains, cars and cycles. The long bus queues for the return trip were orderly and patient, and there was less litter left behind on the moors and riverside than had formerly been the case.

Ben Rhydding Sports Club appealed for more members at a meeting of the tennis section. They looked forward to a good season with the courts in excellent condition, but had vacancies for fifty new members.

Ilkley Rugby Club held a whist drive and dance to close the season in the Winter Gardens. Mr. W. Brown was in charge of the whist and Mr. G. W. Thompson was the M.C. for dancing. The music was supplied by Mr. Harry Glover's orchestra.

#### 25 Years Ago

Two German incendiary bombs were found in Wharfedale. The first was found by Mr. Anthony Hargreaves, of Burley Road, Menston, in a field near the Wharfedale Children's Hospital and the other was turned up by a farmer ploughing a field near Denton Hall. Both bombs were "duds" and were thought to have been relics of an incendiary raid over Wharfedale in the earlier part of the war.

David Harrison, of Ilkley, and Jimmy Elder both played leading roles in the Wharfedale Scouts production of "Treasure Island". David Harrison played the rascally Long John Silver and Jimmy Elder was Captain Smollett. The show was produced by Eric Fearnside, of Ilkley, and Stanley Ross, of Guiseley. One of the scouts had his finger badly bitten by a parrot which had been loaned for the play, and was therefore promptly returned to its owner with thanks.

Ilkley Rugby Club completed the most remarkable season in its history. During the course of it almost every club record had been broken. More matches had been won than ever before, less matches had been lost than ever before. The highest aggregate of points had been registered. Three players scored more than 100 points. G. Burton set up a new individual record for the club and H. Melville scored more tries than any other Ilkley player before him.

29/4/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Council tactics deplored as no good for Ilkley

#### 100 Years Ago

For the start of the season Ilkley Cricket Club had the support of the Ilkley Brass Band "which enlivened the proceedings by performing several pieces in good style." The fixture was a game between the first eleven and the next 25. Unfortunately the weather steadily deteriorated, a strong wind being one of the worst features with which to contend. Rain finally put an end to the proceedings.

Damage caused by the use of catapults brought a warning in the Gazette that dangerous results with serious personal damage was one of the risks. "Parents and others who have the supervision of children cannot be too stringent in preventing their use," said the newspaper, "and the police authorities would do well to keep a close eye on the precocious youths who, despite all good counsels, persist in this mischievous practice."

Passholders living in Ilkley were by no means satisfied with the way in which the Railway Company had met their requests for an improvement of services, said the Gazette. "The principal complaint so far as we understand is the want of a train from Bradford to Ilkley between 5.50 p.m. and 8.05 p.m., and a late train at about 10 p.m. It was considered by the business men that fewer stoppages would be a great advantage for some of the trains used largely by them." The Gazette commented, "We are given to understand that very many business people in Bradford are deterred from taking residences at Ilkley for the simple reason of the insufficiency of trains."

#### 75 Years Ago

When the Ilkley Urban District Council was appointing its Committees and electing their Chairmen at the annual meeting in 1902, Mr. J. W. Benson said he had come across a move to oust Mr. T. Horsman from the position of Gas Board Chairman, a position which Mr. Horsman had filled with "distinction and competence for some years." Warned that he was in danger of being ruled out of order, Mr. Benson accepted that, but said that until the Chairman (Mr. J. T. Jackson) stated a decision on the matter, he would continue. It led to argument with Mr. Benson, a noted contributor to Council debates, skillfully making his points. Mr. Benson was finally ruled out of order but the debate appeared to continue with Mr. Benson saying he had no intention of helping a section of the Council with a private grievance to make a public attack on a man who he had not a single word to say against. Mr. Benson moved Mr. Horsman as Chairman and was supported by Mr. J. G. Doxford but he was unsuccessful and Mr. W. Horn was appointed Chairman.

Only the name had changed said the Gazette reviewing the events which had been a part of the annual meeting of the new Council. Just as the previous group had done, the Party in power had met privately to decide all the important issues. Mr. W. Horn had an important part to play, so had Mr. J. T. Jackson. Apparently they fooled nobody. Mr. Benson told about the attitude to Mr. Horsman. They were even sillier about the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Horn who was proposed by Mr. Jackson was unable to accept and successfully moved Mr. Jackson. The Gazette was in possession of one of the typewritten slips which set out the decisions reached by private meetings. This showed Mr. Jackson as Chairman, it showed his proposer and seconder. It showed Mr. Horn as vice-Chairman and the procedure to be followed. They all popped up and did their stuff as arranged. Why the game of bluff? asked the Gazette. They all knew a year ago that Mr. Jackson coveted the position. He was quite capable of handling the job. "We are sorry," commented the Gazette, "we can not compliment the new party on the way they conducted their first meeting and should have been much better pleased had they dealt a little more kindly with the older members. It is all very well paying folks back in their own coin and excusing oneself by stating that the other party when in power did the very self same things, but such tactics influenced by personal motives and feeling are not likely to do much good for Ilkley, nor any policy

taken up in a similar spirit, and we therefore greatly deplore that the new clique have not proved themselves equal to rising above all such practices, as we had hoped they would." It was a system to continue; they were holding pre-annual meeting gatherings close to the final meeting of the Ilkley Urban Council.

#### 50 Years Ago

Plans for a new cinema capable of seating over a thousand people together with a cafe and dance floor almost as big as that of the Winter Gardens were passed by Ilkley Urban Council. This new hall, far and away the largest of its kind in Wharfedale was to occupy a site (now occupied by Hillards Supermarket) fronting on to Railway Road. It would occupy the land behind the shops in Brook Street, including the Crescent Hotel Bowling Green, and would necessitate the removal of the blacksmith's shop along Railway Road.

Mr. T. H. Pirth, the new Chairman of Ilkley Urban Council was the first Old Boy of Ilkley Grammar School to occupy this position. He had the unique distinction also of being both a member of the Wharfedale Board of Guardians whilst representing Middleton on the Ilkley Urban Council.

Mr. James K. Watson of Manley Grove, Ben Rhydding captain of Ilkley Grammar school was selected to represent England at the second International Oratorical Contest to be held in Washington. He was to deliver a speech lasting ten minutes before 8,000 people.

#### 25 Years Ago

A grant of £10 10s. by the Ilkley Urban Council to the funds of the Wharfedale Music Festival was described by Mr. Eric Wolfe as analogous to something out of the poor box, when he moved an unsuccessful amendment for the Festival Committee to be granted free use of the King's Hall and Winter Garden.

A record year was reported by the Craven and Upper Wharfedale branch of the R.S.P.C.A. who had submitted £475 to headquarters during the previous year. £225 was contributed by the Ilkley branch.

The military rifle range on Burley Moor against which Ilkley Urban Council and members of ramblers' organisations had protested was to stay in view of the prohibitive cost of moving it stated the War Office. The decision was contained in a letter from the Under Secretary of State for War to Col. M. Stoddart Scott M.P.



6/5/77

SOME SAID

GO WEST

## VILLAGERS DON'T LIKE BRIDGE OVER BROOK STREET AND THROW OUT SKIPTON RAIL SCHEME

There had been talk when the second half of the 19th century began that once the Otley and Ilkley Railway Company was completed it would be as well to consider the question of an extension westward. This had proved to be little more than fitful conversation and desultory gossip which soon died away. The reason probably was that extension westward had immediately recognisable problems, easily solved from the physical approach but making such geographical changes in the village centre and immediately to the west of it that it sapped the courage of those who were inclined to support it.

The rich men who had found the building of small railways in the last century a profitable venture appreciated there would be opposition to overcome. Many who had come to the village and built their houses here were not favourable to the great changes which would have to be brought about. They were changes hardly likely to add to the beauty of the village centre; certainly there would be much that would spoil the natural appeal, much that would be regarded as positively ugly. Thus when the months had added to years and there had been no mention of the Westward extension it came as a surprise and something of a shock in November 1873 to learn that matters had actually reached the stage where parliament was being asked to give its consent to a proposal to build a railway between Ilkley and Skipton.

Thus some surprise was expressed in mid-November, 1873, when it became known that the Midland Railway at Skipton had given notice of application to Parliament for power to make a railway from the Midland from Skipton to the Otley and Ilkley line at Ilkley by the joint powers of the Midland and the North Eastern Companies. The intended new line, it was stated, will start from near Skipton station, and will pass through the townships of Halton East, Draughton, Embay, Embay with Eastby, Beamsley, Bolton Abbey, Rombalds Moor and Addingham Cragles and will terminate at or near the present terminus of the Otley and Ilkley Joint Railway at Ilkley.

Referring to the intentions of the Great Northern Co., which had interests at Bradford and at Shipley, the Free Press mentioned a proposal to join the Bradford line at Shipley with one it was intended to construct to the parish of Ilkley and then through to Skipton. Notice had not yet been given, it was stated, but the districts through which such a railway would pass have been surveyed during the past week and there is no doubt but that it is intended by the Great Northern Company to apply for power to make a railway to Skipton via Ilkley, notice of which must be given on or before the 30th instant.

The plans deposited for public inspection by the Midland and the North Eastern Railway Company were to be placed before Parliament when its next session began. The Ilkley Free Press thought their intentions so materially altered the appearance of Ilkley that "it seems to us a matter for the consideration of the inhabitants of Ilkley whether the Act should be allowed to pass unopposed."

"The line will be eleven miles one furlong one chain in length, and will be joined at the present terminus of the Otley and Ilkley Joint line at Ilkley station. It crosses Brook Street at such a point as will require the removal of the houses on the west side of that thoroughfare belonging to the joint railway companies and at present occupied by their servants; and is planned to go between the Station Hotel and the shop now occupied by Mr. Campbell and will, of course, necessitate the pulling down of both these structures, as well as a cottage inhabited by Mrs. Bishop, and some outbuildings connected with the Station Hotel in the rear of these premises occupied by Mr. William Dobson, the whole being the property of the Governors of Sedbergh school.

### 40 FOOT SPAN

"It is proposed to construct across Brook Street an arch of 40 feet span, at an altitude of 15 feet, this level being obtained by lowering the public road two feet. Cunliffe Road will be crossed by an arch of 25 feet span, also at a height of 15 feet, and Chapel Lane is similarly provided. The line is intended to cross the field now in the occupation of Mr. W. W. McLaughlan, the property of Mr. William Brumfitt, and until recently used as a cricket field by the Ilkley Club.

"It then passes on at a rate of inclination of 1 in 61, through land owned by W. Middleton Esq., Mr. Thomas Lister, Mr. J. C. Kaye, the Governors of the Sedbergh School, Mr. J. Ellis, Mr. H. Greenwood, Mr. John Kaye, Messrs. G. F. Easby and G. Smith (Bradford) and others,

passing on to Addingham, a station being arranged to be erected at this place as an answer to the requirements of both Steeton and Addingham, a somewhat unpleasant distance from the lower portion of the latter village.

Commented the Free Press, "However beneficial the new line may turn out to be in many respects, there can be but one opinion, we think, that the appearance of Brook Street will be thoroughly spoiled by the alterations which it will be found necessary to make, should the intended railway be made as proposed; and we suggest to the Local Board, as the responsible custodians of the interests of the township, the desirability of taking steps with a view to some modification or alteration in the route intended to be taken. Opposition in Parliament is well known to be an expensive process; but it remains to be considered whether even this course would not be desirable to be pursued. We throw out the hint for the consideration of the inhabitants of what is now an important inland health and pleasure resort."

### DIRECTORS

The Gazette on 1 January, 1874, said the capital to be raised by shares was £200,000 with a borrowing power of £66,000. The first directors were to be: Thomas Clayton, William Douglas, Thomas Emsley, Ayscough Pawkes, William Fison, Frederick A. Greenwood, T. Horsfall and one other person. It seemed a fairly representative list of local landowners.

The Ilkley Local Board at one of its meetings in this month indicated that a parcel of documents in connection with the railway's application to Parliament had been received.

Mr. J. Beanlands thought some steps should be taken in the matter and he asked whether they were to oppose it or not.

Mr. W. Hartkey did not think they could oppose the railways but he thought the Board should write to the Companies asking that the bridge over Brook Street should be "as ornamental as possible."

Mr. W. Margerison at a later meeting in the same month told the Board it was his intention to oppose the scheme both privately and publicly. "It will very much damage the reputation of the village," he said.

Mr. A. Davey agreed that it was a most serious matter, which demanded the Board's careful consideration. He successfully suggested that the Board hold a special meeting to hear the report of the General Purposes Committee in a few days. "It is a subject which cannot be delayed too long," he said.

### RAILWAY ENGINEER

At this meeting the Board had the advantage of hearing the engineer to the Railway Companies explaining the scheme. Mr. Clayton, who asked for the support of the Board. "If the people of Ilkley would not support the scheme, who would?" he asked.

But the Local Board members had many comments to make and questions to ask. Clearly they had doubts about the scheme. They did not like the bridge over Brook Street, they did not like an embankment in the middle of the village. Why could not the line go below the church, they asked Mr. Clayton.

Mr. Clayton explained that the line had to pass a summit

which necessitated a gradient of one foot in sixty and occasioned little expense. Below the church would mean a gradient of one in 50 and more expense. "The Company had got the best scheme for a line that could be adopted. I believe that if a railway has to go to Skipton at all it must cross Brook Street." There would be great benefits from being connected with Skipton, it would give a direct route to Lancashire and a shorter one to Scotland."

After Mr. Clayton had left the members were quick to criticise. Mr. Davy doubted if the bridge over Brook Street was at 15 feet, whether they could get a load of hay under it. Mr. Margerison said the line did not go within a mile of Addingham.

Mr. J. Milner moved "that while this Board would readily sanction and support the continuance of the line from Ilkley to Skipton, they feel that the scheme explained to the Board by the company's engineer is very objectionable and would be a great injury to the village." He thought the Board would agree with him that such a scheme would be a detriment to the village. The Board had nothing to do but oppose the scheme altogether. Why should the Board sanction such an objectionable line which would spoil the village and cause considerable damage to property around?

### HEAR RATEPAYERS

Mr. E. Sewell thought the Board should not oppose the scheme before hearing the opinion of the ratepayers. He moved as an amendment that "this Board having considered the proposed Skipton and Ilkley Railway Scheme and conferred with the engineer on the matter, resolves that the Board shall at once take action to obtain a deviation near to the river for such improvements and convenience as appear to be wanting in the plans laid before the Board, so as to preserve as far as possible the present beauty of the village and the better accommodation of the inhabitants.

For the amendment there voted Messrs. T. Robinson, J. Beanlands, T. Crabtree, J. Dobson jun., L. Robinson and E. Sewell.

For the motion Messrs. W. Margerison, E. Hartley, J. Milner, M. Hainsworth, T. J. Critchley, Jabez Dobson, Alfred Davy, G. Wordsworth and J. Hainsworth.

The motion was therefore declared carried by nine votes to six.

The Gazette reviewed the situation in a leading article. Would the village gain more than it lost? Many people passing on to Bolton Abbey halted at Ilkley for refreshment, some to hire conveyance, and it would appear from the outlines of the scheme of extension that Addingham would be the nearest station to the Bolton Abbey estate. The inhabitants had most cause to deplore the erection of a bridge over Brook Street for however ornamental it might be "it will be destructive of the beauty of Ilkley and this is what every inhabitant ought to avoid as much as possible. Keeping intact the beauty and the symmetry of the place ought to be the primary object for if that be destroyed no railway extension can compensate the loss. A railway that would least disfigure Ilkley ought either to go below the church or in a cutting at some higher elevation than the existing line. If, however, the promoters of the present scheme can satisfy the members that it will in no way be unsightly, it is for them at the meeting assembled to decide."

The Board then wrote to their solicitor, Mr. Newstead, asking for his advice on the course they should take to oppose the railway scheme, and after this had been read to yet another special meeting, it was agreed by eleven votes to three to accept a motion by Mr. A. Davy, seconded by Mr. W. Wordsworth, that "the Ilkley Local Board oppose the Bill promoted by the Skipton and Ilkley Railway Company for the making of a railway between Ilkley and Skipton."

20/5/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Little interest shown in sale of splendid villas

#### 100 Years Ago

When the auction sale of several "splendidly erected villa residences" took place in 1877 at Ilkley there were only a few people in attendance when the time came for the sale to begin in a large tent erected in the grounds of the Middleton Hotel. Land which at one time had been part of the estates of Mr. John Concliffe Kay and Mr. T. C. Lister were offered. Mr. James Rhodes, of Queen's Road, Ilkley, made a successful bid of £260 for 1860 yards of land in Addingham Road almost opposite the Middleton Hotel and he was also the purchaser of one or two other sites. Mr. Heppon, of Addingham House, bought some sites but a great many of them failed to reach the reserve price. There was little bidding for the houses. Out of 80 lots offered altogether only six were sold.

An engine cleaner who was found cutting a public bench provided by Ilkley Local Board was fined 2s. 6d. and costs and ordered to pay 4s. the cost of the damage. Mr. Walter Hirst Surveyor to the Board, told the magistrates at Otley Court, that such damage was constantly occurring, the seats on the moor and at other points being "shamefully cut, and some of them completely hacked through." Trees planted by the Board had been gulled up by the roots or so destroyed that they had to replace three dozen in the thoroughfares the previous year. The Chairman, Mr. F. Darwin, said it was monstrous that improvements made in the interests of the public could not be respected. In the event of further damage the Bench would make a severe example of the offenders.

#### 75 Years Ago

The position of traders during the Coronation festivities was considered at a meeting of shopkeepers in May, 1902. There was reluctance to close on the Saturday and it was suggested that the local celebrations should be on Thursday and Friday. A proposal that shops should remain open to one o'clock on the Thursday and then shops be closed until Saturday morning was accepted as a recommendation to the Council. Traders who wished to close all day Thursday could do so if they wished.

Mr. Thomas Horsman who had been a member of the Local Board since 1882, its chairman from 1887 to 1889, and Chairman of the Urban Council from 1897 to 1898, resigned his seat. He had taken a prominent part in the town's affairs and had his critics. He had, however, in many ways performed nobly in the town's interests. "To his wisdom and foresight," said the Gazette, "we are mainly indebted in securing possession of the gasworks and the moors."

A count of visitors on the two principal moor paths on Easter Monday showed that going towards Ilkley on the Keighley Road there were 5600. On the return journey between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. people were passing at a rate of a thousand per hour. In addition not less than 2,500 passed through Hebers Ghill during the day. Only 23 people left the road and no damage whatever was done.

Plans for the new Baptist Sunday School in Devon Crescent (now King's Road), were approved. Mr. Frederick Skilington was to be told that unless he removed the carpet beating machine in Middleton Road there was a danger that the whole workshop would be pulled down.

#### 50 Years Ago

Celebrations for the coming of age of the Wharfedale Music Festival were in full swing. The Festival started with a record entry of 468. Sir

H. Walford Davies was the principal adjudicator, assisted by Dr. James Lyon. Mr. A. T. Akeroyd was the general secretary with Dr. W. R. Bates, the Festival secretary and Mr. B. T. Akers acting as hon. treasurer.

The Ilkley Gazette carried a report of Captain Charles Lindbergh's amazing feat in flying the Atlantic alone in a monoplane. He flew from New York to Paris, a distance of 3,500 miles in 33½ hours and captured the imagination of the whole world. Captain Lindbergh was given a tumultuous reception when he arrived in Paris.

"Top of the Pops" fifty years ago at Hartley's music store, was "Aunt Sae Sweet" by Layton and Johnson and "Blue Skies" by the Debroy Somers Band.

#### 25 Years Ago

Eight pupils of Ilkley Grammar School were awarded scholarships for entry to universities. For the first time an assessment of personal qualities was taken into consideration, together with academic ability. The successful pupils for the minimum type of award were Anthony Barringer, John W. Boocock, John Bradley Helen Carter, Mary P. Farrar, Richard Peace, Christopher Stillman, and Donald Wilson.

In sweltering heat the Ilkley cycling club record was again broken by A. K. Butler of Ilkley, with a time of one hour, one minute and 45 seconds on the Boroughbridge course.

Ilkley Road Safety Committee pointed out the danger caused by untrimmed hedges on Ilkley's highways masking the street lamps and bus stops. The matter was referred to the Surveyor's department for investigation. It was also agreed that there should be a warning sign to motorists using Hanginbone Road that there was a danger of animals straying on to the road.

27/5/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Obstruction of village streets by salesmen

#### 100 Years Ago

Obstruction of the village streets by salesmen from outside was a matter under discussion by the Ilkley Local Board in May, 1877. Auction sales had been stopped as causing an obstruction but attention was drawn to the case of a man selling oranges and "other things" who had been ordered away. It was felt he had not caused any obstruction but there was a danger that if one was allowed others would follow and then an obstruction would be caused. It was decided to allow this matter to be passed over with the feeling that if the position was abused the police could step in and then the Board could discuss the question again with view to action being taken.

Dr. Thomas Scott in his medical report for the first three months of the year reported that the Nuisance Inspector's report was a long one with "numerous suggestions and complain's on various sanitary matters." February had proved to be the mildest month of the quarter and March the most severe. Thirt-two births, 11 marriages, 15 deaths occurred during the quarter.

#### 75 Years Ago

The 3rd Lancashire Royal Engineer Volunteers followed their 1st Detachment of the previous year in camping on the West Holmes in 1902. They arrived at Ilkley station from Manchester in a special train and marched to the ground by way of the Grove, Bolton Bridge Road and Stockeld Road. There was a drum-head service on the Sunday but the main emphasis on the training was bridge building based on the experience of the South African war. A trestle bridge erected over the river won much admiration from the groups of visitors who watched its building in progress. There were 450 men of the total muster of 520 in camp. There was a sports event for the engineers on the final Saturday and to the light of a huge bonfire a concert was held in the evening.

The public auction of the Denton Park estate had a disappointing result, only 3 lots being disposed of. These included Town Head farm and the small estate adjoining and West Beck farm. Town Head farm was bought by Mr. Spence of Weston Manor at £3,000, the small estate adjoining bought by Mr. S. Rhodes of Askwith at £525. Mr. R. W. Moss bought West Beck Farm at £3,015. All the other properties offered were withdrawn and some were not put up for sale. For the estate as a whole at the beginning of the auction Mr. W. D. Hollis asked as a starting bid, £150,000 but had no response. The middle and western portion of the estate including the mansion, grounds, park etc. grouse moor, fourteen farms, several smallholdings, had £120,000 asked for but there was no bid.

#### 50 Years Ago

On the property market fifty years ago, Moorlands, Wells Road, Ilkley was withdrawn from sale by auction at £600. "Woodbank," Queen's Road, Ilkley was in the market but there were no bidders and no sale was effected. The house and grounds covered an area of 10,905 sq. yards and included a cottage, two garages, three lock-ups, conservatory, vinery, rose-house, fernery and potting shed.

An interesting point on the attitude of the railway companies to the competition of road transport was discussed at a meeting of Ilkley Urban Council. There had been talk of electrifying the railways between Leeds and Ilkley and Bradford, but this had proved impracticable. They had resolved to improve the railway service and act upon some suggestions received from users.

High praise was given to the Ilkley District Nurses, by Dr. Whitfield, who presided over the annual meeting of the Ilkley District Nursing Association in the Town Hall, and Dr. H. T. Bates, the Medical Officer of Health said "without the District Nursing Association and without the district nurses, we should be in a hole."

#### 25 Years Ago

The Whitsuntide holiday in 1952 was cold and showery, and there were few visitors to the town except on the Tuesday. Attendances at the bathing pool and the cricket matches were well below average.

Mr. Harold J. White of the Larches, Ilkley, vice-chairman of the Wool Textile Delegation was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours Awards.

Ilkley Cricket Club 1st XI gained their first home league victory when they beat Otley by four wickets on Whit Monday. R. Cliffe gave a good bowling performance and took 5 wickets for 26 runs. J. Brumfit was Ilkley's top scoring batsman with 32 runs.

British Rail advertised summer excursions to Harrogate for 2/- return, Morecambe 7/6, and Bridlington 8/9.

17/6/77

ACROSS THE YEARS

Scarecrow continues to upset villagers and visitors

100 Years Ago

The continued appearance of a scarecrow in the Cow-pastures continued to excite the indignation of the villagers. Letters to the Gazette were significant of the feelings aroused, feelings which appear to be somewhat on the extreme side today. One letter referred to the scarecrow as "a vile and unsightly erection in the Cowpastures. It is an eyesore, a public scandal, an effective means of deteriorating property, a scare to visitors and a slur to all concerned." The writer asked if equity had nothing to say and if the Local Board was so powerless that it could not have the scarecrow removed. "They look after the disfigurement of a seat and properly caused the offender to be punished but is it really true that they have no power at all against one who can disfigure a whole neighbourhood and district?"

Two Ilkley youths who took five rabbits in Fairy Dell were ordered to pay 11s. 6d. each to cover the expenses of the case following a hearing at the Otley Petty sessions. Mr. F. Darwin (Chairman) said there had been too many complaints about damage done to property on the other side of the river and the defendants could let it be known that any others brought before the magistrates on similar charges would not be treated so lightly.

75 Years Ago

The public baths in Little Lane which along with the Victoria Hall had been rented for some time by a furniture remover, reverted to the purpose for which they were built in June, 1902. Several improvements had been carried out and the place painted and decorated. An innovation was the provision of a ladies dressing room. Mr. T. Barnes was to be in constant attendance as curator and it was promised that the water would be changed as "frequently as possible." Wednesday afternoons were reserved exclusively for ladies, and Friday afternoons for school-children.

Following a reference at the annual meeting of the Council by the new Chairman Mr. J. T. Jackson, to the chalybeate springs in the area, it was suggested that these should be conducted to a central point where visitors could drink of them without the inconvenience of a long climb up the hillside. The Gazette commented with surprise that an investigation which it had conducted had shown that residents of at least 15 years and one doctor had shown themselves unaware of the existence of the carker well at the top of Cunliffe Road on the Grove. "Many an enterprising and up to date Council would have had a place erected at the top of Brook Street for drinking these waters and made as much of them as they do on the continent," said the Gazette.

There was only a poor attendance at the sale of freehold property at Ilkley. The first lot 12 Skipton Road was sold to Mr. Riley of Bradford at £495 and the adjoining houses, 13, 14, 15 and 16 to the same purchaser at £330 each. Claremont, Parish Ghyll Road, was sold at £350 to Mr. W. Horn.

50 Years Ago

Two degrees of frost were recorded at Ilkley weather station, with Midsummer Day only one week away.

Owing to the popularity of the Municipal Orchestra season in 1926 the season for 1927 was extended to ten weeks. All the performances were to be given in the Winter Gardens instead of the West View bandstand and there would be dancing on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

Addingham Parish Council expressed the view that it would not be desirable to allow Sunday play on the tennis court, putting greens and bowling green at Addingham Memorial Close.

Mr. A. Talbot was re-elected chairman of the Ilkley and District Education Subcommittee. The Committee expressed some disappointment as they had not achieved the building of a secondary school for girls in Ilkley despite repeated efforts and the enlarging of Ben Rhydding Council school had not got under way.

25 Years Ago

A dream started to come true for Mrs. H. W. Green of Denton Road and Mr. William Dell of Bridge House who had spent months trying to convince the Council of a need for a children's playground on the land adjacent to Bridge House. Mrs. Green had formed a committee to raise funds for the project following a conversation she had with Mr. Dell. The National Playing Fields Association had given a grant of £140 towards the estimated cost of £274.

There was a crowded meeting of ratepayers in the Old School at Addingham to discuss the proposed merger with Ilkley Urban Council. Only one ratepayer voted in favour of the proposal. Mr. E. Holmes said that friends in Burley and Menston had told them that it would be foolish to agree to the merger, as since they had done so there had been nothing but regret. Mr. Alan Smith remarked that as Addingham appeared to be in the position of a lady with two suitors perhaps this could be used as a lever to get some of the things Addingham had needed for so long.

24/6/77

ACROSS THE YEARS

End of South African War is Sunday evening news

100 Years Ago

There was trouble between Mr. T. Stevenson and the members of his Hackney Carriages Committee over the place where the annual inspection should take place and the positions assigned to the various carriages. A statement by Mr. Stevenson, who submitted his resignation, was read by the Clerk owing to Mr. Stevenson's indisposition. One of the members had apparently said it was purely a matter of pride that Mr. Stevenson wished the inspection to take place in Brook Street instead of Station Yard. Mr. H. J. Cooke, after some discussion, roused Mr. Stevenson's opposition by moving that the Local Board pass on to the next business and Mr. J. Beanlands commented in reply to a comment by Mr. Stevenson that he would not bow to any majority if he thought he was right, "I'll not be led by any chairman." Finally the matter ended with Mr. Stevenson withdrawing his resignation.

75 Years Ago

The end of the South African war gradually became known in Ilkley on an early Sunday evening in June and the town was fully aware as congregations were leaving the churches. The Town Band turned out and played the National anthem and other patriotic airs over and over again. A huge bonfire was built at the top of Brook Street and set alight. Flags were flown and the demonstration continued to the early hours of Monday. Ilkley did not celebrate Monday as a holiday as many places did but in the evening the celebrations mounted. Members of the local ceremony of the Royal Engineer Volunteers under Lieut. Aykroyd marched through the streets and was followed by a torch light procession headed by the Band. The Parish Church bells were rung at different periods. On the Wednesday night a service was held at the Church and the Rev. Dr. Muntz conducted it and preached the sermon. The Gazette rejoiced with "exceedingly great joy; not in triumph that our foe is vanquished, but in deep thankfulness that there is no necessity for further suffering, bloodshed and misery."

A big effort was being made by the Wesleyans with a bazaar to raise money for a new school to be built on land recently purchased opposite the main entrance to the church. The event was a four day affair and it was anticipated that with expenses deducted a net sum of £1,000 would be raised.

Consideration as to the possibility of building a public hall on the three cornered strip of land at the junction of Bolton Bridge Road and the Grove held public attention in June 75 years ago. There was also under discussion a suggestion that Spences Gardens should be extended but the Gazette and others thought it would be wrong to spend public money on this idea. It was felt surrounding owners should be responsible for at least half the cost.

50 Years Ago

Ilkley Grammar School held their Junior Sports Day with unfavourable weather conditions, but despite cold wind and showers the events took place as planned apart from the tug-of-war events being postponed. The individual championship was won by C. Chantry with J. McCormack in second place.

"The Ghyll," Grove Road, Ilkley, was withdrawn from sale by auction at £2,000 and was later sold privately to Mr. W. Waud of Goodwood, at a further price not divulged.

A further six cases of motorists driving over the Old Bridge were heard at Otley Police Court. The Chairman said that he thought more prominent notices should be placed on the bridge for the benefit of strangers.

Mrs. Clifford Kitson, of Ilkley played in the Yorkshire Ladies' Golf team which defeated Durham Ladies twice at Ormskirk.

25 Years Ago

Improved finances together with a record playing year were reported at the annual general meeting of the Ilkley Rugby Club. There had been 30 matches won out of 36, 3 drawn and 3 lost. Mr. T. Ackernley, the hon. secretary, congratulated the Captain, Mr. J. M. Brook and the players on their excellent performance.

Four foxes were shot, after worrying chickens in the Addingham Moorside area, by Olive Holmes, of Lumb Beck Farm, Addingham. They were believed to be three quarters grown and probably members of the same family of foxes. They were the first to be shot in Addingham for a considerable time.

At Menston Carnival, the 1952 Queen, Susan Butler was crowned by the retiring queen Lavinia Laycock.

Hilda Cowling, of Skipton Road, Ilkley, an assistant with the Essoldo and Wharfedale schools of dancing successfully passed her professional examination as an Associate Member of the International Dancing Master's Association.

Mr. Gilbert Clarke, an old boy of Ilkley Grammar School, gained his B. (Honours) degree in the Cambridge University Geographical Tripos.

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8/7/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Last occupier of Mill Gill Corn Mills dies

100 Years Ago

Last occupier of the old corn mills in Mill Gill, Mr. Thomas Lister landlord of the Midland Hotel, died at the beginning of July. He was a member of one of Ilkley's oldest families. His parents for some years occupied the old thatched house which stood at the top of Brook Street. Thomas Lister managed the old corn mills up to their demolition and succeeded to the thatched house on the death of his parents. With the end of the mills, he became landlord of the Midland. The mourners adopted the old funeral style of following the hearse on foot and the tradesmen brought up the rear, reported the Gazette. Mr. Lister was 58 years of age.

A young girl who was found guilty of stealing a bonnet, velvet and ribbon, and a pair of boots from Ilkley shops, was committed to prison for 14 days and thereafter to a reformatory for five years. The mother charged with receiving, was sent to prison for two months. The couple were stated to be well connected; the father described as being of dissipated habits was said to be responsible for the position in which they found themselves. Col. Pollard, Chairman of the Bench said as long as he occupied the position he did, the course of justice should not be affected by the positions of the persons brought before him.

Addingham Waterworks was ready to supply the village with water and Mr. John Fentiman, was appointed rate collector and turncock from seven applicants.

75 Years Ago

Ilkley Urban Council at its meeting in June, 1902, was informed by its Moor Committee that land recently fenced in by the Ilkley Wells Hydro was common land. It intended to ask for an explanation. The land in question was said to be near the entrance lodge Mr. J. T. Jackson asked if further information was available and Mr. J. W. Benson replied that all that could be said was that the Company had taken in common land and the Clerk was to be instructed to write to them asking by what authority they had done so.

When the Moor was purchased by the Local Board in 1893 the Moor Ranger had planted an acorn which had prospered exceedingly. It was suggested that this oak tree be planted by the Committee in one of the public gardens to commemorate the coronation and it was agreed that the Chairman of the Moor Committee Mr. Benson perform this task in the Ridings. Recently Mr. Benson's daughter was responsible for the replacement of the plaque at the tree which is now (1977) a handsome affair.

In the Council's debate on the three corner site between Bolton Bridge Road and the Grove it was stated that the cost of this land was expected to be £3,209. It was suggested that a condition of the purchase should be the sale of the land already purchased in Station Road as a Town Hall site. In answer to a question it was said the cost of the Station Road site was £6,250, which meant a loss of £2,000. These minutes, which included one concerning the extension of Spences Gardens, were referred back for further consideration.

50 Years Ago

Instead of the 64 acres of land comprising woods and fields on the North side of the river which the Ilkley Urban Council proposed to buy for use as parks and pleasure gardens, they agreed to an amended offer by the vendors to accept 130 acres which included the residence known as Neil Bank. The property was part of the estate of the late Mr. William Irwin, of Neil Bank.

The price agreed for the 130 acres, including the house and the river right, subject to the sanction of the Ministry of Health, was to be £11,000.

An abnormal rainfall was experienced in Ilkley during the first week in July, 1927, a total of 1½ inches within two days being recorded. However Ilkley missed the worst of the storms which had swept over the country.

Among degrees awarded to former pupils of Ilkley Grammar school appeared the names of A. D. Care, who was awarded a PhD for research work in chemistry carried out at Leeds University after completing his Honours Degree at Cambridge, and Ian Collinson, who was awarded M.C.D. after completing a Science degree in Geography at Liverpool University. Maurice Dakin completed his course at Leeds School of Architecture and was awarded his A.R.I.B.A. and Miss P. Summersgill obtained her Diploma of Education after gaining her B.A. degree the year previously.

Forty members of the Local Management Committee, residents and staff of the Glen Rosa Methodist Home for the Aged, met at the home to bid farewell to Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Beales and Rev. and Mrs. C. H. G. Carter, who were leaving Ilkley. Mr. S. A. Clarke and Mrs. H. Verity contributed a programme of vocal solos during the course of the evening.

15/7/77

### Horse drawn cabs restricted to six passengers

100 Years Ago

An attempt to permit seven people to be carried in horse drawn cabs was handsomely beaten at the monthly meeting of the Ilkley Local Board in July 1877. Mr. J. Rhodes thought the cab drivers should be allowed to try seven passengers to each vehicle for a trial period. There was stern opposition. Mr. M. Hainsworth suggested that the members should see the state of the horses when they arrived at the Strid in Bolton Woods after carrying six persons. They would know that six was quite enough for one horse to take. Mr. Rhodes did not think that men who had paid £150 for a horse and carriage were going to take any risks.

A contractor charged at Otley with being drunk in Brook Street had to face evidence from a police constable, a police inspector and a police superintendent. He called six men as witnesses who agreed he had had some drinks but was not drunk. The charge was dismissed.

The second battalion of the Bradford Borough Police visited Ilkley when they held their athletic sports on the field adjoining the Crescent Hotel.

75 Years Ago

It was reported to the Ilkley Urban Council in July, 1902, that the Moor and Pleasure Grounds Committee was not to pursue the proposal of buying the three corner plot between Bolton Bridge Road and the Grove; and in the meantime it was decided not to proceed further with the proposal to make an offer for the purchase of land adjoining Spences garden. The present attitude of the Committee was to utilize the present Town Hall site. It was further stated that the Council had a credit balance of £9,000 at the bank for which they were allowed three per cent interest and at the same time an overdraft of £3,000 on which they had to pay four per cent interest. They had approached the bank about the matter and it had been agreed that the same rate be paid for the overdraft as the credit balance. The Council agreed to replace the bridge in Hebers Ghyll washed away by the thunderstorm in July, 1900, by a stone bridge.

A modified programme of Coronation festivities was held at Ilkley. Fortunately there was lovely weather and the teas for the old people and the children were greatly enjoyed. All people over 55 years of age were invited to the old people's tea which was held in a large marquee in a field near the Old Bridge and provided by Mr. and Mrs. Benson of the Wharnclyffe Restaurant. Chairman of the Council, Mr. J. T. Jackson, together with Mr. S. Kellett, Mr. F. H. Humphris, the Vicar of Ilkley, Dr. Muntz,

and the Rev. Irton Smith, Vicar of St. Margaret's were the speakers. Some 1500 school children had their tea at the schools, the cost being defrayed by Mr. and Mrs. Kellett. A bonfire was lighted on the moor at a point known as Crawshaw Thorn Hill but not many fires, reported the Gazette, were discernible from the top of Ilkley Moor. Descriptions of various gas illuminations were given.

50 Years Ago

A native of Ilkley, Mr. Edward Stephenson, was interviewed by the Gazette on his return from Melbourne Australia to Ilkley after an absence of 47 years.

Mr. Stephenson thought there had been a grave injustice done to the town by the closure of the quarries on the moors. He said that money was being lost to the town when building material was on the spot and that all the masons had now left Ilkley. Mr. Stephenson, himself a retired joiner, was amazed that speculative builders should be using brick for building purposes when it had not the lasting good looks of stonework. He praised however the "live Council" for their work in the gardens and the town centre, but commented on the number of visitors being far less whilst the number of private residents had grown so much. The population of the town fifty years ago was in fact 9,105 compared with 1,043 in 1861.

An offer by Mr. W. Hoffman Wood and Miss Wood of Hall Croft House, Addingham to subscribe 100 guineas for the acquisition and laying out of a playing field for the people of Addingham was discussed at the monthly meeting of Addingham Parish Council.

25 Years Ago

Owing to several cracks in the wall of the supply reservoir, Hill Top, Ilkley, about two million gallons of the town's water supply were lost during the first two weeks of July, 1952.

Headmaster of the Addingham Primary School for 29 years, Mr. William Lemmon, retired from his school activities. During his retirement Mr. Lemmon planned to develop more fully his study of the history of Addingham and the locality and also to maintain his interest in the new Youth Centre which was largely a product of his own initiative. He was to be succeeded by Mr. Sydney Simpson, formerly assistant headmaster of Otley Westgate Junior School.

Ilkley 1st Cricket team went to the top of the league by defeating D.P.&E. (Otley) by six wickets at Otley. J. Brumfitt, in good form, scored 53 not out against the D.P. & E. score of 115 all out. On the bowling side H. Sharples took three wickets for 17 runs, and C. Aldridge took three wickets for 37.

22/7/77

### ACROSS THE YEARS

## Main Sewage Scheme at Ilkley completed after six years

### 100 Years Ago

Six years after Ilkley Local Board had been strongly criticised for its "default of duty as to sewerage, and the abatement and inspection of nuisances from sewers and drains it was able to report that by July 1877 "rather more than three fourths of the streets and roads built upon, exclusive of Ben Rhydding, had now been sewered and the existing sewers connected. The ultimate cost of the whole was estimated to reach £13,000. The initial cost of nearly £11,000 was brought about by main outfall and branch sewers, 6,000 lineal yards, £6,000; seven and a half acres for purification works, £1,826; cost of purification works, exclusive of land, £3,000; total £10,826. Six years previously the Board had been told firmly that "Ilkley requires to be sewered, and its sewage diverted from the water courses. "The first re-action, said the Gazette, was an "absurd project for covering up the polluted ditches and water-courses, and the continued discharge into the river of their dangerous and offensive currents." Expert advice for the construction of a regular system of sewers with outfall purification was at length obtained and adopted and received the sanction of the Local Government Board. "Considerable delay, however, occurred in carrying out the Engineer's plans, partly from doubt as to the best method of sewage purification, and partly from the natural and excusable desire to keep off the additional burden on the rates as long as possible. The first contract, the main outfall sewer, was begun in 1875 since which time the several works have been vigorously pushed forward. The works in operation near Beanlands Island allowed space for extension. They could see at the present time a "muddy evil smelling current with a minimum flow of 210,000 gallons a day converted into a sparkling effluent not infrequently clearer than the pellucid Wharfe itself." The Board and their Engineer earned their congratulations on satisfactory results of their policy and labours.

### 75 Years Ago

The foundation stone of the Baptist Church in King's Road at Ilkley was laid in July, 1902, by Alderman J. C. Horsfall of Crosshills. Presiding over the occasion was Professor Medley of Rawdon College who commented that it was a great pity and indeed a shame that the work at Ilkley had not been started long before then—in fact the delay that had occurred was inexcusable. The growth of Ilkley from a pleasant little village and the number of Baptists who spent their holidays there created circumstances which were ideal for those concerned with the Baptist faith. The Rev. W. H. Ibberson who had retired to Ilkley from Sheffield had found new strength in the work of establishing the Ilkley Church and they were most grateful to him and to his helpers. Alderman Horsfall also spoke of the work of Mr. Ibberson. It was in the providence of God, he said, that Mr. Ibberson had come to Ilkley from Sheffield. There were 42 sets of plans sent in, those chosen being from Messrs. Garside and Bennington, architects of Castleford and Pontefract. They included "a handsome spire" on a square base.

At a meeting of the Ilkley Committee responsible locally

for Coronation celebration it was agreed that these be held on Saturday, 9 August. It was agreed that the programme drawn up for 27 June should take place then except where circumstances had brought about some change. The procession instead of returning to Brook Street was to march to Mr. Wray's field by the Addingham Road route. Children's sports would there occupy three hours from 3.30 p.m., and Mr. S. Kellett was again to bear the cost of the children's teas.

The new Congregational Hall in Leeds Road, Ilkley, was used for the first time at the end of July, 1902. The Rev. T. Hamer conducted the service.

### 50 Years Ago

Over a hundred babies invited to take part in "Baby-day" at Ilkley, and the Winter Gardens, Ilkley, "presented as bonny a picture as anyone could wish to see". Mothers and babies were entertained to tea followed by a special cinematograph exhibition. There was a competition for the best sets of answers to questions dealing with child welfare. The awards were to 1. Mrs. Thompson; 2. Mrs. Corkwell and 3. Mrs. Head.

A very heavy rainstorm brought an inch of rain to Ilkley during the course of two hours. Heavy rain caused the swollen streams from the moors to overflow which in turn flooded the main roads and held up motorists.

The speaker at the Speech day at Ilkley Grammar School was Dr. W. Russell Maltby who gave a witty address. The headmaster, Mr. N. L. Fraser said that although the school had 211 boy pupils, which was in close accord with the prosperity of the country there was a very poor response to their offer of entrance scholarships. For 17 vacancies there had been only 24 applicants and they were only able to elect 12 of these boys. He pointed out that in other similar townships there were far more County Minor Scholarship Pupils. In one particular case 80% were free scholars.

### 25 Years Ago

A party of 12 scouts from the 33rd Group (The Mohicans) of the Hague, Holland were to visit Ilkley in early August, 1952. A full programme had been planned for this fourth interchange of visits between 1st Ben Rhydding and the Dutch group including a camp near Ambleside in the Lake District, and excursions to York, Skipton and Bolton Abbey. The conclusion of the visit would be a stay at the Hag Dyke Hostel in Kettlewell.

When scaffolding on which they were working at a height of 16 feet at St. John's Flats, Queens Road, Ilkley, began to move, master joiner Arthur Bell and his apprentice decided to "jump for it". The apprentice was unhurt but Mr. Bell was admitted to St. James' Hospital later in the day with a fractured cheek bone.

Ilkley Cricket club lost their isolated position at the head of the league table as a result of a drawn game with Burley.

The outstanding feature of the Ilkley game was yet another century stand by R. Cliffe and J. Brumfit. During this game Cliffe brought the number of runs he had scored for Ilkley to over 1,000 and Brumfit was nearing a similar distinction with a score of 982.

2/8/77

### ACROSS THE YEARS

## Official visit to new Ilkley sewage works

### 100 Years Ago

The opening of the filtration beds at Ilkley was marked by an official visit to the works by members of the Ilkley Local Board's Street and Drainage Committee followed by a dinner at the Crescent Hotel where the party were the guests of Mr. James Rhodes, Chairman of the Committee. One thing was certain, observed the Ilkley Gazette, and that was that "the Board may well be proud of the works and compliment themselves on the fact that they have placed the town on a par, if not before, many places of greater pretensions in the matter of sewerage. The Engineer, was Mr. Pilleter of Leeds, and the contractor was Mr. William Plows of Ilkley.

Ilkley Parish Church Sunday School held their annual fete in excellent weather. They marched from the National Schools carrying their banners to the church where the Vicar, the Rev. John Snowdon, gave an address. They then marched back to school where a meal was served. The remainder of the proceedings consisted of a programme of games in a field in Little Lane.

Ilkley doctors were asked their views on the possible injurious effects of cart brakes noise on patients in the town. Their reply was awaited. One member of the Local Board said after watching carts travel down Wells Road without making any noise at all he had asked the drivers how this came about. One member said he had enquired of the driver of one cart which made no noise and was told that the brakes were made of old oak.

### 75 Years Ago

A public meeting convened by Mr. John Sunley to discuss the possibility of buying the Ilkley Hall and its gardens as a site for the Town Hall did not win the sympathy of the Ilkley Gazette. Mr. J. C. Naylor, who was voted to the chair "showed a lack of financial foresight most lamentable and the way in which he 'pulled up' Mr. Joseph Cooper and then gave himself the greatest possible latitude was a licence no fair minded man would have attempted to take." Mr. Sunley said the Ilkley Hall estate consisted of the hall and seven acres of land. Four gentlemen had bought it for £11,000 without reckoning interest and with subscriptions promised it could be secured at a cost to the town at something like £8,000. In addition to the present entrance in Wells Road, further entrances could be made

from Cowpasture Road and Crossbeck Road. There was some adverse criticism, especially from Mr. Cooper and Mr. J. Abbott, but a proposal to purchase the gardens without building a public hall was carried by a large majority. It was agreed that a Committee should be appointed to canvass the town and obtain the views of the ratepayers. Elected as the Committee were Messrs. J. C. Beanlands, Joe Beanlands, J. Sunley, George Smith, W. Tasker, L. T. Learoyd, J. W. Benson and W. Dean.

The Girls High School conducted by Miss May at Holme Lea held a prize distribution and at home at the Wells House Winter Garden. Mrs. F. F. Steintal presented the prizes and said lessons were like doors in a large house. They learned to unlock the first door and then went on through door after door each leading to a room of engaging and worthwhile things. Mr. F. Swann, headmaster of Ilkley Grammar School, had been asked to take the chair, but found his duties permitted only a late arrival. His place was taken by the Vicar of St. Margaret's, the Rev. Irton Smith. Thanks to Mrs. Steintal and to Mr. Smith were expressed by the Rev. F. H. Blanchford, Minister of the Congregational Church.

### 50 Years Ago

Four days of glorious weather marked August Bank Holiday weekend, fifty years ago. Visitors poured on to the moors from the buses and trains and there were long queues at all the cafes at tea-time. As the weather was so good the streets of the town were nearly empty. The holiday-makers were on the moors in their hundreds, either walking or luxuriously lazing amidst bracken and heather. Charabancs and specially chartered buses headed North and West through the town to Blackpool, Morecambe and the Lake District, and the traffic on the main road was abnormally heavy.

An extension was made to one of the oldest established businesses in the district when Messrs. Dacre and Sons, the chartered surveyors and auctioneers and estate agents opened their new offices at 11 The Grove.

### 25 Years Ago

Rain spoiled the August Bank Holiday weekend in 1952. It was one of the wettest recorded for many years. There were only a few visitors to the town, and the gate for the benefit cricket match for the Ilkley groundsman professional R. Cliffe was very small.

A holiday tonic was however provided by the Ilkley Players' production of Walter Greenwood's Lancashire comedy "A Cure for Love." Geoff Ingle, Betty Muscham, Mabel Harrison, Mary Ambler, Dorothy Penwick, Rona Illingworth and Harold Cockcroft gave fine performances in the leading parts and the play was produced by Edgar Paley.

Ilkley Lawn Tennis Club tennis tournament had a record post-war entry of 356 competitors and there were over 700 matches played. This was worthy of a tribute to the organisation as matches had to be rushed on to the courts immediately the rain ceased.

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ACROSS THE YEARS

Public Market suggestion for land off Brook Street

100 Years Ago

The area behind Brook Street and the Grove which today is a car park was designated as a place for a public market by the Lord of the Manor over 100 years ago. In 1877 it was pointed out to the Local Board that this land was to form a part of the next Middleton land sales and the suggestion made that it be bought by the Local Board for the purpose of carrying out the original intention. A resolution was accepted that "a Committee be appointed to confer as to the desirability of purchasing land in Cunliffe Road for the purposes of a public market." Appointed as the Committee were Messrs. John Milner, J. Rhodes, H. J. Cooke, W. Hartley, G. Newbould, M. Hainsworth and W. Robinson. The *Ikley Gazette* advised against the idea. It would be a serious mistake, it maintained, to spend a large sum of money for the purchase of this land for a market. There would be no advantage to local residents in such a market, it would not attract visitors and a place of rendezvous would fulfil a long felt want. Certain advantages were being obtained by some local people over arrangements they had made with the Local Board for the supply of water. On the other hand there were others who were having to pay quite large amounts for the privilege. Mr. W. Rhodes had no doubt that there were people who were avoiding the payment of water rents and he looked forward to the time when everyone had to pay a water rate.

75 Years Ago

*Ikley Swimming Club* earned the congratulations of its president, Dr. Johnstone, on the way it had taken over the Swimming Baths in Leeds Road and achieved various alterations and improvements. It had now a membership of over 200, was solvent and progressing, and was a fine example to other clubs in the town, he said. Mr. J. W. Benson also praised the Club for its endeavour and said

25 Years Ago

The water leakage from Hill Top reservoir was stopped, with the *Ikley* reservoirs containing a supply of water equal to only 31 days at a normal rate of draw. Consumers were therefore asked to exercise the strictest economy.

Mrs. Janet S. Thorp, Regent Road, *Ikley* was included in the list of new Justices of the Peace and became a member of the Otley bench.

About 60 members and friends of *Burley Sports Club* paid tribute to the late Mr. Harold Brearley when a plaque was unveiled on the Cricket Club score-box to his memory. The ceremony was performed by Mr. W. Harrison of *Burley Woodhead* who had originated the scheme.

Complaints that the streets of *Ikley* were being used for training soldiers to drive lorries were voiced at a meeting of the *Ikley Road Safety Committee*. The Army appeared to be using the Grove in *Ikley* as a training ground, and Harrogate and Ripon were similarly affected.

he had strong views on the question of providing public baths in the town.

Considerable activity followed an intimation that the county rate precept for the *Ikley* Township was to be increased from £57,800 to £59,700. A vestry meeting was held to consider what procedure should be taken and a formal notice of appeal was given against the proposals. It was arranged that Mr. T. Pate, Assistant Overseer, and Mr. Frank Hall, Clerk to *Ikley* Council, should see Mr. Vibart Dixon, Clerk to the West Riding County Rating Committee. The result of this meeting was that a reduction of £700 in the new County Rate Basis was made by the Committee. This was accepted by *Ikley* in settlement of the matter.

Preparations for the coronation festivities were increasing and the front of the Constitutional Club was "being adorned with various temporary fittings for illumination purposes" reported the *Gazette*. Mr. Jesse Fry at his works in Railway Road had for some weeks been preparing gas devices. Most of the shops had coronation devices on offer. Mr. W. A. Johnson at his Brook Street confectionary had on view "a magnificent coronation cake weighing about 300 pounds and believed to be the largest of its kind in Yorkshire."

*Ikley* will not only be adorned by coronation features in the next few weeks but also by Nature herself, said the *Gazette*. The early summer appeared to have brought about a simultaneous blossoming of almost all the flower-bearing trees. Hawthorn blossom especially was most pleasing.

50 Years Ago

For weeks Ben Rhydding had been the centre of animated discussions as to whether or not the Sports Club should be open for games to be played on Sundays. The matter came to a head with a meeting of the members who voted against the Sunday opening by 75 votes to 33. The Vicar, the Rev. W. Mulholland felt games on Sunday would have had a serious effect on Sunday School attendance. Mr. J. P. Dorman could see no valid objections to Sunday tennis, it had been muted that introduction of tennis on Sundays would lead to the introduction of a licence into the club but said he shuddered to think of a licence in the club and nothing could be further from his mind.

Despite rain acting as an annual "spoilsport" the garden fete of the *Ikley Cricket Club* and *Bowling Club* provided "merry sports and competitions" were provided for the visitors. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. J. E. Crowther father of Mr. R. A. Crowther, secretary of the club. The most attractive competition was undoubtedly the children's fancy dress and prizes were awarded to—Madge Sheehy, Peggy Martyn, Molly Sheehy, Dorothy Bott, George Sheehy, Michael McCarthy, Kenneth Stott, Edward Lomas and the competition was judged by Mrs. Crebbin and Miss Geipel.

19/8/77

ACROSS THE YEARS

Further portions of Middleton Estate offered for sale

100 Years Ago

Further portion of the Middleton Estates were offered for sale at the end of August, 1877. They included land with frontages to Cunliffe Road, Hawksworth Street, land bounded by Wheatley Raikes and the Moor, Clifton Road and Nesfield Road, and land between the Ben Rhydding establishment and the Highfield Estate. "They were all" said the solicitors Constable and Maskell, "sites for residences with views and health promoting surroundings altogether unrivalled in this beautiful healthy district". The sale was to take place at the Middleton Hotel, *Ikley*, and the auctioneers were Hepper and Sons.

The third annual show of the *Ikley Floral and Horticultural Society* was held in the "commodious field in Leeds Road through the generosity of Mr. Sherlock". Mr. T. Horsman and Mr. L. Horner were responsible for two large displays of greenhouse and other plants. Taking into account the cold season experienced the show was an improvement over the previous two years and the exhibitors were worthy of commendation for the way they had triumphed over difficulties, said the *Gazette*. "During the afternoon the *Ikley Brass Band* discoursed sweet music to the delight of those assembled in which they were assisted by the *Yeadon Temperance Drum and Fife Band*. In the evening a gala was held in the field and the *Ikley Band* played for dancing. There were some sports in the shape of a tug of war and climbing the greasy pole. About £35 was taken at the gates".

At a special meeting of the *Ikley Local Board* Messrs. Milner, Newbould and Beaulands were appointed to serve as guardians on the Education Committee established in connection with the Guardians at Otley.

75 Years Ago

*Ikley* had moors, richly wooded slopes and verdant pastures; it greatest need was not more gardens or pleasure grounds but a large centrally situated building which could be used for concerts, dramatic performances and entertainments of all kinds, and of such character as to be suitable for day trippers to flock to in wet weather, said the *Ikley Gazette* commenting on an attempt to buy the *Ikley Hall* gardens. If the museum could be housed there and a free library provided, all the better. Day trippers did not come to *Ikley* to spend their time in a public

park. They came to wander on the moors, by the river, view the charming scenery and get as much fresh air as possible. If the weather turned out wet and they could not do this the outing was a great disappointment and under such circumstances a place where shelter and amusement could be obtained would prove to be very cheap. The *Ikley Hall* Gardens could be dirt cheap but things that were not needed were sometimes dear at a gift, especially if there is a perpetual cost attached to them.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of acquiring a site for a Cottage hospital and preparing plans etc. for a suitable building met for the first time in the Council room on the Grove. Mr. F. Hall, clerk to the Council, intimated that it would not be convenient for him to act as secretary as the meetings of the hospital committee would clash with those of the Council and its Committees. Mr. George Priestman was appointed secretary on the understanding that the appointment should be for one year only. Mr. B. Nussey was appointed chairman and Mr. F. B. Muff treasurer. The remainder of the Committee elected by means of a ballot was: Mr. S. Kelleit, Mr. C. J. Muff, Dr. Bampton, Mr. A. W. Bain, Dr. Scott, Mr. J. T. Jackson, Mr. F. F. Steinthall, Rev. Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Johnstone.

50 Years Ago

A record high rainfall was reported for the month after only 18 days had passed in August, 1927, with 5.59 inches falling, a phenomenal amount for such a short space of time.

Mr. William Bradley, a well known motor cycle competition rider, and an *Addingham* garage proprietor was seriously injured in a collision with a motor car between *Ikley's* new Council housing site and *Wheatley Lane*. He was admitted to the *Ikley Coronation Hospital* with a compound fracture of the right leg and a broken collar bone.

A peculiar accident occurred in Station Road, *Burley*. Mr. Charles Bailey, a milkman of Peel Place drove his horse and float out of *Langford Lane* into Station Road when a motor cycle ridden by Mr. C. Grimshaw of *Calverley* skidded on the greasy road, and his machine shot between the horse's front legs. The horse fell on the motor cycle and the motor cyclist on top of the horse. Mr. Bailey was thrown forward but stuck to the reins. He then got out and held the animal's head whilst the machine was drawn from underneath it. The pony only suffered a few scratches and the motor cyclist was unhurt, the only damage being to the machine.

25 Years Ago

County Major scholarships, awards tenable at universities for degree courses, were awarded to *Ikley* students as follows—R. A. Peace, C. J. Stillman, and D. Wilson. County University exhibitions: Catherine Carter, Mary Farrar and G. D. Rhodes. County bursaries: A. F. Barringer, J. P. Bradley, and J. A. Rose. A County bursary was awarded to external candidate D. W. Hinchcliffe of *Fettes College*, *Edinburgh*, whose home was in *Ben Rhydding*.

Mr. Neil Jackson of *Southway, Ikley*, a graduate of *Leeds University* had a remarkable escape from serious injury when he fell 35 feet from an overhead crane at a *Rotherham* steelworks. Mr. Jackson suffered only superficial bruises and a fractured right wrist. Mr. Jackson was the *Ikley Rugby Club* wing forward and would not be available for play in the 1952-3 season.

Beryl Myers (15) of *Westwood Drive, Ikley*, a pupil of *Ikley Grammar School* returned home after spending two weeks at the *International Guide Camp* at *Beaconsfield*, as the *Wharfedale* representative of the *Guide* movement. *Lady Baden-Powell* flew to *England* from the *World conference* in *Norway* to attend the farewell campfire on the last night.

**Fewer attended a further sale of Middelton plots**

**100 Years Ago**

There were not so many present as on the previous occasions at a further sale of Middelton property, in late August, 1877, reported the Gazette. The competition was very dull, it said, so much so indeed that it required "a considerable amount of the auctioneer's well known eloquence and tact to secure a bid at all." The lots included sites suitable for the erection of shops and business premises in the centre of the town "whilst others, situated at the Ben Rhydding or East side of Ilkley were specially adapted for villas and residential properties." Mr. James Rhodes bought several sites in the Cunliffe Road area, the price being from 4s. to 8s. a yard. Mr. J. Croft was another purchaser in this area and a Mr. Brown. Plots in the Ben Rhydding area were sold to several different buyers all apparently intending to build there. Some of these fetched up to £400.

A heavy downpour of rain spoiled the annual festivities in connection with the different friendly societies of the village of Addingham. Three bands took part in the procession in the morning and in the afternoon the Ilkley Brass Band played for dancing in the field next to the Swan Hotel. There was a concert in the evening in the Odd Fellows Hall. The Gazette complained that it had not been able to obtain a copy of the reports with the exception of the Addingham

**25 Years Ago**

A communist slogan was painted on the Calfe Rock on Ilkley Moor reading "Nazis—Lidice—1945. British—Malaya 1952." in neat letters two and a half feet high. Twenty five years later, despite being obliterated by Ilkley Council workmen, this slogan is still legible. The work must have been done during the night, using ladders or ropes from the top, as there are no foot-holes on this face of the rock.

A number of relics of Roman Ilkley were found to have been stolen from a showcase in the Ilkley Museum, which had been forced open. The discovery of the theft was made by Mr. Graham Teasdale, Secretary of the Ilkley Museum Club. The missing objects included an amber pendant or whorl believed to be the only one of its kind in the country, some painted pottery beads, a number of gaming counters and two bone pickers. All the relics were originally found in a vase on the site of the Midland Hotel.

Ben Rhydding Sports Club raised £37 for the Lynmouth Disaster fund by means of a cricket match against the Australian Rugby League tourists. The Australian team won with two wickets to spare. The players were entertained to tea by Mr. Tom Dance, and they included Brian Stott, a Yorkshire Colt, and Don Brennan, the Yorkshire wicket-keeper, who made 60 runs.

2/9/77

Foresters Society who showed a membership of 83 and funds amounting to £920.

**75 Years Ago**

Allegations of contempt shown by the Ilkley Urban Council to the scheme for providing a new bridge as part of the extension from the bottom of Brook Street to the Middelton side of the river were referred to at the September meeting of the Council. It was said that an intimation that a scheme had been abandoned had now been withdrawn and the Syndicate responsible for the scheme wished to resume proceedings where they had been left off previously. There was comment from the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Jackson, that the Ilkley newspapers which claimed to represent the views of the ratepayers had completely opposite views, the Free Press supporting the Syndicate while the Gazette considered the town was making good progress as it was. After a lengthy discussion with frank comment it was agreed to refer the matter back for discussion in Committee. It was said that the total estimated expenditure in respect of a new bridge would be £17,000 and that the County Council was prepared to contribute £6,250 towards this cost. The Urban District Council was expected to undertake the entire and exclusive liability for the future maintenance and repair and cleansing of the new bridge, roadway and approaches and connections with the existing streets and roads as a public bridge and highway available for the public at large. The bridge was estimated to cost £9,600, the cost of the road from Brook Street to the bridge £1,410 10s., the cost of New Brook Street to Denton Road £1,215 5s., road works on the bridge £192, purchase of two public houses for improvement of bottom of Brook Street, improvements to bottom of Brook Street £260.

The last of the PSA outings in the vicinity of the Tarn was held on a Sunday afternoon in September and was largely attended. It was announced that on the following Sunday the PSA Hall in North Parade would be opened for the first time. The formal opening, however, would not be held until the end of September.

**50 Years Ago**

The massed country dance festival which took place on the moors at Burley Woodhead was the idea of Mrs. Chorley and Mr. H. C. Smith, and included demonstrations of folk-dancing by teams from Leeds, Hartshead, Burley and Wharfedale. A pageant depicted Wharfedale in pre-historic times with primitive tribesmen swarming over the moors, then a scene depicting early Christianity in Wharfedale, and a group scene showing the happy times of Chaucer with an "Inn scene" with the villagers.

Ilkley Urban District Council were considering the possibility of installing electricity in the home on a system of hire purchase, and the Electricity Engineer, Mr. E. J. Jarvis, was to investigate the possibilities.

"A drenching August" was the description of the month in 1927 as the rainfall total was 7.47 inches. The river was consistently high rushing through the branches of the overhanging trees.

The Second Company of Ilkley Ranger Guides spent a week in St. Malo, Brittany, with their leader, Miss Wray.

**Training call for firemen had mixed results**

**100 Years Ago**

A sudden call out of the Ilkley Fire Brigade on a Saturday evening for training purposes had mixed results. The alarm was given by means of the old "fire Bell," an article of apparently somewhat limited voice, but it did have the result of calling "some of the brave men to duty." After some little delay the hose was brought out and leisurely conveyed up Brook Street to the supposed scene of conflagration in Wells Promenade where the hose was fixed and a fine jet of water was played across the end of Manor Villas. About 40 minutes elapsed between the time of the first call and the appearance of the Fire Brigade, with their hose, at the said place of action, but the most amusing part of the affair is the fact that about an hour after the warning had been given one of the firemen was asking if the fire bell had been ringing. The Gazette went on, "We consider this is a very strange state of affairs, and suggest that a larger bell be put up, and that the men be more efficiently trained in responding to a call with more alacrity, for in so doing they will confer a great boon on the public who in their turn will place reliance on the men who form our gallant Fire Brigade."

The attendance at a concert at the Working Men's Hall, as usual was very poor, reported the Gazette, in a report of an event given in response to a suggestion that it was more of such entertainments that the village required. "It has never been our lot to witness such a meagre assemblage at a high class concert and we hope that no more will be said by the far seeing and infinitely wise public on the policy of 'getting up' concerts, dramatic entertainments or other recreations for the attraction of visitors after the very miserable sprinkling of residents as well as visitors who countenanced with their presence Mr. Alfred Moorhouse and his talented company.

**75 Years Ago**

A highly successful season was being enjoyed in Ilkley in 1902. Visitors were more numerous and were able to wander over the moor without being challenged as to their right to do so. The moors were in the main covered with heather in full bloom. Hotels and hydros were all fully booked and some visitors were unable to obtain accommodation. One change from the usual programme was brought by a decision of the tradesmen to hold a visit to Blackpool, instead of the black hat and white hat cricket match. A suggested reason was that interest in the match had tended to languish in recent years.

Volunteers returning from service in the South African war found that whereas they were in work when they went to South Africa there was no job to come back to. Employers had a right to decide matters for themselves said the Gazette, though the treatment of returned volunteers the country over hardly reflected the patriotic spirit that had been expected. "The war fever is now dead and for these men to complain of their treatment is only to court replies of a character implying that they had 'more brains than sense' ever to go out. Yet we cannot close our

26/8/77

eyes to the fact that England owes a great deal to the brave fellows who voluntarily went out to South Africa and who added a glorious page to the nations history. Now that they have returned home the least that can be done is to find the men employment of some kind or another. Two of the Ilkley men, we are pleased to say, started work this week."

**50 Years Ago**

Proposals for the much needed widening of Springs Lane, Ilkley, so long under discussion, and so much needed were thought to be at last going to receive approval from the London Midland and Scottish and London and North Eastern Railway companies. Mr. F. Shackleton, chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council Highways Committee had met with representatives of the railway companies who owned the land and whose refusal to part with it led to the continual postponement of the very necessary improvement

and he hoped that their approval would be received.

Record bags were reported after the opening of the grouse shooting season in the Wharfedale district. Most were more than double that of the previous year. The King, with the Duke of Devonshire's party at Bolton Abbey was a member of a shooting party which had bagged over 2,000 brace of grouse over the first five days. His presence had proved a strong attraction to holiday makers and residents alike and many Ilkley people visited Bolton Abbey to see the shooting party return in the evenings. He followed his usual custom of attending the Sunday morning service at Bolton Abbey, the seats for which were set aside chiefly for tenants on the Duke of Devonshire's estate, but a large crowd of visitors from the West Riding and also East Lancashire watched the King walk from the Hall to the church.

**25 Years Ago**

The fifth Australian Rugby League touring party to make Ilkley their headquarters arrived in the town, which they were to make their headquarters until Dec. 1952. They consisted of 28 players, two managers and a trainer. They had been met at Tisbury docks by a group of officials of the British Rugby League. They arrived at the Troutbeck Hotel and were greeted by the proprietor, Mr. Alec Keay. They were later accorded a Civic reception to Ilkley by Mr. Eric Wolfe, Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council, accompanied by Mrs. F. S. Hampshire, Mr. B. E. Townend (Clerk), Mr. C. A. Reeve, and Mrs. G. A. Collinson, Secretary of Ben Rhydding Sports Club, who ground they were to use for training sessions.

Visitors to an open day at Wharfedale Children's Hospital to mark the opening of a new ward were told that although there were then 60 beds and a waiting list of patients, 19 of the beds were unused owing to shortage of staff, particularly night nurses. The hospital, formerly the Wharfedale Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases had been adapted in stages for use as a long stay children's hospital, with a minimum length of stay of six months. The visitors were welcomed by Mr. F. Arnold Foster, of Ilkley, chairman of the Hospital Committee, and the matron, Miss M. Reid Brown. A concert was "staged" by some of the young patients who had been trained by Mrs. S. Greenwood and there was a punch and Judy show by Mr. Jack Gardner and a film show given by Mr. Toothill of Weetwood, Menston.

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## Difficulties Confronting the Ilkley Fire Brigade

100 Years Ago

75 Years Ago

After hearing reports of the state of the Fire Brigade, Ilkley Local Board in 1877 appointed a Committee to go into the whole matter. An account of the difficulties confronting the Brigade had appeared in the Gazette following a training call, and Mr. J. Hammond, a member of the Board, said as a result of that he had accompanied Mr. Hudson of the Bradford Brigade to the Old Gas Yard. They rang the bell, but there was response from only a few members, possibly because several were on holiday. Those who did arrive found the reel carts under old cart bodies, a pair of old bellows and other sundries. Two lengths of best hose had been used for cleaning drains and when extricated were mouldy, damp and leaky and if a fire had to break out they would be no good. It took fully ten minutes to clear the reels. A further difficulty was that the fire bell sounded very much like the High School bell and it was most difficult to tell which was which. It transpired that one of the fire plugs had not been put in and others did not ensure a full pressure of water. Mr. H. J. Cooke suggested that the Committee could not be blamed for the deficiencies but some improvements were obviously necessary. There was a need for a place to dry the hose, a depth of some 25 feet from floor to ceiling was required; there was also a need for a place to store the reel carts and to dry the firemen's uniforms. A committee was appointed to deal with these matters.

It was reported to the Local Board meeting in September, 1877, that the School attendance meeting held at Otley that afternoon had considered it desirable to form a local committee comprising the townships of Ilkley, Nesfield and Middleton for the purpose of finding the best means to enforce the compulsory clauses of the Education Act, and to take steps for working them. The chief difficulty was obtaining a place where such a committee could meet on a Friday afternoon.

of Miss Anne Shepherd. The opening ceremony was performed by Princess Mary, assisted by the Burley Guides, Hilda Sykes, Jean Wilkinson, Ella Hustwick and Annie McGlenn. The ceremony was written especially for the event by Miss Shepherd.

### 25 Years Ago

Ben Rhydding Methodist Church Youth Fellowship held their first annual competition, exhibition and whist drive in September, 1952. This originated during the Festival of Britain, with the Junior Guild promoting a series of drama, music, art and handicraft competitions, and challenging other organisations within the church to compete. The highlight was a play entitled "Safe Custody" with Mary Greenhalgh, Michael Glover, Pat Jarman, Jacqueline Justice, Mabel Mann and Roger Stringer taking part.

Robert Bros. announced the coming of a mammoth circus to the Little Lane Field. The star attractions included a herd of baby elephants, performing bears, a boxing kangaroo, circus horses and lions. Prices for seats ranged from 1/6 to 6/-.

Several hundred people from all parts of the country attended the opening ceremony of the new extension to Glen Rosa, the Ilkley Methodist Home for the Aged. The ceremony was performed by Lady Martin, with Mr. J. Arthur Stead presiding.

An eight year old boy whose most promising musical career was ended as a soldier in the First World War, won the first prize for pianoforte playing at the Summerscales Competition at Keighley at the end of September, 1902. He was Edgar Earnshaw, son of Mr. J. A. Earnshaw, organist and choir-master of the Ilkley Congregational Church and music teacher in later years at Ilkley Grammar School and Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley. The September competition was open to pianists under 20 years of age born in the West Riding of Yorkshire and Edgar was the youngest competitor ever to take supreme honours. He won the silver medal and two guineas. For his own choice, "Les Sylphides" by Chaminade, he was awarded 100 marks out of 100 by the adjudicator, Mr. Frederick Dawson. There were 31 competitors who played Beethoven's Rondo in G Major and four were chosen for the evening final. Edgar continued to make a notable impact at other Festivals and his death whilst serving his country was a lasting blow to his parents.

The final activities to mark the coronation of King Edward VII postponed from June owing to His Majesty's operation, and then by an epidemic of measles at the local schools, were held at the end of September. The school children were entertained to tea at the expense of Mr. S. Kellert, and received a medal from Mr. J. T. Jackson, Chairman of the Council. A total of 2,000 took part. A cricket match and athletic sports kept the children entertained during the afternoon and some £40 worth of prizes were offered for competition. In the evening on the moor to the east of Wells House "a capital firework display took place."

General Sir John French and Lady French were the guests of Mrs. Wormald at Denton Hall on the occasion of their visit to Yorkshire to carry out a series of engagement. Ben Rhydding station was largely used for his transport and hundreds gathered there whenever he was using the trains. Thousands of people assembled in the streets of Leeds and at Leeds railway station. A closed carriage drawn by two horses was used for the journey between Denton Hall and Ben Rhydding station.

### 50 Years Ago

The King's Hall was crowded when a recital of His Master's Voice and Columbia gramophones and records was arranged by Mr. A. Dobson of the Station Approach. The seating arrangement in the hall proved to be inadequate and seats had to be placed in the gangways. Even then many people stood in the hall. The programme was varied and ranged from massed brass bands, dance music, to birds' songs at dawn.

There was a crying need for houses to be built by Ilkley Council in the town in 1927. There was a waiting list of 140 people still to be housed and no building in progress.

The presentation of a barograph, an instrument to record the rise and fall of the barometer, was made to Mr. T. H. Firth, Chairman of Ilkley Council, by his fellow councillors to mark the occasion of his forthcoming marriage.

A party of Girl Guides from Burley attended the opening ceremony of a new Guide Centre, Waddow Hall at Clitheroe, under the leadership

## Addingham decides to light the streets by Gas

100 Years Ago

After a few weeks of general excitement, the important topic of lighting up the streets by gas at Addingham came to a climax with a public meeting at the Parish School, reported in the Gazette in late October 1877. Mr. Richard Sandham was in the chair and after reading the notice calling the meeting he was immediately challenged by Mr. Hey of Farfield Hall. A proposition by Mr. George Whitaker and Mr. Samuel Walton that the Lighting Act be adopted was countered by an amendment by Mr. John Jackson of Lumb Gill and Mr. John Dean that the Lighting Act be not adopted. For the proposition there were 178 votes and for the amendment 32. The result was announced amid "loud cheers." Mr. Hey explained that notices had not been placed in the church as was required but in view of the attitude of the ratepayers at the meeting he did not wish to cause them further expense and would not press for a poll. There was no demand from anyone else for a poll. Mr. Whitaker then moved that the meeting proceed with the business of appointing five inspectors and there were elected Messrs. W. Breare, S. Walton, G. Lowe, W. Bland and R. H. Hey. The last named was elected amidst applause and without a single dissentient voice.

A prosecution before a full bench of magistrates was said to be really due to the "bad feeling of the Denton property owners towards the Margerison family" when Mr. Ellis Margerison was charged with illegally shooting partridges. Fred Holmes, a gamekeeper of Denton, said he was on land on the opposite side of the River Wharfe to Margerison, who was shooting on his own land. He was told by another game watcher that he had seen Margerison kill one partridge and himself had seen Margerison pick up two partridges. Defendant was fined 20s. and also had to pay expenses.

Mr. G. Parratt was appointed as pinder for the Local Board at a salary of £10 per year.

### 75 Years Ago

Mr. Thomas James Critchley, who led an active life in the town and had much to do with the development of Ilkley in the second half of the last century died at the age of 70 in 1902. He was born at the Manor House Inn in Darley Street, Bradford.

and came to Ilkley in 1842 on his father's retirement. After serving an apprenticeship to the drapery trade he succeeded to the business of a Mr. Cockshott who was established on the left hand side of Wells Road walking up the hill to the moor. He was a member of the Ilkley Parish Church Choir, the old Choral Union, and the Bradford Subscription concerts. He transferred to premises now occupied by Lloyds Bank. Mr. Critchley helped to form the Ilkley Cricket Club, the Ilkley Angling Club, and was an Overseer of the Poor along with Mr. John Shuttleworth, founder of the Ilkley Gazette. Prior to the formation of the Local Board he was a member of the Special Vestry that had control of local affairs and was the treasurer to the Local Committee that first had to do with the lighting of Ilkley by gas. At his death he was the only original member of the Trust Committee of the Ilkley National Schools. He was a member of the Schools Board and when the Tradespeople's Association was formed a year before his death he became its first president. Following a service at St. Margaret's Church interment took place at Ilkley Cemetery and was attended by a large number of people. Choirs of Ilkley All Saints and St. Margaret's Church were in attendance, the organist was Mr. Isaac Hirst, and the officiating clergyman was the Rev. Irtan Smith, Vicar of St. Margaret's assisted by the Rev. H. R. Hughes, curate.

To mark 25 years of efficient service as Headmistress of the Girls Department of the Ilkley National a subscription list was opened with the object of making some suitable presentation to Miss Jowett.

### 50 Years Ago

James K. Watson, the eighteen year old son of Mr. J. Watson of Craigie Lea, Ben Rhydding, set sail for the U.S.A. in the President Roosevelt of the United States shipping line. His trip was an award for writing the best Oratorical address on a patriotic subject, in which competition over 500 students from Grammar schools and secondary schools competed. Students from other parts of the world were to meet at an all winners meeting in Washington to deliver in person their prize winning addresses in front of President and Mrs. Coolidge.

Five Oaks, a handsome, three storey residence standing in lovely grounds, in Ben Rhydding Drive was completely gutted by fire, apart from the billiard room in the basement. It was the most serious fire to take place in the district for many years. The house was then the property of Mr. W. E. Kneale, who had lived there for several years, and had been advertised for sale, and he was not in residence at the time. The fire was discovered by two maids at the house of a near neighbour hearing a heavy crash, they then saw Five Oaks blazing and raised the alarm. There was at least damage of £10,000, as the house contained a quantity of valuable antiques.

### 25 Years Ago

A Retreat House for Women was opened at the Briery, Victoria Avenue, Ilkley. It was to be run by the Sisters of the Cross and Passion who had already occupied the convent in Ilkley for 30 years.

Mr. Sam Rayner, the well known bowls player added to his long list of successes by winning the Ilkley Bowling Annual Cup and the Platts Trophy. Mr. Rayner defeated Mr. J. Preston the Club President to win the cup for the eighth time.

Ilkley won their first Rugby game of the season, with Peter Atkinson playing a fine game as full-back and scoring the goal to give Ilkley victory.

Ilkley Cricket Club became champions of the Airedale and Wharfedale League by the defeat of their only rivals, North Leeds and Hall Park, although Ilkley had no league match.

Sub-standard nylon stockings were on offer at a local store for 6/2 per pair, hosiery being a very expensive item at the comparative cost of living 25 years ago, when in the same advertisement a pure wool fine knitted jumper was available for 11/6, and fur trimmed pure wool coats at £9.



16/9/77

## Runaway horses cause accidents, one fatal at Ilkley

100 Years Ago

Runaway horses in September, 1877, were concerned in accidents at Ilkley, one of which proved fatal. A young man was driving a horse and cart down Wells Road into Brook Street at the time two elephants from Wombwell's circus were being paraded. The horse took fright and dashed off "at a furious speed." A wheel of the cart passed over Miss Catherine Upton and she died within a few minutes. A five year old boy who was riding on the cart at the time was thrown to the ground with great force. He was picked up and the help of Dr. Johnstone obtained. After a couple of days in which he was in a precarious condition he began to improve. A verdict of "accidental death" was returned at the inquest conducted by Mr. T. A. Brown on the lady victim.

The strains from a German band is believed to have startled the horse attached to a cart from which coal was being delivered in Weston Street and as it ran away it cleared the corners of Weston Street and Brook Street without trouble. Attempting to turn into Railway Road, however, there was a collision with a wall and one of the cart shafts was broken. The horse suffered no more than a scratch.

Only the visit of Wombwell's collection of animals prevented the Ilkley Feast from being a very tame affair, said the Ilkley Gazette, in September, 1877. There was nothing stirring to amuse holiday makers except a few stalls in Brook Street and in a field at the rear of the Wheat Sheaf Hotel. There were again complaints about the situation at the railway station where it was not possible to determine the destination of trains and passengers were running from one platform to another seeking information. Unfortunately there was no porter available to give the information they were seeking.

Speaking at a meeting of the Board of Guardians, an Inspector from the Local Government Board warned the guardians to be careful about increasing the pauperising spirit in the district by allowing school fees to children whose parents were in good circumstances. At the same meeting the Rev. T. Evans said there used to be a pride in parents to educate their children, but now they looked upon the nation to do it for them.

75 Years Ago

To mark Ilkley Feast Week local people took advantage of the railway excursions to Scarborough on the Monday and Morecambe on the Tuesday. Ilkley tradesmen instead of playing their usual cricket match on the Wednesday supported the excursion to Blackpool, 450 taking part. Ilkley Town Band accompanied the party and provided music during the luncheon.

Members of the Ilkley Postal Staff gave a complimentary dinner to one of their number, Corporal T. H. Newton, on his return from service in South Africa. He had been called up as a reservist on the outbreak of war and arrived in South Africa in November. He served under Lord Methuen at Magersfontein and afterwards under Lord Roberts. He was a postman at Ilkley and a reservist with the Army Service Corps when he was called up. Some 30 colleagues attended the event at the Listers Arms Hotel with the Ilkley postmaster, Mr. J. H. Marshall, in the chair, and handing over during the proceedings "a handsome Vienna hanging timepiece." Songs and recitations were contributed by Messrs. L. Powell, J. W. Parratt, G. W. Thompson, H. Crowther, W. E. Vickers, H. Mangham and J. Beacock.

50 Years Ago

As a result of heavy rain-fall in the early part of the week the River Wharfe rose several feet, and overflowed its banks at several points. The water came up with remarkable suddenness during the night, causing sheep and cattle to be trapped by the floods and in some cases the owners had to swim to effect a rescue operation. Portions of the roadway were flooded above and below Ilkley particularly badly between Ben Rhydding and Burley.

The Ilkley Tradesman's Cricket match of 1927 had to be played in pouring rain. The thought that after 47 years the match be abandoned seemed intolerable and the wickets were pitched and every step taken squelched and splashed. Mr. J. W. Townend captained the winning White Hat team, and Mr. C. Thresh was the captain of the Black hats. It was a match that members of both teams would be unlikely to forget for the rest of their days.

The annual dinner was more enjoyable and this was held following the match at the Star Hotel presided over by Mr. Wood. The toast to the trade and the town of Ilkley was given by Mr. F. S. Eckersley.

25 Years Ago

Mr. A. E. Gee retired after 42 years service with the Ilkley Urban District Council, 22 of which he had been Chief Collector. He joined that department after leaving Ilkley Grammar school in 1910. Mr. Gee was the holder of the Coronation medal which he was awarded when King George VI was crowned in 1937.

A former Ilkley man, Lt. P. F. M. Milner R.N., was awarded the Royal Humane Society's medal for his attempt to rescue two bathers at Umhloti Beach on the Natal coast. Although he was deeply cut on his limbs and body, Lt. Milner showed no regard for his own safety and succeeded in pulling out one of the bathers alive.

Ilkley cricket club scored a comfortable win against Menston who were dismissed for 74 runs with Sharples taking seven wickets for 23 runs. The top scoring batsman for Ilkley was P. H. Brumfitt who scored 53 not out including one 6 and seven 4's.

Dancing classes, and dancing clubs were getting in the swing for the forthcoming winter season. The Essoldo Ballroom being well used each week, as well as the larger dances at the King's Hall and the leading hotels.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

## Signs-posts lack confuses Rail Passengers

100 Years Ago

Supporting the complaint about what had happened in the Ilkley Railway Station at Ilkley Feast on Sunday, a correspondent in the Gazette said it was perfectly true that every passenger who entered the platform from the booking office could not tell where either of the two trains waiting there was bound for and as a consequence there was a large amount of confusion, especially as most of the seats were taken. Had there been either a direction board or a porter a great deal of trouble would have been avoided.

A Burley doctor asked to attend a man lying unconscious in the street after falling from a horse at Burley in Wharfedale said he was unable to go out because he was suffering from rheumatism and a pain at the heart. The patient did not recover and died the following day. Three people pleaded with the Burley doctor to give attention to the man but he declined to do so and a doctor from Otley had to be fetched. This was alleged at the inquest. Two men who were with the man at the time were strongly censured as to their conduct by the Coroner at the request of the jury, and there were strong criticisms of the doctor's alleged refusal to attend to the man.

It was reported to the monthly meeting of the Local Board that it was very difficult to carry out the instruction that street lamps be not lighted on moonlit nights. At times the moon was obscured by clouds and there would be no-one at the gas yard to light the lamps, it was said. Mr. H. J. Cooke thought there should be uniform lighting of the lamps. It would cost only £15 for the season, said Mr. J. Hammond supporting him. They put this forward as a proposition. Mr. M. Hainsworth considered this an unnecessary expense. There were times when the moon was so bright they could see to pick up a pin on the causeway. He proposed that they maintain the present system. Mr. J. Beanlands seconded this, but they found only three others in agreement and Mr. Cooke's proposition was carried.

75 Years Ago

Fire caused the total destruction of the sawmill wheelwright's shop at Middleton. It was owned and occupied by Mr. John Emmott and the outbreak was first noticed by a small boy brought up by Mr. Emmott.

23/9/77

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25 Years Ago

Ilkley Grammar School governors met to discuss the amendments in the instrument and articles of the governing of the school in connection with the school's first co-optative foundation Governors:—Mr. P. Dalton, Mr. C. Thompson, Mrs. A. L. Davidson, Mr. J. H. Mawson and Mrs. Douglas Hartley.

Difficulty in obtaining the supply of stone needed to complete the work on the Ilkley War Memorial, meant that it would not be finished as first expected by the end of September, but it was hoped that it would be completed before Armistice day on 11 November.

After a dispute lasting almost forty years, the problem of repairing Straight Lane, Addingham Moorside, passed whose farms the road ran, did the repairs themselves. Mr. Willie Benson, of Ghyll House Farm approached the National Farmers' Union, who in turn approached the government and an arrangement was made that if the farmers repaired and maintained the road the government would defray half the cost.

Mr. S. Tipping, Little Lane, Ilkley was appointed to succeed Mr. H. S. Haigh as Inspector in charge of the Ilkley Special Constabulary.

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ACROSS THE YEARS

**Ilkley's roads needed far more attention it was argued**

**100 Years Ago**

Nuisances of a very serious nature had been found to exist by officers of the Local Board of Health in a recent review, said the Ilkley Gazette in October, 1877. It was understood that many of them in obedience to the action of the Local Authority had been removed. "We do not know upon what principle the action of the Local Board is based in these matters and especially in their attention to the roads. It is essential that accidents should be prevented as well as disease; but surely this can not be considered by the Board or they would not permit the present condition of some of the roads. Cross-beck road, constructed years before the Grove was, and yet no compulsory action is taken, as in the case of the Grove to put it into something like a safe and decent condition. It is now simply a disgrace to the place and yet some of the best and most favoured building property borders the whole of one side of it."

There was only a small attendance at the annual meeting of the Ilkley Cricket Club held in October, 1877. It was proposed that Mr. J. Middleton be invited to become President for the coming season. Vice-presidents were the Rev. J. Snowdon, Mr. W. Kutter, Dr. Johnstone, Mr. M. Todd, Mr. R. Tuke and Mr. E. H. Wade. Re-elected as Treasurer was Mr. W. Brumfit, and as secretary Mr. W. Whitaker. Mr. Lister Robinson was elected as captain of the first eleven and Mr. T. Boaler as captain of the second eleven. To the Committee there were elected Messrs. T.

Robinson, J. Beanlands, J. Richardson, H. M. Hudson, I. Proctor, J. Thwaites and Fletcher.

**75 Years Ago**

Though there was a large attendance when the Ilkley Hall, fully licensed and grounds covering an area of 35.075 square yards between Wells Road, Crossbeck Road and Cowpasture Road, were offered for sale not a single bid was received. Mr. J. W. Dacre, of Dacre and Son's, the auctioneers, said when the place was bought by a group of residents it was found they had not the time to develop the property as it deserved to be with its undoubted public appeal. He knew of no property in Ilkley that had been the subject of more controversy than the Ilkley Hall estate. Apparently the public had no awareness of the great importance of having such a place of resort in Ilkley. He suggested £5,000 as a starting bid. There was no response and the estate had to be withdrawn. The Hall was then offered with other buildings as a separate lot of 11, 780 square yards. Mr. Dacre sought to start at £3,000 but again without success, and when he put up the remainder of the property and suggested 5s a yard there was still no bid.

A memorial cross was unveiled at Burley-in-Wharfedale to the memory of Mr. William Fison and before the ceremony there was a meeting in the Lecture Hall at which Mr. J. Butterfield (Secretary of the Memorial Hall Committee) spoke of the contribution which Mr. W. E. Forster and Mr. Fison had made towards the prosperity of the village and people of Burley. After the death of Mr. Forster it was decided to place an Iona Cross in the village in his memory, and after the death of Mr. Fison bearing in mind the association the two gentlemen had enjoyed together it was agreed a second cross should be provided in memory of Mr. Fison. The cross was unveiled by Sir Francis Sharp Powell Bart, Mr. Walls, Chairman of the District Council, presided over the proceedings. Mr. W. H. Mitchell presented a deed of memorial of the cross which was signed by Mr. J. H. Foulds, Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. T. Butterfield and Mr. J. Lockwood, Hon. Treasurer.

**50 Years Ago**

Gifts poured into the Coronation Hospital from schoolchildren as well as adults on the "Hospital Pound Day," an annual event. Firewood, vegetables and groceries were given by members of Ilkley Church of England School, who averaged more than two pounds of goods per child. The infants department took their goods by motor car and pupils of Ben Rhydding school transported their offerings by wheel barrow and clothes baskets. All day people made their way to the hospital with gifts, and the verandah was stacked high repeatedly and had to keep being cleared to make room for more. The gifts were received by the Matron, Sister Jones, assisted by members of the ladies' Committee.

Addingham Parish Council members readily agreed to an application by the Ilkley Urban Council to supply Addingham with gas. The lighting committee appointed Mr. W. L. Hiley to be lamplighter at a wage of 30s per week.

**25 Years Ago**

The inaugural meeting of Ilkley Evening Townswomen's Guild was held at the Blue Bird Cafe, with Miss E. Glen, principal of the Ilkley College of Housecraft, taking the chair. It was felt there was a need for an evening Guild to meet the needs of housewives with small children and working women. Twenty eight members were enrolled.

The president of the Wharfedale Naturalists, Mr. G. R. Frost reported a very successful year, membership having increased and the financial position was sound. A prize for the best account of the season's activities was presented to Jean Clarkson, and the second prize was awarded to Patricia Tiley.

Schoolchildren filled the King's Hall to capacity to hear a recital given by Denis Matthews, the well known concert pianist. Nearly every school in the district was represented and the children listened with rapt attention to the works of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Debussy and were enthralled by Mr. Matthews' hints on musical appreciation.

ACROSS THE YEARS

14/10/77

**Attendance of boys at school subject of Inquiry**

**100 Years Ago**

Ratepayers met in the Working Men's Hall in October 1877 to consider a resolution to the effect that the School Attendance Committee be empowered to make bye-laws respecting the attendance of children at school under Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act 1870 as if such attendance committee were a school board. The resolution was proposed by Mr. F. W. Fison who had Mr. G. Newbould as his seconder. It was said by Mr. Newbould that the list of boys had been gone through and of 60 of them some did not attend any school whilst others were irregular in their attendance. The attendance of the previous week showed only an attendance of 40 per cent of those on the books. The Rev. W. Danks, Vicar of St. Margaret's, said it had recently been decided on the religious side to discontinue teaching the catechism and the only religious teaching imparted consisted of the Lords Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed. He thought no one could object to that. Mr. Newbould thought the religious teaching was of such a nature that the most rigid nonconformist could not object to it. The resolution was carried "by a great majority."

It was reported at the annual dinner of the Ilkley Cricket Club by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Brumfit, that a debt of £24 had been cleared off and there was a balance in hand of £2 12s. 3d. Secretary Mr. W. Whitaker reported that six matches had been won, seven lost, two cancelled owing to rain and eleven incomplete owing to the weather conditions. Six of the eleven stood very much in Ilkley's favour when play had to be stopped. The number of subscribers had been increased from 55 to 101. A. Dobson was top of the batting averages with 21.13 scoring 391 runs in 19 innings. G. Dean took 36 wickets at a cost of 269 runs for an average of 7.17.

**75 Years Ago**

An inaugural tea and meeting to mark the opening of the Leeds Road Congregational Hall at Ilkley attracted a large attendance. The Committee responsible for the arrangements was Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Crawshaw, Mrs. Heaps, Mrs. Nutter, Miss Pollett, Miss Violet Heaps, Miss Edith Conyers and Mrs. Blanchford. In the absence of Mr. W. H. Conyers the chair was taken by Mr. J. Nutter. Mr. F. Pearce, Mr. J. Firth and the Rev. T. Hamer were other speakers and after the evening meeting thanks were expressed to all who had helped to make the event so successful were voiced by Mr. Maurice Gaunt.

Lady Catherine Milnes Gaskell, wife of the Chairman of the West Riding County Council opened the newly completed Scalebor Park Hospital with a gold key presented to her by Col. Spencer Stanhope. About £100,000 had been spent on the establishment the first of its kind in the country. There was accommodation for 210 patients—105 of each sex—and equipped with a theatre, several pianos, two recreation rooms, billiards and electric light throughout.

The poorer ratepayers had "terribly hard work to scrape together the £4 at present required to meet the tax-gatherer's demands. How some manage to pay rent and rates out of their very slender incomes is a mystery to some people," said the Gazette. And no wonder seeing the amount of nipping and scraping it must involve. Some time ago, our District Council had under discussion the compounding of the rates in relation to cottage property, which we are sorry they have not seen their way to introduce; for to pay the rates with the rent weekly can be managed much more easily than having to pay the amount separately... Yet the labouring class are not alone likely to feel the pinch this year or considerable difficulty in scraping their rates together, for what with the poor season and depression in trade it will take some of the lodging house keepers and tradespeople all their time to make ends met."

**50 Years Ago**

Every seat was occupied in the gaily decorated church at Nesfield for its Harvest festival morning and evening services. The preachers were the Rev. W. Gleeson (curate

of Ilkley) and Mr. John Hornby. Collections for the Ilkley Coronation Hospital raised £2 12s. 10d.

Twenty five passengers escaped unhurt from a burnt out bus on the Ilkley to Leeds route via Otley. The bus caught fire at the foot of Black Hill a few hundred yards beyond the cross roads at Bramhope. The fire was discovered by one of the passengers noticing sparks flying out from under the body, he gave the alarm and the bus pulled up. Flames could then be seen through the floor. The passengers made a hurried exit through the side door and also through the emergency door but there was no panic. Within a few minutes the vehicle was a blazing furnace.

**25 Years Ago**

Addingham Parish Council invited villagers to a special meeting to discuss suggestions for the celebration of Coronation day in the village. The village youth club had already stated their willingness to co-operate with the Parish Council regarding the proposed celebrations.

The original estimate of adapting the Wells House Hotel Ilkley as a training college for teachers of Domestic Science had increased from £68,000 to £91,000.

The realisation that the new infants school in Leeds Road could not accommodate all the infants in the area brought astonishment to most members of the Ilkley Education Committee. Although it had been stated that the new school would house 160 pupils, nobody had thought to ask if this number represented the whole of the infants who might wish to attend. They were now in a would have to remain at the position that 120 children Church of England Infants' school, although it had been envisaged that in future would have only the one Infants' school to accommodate all the local children and that would be the new school in Leeds Road with one head teacher.

2/10/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Riverside strip of land led to arch over footpath

#### 100 Years Ago

Plans which it was alleged had not been presented and approved were the subject of "warm words" at the meeting of the Local Board in October 1877. The houses were in course of erection by Mr. Squires in Lister Street. It was said that the plans had not been passed by the General Purposes Committee and the Clerk denied that he had ever seen a duplicate copy. The plans apparently bore the seal of the Board but had not the signature of the Chairman. It was suggested that these plans might have been brought into the Board Room with the others and been given the seal along with them. It was decided to refer the matter back for further consideration and for suggestions as to means to prevent a repetition of such a happening.

The Secretary of State sent notification that the closure of the Parish Churchyard be extended to 31 January, 1878. This would be a great advantage, said the Chairman, Mr. John Milner, because had they been obliged to open the new cemetery that week they would have experienced some difficulty. They were finding some difficulty in getting the contractors to do their work. The cemetery was in a very crude state and he thought they should not give the contractors any more money until the several works were finished. Had they done that earlier the work would have been completed long ago.

There was some argument about a proposal to kerb and channel Stockeld Road. It would be a great wrong to do so, said Mr. M. Hainsworth, as it was private property and they should not use rate-payers' money in that way. This brought a protest from Mr. J. Rhodes who said there was a public footpath at the place and it was their duty to protect the public rights. Mr. W. Hartley thought the proposal would be an unnecessary expense. It would be soon enough when somebody began to build on it. The proposal was finally accepted by a large majority.

#### 75 Years Ago

"Claims for a strip of land which runs parallel with the river from what is now the Memorial ground, then owned by Mr. Thomas Horsman, to Ash Grove led to a somewhat extraordinary meeting in October, 1902" reported the Gazette. "On a Sunday afternoon Mr. Frank Hall, Clerk to the Council, was served with a notice on behalf of the Wharfedale Estate Company that the Company intended to take possession of the strip of

land at eight o'clock the following Monday morning. Accordingly at the time mentioned representatives of Ilkley Council who maintained the land had been conveyed to them from Mr. Middleton's Estate produced the deeds and demanded that the Estate Company's representatives should do the same. This the Estate Company's solicitor, Mr. A. H. Blankley, was unable to do. The Chairman of the Council Mr. J. T. Jackson the Chairman of the Drainage Committee, Mr. Aaron Waugh, and the Clerk, Mr. Frank Hall, then removed the pegs inserted on behalf of the Company and watched by a Police Constable threw them into the river." It appeared, said the Gazette, that according to further inquiries the strip of land had been conveyed to both the Local Authority and to the Company and had possession for the past 12 years. If the Company was unable to justify its claim it would have the utmost difficulty in building a bridge over the river at that point as it proposed to do. The matter was resolved when the suggestion was made on behalf of the Council that the Estate Company build an arch over a footpath instead of carrying the road over the bridge embankment by means of steps. This arrangement was eventually agreed.

A silver coffee service was presented at the Ilkley Parish Church tea and entertainment to Miss Jowett to mark her 25 years as headmistress of the Girls Department of the Ilkley National Schools. A welcome was also extended to the Rev. T. E. Taylor who had recently taken up duties in the parish as senior curate.

#### 50 Years Ago

Ilkley British Legion learned with deep regret of the intended resignation of their founder-president, Mr. J. W. Dixon owing to his age and his feeling that the position would be better occupied by a man who had been in the Great War. After discussion however committee members decided to write and ask Mr. Dixon to reconsider at least until the official opening of the new Legion Club rooms.

Mr. J. K. Watson, former captain of Ilkley Grammar School who had addressed an audience of 5,000 people in the Washington Auditorium as a prize in an international oratorical contest arrived home to Ben Rhydding with many interesting experiences. He had been received with other competitors by President Coolidge and had toured the United States.

Three Ilkley ladies were selected to play for the Central District in the county trial of the Yorkshire women's hockey association. They were Miss S. Blankley, Miss Hickson and Miss M. Walker.

Tweed and velour winter coats with fur trimming were advertised from 39/11 each.

#### 25 Years Ago

An attempt to fire the Moor Cafe, near the White Wells was discovered by the proprietor, Mrs. J. C. Williamson when she opened up on a Sunday morning in late October, 1952. Part of the kitchen had been destroyed by the fire, and the whole place was filled with smoke.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Scalebar Park Hospital, Burley, a nurses reunion was held in the "Highlands" recreation room. It was well attended by nurses both past and present who were welcomed by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Valentine. The meal was served by the Matron, Miss T. M. Smith with willing assistants, and there was a tour of the hospital wards together with a great deal of reminiscing.

The West Riding County Council were advertising for a depot superintendent for the Highways and Bridges department at a wage rate of 2/11 to 3/3 per hour according to previous experience.

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Over 6,000 people attend the Athletic Sports

#### 100 Years Ago

Over 6,000 people were estimated to have attended the fifth annual athletic sports in the old Racecourse Field on the Middleton side of the river. Prizes to the value of £180 were offered. Ordinary trains were augmented by four excursions and there were also conveyances bearing a large number of people by road. Entrance money totalled £250 and to add to this was the charge for the grandstand which held the elite of Ilkley and neighbourhood! Music was provided by Messrs. Coates Ingham and Sons Military Band and the Ilkley Prize Band. The sports paper "The Athlete" in its report commented that the programme contained the best array of entries ever made outside London.

Personal remarks over the management of the Ilkley Working Men's Club were expressed at the annual meeting in 1877. It was suggested as a solution that a club be formed apart from the shareholders and that the hall be taken at a fixed rental. After some bitter discussion it was agreed that a special committee be formed to make inquiries into the matter and a report presented. In the meantime retiring members of the Committee—Messrs. T. P. Muff, H. Legge and D. Featherstone were re-elected. Mr. W. H. Conyers continued as Chairman and Mr. Newbould as Secretary. It was recommended that a dividend of four per cent be declared.

#### 75 Years Ago

The Wesley Deaconess College in Queen's Road was formally dedicated for the important work of training deaconesses to serve the world over. There were already some 75 deaconesses "either labouring in the circuits or in the mission field and something like £5,000 a year passes through the hands of the institution. Ample office accommodation has been provided by a suite of well appointed rooms in the centre of the buildings," reported the Gazette. Considerable changes had been made to the private school which it was originally. The gymnasium had been an advantage to the girls. The main hall had accommodation for 400. For deaconesses there was accommodation for 30 to be taught. There was an extensive library and a splendid lecture room. Professor Banks, of Headingley College, president of the Wesleyan Conference, was Chairman of the opening

ceremony and declared the building open. He was attended by some of the country's leading Methodists.

A series of presentations was made to the Rev. Fr. Alfred Galli, priest in charge of the Roman Catholic Mission at Ilkley to mark the 25th anniversary of his ordination. One of the largest gatherings ever seen at St. Mary's School finally assembled to pay tributes to Fr. Galli and to present to him £20 to help to reduce the debt on the presbytery and £25 for his private use. The Rev. J. Saxton, of Otley, occupied the chair and Mr. J. A. Middlebrook made the presentation.

The work of building a new bridge over the River Wharfe at Ilkley was started by the contractor Mr. George Smith of Ilkley. The Gazette pointed out that a portion of Castle Hill would have to be cut through and in view of the likely discovery of Roman remains it was hoped great care would be taken to recognise these and retain them.

#### 50 Years Ago

The long-awaited celebrations of the 13th centenary of the Ilkley Parish Church began with a largely attended service conducted by the Bishop of Bradford, the Rev. James Kempson. There was a capacity audience at a special concert in the Winter Gardens, with again school children, Scouts and Guides taking part. Mr. A. E. Pickett played many pleasing selections.

A decision to alter the subscriptions of the Ilkley Golf Club to £7. 7s. for men and £3 13s. 6d. for women was made at the 38th annual meeting of the club, presided over by Mr. W. E. Sharp. Mr. H. J. C. Johnston was elected president, Mr. H. S. Naylor Captain, with Mr. G. Walker and Mr. R. E. Wainwright, hon. joint secretaries.

#### 25 Years Ago

Ilkley Council decided to allocate the sum of £750 to be divided between each area in the district proportionate to the population for the coronation celebrations. Ilkley, Burley and Menston each planned to hold children's sports, and tea for the old folks, and a bathing beauty competition to be held in Ilkley.

An Ilkley man, Pilot Officer F. J. Hirst was amongst those who received flying badges after successfully completing his pilot's course at an R.A.F. Flying Training school in Southern Rhodesia. Pilot Officer Hirst's home was Tivoli Place, Ilkley, and he had been educated at Ilkley Grammar School.

Mr. G. B. Drayson, Conservative M.P. for Skipton opened the new Youth Centre in Addingham. The chair was taken by Mr. W. Lemmon who represented Addingham Youth Council.

28/10/77

8/11/77

## Lister Street Plans Had No Signature or Certificate

100 Years Ago

An earlier suggestion that houses were being built in Lister Street without plans having been presented or approved by the General Purposes Committee of the Local Board was strongly criticised by the Local Board in November, 1877. It was agreed that some inquiry should be made as to how this came about and proposals made to prevent it from happening again. The Gazette pointed out that it was a mystery how these particular plans came to bear the Board's stamp, nor to have the Chairman's stamp, and no record of the plans having passed the General Purposes Committee. "This mode of conducting the affairs of the Board can not recommend itself to the approbation of the ratepayers. Matters of this kind should not pass without the most rigorous investigation," commented the Gazette.

Mr. J. Armistead was re-elected treasurer, Mr. Lister Robinson hon. secretary and as Committee Messrs. W. Hudson, J. Blackburn, N. Weatherhead, S. Scott, W. H. Smith, T. Osborne, —, Rayner, J. Millington, N. Chippendale, —, Holroyd, W. Pawcett, T. Allott, W. Gale, J. Dickinson, H. Adamson, W. Waite, W. Kettlewell, G. Whitehead, W. Wall, W. Cawood, Jonas Robinson, John Robinson, B. Lowe, G. Brown, W. Whitaker, G. Rickwood, J. Beanlands, J. Thwaites, and T. Boalar at the annual meeting of the Ikley Floral and Horticultural Society. The year began with a credit balance of £20 14s. 11d.

75 Years Ago

The most suitable site for a Memorial Hospital to mark the coronation of King Edward VII was the garden alongside the Police Station in Riddings Road, thought the Committee appointed to inspect various pieces of land. Unfortunately the price at £1 per yard was far more than could be afforded. Several other sites had been favoured but had to be abandoned owing to building restrictions, too many roads or unsuitability of situation. "A building of this character should of course be as central as possible. So very few plots of land are available in the centre of the town that the Committee are likely to have some difficulty in obtaining a site adapted for their purpose at the price they are disposed to give. Something like £2100 has been contributed towards the cost of land and building and as soon as a site can be obtained the erection of the hospital will be started with as little delay as possible. A site on the other side of the river has been suggested as possessing many advantages and considering that the hospital is to be a permanent institution and will possibly occupy the position selected for all time. It will be well for the committee to look ahead and before fixing on any site consider what locality outside the present business portion of the town is likely to be fairly central twenty or thirty years hence," commented the Gazette.

Ominous rumours about the constitution of the Ikley Council staff were found to have some foundation in fact when a special meeting was held. Three young men were said to have been smoking and reading the newspapers when one of the Councillors visited the offices, there was too much familiarity with the Clerk, whom youths not infrequently addressed by his Christian name. After a long argument which was reported to three columns it was agreed that two clerks be asked to resign. Mr Hall said it should be made clear that the smokers were not under his control.

50 Years Ago

"Poppy Day" at Ikley broke all previous records, a sum of £218 having been raised in the Ikley District. It topped the previous year's collection by nearly £50.

To conclude "British Legion Week" community singing was held in the Winter Gardens on Friday followed by a dance on the Saturday evening. Mr F. W. Smith acted as director for the singing and many war-time choruses were included in the programme. Mr. Bradley Hustwick was the accompanist. During the evening, wireless was installed and tuned in to the Prince of Wales' speech at the Albert

Hall. This was heard clearly and Ikley people joined in and the hymn singing which followed.

Arrangements for holding a New Year's party for residents of Ikley over 70 years of age were discussed at a committee meeting, and it was announced that Mr. Oswald Wood of Ower Park Road would give one cwt. of coal to each of the old age pensioners. Due to the retirement of Mr. Douglas Thomson owing to ill health, a new hon. secretary, Mr. G. W. Thompson was elected. Mr. W. Dobson presided over the meeting.

25 Years Ago

Wells Road Methodist Sunday School scholars and teachers gave a concert to a large audience in the Assembly Hall in aid of Sunday school funds.

The first item on the programme was given by the primary school who appeared on stage in nursery rhyme costumes for "Old King Cole's Party." A radio play "Toy-town Holiday" was given by the teachers, and Margaret Brayshaw and Margaret Chambers were very successful in "Drama on the Seashore." Dawn Banks gave a recitation and Ann Blisby played the violin. Piano solos were performed by Patricia Addy and Caroline Crawshaw.

Addingham Parish Council proposed to seek permission to take a house-to-house collection to raise funds to cover coronation celebration expenses. Mr. H. Stirk, a local trader had offered to install T.V. sets free of charge in the schoolrooms so that older people could view the London celebrations.

Ikley Rugby Union Football Club selectors were in the position that most of the first team were unable to play due to injury. Gordon Burton, Peter Naylor, Neil Jackson, J. C. Oates and S. Atkinson were all unable to play. Although there were promising young players in the second team, they lacked the necessary experience to play with the first team.

25/11/77

## Careless firework handlers fined at Court

100 Years Ago

Several defendants were each summoned for letting off fireworks in a public thoroughfare at Ikley on 5 November, 1877. Robert Sharpe was walking with a lady when he was seen to let off a squib in Wells Road by Police Inspector Hammond. The officer went to him took his name and issued a summons. Defendant had written saying he could not control the boys. In Bradford. He was fined five shillings and costs. Henry Critchley in Brook Street fired a pistol in front of some ladies and was fined ten shillings and costs. Defendant called at the office of Supt. Croft the next morning and tendered his apologies. The magistrates regarded it as a most serious offence. Frederick Taylor was fined 7s. 6d. and ordered to pay expenses for a similar offence and a similar penalty was imposed on John Pattinson for lighting a squib and throwing it in Wells Road. Five shillings and the cost of expenses was the penalty imposed on Walter Keahlev for firing off a rocket in Brook Street.

Ikley High School scored one goal and several "tries" against Ikley Burnside School in a football match played at Ikley on a Saturday afternoon. Poor weather spoiled the attendance.

It was reported that there was at present over £60,000 worth of unproductive building property in Ikley.

75 Years Ago

There was some surprise at the November meeting of the Ikley Urban District Council in 1902 when Mr. J. Sunley, just as the meeting was about to begin entered the room and occupied a seat to the rear of the reporters. Replying to the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Jackson, he said he had come as a ratepayer and hoped he would be allowed to remain. It had been said at different meeting, he said, that the Councillors were in favour of ratepayers attending Council meetings. Mr. J. W. Benson said it had been his intention at that meeting to move that ratepayers should be informed that Council meetings would be open to them but that they would not be allowed to speak. He moved that this be so and four voted for and four against, but the Chairman voted against the proposal. Mr. Sunley pointed out that the proposal was that he be allowed to remain and not that he be permitted to speak, and the Chairman

said he agreed with this view. It was however to be put properly by Mr. Benson at some future meeting. Mr. Sunley said he had been remarked on previous occasions that there was no objection to ratepayers attending Council meetings as long as their was room. He maintained there was as much room at Ikley in proportion to the population as there was at Leeds. The Chairman said they had not refused to admit the ratepayers by vote but only against them speaking. The matter would be brought forward by Mr. Benson. Mr. Sunley then withdrew.

It was suggested at the November meeting that many visitors and Ikley ratepayers were unaware of the amount of moor available to them when the Councillors were discussing an amendment that a proposal to investigate shooting on the moor be subjected to further inquiry. Mr. J. W. Benson pointed out that one third of the moor amounting to 634 acres was free and unrestricted and that this portion provided complete views of the surrounding area. After a long discussion it was agreed by a margin of one vote to re-let the moor on the same terms as the previous year.

50 Years Ago

Some 200 women gave an entire day to join a working party to make shirts and vests for the patients in the Middleton Sanatorium. The union for the shirts was provided by Mr. John Knox and wool stockinette for pullovers by Mr. Ronald Priestman. Surveying the scene at S. Margaret's Hall, Mrs. Hampden Illingworth said "It does your heart good to see them."

There was high excitement in Ben Rhydding when a horse ran away from near the Railway Station. Its wild dash finished in the river. Owned by Mr. R. Binns, and in the charge of his son, Mr. J. Binns it was engaged in leading bricks from the station. Taking the corner from the station into Wheatley Lane, the shafts broke from the loaded cart and the startled horse bolted down the road to the river, narrowly missing a bus coming up the hill. The horse finished up falling on to a soft bed of garden rubbish and so on in to the river, the rubbish breaking the fall, and Mr. J. Binns waded into the river and brought it out practically none the worse for the adventure.

25 Years Ago

Th. Ikley stationmaster Mr. J. Rae, retired from the railway service after 46 years. He had been the stationmaster at Ikley for 13 years.

Ikley War Memorial Committee decided to invite Sir Ian Fraser to perform the unveiling ceremony for the new memorial. The surveyor reported that the work was being delayed because of the non-delivery of a consignment of stone.

The Vogue Players presented the farce "The Happiest Days of Your Life" the producer being Mora Kaberry. The play was the story of two schools sharing the same premises, and Sheila Clarke played the role of the senior mistress of the girls' school with Harry Rhodes as the head of the boys' school. June Threlfall and Stanley Ross were cast as senior mistress and master.

H. Melville gave an outstanding performance in a Rugby Union Football match against Harrogate, by scoring three spectacular tries. Ikley won the game by 16 points to 5.

2/12/77

## Springs Lane in a most "disgraceful state"

### 100 Years Ago

Mr. J. Rhodes told the Local Board at its December meeting in 1877 that he was one of the street and drainage committee members appointed to examine Springs Lane and he could testify that it was in a most disgraceful state. He had just heard Mr. J. Beanlands report that he was continually receiving complaints about it and understood it was quite impassible. The Clerk said plans had been prepared for the improvement of Springs Lane but he had been instructed not to go on with any more roads until the Grove was completed.

Mr. Rhodes said the footpath was covered with mortar and it was impossible to get across to the railway bridge without getting in the mud. There was a great outcry about it and he trusted that Messrs. Robinson nearby would do all in their power to remedy the matter as the Board had done a great deal for the convenience of the public in making a path and putting a light at the corner. He contended it was of no use if the nuisance was allowed to exist.

Attention was also called to the state of the crossings in Leeds Road near Weston Road and the National Schools. As the Working Men's Hall in Weston Road was the only public place in the village a great many people went there and Mr. Rhodes thought it was in a shocking state. He thought the least they could do was to give them light and a good road. He moved that the crossings be attended to. Reference was also made to the crossings in Brook Street and Wells Road. There was also reference to Bolton Bridge Road said to be covered and blocked up with building materials.

The road was said to be a private one and the Board had no control over it.

Mr. Holmes reminded the meeting that a great deal of traffic was going on the road at the present time and he believed that when Bolton Bridge Road was put in proper repair they would find it would be used considerably as a highway to Addingham Road and it will be a great injustice to the owners to have to keep the road in repair, if such heavy traffic is to be carried on.

Several members spoke in favour of the original motion, and Mr. Rhodes repudiated in rather warm terms the assertions made by Mr. Hainsworth that he was acting from selfish motives. He thought five sixths of the people would favour the Board taking over the road.

Only the proposer and seconder voted in favour of the amendment and the original proposition was carried with a majority of eight.

### 75 Years Ago

People walking up Wells Road would have noticed a sharp rise in the footpath from the paved crossing near the entrance to the Wesleyan Church, said the Gazette in December, 1902. This, comprising asphalt, "is not only very slippery but a veritable pitfall to those coming down the road on this side who are not very firm on their feet. Several elderly gentlemen have come to grief at this point. Another even still more dangerous point is at the top of St. Margaret's Terrace, though this is in a much less frequented thoroughfare," reported the Gazette.

On the point of going to Press, the *Ikley Gazette* announced in December, 1902, that the Rev. J. T. Maggs, principal of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal Canada, was to succeed Dr. Stephenson as superintendent of the *Ikley Wesleyan Circuit*. Mr. Maggs was formerly a well known minister in the Bradford Circuit but had to return to England on account of ill-health. Dr. Stephenson was to devote all his energies to the work of the Deaconess College recently established in *Ikley*. "This institution is very rapidly developing and promises to be one of the most important and successful branches of religious work the denomination has yet undertaken," said the *Gazette*. The Rev. S. Ross, formerly curate at the *Ikley Parish Church*, and the late curate at *Burley Parish Church*, was appointed curate at *Keighley Parish Church*.

The change of ownership of the *Bridge Hotel* and pleasure grounds would not in any way interfere with plans to hold as usual the *Easter Monday Brass Band Festival* or with the children's and work people's treats already booked. It was announced, Mr. W. H. Smith who had succeeded his father the late Mr. Samuel Smith as owner of the *Wheat Sheaf Hotel* had every intention of extending the appeal of the *Bridge House* estate by adding to the events.

### 50 Years Ago

The annual re-union of the *Olicanians Association* (*Ikley Grammar School Old Boys*) was held at the *Middleton Hotel*, with about 80 old boys attending.

Mr. S. Outhwaite proposing the toast to the school extolled the virtues of a secondary school education from a business point of view. The headmaster, Mr. N. L. Frazer replying to the toast, paid tribute to the late Mr. Stuart Bellhouse, who had died at an early age.

At the annual meeting of *Wells House Hydro*, it was remarked that *Ikley* did not hold the attraction of the rising generation and had had the reputation of being a place where the young people were for their health and were wanting more pleasure and enjoyment. Bad weather had

affected the profits of the previous year which amounted to £1,339. There was also a reduced number of full-time residents. However, bookings for Christmas 1927 were satisfactory with one hundred and sixty. More than 100 people had had to be refused.

### 25 Years Ago

A proposal of the *Health Committee* to authorise the *Ikley Council Clerk* to institute negotiations for the acquisition of six and a half acres of land at *Ines Ghyll, Middleton* for use as a refuse tip was deferred at the monthly meeting of the council. The Clerk indicated that it might be possible to tip additional material on the two existing sites at *Cocken End, Ikley* and *Sun Lane, Burley*.

The newly formed *Ikley Grammar School orchestra* gave its first public appearance in an evening arranged by the *Parents' Committee* in the school hall. The pupils had been schooled in music by Mr. Hawkesworth and Mr. Peckover of *Keighley*. The headmaster, Mr. J. S. Newby appealed to the parents present for musical instruments as gifts or loans to the school. More than 200 parents were present, the largest attendance since the formation of the *Parents' Committee* eight years previously.

9/12/77

## ACROSS THE YEARS

### Grove future after completion of make-up plans

#### 100 Years Ago

The cost of making up the Grove, estimated to be £760 15s., would be regarded as sufficient when the work was completed, it was decided towards the end of 1877. A resolution by Mr. J. Rhodes was comfortably carried at the December meeting of the *Ikley Local Board*. It stated that as soon as the payments of the amounts charged to the various owners of property abutting on the Grove Road is paid, notice be given at once to the said owners that the Board will take the same road and keep it in proper order for all future time, thus making it a public thoroughfare extending from *Brook St.* to the bridge. An amendment that the road be kept up by the owners was moved by Mr. M. Hainsworth who thought the Board had enough to do.

Mr. Rhodes explained that he had put forward his resolution to give encouragement to those who had done what they could to meet the Board. The road needed repairing and the Board would not do any more to it until it came into their possession. He believed that in time no road would be more used by the public and they were encouraged by a great many people to take as many roads as they could get. For his part he would be very glad to hold up his hand in favour of the Board taking any road.

Mr. Hainsworth contended that the Board would receive no benefit by taking the road and gave it as his opinion that Mr. Rhodes had selfish motives in the matter.

Mr. T. Critchley asked how much of the road the Board proposed to take and was told from *Brook Street* to the *Bridge*. (Note: It was not at the time specifically indicated what was meant by "the bridge").

#### 75 Years Ago

Further to the discussion at the previous meeting of the *Ikley Urban District Council* it was proposed by Mr. J. W. Benson in December that ratepayers be admitted to meetings of the Council "subject to such rules and regulations as may from time to time be decided upon and that the question of drafting such regulations be referred to the *General Purposes Committee* for consideration. "There was no seconder and the resolution as a result was abandoned.

It was agreed by the Council that the application of the *Ikley Swimming Club* for water be supplied to the *Victoria Baths* free for the next season conditionally that the baths are opened free to schoolboys between four and six on Friday afternoons with the Council able to cancel the supply at any time if desired.

Mr. Middleton, Lord of the Manor, was to be approached about his action of selling a strip of riverside land.

Arrangements had been entered into between the *Cottage Hospital Committee* and the *Governors* of *Ikley Grammar School* for a site at the bottom of the field below the school and abutting upon *Springs Lane*.

The first snow upon the hills around *Ikley* was noticeable during the week. It was regarded as a welcome change from the "dismally dark and foggy atmosphere of the last fortnight."

#### 50 Years Ago

Booking for Christmas holidays at the hydros in the *Ikley* district was very popular in 1927. At many of the establishments scores of applicants had had to be refused as the accommodation was full to overflowing.

The reason for the popularity was believed to be that programmes had been arranged to entertain the visitors during their stay.

At *Wells House*, where the accommodation was filled many weeks ahead, there was to be whist drives and dancing, a billiard tournament, carols, a treasure hunt, a fancy dress ball, special suppers and a concert over the festive period.

At *Ben Rhydding Hydro Hotel* the bookings totalled 160. There again there was a happy round of amusements planned. The situation was similar at *Craiglands* and *Marlborough House*.

Special Christmas festivities had also been arranged at *Heathmount Hall, Crossbeck Road*, the headquarters of the *Friendship Holidays Association*.

The *Ikley Church* of England schools had hit on the proper system of lighting according to the Chairman of the *District Education Committee*, Mr. A. Talbot. New special burners had already been fitted, and were very fine, he said. They could be carried through the school and used less gas than others. Considering the cost of the burners, it was felt that the *County Council* should be approached to make a contribution, seeing as the burners would be used mostly by evening classes. They did not think it fair that the *Managers* should be called upon to meet the whole cost—which might be as much as £15.

#### 25 Years Ago

An *Ikley taxi-driver* for 34 years, Mr. W. H. Mather, of *Clifton Terrace, Ikley*, retired in December, 1952. He recalled driving such people as *Sir James Oddy*, of *Ikley Hall*; *Colonel Fox*, of *Westwood Lodge*; and *Mr. Laycock*, of *Victoria Avenue*.

Members of *Addingham Parish Council* heard much to their amazement that a parish council was not entitled by law to provide a public clock. When members had decided that a public clock for the village was desirable they thought the only problem would be to get the money to purchase and fix the clock.

Donations were not sufficient to cover the *Ikley Old Folk's* annual treat, for the first time in thirty years. Although the event was not a financial success, the happy smiles of the old folks alone was reward enough for the organisers.

British Rail was offering cheap day return tickets:—from *Ikley* to *Leeds* or *Bradford*, 2s.; *Addingham* to *Bradford* 2/2.

16/12/77

20/12/77

### ACROSS THE YEARS

## Work begins on permanent building of S. Margaret's

### 100 Years Ago

Work on the permanent building of St. Margaret's Church began towards the end of 1877. Said the Gazette, "The contracts entered into are merely for a nave with side aisles, the building of the chancel being postponed sine die. The various works have been contracted for as follows: Excavating, bricklaying and masonry, Whitaker Brothers of Horsforth; joiners work, John Hall Thorpe, Leeds; plumbing (which forms a heavy item), Mr. Towers of Burley; plastering, Cordnaley and Sons".

At the last meeting of the Wharfedale Board of Guardians the usual "calls" were made upon the overseers of the several parishes comprising the Union as follows.— Askwith, £36; Blubberhouses, £20; Burley, £30; Denton, £79; Farnley, £111; Fewston, £66; Gilstead, £301; Ilkley, £311; Middleton, £55; Nesfield, £9; Otley, £569; Pool, £103; Rawdon, £370; Weston, £50; and Yeadon, £411. The Gazette commented that it would be seen that Ilkley with the fewest parishes had to pay the heaviest levy.

### 75 Years Ago

Correspondence which had taken place between the Ilkley Overseers and the Urban District Council about the future of the Overseers was read at a meeting of ratepayers held in the Vestry of the Ilkley Parish Church in 1902. Authority was given for the Overseers to move to an office in Wells Road at present in the occupation of Mr. Suttle, plumber at a rental of £20 a year. The correspondence was read at the suggestion of Mr. J. W. Benson who took strong exception to the District Council's action. To his mind the Council had accomplished very strange things and one of these things during the last six months and which was the most senseless of anything they had accomplished had been the interference with the offices. He questioned whether any member of the Council could give a logical reason why the Overseers had been turned out of their offices. Mr. H. Molesley moved that Mr. Dobson's room adjoining the Library in Wells Road be taken at £10 a year and Mr. Benson seconded this. On being put to the vote ten voted in favour and 18 against and the resolution to take Mr. Suttle's shop was carried.

Mr. George Smith was elected president at the annual dinner and meeting of the Ilkley Cricket Club held at the Rose and Crown Hotel. Mr. J. H. Dean was re-elected honorary secretary and Mr. F. Hall was re-elected honorary treasurer. As Committee there were elected Messrs. A. Duckworth, W. E. Firth, R. M. Green, G. W. Hampshire, G. H. Charlesworth, F. M. Hood, C. Stephenson, S. B. Wheeldon, L. T. Learoyd, H. Sutcliffe, J. Dean and J. W. Lowe. J. Hanson won the first eleven batting prize and H. Crowther to bowling. A. Silverwood won the second eleven batting prize and A. Richardson the second team bowling prize. A labourer working at Marsh Ghyll reservoir struck a blasting cartridge with his pick causing an explosion which completely destroyed his sight. His name was given as Charles Bellerby.

### 50 Years Ago

The hydros in Ilkley had the biggest bookings ever recorded for Christmas 1927. Scores of applications had had to be refused, as Ilkley's popularity at Christmas time amongst the visitors grew.

Special attractions offered included sports, dancing, fancy dress balls, treasure hunts, competitions and carols.

Strong objections to Sunday games on the Memorial Close at Addingham were expressed by members of Addingham Parish Council. Discussion ensued at their meeting on by-laws submitted by the auditor. One of these was that no child under the age of 10 unless accompanied by an adult should be allowed into the part of the close set apart for bowling, tennis, or putting greens. Dr. W. L. Crab-

tree, Chairman of the Parish Council, expressed strong views against Sunday sport in a rural community.

Snow laid in Wharfedale to a depth of about an inch, with drifting on the moors, causing inconvenience to local farmers. There was a sharp frost of four degrees. Children took their sledges on to the upper reaches of the hills to find sport.

### 25 Years Ago

Ilkley Round Table presented Middleton hospital, which at the time housed 376 tuberculosis patients, with a T.V. set for use by the male patients in ward B. Mr. B. C. Tidy, chairman of the Round Table made the presentation, and the set was received by Mr. S. R. Runtun, chairman of the Middleton and Grassington Hospital Management Committee. Among those present were Mr. J. Windsor, Mr. R. Eagle and Mr. R. H. Smith.

Burley St. John's Methodist Church members performed "Puss in Boots" pantomime to a capacity audience. Miss Agnes L. Clayton, the producer was thanked by Mr. G. M. Lund, on behalf of the church for all her hard work and was presented with a pair of book ends. Mr. E. Binns helped Mr. Lund to give each member of the cast a box of chocolates and a handkerchief.

### ACROSS THE YEARS

## Wharfedale Minstrels are founded at Ilkley

### 100 Years Ago

"An event which had long been looked forward to came off this week when on Monday and Tuesday the Wharfedale Minstrels with their talent purely local were able to place before the public an entertainment consisting of comic and sentimental songs, choruses, dialogues, connundrums, stump orations and a concluding laughable burlesque," said the Gazette at the year end. The instrumentalists were S. Bilton violin, John Thompson violoncello, S. Wilkinson banjo, Sam Mills tambourine, L. Whitaker bones, W. Barnes triangle, A. Benson piano. The vocalists were J. W. Jackson, J. Thompson, J. Wilkinson, W. Barnes, L. Whitaker, Fred England, J. Beanlands, —, Dickinson, B. Bishop, —, Mitts and Hartley.

The dwelling house known as Ne-field Hall with paddock, stable coach house, mistal and right of common on moor was offered to let 100 years ago. Applications had to be by letter to A. Davy of Ilkley. The old Wesleyan Chapel on Skipton Road was offered for sale privately by W. Smith, plumber of Skipton. Houses in Alexandra Crescent were offered for sale or to be let. The Middleton Hotel announced that its Restaurant and Wine Shades had been reopened and advertised a vacancy for a gardener.

### 75 Years Ago

The absence of Mr. Arthur Robinson, an Ilkley solicitor and Chairman of the Ilkley Constitutional Club from his home and place of business in Bradford was the subject of over a half column of news in the Gazette towards the end of 1902. Mr. Robinson was closely associated with the Ilkley Parish Church, the lodge of Freemasons and the Vocal Society. For three years he had been Chairman of the Vocal Society. For some time he had lived at Acorn Villas and "a year or two ago built the palatial 'Rossmore' which he had recently sold." A petition in bankruptcy had recently been filed against him, and his partnership with Mr. W. E. Scott another Ilkley resident, had been dissolved. The Gazette suggested that Mr. Robinson owed amounts totalling £3,000 and published a list of people to whom it alleged amounts were owed.

Ilkley was included with Menston, Burley Denton and Otley in a suggested tramway scheme which was to be connected with Keighley and East and West Morton and to be known as the Wharfe Valley Tramway Scheme. It was suggested that three years must elapse before the scheme could be put in motion but it was to be an ambitious scheme which was to be put to the authority "Many road widenings and diversions will be necessary to enable it to be carried out but these difficulties should not prove serious if the active co-operation of the local authorities can be obtained.

The Rev. H. R. Hughes who had been appointed Vicar of St. John's, Maidstone, had been curate at St. Margaret's for four years. He had previously been curate at Leeds, Maidstone, for eleven years.

### 50 Years Ago

The breaking-up ceremony at Ilkley Grammar School was marked with an interesting presentation of a flag to the 5th Ilkley troop of Boy Scouts. The flag was the Union Jack into which the school coat of arms had been worked.

It was given by Mr. S. G. Sutcliffe to mark his appreciation of the enthusiasm the troop had shown in ambulance training which Mr. Sutcliffe had been imparted to them over the preceding months. Senior Patrol Leader Douglas Bentley received the flag from Mrs. Frazer on behalf of the troop.

Severe frost made skating possible on the tarn and the Ilkley Council rose to the occasion by illuminating it with fairy lights at night. The arc lamps and coloured lights reflected across the snow covered moor made a "veritable fairy land". Skaters revelled in the opportunities afforded.

### 25 Years Ago

Ilkley Council was asked by the War Memorial Committee to "free" a portion of land owned by them but tenanted and sub-tenanted by various people which stretched about two thirds of the way from the Old to the New Bridge, between Castle Road and the river in order that it could be developed as a riverside garden as part of the War Memorial scheme.

Keen frost blizzards and rain had been experienced in Ilkley but the snowfall was light.

"An entranced audience" saw Dicken's Christmas Carol brought to vivid life at St. Margaret's Hall. Mrs. Kathleen Oglesby and Mr. Ronald Priestman sang solos and they were accompanied by Mr. D. H. Martin.

It was announced that Miss L. A. E. Howker had been appointed the first headmistress of the new County Infants' School in Leeds Road, Ilkley, hoped to be ready to open at the end of March, 1953.

Ilkley Hotels offered full programmes for their many guests over the Christmas period. Dances, parties, games and musical recitals had all been arranged. The hospitals too offered their patients entertainment, Christmas dinners and splendid decorations.

## Tree Planted to Com memorate Silver Jubilee



A new variety of maple tree was planted at the Memorial Gardens on The Grove Ilkley, as a durable memento of Royal Silver Jubilee Year, which ended in April. The tree was planted by District Councillor Mrs. Joan Lightband of Ilkley, Chairman of the Bradford North East Area Jubilee Committee. Pictured by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

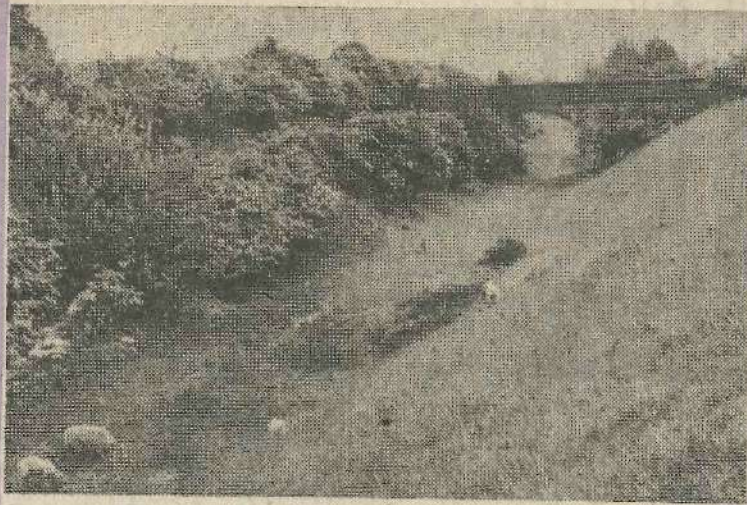
# Selection of Pictures from 1978

## Start of New Era at Ilkley College



The planting of a whitebeam tree by the Lord Mayor of Bradford District outside Ilkley College marked the beginning of a new era at the college after its merger with Bingley College.

## Protests Over Tip Plan



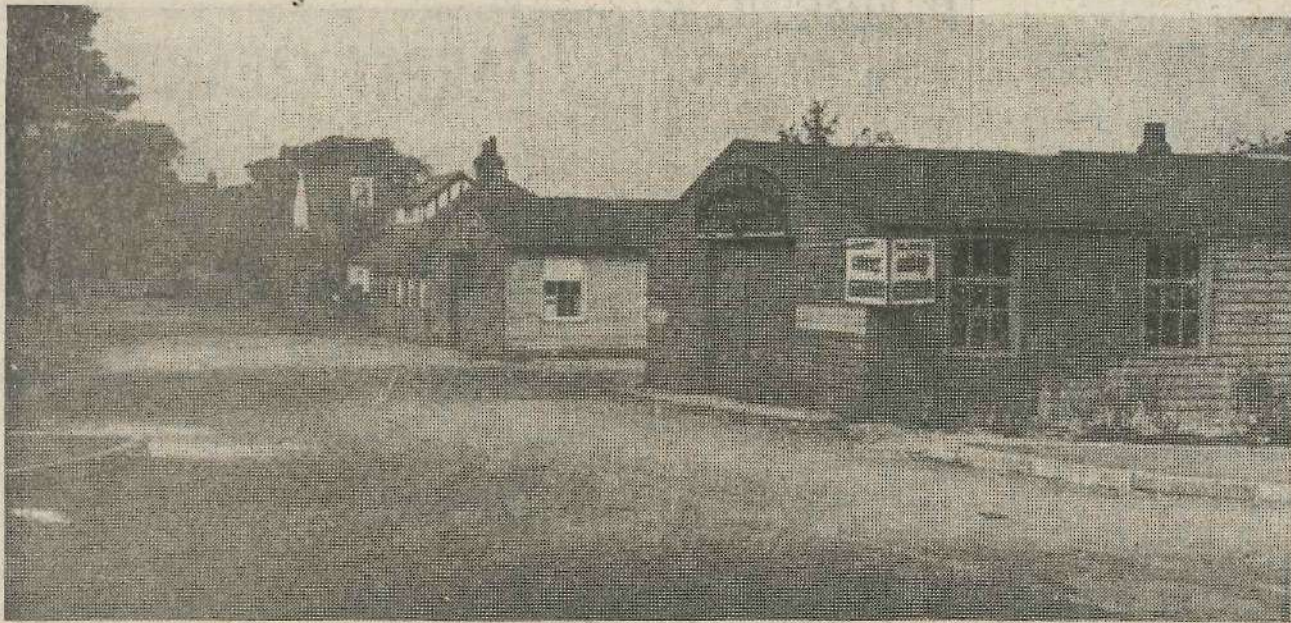
Proposals put forward by West Yorkshire County Council for the tipping of domestic, commercial and industrial waste in the old railway cutting near Stockinger Lane sparked off a storm of protest in the village of Addingham in June. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## Repairing Stepping Stones



The stepping stones across the River Wharfe at Ben Rhydding were repaired in June, after having been in a state of disrepair for over ten years since about a dozen were washed away in a severe storm. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

## Council Orders Action Over Derelict Ilkley Buildings



In January Bradford Metropolitan Council served orders requiring either the repair or demolition of the familiar wooden buildings in Castle Road, Ilkley, under the Public Health Acts. The buildings, formerly owned by Chambers motor body builders, were demolished in September. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.



## Repairs to Indoor Swimming Pool



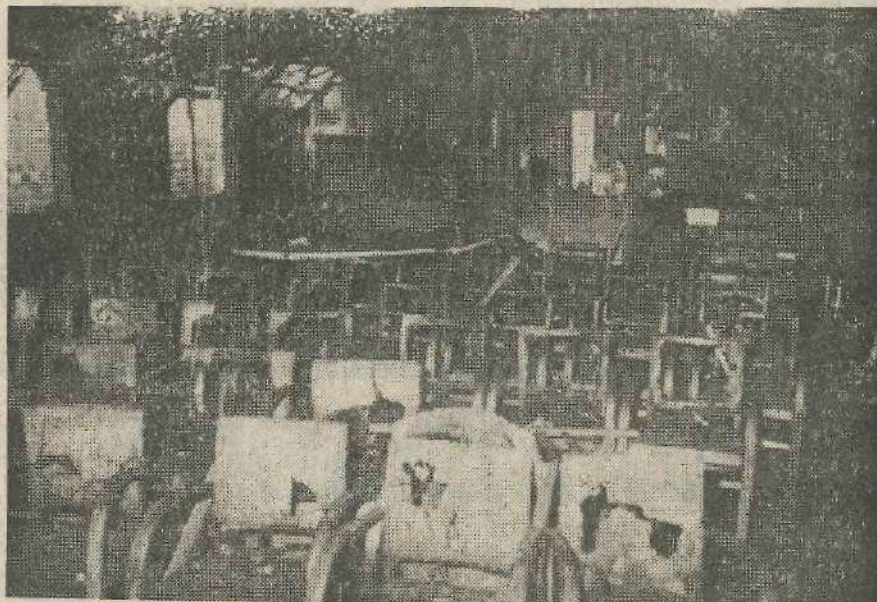
The closure of Ikley's indoor swimming pool for repairs to its tiled surface in June was criticised by Ikley Parish Council, who felt the pool should have been closed during its less busy periods and not in the middle of the swimming season.

## Facelift for Ikley Station



Work started in October on a major clean-up scheme at Ikley Railway Station, beginning with sandblasting of the building, which dates back to the 1860's.

## Fire Destroys Kingdom Hall



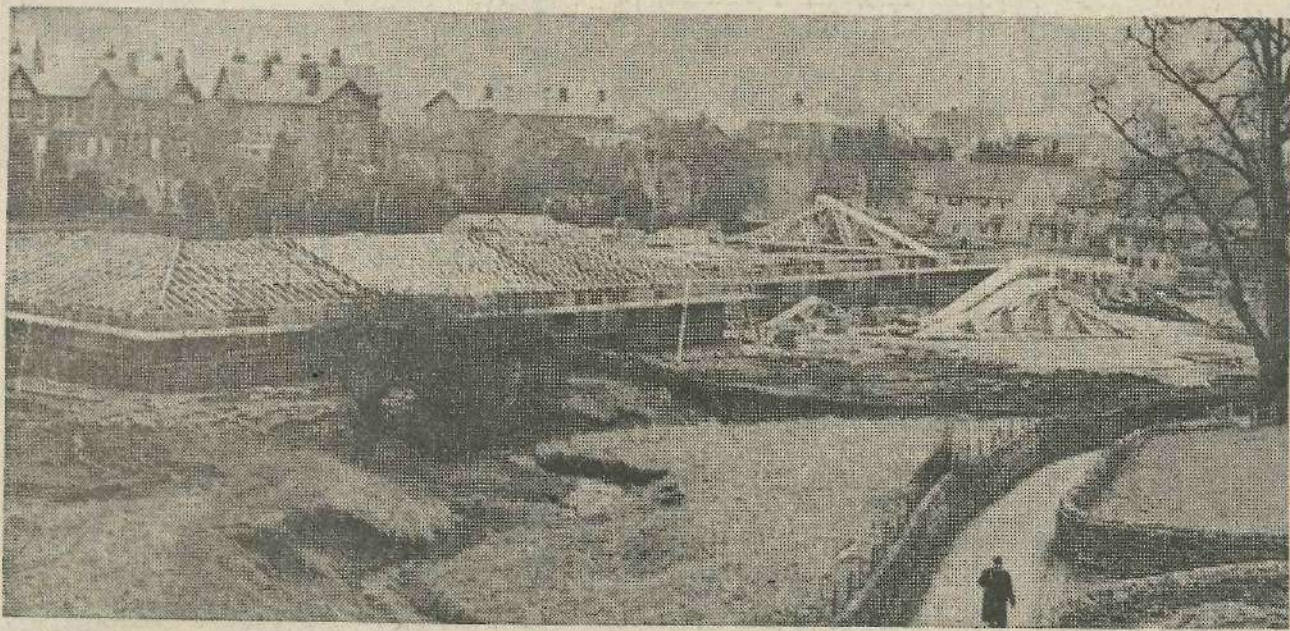
Ikley's Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall in Golden Butts Road was gutted by a fire which caused damage estimated at £20,000 in July, and had to be demolished. The Ikley congregation was later offered a site at the bottom of Wellington Road for a replacement meeting place. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ikley.

## £20,000 Blaze Destroys Ilkley Workshops



An Ilkley building worker was charged with arson after a blaze destroyed workshops and stores at Vince Dobson (Builders) Ltd., Regent Road, Ilkley. Damage to the premises was estimated at over £20,000. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.

## New Middle School Taking Shape at Addingham



Work was well under way on construction of Addingham's new Middle School on land at the junction of Back Beck Lane and Bolton Road when the picture above was taken in April. The new £140,000 school will accommodate 350 children and was expected to open at the start of 1979. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## Pedestrian Jumps Clear in Addingham Crash



A pedestrian had to jump for his life and cars mounted the pavement to avoid a lorry which ran out of control down the hill into Addingham. Scenes like this pictured above led to renewed pressure for a by-pass to take heavy vehicles away from the narrow Main Street, and later in the year proposals for five alternative by-pass routes were put forward for consideration in a public participation exercise. Picture by Phillip Bambridge, Addingham.

## New Pelican Crossing at Burley



Continuous pressure from Burley-in-Wharfedale residents brought about the provision of a pelican crossing in Main Street, near Iron Row. After long delays which led to much criticism from residents the crossing was officially switched on at the end of April by County Councillor H. V. Haddrill of Ilkley, Chairman of West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council. Picture by Richard Beckwith, Ilkley.