

HOUSE MAKES WAY FOR ROAD

1992



23-1-92

THE demolition of a house in Brewery Road, Ilkley, was necessary in September, 1963, to provide a link road between Mayfield Road and Railway Road. It was hoped at the time that this would relieve some of the pressure on a section of Leeds Road.

ILKLEY NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO



RAILWAY property dominated a large part of the centre of Ilkley when this aerial view was taken in the summer of 1963.

Top right of the picture shows the bridge carrying the railway west of Ilkley across Brook Street, the station area and top left the large area of ground occupied by the goods yard.

Land at the bottom right of picture was occupied by Chamber Bros, coach builders, and close

by land in New Brook Street next to Ilkley Playhouse was still undeveloped.

There have been many other changes to the town centre noticeably the demolition of the Essoldo Cinema in Railway Road, the demolition of the Leeds Road Primitive Methodist Church at the junction with Wharfe View Road, the council depot in Golden Butts Road, changes at the top of Brook Street and Tower Buildings at the bottom of Cowpasture Road.

YORKSHIRE does not figure too prominently in the work of Charles Dickens

A memorable exception is in his book, *Nicholas Nickleby*, when the title character arrives at the aptly named Dotheboys Hall to become a teacher.

He is greeted by torrential rainfall and a headmaster called Wackford Squeers who no Tyke would label as an honourable ambassador for the county.

Born in Portsmouth in 1812, Dickens based most of his 14 major novels in the Victorian London where he lived from the age of 11.

His literary voyage north to savage the Industrial Revolution in *Hard Times* in 1854 was written after a day visit to Preston.

Unsurprisingly, this is one of Dickens's least celebrated works with critics attacking his portrayal of union leaders and mill owners.

Did he visit Ilkley on his way to Lancashire? A day or two to refresh himself in the famous spa waters perhaps? It seems not.

DARWIN VISIT

"I do not think he ever did visit Ilkley. There are no records of him ever having turned up on the visitors lists as far as I know," says Ilkley historian Denise Shillitoe.

One famous 'C D' of the time did stay over for the spas. Naturalist Charles Darwin stopped at White Wells cottage on Ilkley Moor in 1859 after writing his controversial *Origin of the Species*.

So what did Darwin enjoy that Dickens missed? Ilkley was a peaceful health resort on the brink of change.

The famous waters and their cures had attracted a number of outsiders to settle in the town since

the 17th century. Another famous visitor was waxworks founder Madame Tussaud.

The spring at White Wells contributed heavily towards the number of lodging houses and inns - including the Rose and Crown, which still exists as a public house in Church Street.

But manufacturing business owners in Leeds and Bradford were deterred from moving into the Wharfe Valley by a two-hour coach journey from both cities.

However, Ilkley was still a haven for the middle class. The 1841 census revealed more than 10 per cent of a population of 778 had sufficient means not to work.

"This suggests that even at this date the wealthier middle classes were beginning to find Ilkley a suitable spot for their residence," writes David Carpenter in his book *Ilkley - The Victorian Era*.

SALE OF LAND

Mr Carpenter explains that the so-called 'independents' congregated in newly built houses in Wells Road, West View and Mount Pleasant while a working class community lived around what is today's town centre.

What Darwin himself missed was the doubling in size of Ilkley's population in the decade after his stay to 2,500 by 1871.

This was caused by a widespread sale of land for building by the new Squire Middleton and the opening of the town's railway station.

Ilkley was immediately served by regular trains to and from both Leeds and Bradford which paved its way for development as a commuter town.

Darwin also missed the *Ilkley Gazette* - first published in May 1861.



● Above - Green Lane Cottage, Ilkley, as it appeared in 1867. Below - Thatched cottages at the top of Brook Street portrayed in the 19th century. Both these pictures are postcards published by Shuttleworth, of Ilkley.



● A horse and cart stand outside a grocer's shop in Brook Street, Ilkley, during the 1860s. The thatched property was owned by Mr and Mrs Ickringill who are pictured inset.

TELEPHONES IN ILKLEY

100 Years Ago

THE technological age came to Ilkley in March 1892 with the opening of a telephone call office.

The National Telephone Co Ltd opened an Ilkley Exchange Call Office at 7 Nelson Road.

It was understood that the private wires for subscribers were to be rapidly pushed on with so that in a short time Ilkley would have the advantages arising from telephonic conjunctions with the great centres of industry.

FOR more
but with
Dwindlin
populari
could su
This w
at the Gr
of 1967.
Ilkley's e
for about
Arthur C
brother.
It was
of the 19



Now Ilkley's oldest inn, the Rose and Crown in Church Street is pictured as Dickens might have found it.

Archivist recalls Ilkley's past

12.3.92
MEMBERS of the Olicana Museum and Historical Society enjoyed an interesting talk given by Sylvia Thomas, the archivist of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

The society's collection of archives, housed at its Leeds headquarters, began during the 19th century with donations from members and local families and is now part of the West Yorkshire Archive Service.

It contains many items relating to mid-Wharfedale and includes family papers from the Fawkes, of Farnley, the Hawksworths of Menston, the Smiths of Addingham and the Cliffords of Skipton. The collection of most immediate interest to people in Ilkley, however, is undoubtedly the large Middleton family archive.

The Middletons' lands were widely scattered across the country but their long connection with the parish of Ilkley means that there are documents dating from the 12th century relating to their manors of Middleton and Stubham and others from the 15th century onwards relating to the manor of Ilkley.

In addition to legal documents and court rolls there are also less formal documents such as letters, recipes, inventories and notes of expenses; one of these records being the considerable expenditure of £92 11s 8d laid out for family mourning clothes in 1614.

Other items of local interest at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society include field notes and plans of excavations at Ilkley Roman Fort and plans of some of the 17th century houses in the valley.

Mrs Thomas also took along a fascinating collection of items from the archives which members were able to view after the lecture.

100 Years Ago

23.7.1992

PLANS for the adaptation of the old chapel in Skipton Road, Ilkley, to a museum were well advanced in July, 1892. Ilkley Local Board had promised to make up the difference in the amount asked and another gentleman had offered pecuniary assistance.

Objects of interest - local and otherwise - were constantly received either as absolute gifts or on loan and when the portals were opened to the public it was thought there would be on view a very creditable little exhibition. A Mr Oxley was appointed curator at a weekly salary of £1.

100 Years Ago

22.10.92

ILKLEY Moor was at the centre of a historic acquisition deal in 1892. Members of the Local Board in the town were called together for talks on the purchase of the expansive moors, Holling Hall Moor, Silver Well Farm, land around Panorama Rocks and Heber's Ghyll from Lord of the Manor C M Middleton.



FOR more than 40 years Ilkley had two cinemas, but within two years both had closed down. Dwindling audiences and the ever growing popularity of television was more than either could sustain and led to their demise.

This week Scenes from the Past takes a look at the Grove Cinema, the first to close at the end of 1967. It provided a valuable contribution to Ilkley's entertainment for almost 50 years and, for about 30 years, was under the control of Mr Arthur Croft, who originally started it with his brother.

It was at the Grove Cinema towards the end of the 1920's that permanent equipment for the

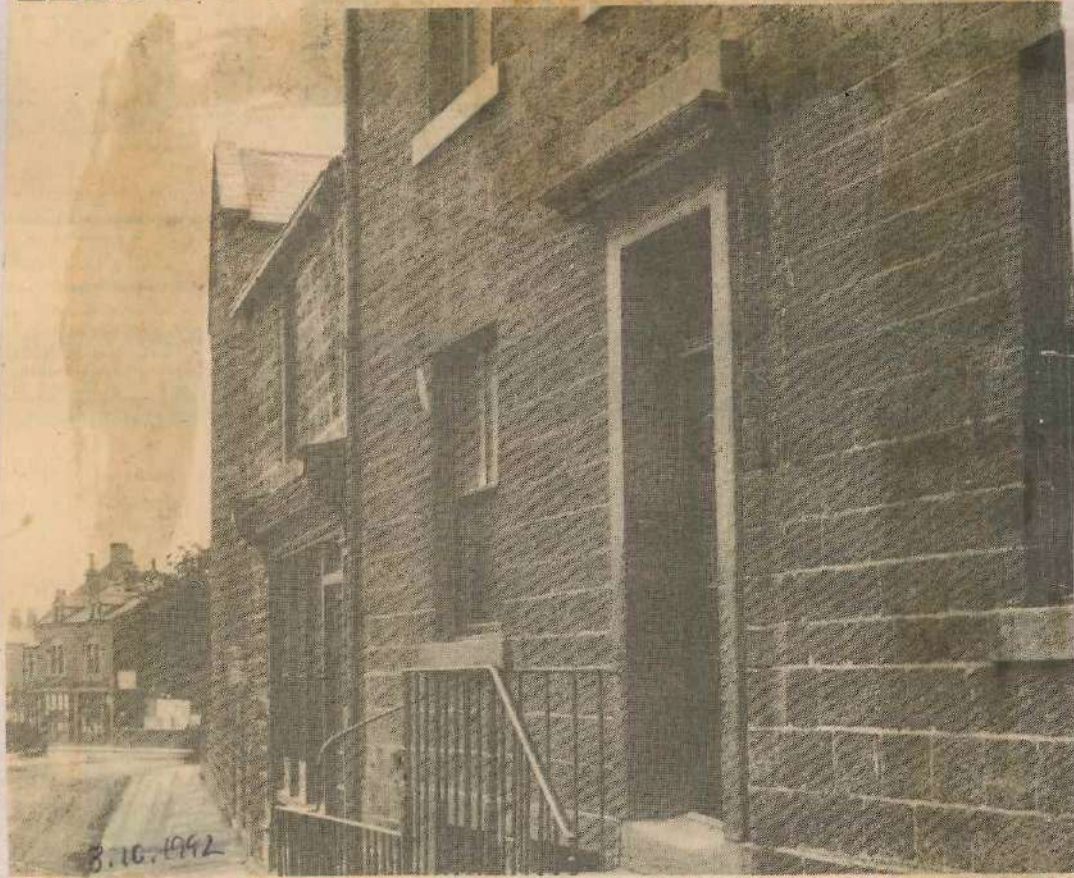
showing of the first 'talkies' at Ilkley was installed.

Prices were then 1s 3d (6½p) and 1s 9d (9p) upstairs and 6d (2½p) downstairs and they would be able to put on a show as good as anything in the West End of London.

The cinema stood on land which now served as the town's central car park and the entrance to the cinema faced towards The Grove reached by the road at the side of W H Smith's.

At the time of its closure the cinema was owned by Star Cinemas, who proudly announced the 'Grove Cinema was the home of ideal entertainment.'

LEEDS ROAD OVER 100 YEARS AGO



3.16.1992

Leeds Road was nothing more than a dirt road when this picture was taken over 100 years ago.

It was perhaps adequate for the amount of traffic it had to accommodate until the age of motor traffic demanded higher standards.

Though the property opposite the entrance to Weston Road still exists, it has changed

somewhat on the ground level where improvements have taken place over the years.

It stood next door to the Bay Horse Hotel which was demolished in 1963. The Bay Horse's records as a "beer house" went back to 1875 but it was some years older than that and to older generations was known as the "Knaggs Head." 18.10.1992



5.11.1992.

INCOMING trains at Ilkley Railway Station during the Whitsuntide holiday of 1964 presented a similar scene to this one.

Holidaymakers arrived from Leeds and Bradford eager to get to the moor, the riverside, the bathing pool or start a tramp to points

higher up the dale.

Many passengers continued to Bolton Abbey. This train had arrived at Platform 3 today part of a car park and railings to the left of the passengers bordered the subway which led to Railway Road.

STA
alta

in Ch
settle
The
Tony
comm
police
cautio
But
warn
return
crosse
tually
Mr
Ben
rushed
ing lo
the ch

"I c
saw f
which
again
"I put
newsp
voice
paper
"I a
leave
for a s
a bee
cigare

two st
In M
by a r
were i
Earli
paigne
to be
Manor
their h

But
opposi
na Mus
which
lose pa
The
could
moval
until th
church
"Here
dent, o
ce whi
serious
The
about a
the four
on whi
built.

"I c
name
him to
pointe
me in
ton.
By t
after M
church
Ilkley
They
end of
man, b
30, star
display
Officer
from th
Mr.
swollen
pains,
dent w
he had

STARTLED churchgoers looked on as a man who had lit a fire on a stone altar at the centre of controversy then assaulted a 72-year-old verger.

Len Saxton was elbowed in the mouth after he put out flames inside All Saints Church in Church Street, Ilkley. The altar is one of two stones thought to date back to the Roman settlement of Olicana in 80-400 AD.

The parish curate, the Rev Tony Kidd, was forced to halt a communion service and alert police who arrived in time to caution the stranger.

But officers were forced to warn the man again after he returned and ripped up wooden crosses as worshippers eventually left the church.

Mr Saxton, of Bolling Road, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, first rushed from the chapel on hearing loud voices at the back of the church.

Beer can

"I could not see anyone but I saw flames on a stone altar which we have in the church against our will," said Mr Saxton. "I put the flames out with a newspaper that was there and a voice said 'Hey that is my newspaper'."

"I asked him if he would leave and he said he had come for a service. Then I saw he had a beer can in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

two stones in six months.

In March he was confronted by a man angry that the altars were inside a Christian church.

Earlier this year All Saints campaigned for the inscribed stones to be moved next door to the Manor House museum because of their historical significance.

Won't rest

But the move was foiled by opposition from the town's Olicana Museum and Historical Society, which feared the church would lose part of its heritage.

The latest incident could renew appeals for the removal of the altars. "I won't rest until these stones are out of this church," said Mr Saxton.

"Here we have yet another incident, only this time during a service which could have been quite serious," added Mr Kidd.

The stones were discovered about a century ago buried among the foundations of a Roman tower on which All Saints Church is built.

"I ordered him out in the name of God and then ushered him towards the door where he pointed his elbow and thumped me in my mouth," said Mr Saxton.

By this time officers arrived after Mr Kidd had sounded a church alarm connected to Ilkley Police Station.

They were called again at the end of the service when the man, believed to be aged 25 to 30, started ripping up the charity display of embroidered crosses. Officers then escorted him away from the premises.

Mr Saxton, who suffered a swollen mouth and angina pains, later revealed the incident was the second encounter he had had over the church's



Verger Len Saxton is pictured with the stone altar which was charred by fire. 17.9.1992

MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF STONES

25.9.92

SIR,- Following the report of the latest incident regarding the historic stones at All Saints' Parish Church, we, as concerned local historians, wish to express our sympathy to the vicar, the Rev Peter Marshall, the curate, the Rev A Kidd, the verger, Mr Len Saxton, and the parishioners.

We appreciate the anxiety expressed by the curate and the parishioners that the stones might become a focus for anti-Christian activities, and understand their desire to remove them from the church. Nevertheless, we feel it is important that the archaeological heritage of the church is preserved.

These stones, described by the late Prof John le Patourel as "among the most venerable stones in the Riding", appear to be Roman monuments re-used to serve as window or door heads in an early Anglo-Saxon building, no doubt the forerunner of the present church. As such they are tangible evidence of a continuous Christian presence on the site from pre-Conquest times.

In view of the obvious security aspect, we welcome the Parochial Church Council's agreement to a meeting being held for all interested parties.

Vandalism is a problem for many churches in the neighbourhood and indeed nationwide. Therefore, we hope that the meeting will include not only local representatives but also spokesmen for such national bodies as the Council for British Archaeology and the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments.

These organisations, experi-

enced in dealing with matters of this kind, may be able to offer advice which will lead to a satisfactory resolution of this complex and sensitive problem.

Moirra H Long, May F Pickles, Patricia Allon, D A Shillitoe, K M Mason, P J Hudson, Maureen Johnson.

Address supplied.

Removing altars may not solve problem

SIR, — I would like to reply to a report in the Ilkley Gazette, September 17, from Mr Saxton, verger at All Saints' Parish Church, Ilkley.

One can sympathise with Mr Saxton as he carries a great responsibility, but as long as the church remains open and unattended anyone, drunk or sober, can enter and carry out a bet or a grievance.

Removing the altars may not solve the problem, something of greater significance could suffer instead.

As most people know by now the altars were re-cut to be used as window heads in the first stone church built on that site. At a later date they were used as building blocks in the church tower when the tower was built on to the west end of the nave.

They could not, therefore, have been found a century ago buried among the foundations of a Roman tower as reported.

E GREENWOOD

7 Westville Road,

A PARISH vicar is to demand the removal of Roman altar stones which have attracted a series of pagan worshippers to his church.

The inscribed artefacts in All Saints' Church in Ilkley date are thought to have been used originally to worship pre-Christian gods.

Four times in the last three years "worshippers" have visited them. In the latest incident on Thursday a traveller was discovered burning a sacrifice on them.

Now the vicar, the Rev Peter Marshall, is to ask Ilkley parish church council to take action to move

the three stones to end the problem.

He says the latest intruder, who was in his late 20s, refused to leave and had to be ejected by police after he hit the verger, Len Saxton, on the face and disrupted a service.

He returned half an hour later, to the distress of the elderly congregation.

Mr Saxton added: "The man looked like a traveller and he was burning papers on the altar. It was obviously a sacrifice.

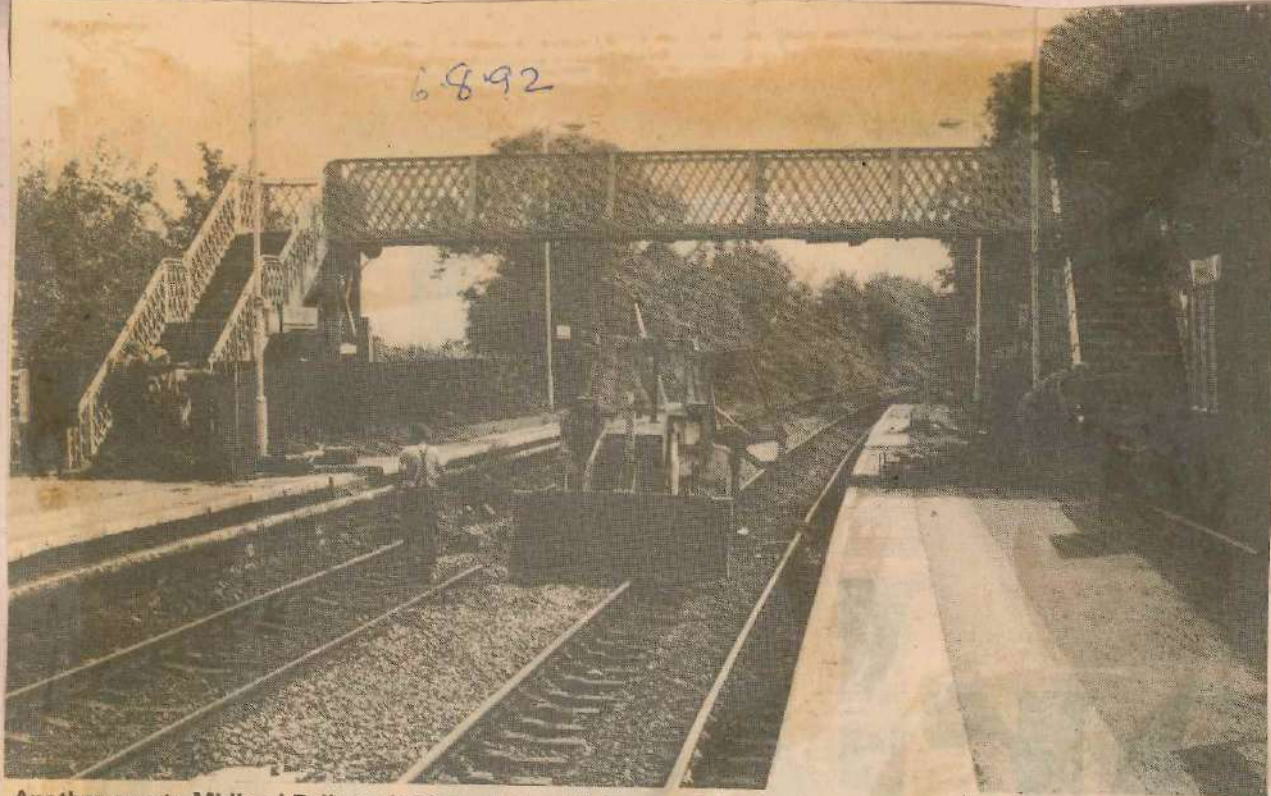
"He said we had no right to throw him out. I got the impression he was a pagan worshipper.

"Another time a man marched in like a Nazi and went up to the altar stones trailing his wife or mistress behind him. When asked to leave he started abusing us, saying they were his altars in his church."

On two other occasions strangers have come to the church to worship at the three oblong stones.

Mr Marshall tried earlier this year to have the stones moved to the next-door Manor House Museum.

The scheme was abandoned after objections by Friends of the museum and the Olicana Museum and Historical Society of Ilkley.



Another ornate Midland Railway bridge which will disappear under the modernisation plan is this one at Ben Rhydding. It will be replaced by another similar in style to that already erected at Guiseley.

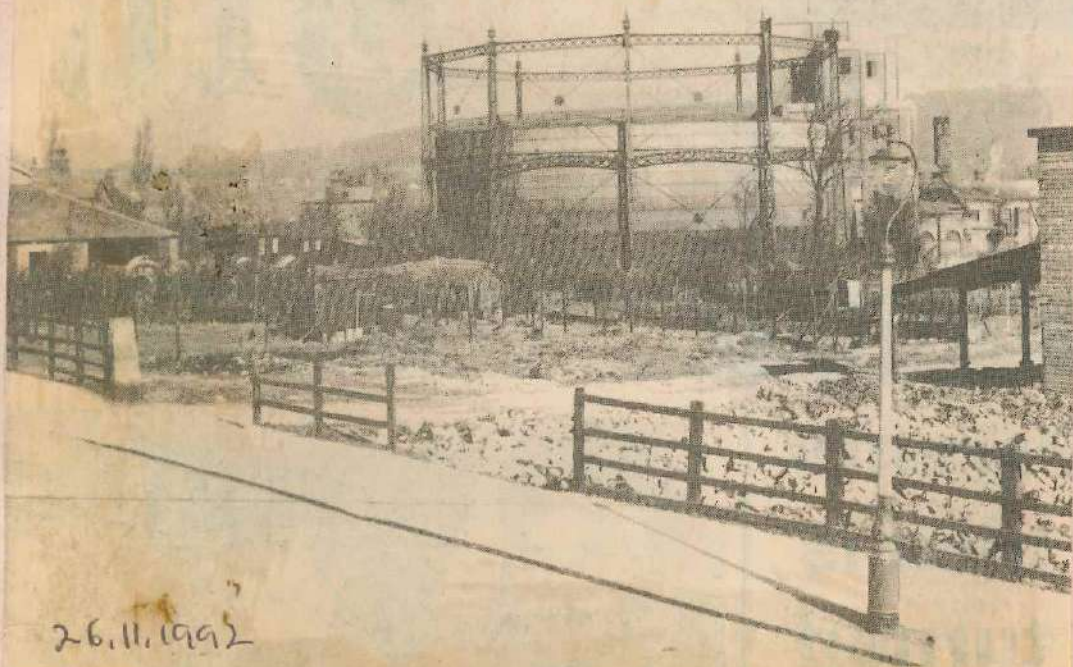
NOT since the days when the early railway navvies thrust a line through the heart of Wharfedale 127 years ago has there been so much engineering work along the route.

For five weeks the vital rail connections with Leeds and Bradford have been severed whilst engineers push ahead to prepare the Wharfedale network for electrification and the 21st century.

A RAILWAY footbridge which has served the Wharfedale line for over 100 years disappeared from the landscape on Sunday.

The bridge at Ben Rhydding Railway Station was too low to accept the overhead cables for the electrification of the line which is due to be operational by next year.

SITE OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



ALLOTMENTS and smallholdings occupied this land between Little Lane and Leeds Road, Ilkley, which now serves as the town's industrial estate.

This picture taken from Little Lane illustrates the site over 40 years ago when Ilkley had its own gas making facilities seen in the background.

At the moment, parts of the line between Ilkley and Guiseley look as if the late Dr Beeching might have had his way when, as chairman of British Rail, he wanted to axe the line in 1963.

The tracks have been lifted and ballast pushed aside to allow for excavations to enable the track to be lowered at vital sites ready for overhead cables to be positioned.

This has been necessary at Greenbottom Tunnel (135 yards) where hundreds of tons of soil have been removed and underneath the bridge in Bradford Road at Menston.

Lineside trees are being cut back, footbridges have been modified while others at Ilkley and Ben Rhydding have yet to be completely replaced. The bridge for Ben Rhydding has already been made but it is not expected to be erected for another 12 months.

Busiest line

Now it is all systems go for the line which has become one of the busiest served by the MetroTrain network and which survived a second attempt on its existence in 1968.

At that time, approval was given

to close the railway from Guiseley to Shipley which meant that Ilkley trains would have to be diverted via Apperley Bridge. The line, however, was saved by Bradford Council in the early 1970s.

Engineers have just over three weeks left to prepare the line for the three-cars Class 323 electric trains which, it is hoped, will enter service in the summer of 1994.

Alternative

The Wharfedale line is part of a £70m scheme by the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority to electrify the Airedale line as far as Skipton and the link between Leeds and Bradford.

Building a new electric railway is a mammoth task and demands an enormous shopping list which includes: 280 miles of overhead wire, 2,820 electrification masts, 87 signal lights, 23 ground signals, 290 track circuits and 71 bridge projects.

While Ilkley's rail link remains

closed, thousands of commuters from villages and towns along the line including Ben Rhydding, Bury, Menston and Guiseley are left to an alternative bus-rail link to the cities or of finding their own transportation.

So far, very few commuters appear to be using the alternative service provided by METRO. Some are believed to be making the journey by car to Steeton for a rail connection to Leeds and Bradford while others make the journeys by road.

The Director of Regional Railways North East, Aidan Nelson, says the scheme will continue Regional Railways' policy of urban congestion-busting and encourage more people to use local trains.

It will help to ease the congestion on the roads and this major boost to rail services in West Yorkshire will allow Regional Railways to improve the reliability and comfort of trains and to introduce new and enhanced services.

His

THE
JO
FW
Arth



is one o

electrifi

ILKL
elect
Whar
The
finis
York
A s
that
"W
Whar
which
signa
some
Railw

Historian retraces the Ilkley-Otley Railway

13.8.92

THE OTLEY AND ILKLEY JOINT RAILWAY

FW Smith and Martin Bairstow

Arthington Apperley Junction Shipley Otley Ilkley

LOCAL railway historian FW (Bill) Smith of Ben Rhydding has launched his second book in six years.

The Otley and Ilkley Joint Railway follows his successful publication in 1986 of the Skipton and Ilkley line and completes a much needed up-to-date history of the Wharfedale line from when it was first mooted to its present day operation.

The book is even more significant as the Ilkley section of the railway undergoes modernisation for electrification and the 21st century.

Ilkley was fortunate in surviving two attempts to close down its rail links with Leeds and Bradford. Otley failed and was swept away underneath the Beeching mat.

One is able to plot the course an electrified railway to Otley and beyond would have taken if the line had survived the onslaught of closure, for the author well illustrates with photographs and maps the location of this lost railway.

The Otley and Ilkley Joint Railway met in 1860 and agreed that the building of a railway should be a joint undertaking and five years later the first train ran into Otley from Leeds via Arthington.

Six months later it was the turn of Ilkley to celebrate the rail connection with Otley. The Otley-Menston connection, via Milnerwood, completed the railway network in this area.

The book deals with the Shipley and Guiseley connection, Arthington to Burley and Menston, locomotive and train workings, passenger timetables and the 1939-45 war and after.

Another section deals with the coming of the diesels, threat of complete closure, the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Ilkley engine shed, personnel, signalling and the Esholt junction accident of 1892.

The book is completed by a history of the Yeadon Branch, the High Royds Hospital Railway at Menston and the Pool Quarry Railway.

More than 100 photographs and maps, many of which are pub-

lished for the first time, complement the publication which has now gone on sale at £7.25.

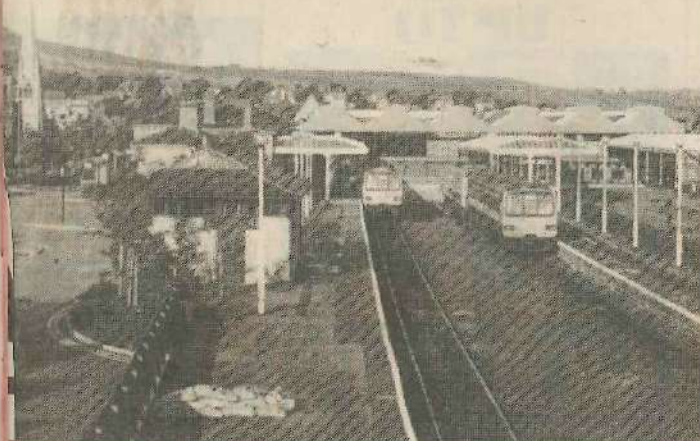
Within days of it reaching bookshops the book went into the area's ten best sellers.

The book is dedicated to the Ilkley Railway Supporters' Association and, in particular, to its chairman, the late Mr Hedley Wright, who worked many hours fighting the closure proposals of 1963 and 1968, without which the Wharfedale line would have been closed long ago.

The author's interest in railways goes back to his schoolboy days and eventually led to a railway career which has spanned more than 30 years.

He began at Embsay, near Skipton as porter signalman and later served as signalman at Burley for many years before becoming signalman at Ilkley. There he will bring a 129-year railway signalling tradition at Ilkley to an end on the electrification of the Wharfedale line in 1994.

The book is published by Martin Bairstow, of Fountain Chambers, Halifax.



Guiseley signal-box faces an uncertain future.

The signal-box at Ilkley Junction

is one of 13 which face demolition or removal with the electrification of the Wharfedale line.

ILKLEY signal box which is to be removed under the electrification scheme earmarked to be operational on the Wharfedale line by the Spring of next year may be preserved.

The old signal box with Midland Railway features could finish up in the national railway collection at the museum in York.

A spokesman for the museum told the "Gazette" this week that no decision had yet been taken to preserve it.

"When major schemes such as the electrification of the Wharfedale line take place we try to inspect any material which might be worthy of preservation. It could be that the signal box at Ilkley might not be suitable because it could be something of a hybrid and not of the standard Midland Railway pattern," he said.

25.3.93.

DOOMED signal-boxes along the Wharfedale railway line should be preserved as historic landmarks, according to train buffs.

British Rail is being urged to put the brakes on plans to axe the outdated signal-boxes at Ilkley and Guiseley.

They are among 13 boxes which face demolition or removal in 1994 when the long-awaited electrification project finally becomes a reality.

The boxes will become redundant and trains on the local network will be controlled by new £18m signalling which will be operated from Leeds.

But the Wharfedale Rail Users' Group says the signal-boxes at Ilkley and Guiseley should stay where they are and become special landmarks or museum pieces on the track side.

Secretary Derrick Joanes said they did not automatically have to be removed just because they would no longer be in operation.

"It would be nice to see at least some of these boxes preserved in their present location because they are part of the heritage of the towns," he said.

9.4.92
by Steve Dennis

That suggestion was backed by chairman-elect of Ilkley Parish Council and rail enthusiast, Coun Alec Henderson.

"If it is feasible to keep and maintain the local signal-boxes then it would be an excellent idea or the boxes could be taken away and re-erected elsewhere on another working railway," he said.

A spokesman for British Rail said the future of the control facilities had not been finalised - although planning applications had already been made for the demolition of those at Bingley and Shipley.

He said they were open to any suggestions or offers regarding the future of the signal-boxes and all proposals would be considered.

The staff manning the boxes will not lose their jobs. They will be offered alternative employment within BR, he said.

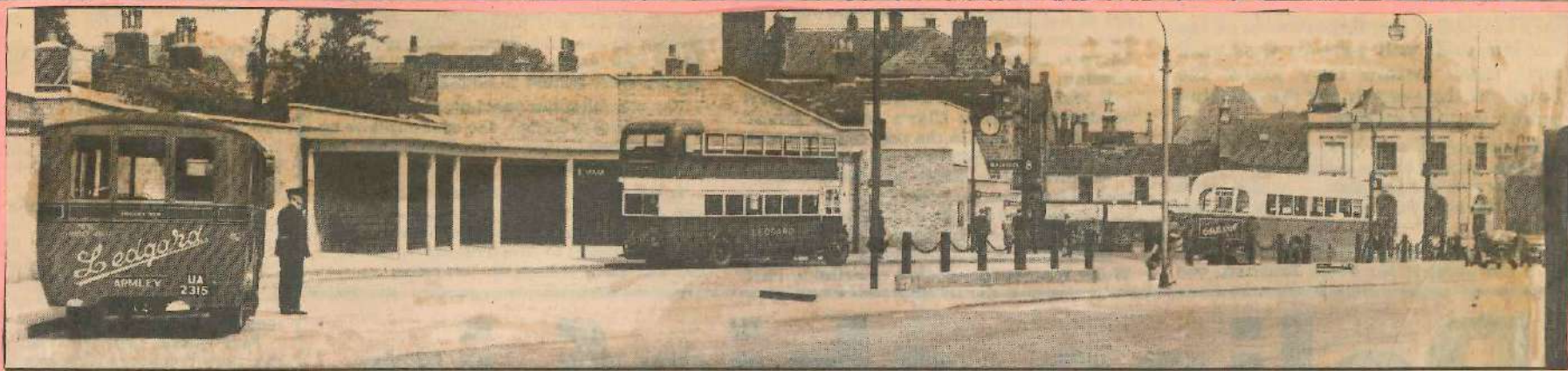
As for relaying information to waiting commuters on the platform, a new public address system operated from Leeds will be brought into effect.

A Metro spokeswoman said she understood some people would be upset at the prospect of pieces of rail history being removed.

"We have sympathy with those people but there are going to be certain things with electrification that will change and we are going to have to bite the bullet," she said.

"Hopefully, the benefits of hi-tech trains and a better service will outweigh the slight losses," she added.





51092

Otley bus station in the 1930's was one of the main strongholds of the Ledgard Company.

COMMEMORATION RUN TO MARK FORMER LOCAL BUS COMPANY

ENTHUSIASTS with their 14 buses, friends and former bus employees will arrive at Ilkley on Wednesday evening to commemorate a milestone in the history of local public transport.

They will meet in New Brook Street from where they will start a commemorative run to Armley, Leeds, to mark the 25th anniversary of the end of the Samuel Ledgard bus company.

It will be exactly 25 years ago to the day that the last public service operated by the company ran in the Wharfe Valley.

One of the highlights of the evening will be a re-enactment of the last bus which operated out of Leeds to Ilkley and another from Ilkley to Otley.

Enthusiasts are set for what at first was thought might be a "quiet affair" with three buses to one that has snowballed into something quite different.

It has captured the memories of many people who served with the company and those who relied on the Ledgard's services. Now 14 buses are expected and interest is growing daily.

around the town and Ben Rhydding.

Their meeting in New Brook Street is significant in that it was always the terminus and departure point for the blue buses of Samuel Ledgard.

They never ventured, except on special occasions, into other parts of the town centre served by the red liveried buses of the West Yorkshire Road Car Company (itself now part of the Yorkshire Rider Group).

Co-owner of a 1948 AEC Regent 3 double decker Colin Hockley, of Prospect Road, Burley-in-Wharfedale, will be one of those enthusiasts attending the Ilkley meeting with his bus.

ON the eve of events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the last service operated by the Samuel Ledgard Bus Company 25 years ago, BRIAN LYNCH takes a look at what enthusiasts have planned to take a trip into the past.

They have invited those interested to meet in New Brook Street, Ilkley, where a cavalcade of vintage buses will bring back memories for those who travelled on buses and coaches for work and pleasure in the 1960s.



I love old buses says Colin

LOCAL bus enthusiast Colin Hockley loves old buses and is a co-owner of this beautifully restored London Transport vehicle, similar to some of those operated by the Ledgard Company.

Colin, who lives in Prospect Road, Burley, became a co-owner three years ago when it was bought from a fellow preservationist.

It is a 1948 AEC Regent 3, whose age is beginning to tell when it comes to replacing some parts. "But we get a great deal of help from various companies in the area to keep the wheels rolling," says Colin.

The vehicle probably covered one and a half million miles on service with London Transport before being sold off in 1979 and travelling north for preservation. The vehicle has been in private ownership ever since.

Said Colin: "Wherever it goes it always creates a great deal of interest."

"It has now become part of the Keighley Bus Museum collection where we hope to garage it the near future."

"It was a casual remark I made at a meeting at Keighley which led to the commemorative run on Wednesday."

"There has been so much interest expressed that we shall be looking at holding some kind of event each year."

For some, gone are the days when a Rolls Royce took a bride to church. It is now the age of the bus.

"Our bus is becoming quite popular for weddings," said Colin this week.

"We take the bride to church in a bus and then transport the couple to the reception."

It is becoming a familiar sight in the area and will play a prominent part in Wednesday's events.

This year it won the David Seymour Shield of the Craven Wheels Society awarded to the member whose commercial vehicle is judged the best.

SAMUEL LEDGARD
ARMLEY · LEEDS

BLUE BUS & COACH SERVICES
PHONES · ARMLEY 38661 · OTLEY 237 · ILKLEY 306 · RAWDON 324
PRIVATE PARTIES · SPECIALLY CATERED FOR

PROMOTION TACTIC: Packs of playing cards were at one time issued by the Ledgard Company promoting the firm's blue bus and coach services. This one shows an early coach probably of the 1930s era and gives telephone numbers of Ledgard offices with three digit numbers at Otley, Ilkley and Rawdon.

For almost 50 years, the company carried millions of passengers to and from work and on pleasure trips in its blue buses and coaches which operated across Wharfedale, Aireborough, Leeds and Bradford.

Its fleet of buses, of varying makes, some built many years apart, formed the backbone of public services in remote areas and in other districts provided luxury coach trips to the seaside.

Since that date in 1967 when the company ceased to exist, there has been a strong following of enthusiasts and those wishing to preserve as much of the Ledgard empire as possible.

Some of those enthusiasts will gather at Ilkley on Wednesday where they will hold a meeting and take visitors on bus rides

"Having spent almost all of my life in Ilkley, I have a great affection for the Company of Samuel Ledgard. Something I said at a recent open day at the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway has brought about this commemorative event" he said.

The cavalcade will leave Ilkley later on Wednesday night on a road run to the Nelson Hotel, Armley, once owned by Samuel Ledgard, where they will be on display along with memorabilia.

It will also be an evening for the re-union of former employees of the company.

It will end with the last two services to be operated by the company on that fateful day in October. Buses will operate out of Leeds for the last service the company operated to Ilkley and at

Wednesday's timetable

THE timetable for events to commemorate the event are:

6.30pm - Enthusiasts meeting in New Brook Street, Ilkley, where vintage buses will be on display and trips will be available around Ilkley.

7.30pm - Road run to Nelson Hotel, Armley, with vintage vehicles.

8.30pm - Arrive at the Nelson Hotel, Armley, where vintage buses and memorabilia will be on display for the reunion of Samuel Ledgard employees.

11pm. - Re-enactment of last Leeds to Ilkley service with vintage buses.

11.55pm - Re-enactment of last Ilkley to Otley bus (with stop at Mayfield Drive, Ben Rhydding).

11.55pm, a bus will leave Ilkley for Otley on that last ever service by the Ledgard company.

The event is being organised by members of the Craven Old Wheels Society of Skipton and the Keighley Bus Museum Society. The buses will come from the Skipton, Leeds and Bradford areas.

The societies will be providing the vehicles which they hope will turn back the clock for enthusiasts

Of the 14 buses expected, at least two will represent a type similar to those operated by the Ledgard company.

It will be a night to remember.

Special events to mark museum's centenary

FROM exhibitions of paintings, to guided tours, and musical events and workshops on everything from Valentines to taxidermy will be on offer to mark the Ilkley Museum centenary celebrations.

There really is something for everyone to enjoy during the year with a programme of events which not only take a nostalgic look back at the town through lectures and exhibition and the crafts and skills pursued in Victorian times, but is a tribute to all who have ensured the Ilkley Museum's survival.

A special Museum Centenary Liaison Committee, consisting of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums and local Ilkley Societies, have compiled a varied programme to appeal to both the young and not so young.

The first museum had quite mod-

est beginnings in the old Wesleyan chapel at the junction of Bolton Bridge Road and Skipton Road which was run by the Ilkley Museum and Antiquarian Society and a curator, Mr Oxley, who was paid £1 per week.

Lack of space forced a move in

THE Victoria era saw Ilkley blossom into a prosperous town and spa resort. Ilkley became the place to live for prosperous millowners and railways opened up the town to many visitors.

It was in this environment that the first Ilkley Museum opened. This year it celebrates its centenary and BRENDA DOYLE takes a look at the events and activities to mark this special event.

1908 to the then new Town Hall complex where it remained until 1961. The artefacts were packed away for the duration of the Second World War.

Although proposals had been made for the purchase of the Manor House way back when the museum was first being established and was raised again on several occasions, it was not until the 1950s that the possibility came nearer to reality.

Benefactor

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

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

The opening took place in 1961 and so nearly 70 years later the museum was finally housed in the Old Castle as the founders originally wished.

Another great change took place with local government reorganisation when the Manor House became part of Bradford Art Galleries and Museums of which Cliffe Castle at Keighley and Cartwright Hall at Bradford are part.

Over the years the Manor House has become a focal point for residents and visitors alike. This year looks as if it will be the exciting venue in the town.

The year got off to a good start with a well attended lecture in the Manor House by David Hill of Leeds on Turner in Wharfedale.

Romance

Romance will be in the air at the Manor House on February 8 when adults and children, eight years and above will be able to try their hand at Victorian Valentines. The two hour workshop run by Mary Bentham, Assitant Lecturer of Education at the Manor House and the cost is £2.

Later in the month a lecture on Wharfedale Archives at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society will be given by Mr S Thomas, archivist with the society.

Organised by the Olicana Museum and Historical Society, the lecture will be held in Church House on the 20th at 7.30pm.

On March 15 the congregation at the morning service at All Saints' Church, Ilkley, will take a step back in time with a service in the style of 1892.

Researched by the Vicar, the Rev Peter Marshall, the Matins service will be far more austere than modern day services. Women will play no part in the proceedings - the choir will comprise 20 boys and 20 men and children will be seen and not heard.

Taking part in the service will be the Rev Peter Burwell, great-grandson of the Vicar in 1892, the Rev A C Downer. It is expected that dress of the period will be worn by those taking part and by some of the congregation.

In the same month on the 19th, The Elsie Memorial Lecture will be given by Prof R Bradley on Investigating Britain's Oldest Industry: the Stone Axe Quarries at Great Langdale.

Easter bonnets

A full programme of events in April begins with a lecture on April 2 at the Manor House by Caroline Kizesinska, Senior Keeper, Arts and Exhibitions, Bradford Art Galleries and Museums. So if you have ever wondered why certain exhibitions are displayed then her lecture Which Artists and Why Art? could answer your questions.

Various groups will be participating in staging an exhibition, Documenting Ilkley which opens on April 11.

This will be closely followed on April 16 by a lecture "Dr Collyer's Ilkley" given by Dr Mike Dixon of Ilkley.

Workshops and walks fill the middle part of the month. A guided walk on Roman Ilkley will take



A Centenary Exhibition: The story of Ilkley's Museum, from August 1 to November 1.



Documenting Ilkley: Photographs of Ilkley past and present with Ilkley Camera Club from April 11 to June 7.

place on April 22 at 10.30am. On the same day at 1.30pm children will be able to create their own Easter bonnets at a Victorian bonnet and hat workshop.

A Victorian Ilkley walk will be held on April 23 at 6.30pm and on April 24 a workshop for adults will be held on Victorian blown eggs.

The month concludes with a lecture on Lutyns in Ilkley by John Ayres on April 30.

Crafts

Fancy trying your hand at Victorian crafts then on three Saturdays in May you will be able to do just that. The 2, 9 and 16 will be for craft workshops and on May 13 a reminiscence workshop Photographs of Ilkley will be in the Manor House.

Peter Watkins will give a lecture on Bolton Abbey and a weekend exhibition of Churches in Ilkley 1892-1992 will be on view on May 23 and 24.

Well known artist and painter of vigorous still-life and flower paintings, Dorothy Field, stages an exhibition commencing on June 13. Dorothy was one of the early artists to exhibit at the Manor House and her first visit was in 1975. She will also hold workshops on June 27 and July 11 for adults entitled Looking and Seeing.

Lectures followed followed by guides walks on Ilkley Moor will take place on June 13. The St Margaret's Singers will be present a musical evening at the Manor House on June 19.

Centenary

Hopefully the weather will be kind during July and August as guided walks will take place morning and evening. Another musical event will be presented by the Arts Federation on July 11.

A centenary exhibition opens on August 1 which tells the story of Ilkley's Museum over the years.

Adults and children alike will be entertained on August 5, 7, 12 and 14 with holiday workshops on geology, archaeology and ethnography themes.

A lecture Open for Public Inspection: Museums for Popular Enjoyment in Yorkshire begins the autumn programme on September 17.

Those who missed the first church exhibition will get a second chance on September 19 and 20.

The month is rounded off with a Victorian Musical Evening with Ilkley Operatic Society on September 25.

Taxidermy

During October and November adults can attend workshops and demonstrations on such diverse subjects as Victorian paint-finishes, geology and taxidermy.

Old Yorkshire Customs, Home Industries, Illustrated by Quaint Old Objects, the title of the first ever lecture at the Museum in 1892 will be the subject once again. On this occasion given by Peter Brears, Director of Leeds Museum, on October 15.

October 17 sees a day school to be held at Bolton Abbey.

Wharfedale is renowned for its wonderful scenery and this will no doubt be reflected in an exhibition, Centenary of Yorkshire Landscape which opens on November 7.

The final lecture of the year on November 19 will be The Restoration of a Georgian House by Dr John Shannon.

Christmas is the time for children and various entertainments will be organised for the younger residents in December.

PROMG issued and co-offices
For a party ca gets to pleasure across V Leeds at its fle makes, apart, f public s luxury c Since compan has bee enthusia preserv empte Some gather where and tal



run to M will a milest CO
It will I to the d service o ran in the One of evening v the last b Leeds to Ilkley to c Enthusi first was t affair" whi has snow quite diff It has c many pec company the Lady buses are growing q



1993

11.3.93.



As this winter has so far not produced conditions to allow skating on Ilkley Tarn we thought the occasion could not be allowed to pass without a reminder of what pleasure an ice covered Ilkley Tarn can bring in the colder months of the year. This picture from our archives goes back to the 1950s when winters

were much colder and sustained frosts brought a sufficient thickness of ice to allow people to walk across the surface and for others to put on their ice skates. This became so popular in years gone by that lighting was provided to enable skating to take place during the hours of darkness.



When Geoff Featherstone was drummed out of the church choir he went straight upstairs — for the next 63 years.

He immediately joined the bellringers at Ilkley's All Saints Parish Church after his voice broke and only retired from duty 18 months ago through ill health.

The 79-year-old war veteran's service was rewarded this week when a plaque in his name was unveiled in the bell tower.

Mr Featherstone, a former postman who lives in Valley Drive, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, was christened, confirmed and married in the church.

He also passed on his skills to many ringers including his son David and a young Alan Titchmarsh — later to find fame as a television gardener.

Church begins its big facelift

5.8.93.

ONLY 11 months after fund raising began, building work has started at Christchurch, Ilkley, the Methodist-United Reformed Church on The Grove, Ilkley.

Christchurch Challenge is the major £730,000 'Church in the Community' scheme to develop and integrate the existing premises and the former Lecture Hall, now renamed the Riddings Hall, in Riddings Road.

Phase 1, which began on Monday, includes renovation of the large hall and the rooms and offices associated with it, and work on the central lift and staircase.

A particularly important aspect of the scheme is that all areas should be easily accessible to people of all physical abilities.

The first phase also includes improvements to the coffee centre and for the first two months of 1994 customers will find that it has been temporarily transferred to the newly renovated Riddings Hall whilst its refurbishment is completed.

Refurbishment of the Riddings Hall is expected to be completed by Christmas and the rest of phase one building work by the end of February.

The cost of phase one is expected to total £378,000. The total so far raised towards this target, after deducting fund-raising costs, is £285,000.

About half this sum is made up of grants from the Methodist Church, the Rank Trust and both local and national charitable trusts, and about half comes from the generous donations and fund raising efforts of Christchurch members and friends themselves, backed up by tremendous local interest and support.

P
THIS
Paris
times
colour
subm
Kings
On
card
Ilk
cated
pictur
buildi
rated
also
and
sculp
of the
In
inter
of the
the
witho
Vie
comp
"Acro
sourc
a link
invite
old Il
derat

PILE
Drive
May
soc
esta
By
May
offic

Ja
as

PARISH CHURCH IN VICTORIAN TIMES

THIS picturesque scene of Ilkley Parish Church in Victorian times, once published as a coloured post card, has been submitted by Mrs GA Hirst, of Kings Road, Ilkley.

On the reverse side of the card a description states:

Ilkley Parish Church, dedicated to All Saints, is a picturesque and interesting building chiefly of early decorated architecture, though it also contains a Norman arch and some remains of Roman sculpture the latter in the base of the tower.

In the churchyard are three interesting relics of the antiquity of the town — fine specimens of the Saxon sculptured cross, without arms.

Views of old Ilkley which complement the weekly feature "Across the Years" are always a source of interest by providing a link with the past. Readers are invited to submit any views of old Ilkley or groups for consideration in a future series.



The subway leading out of Ilkley railway station before it was filled in

SIR, - I write concerning my own letter in last week's Gazette advocating the reopening of the Ilkley railway station subway.

I have been informed that there is no chance of the subway being re-opened because it has been completely filled in with concrete.

This will come as a revelation to some members of the Ilkley public including myself and is nothing short of a scandal.

Apparently the outside wall of the subway which runs from the junction of Brook Street and Railway Road and on to the footbridge over the railway had been allowed to get in a state of disrepair and with the rain seeping from cracked drainpipes had actually moved two and a half inches.

The structural condition of the wall was thus regarded as unsafe.

There is a possibility that this sad state of affairs was a

legacy of the Beeching cuts in the mid 1960s when the railway bridge over Brook Street was pulled down.

This severed the link on the Ilkley to Skipton railway via Addingham. Thus this service and that between Ilkley and Otley were no more.

The filling in of the subway at Ilkley with concrete poses the following questions:

1 - Could an alternative have been found to save both the wall and the subway?

2 - Could regular maintenance work before and after the Beeching catastrophe have been the solution?

3 - Was it necessary to fill the whole of the subway with concrete when it is taken into consideration that the Wharfedale line was and still is operational.

C B GREEN

Room 18, 19.8.1993
Red Cables,
Parish Ghyll Drive,
Ilkley



PILES of building bricks on land in Valley Drive at what is now the junction with Mayfield Avenue, Ilkley signal a start is soon to be made on a new council housing estate shortly after the second world war.

By 1947 the first two new houses in Mayfield Avenue, nos 9 and 11, were officially opened by the then Chairman of

Ilkley Urban District Council, Coun Mrs Florence S Hampshire. The estate formed a new road link road with Little Lane.

The fortress like building in the background is Ilkley Gas Works which was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a new gas holder in 1967 and to supply North Sea gas to the town.



January, 1963, saw Ilkley in the grip of wintry conditions which transformed views such as this one looking towards the New Brook Street bridge when the River Wharfe became frozen over and covered with snow.

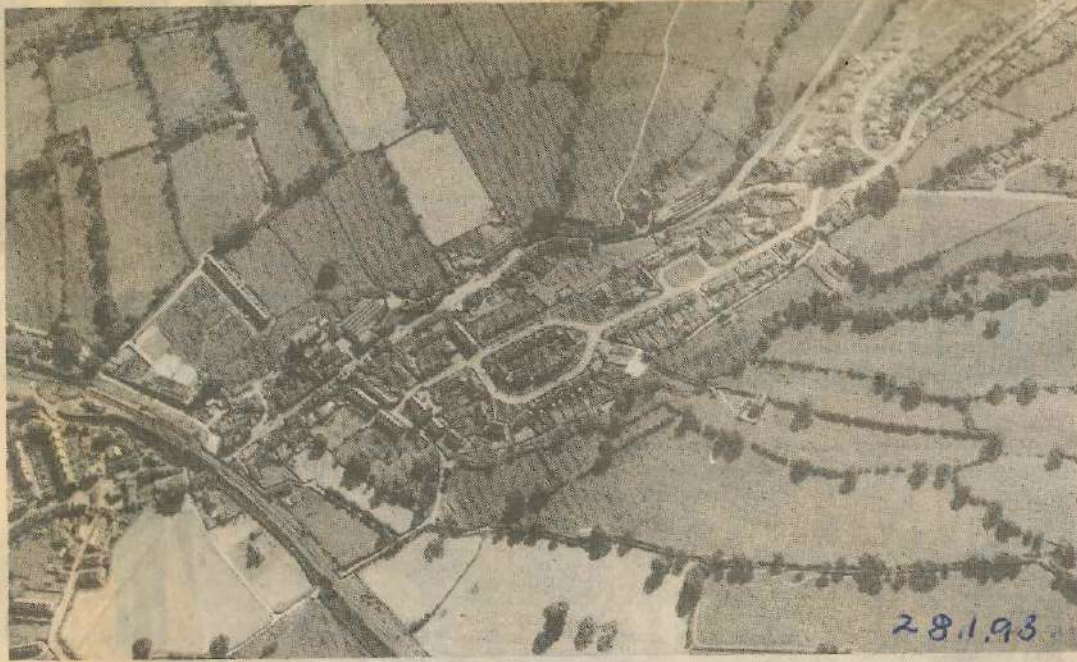


THE old mill from which Mill Ghyll at Ilkley took its name features in this week's scenes from the past. The mill was owned by Thomas Lister who became the landlord of the newly built Midland Hotel when the mill was closed down in 1868.

Two years later the Lord of the Manor, Mr William Middleton gave Mill Ghyll to Ilkley provided the town preserved it as 'an arboretory with a clear and rippling stream.'

The old mill appeared as if it was still being used when this picture was taken, for the trough which supplied water to power the wheel is still in situ above it.

ADDINGHAM FROM THE AIR



A STUDY of this aerial view of Addingham will reveal many changes have taken place since the 1960s.

Perhaps one of the biggest transformations has been the gradual move to providing a larger residential area and a decline in industry particularly in textiles, and the closure of mills such as the one at Townhead in Main Street and Lister's at Low Mills.

It was a decade during which Addingham lost its railway (bottom left). Today a bypass cuts across the northern slopes of the village (top of picture). Moor Park Drive and the Aynholme estates were under construction; Bartell (later Fordhams) bathrooms had yet to arrive; the estate in the St Paul's Rise area had to be built as well as Addingham First and Middle Schools.

GREAT FLOOD STOPPED TRAFFIC



THIS week we take another look at one of the biggest disasters to strike Ilkley in modern times on July 12, 1900.

A storm turned Ilkley's streets into rivers and Skipton Road at the junction with Bolton Bridge Road, pictured here, was no exception. Traffic 'ground to a halt as torrential rain flooded Church Street to a depth of six feet.

Buildings collapsed, roads were torn up, hundreds of poultry drowned and the son of Alfred Brogden lost his life in the coaching works in Chapel Lane when the foundations collapsed and the building was totally wrecked.

Picture supplied by J D Mounsey, of Sedburgh, Cumbria.

Society raps plan for future

A WATCHDOG body has hit out at moves to take Ilkley into the next century.

Ilkley Civic Society has condemned any future building of separate industrial and retail parks in the town.

The proposals are contained in Bradford Council's draft Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which aims to govern the district's infrastructure until 2011.

But both schemes have received widespread opposition since the document was first unveiled last November and the

Civic Society is now joining the protests.

Chairman Graham May said building a business park on 30 acres of green belt land off Wheatley Lane in Ben Rhydding 'would form a major intrusion into Wharfedale'.

He believes employment needs are greater outside the town and that 'it would be unwise to attract development away from more needy locations'.

The society has also attacked the idea of converting the British Gas depot off Leeds Road into a large shopping complex.

"Development of the site would draw

trade from the existing shops in the town centre, affecting their viability, and have a potentially damaging affect on the town centre," said Mr May.

But Mr May welcomed any creation of a defined central shopping area which would exclude land between The Grove and the seemingly doomed Grove Hospital.

"It is an important characteristic of the centre of Ilkley and should be retained as an open space," he said.

● Campaigners face three-month delay - Page 3

Mall of shops planned

25.3.93.

WORK is expected to begin shortly on an indoor covered shopping mall providing six more retail outlets at Ilkley's Station Development.

An application has been submitted to Bradford Council by Ilkley and Peterboro Ltd, of Ashbourne House, Harrogate for the relaxing of a listed building order. This will enable the developers to start work, hopefully in about six weeks, on a covered shopping mall with its entrance on Station Road.

The award winning redevelopment which was completed in 1989, transformed the unused railway buildings into a town centre shopping centre, but still retained the Victorian style of the railway station.

A car park for 150 cars was built on platforms three and four and the Skipton line.

Satellite masts ready to rise

29.7.93.

WHARFEDALES newest landmarks seem certain to be two satellite masts each nearly 50ft high.

The towers are earmarked for sites behind Myddelton Lodge, north of Ilkley, and off the A630 Otley Road near Green Gate House, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

Both masts will include protruding antennae and microwave dishes and will be housed within stone compounds.

Code systems operator Hutchison Microtel does not need planning permission as such schemes are permitted by the 1988 Town and Country Planning Act.

But the firm decided against building perimeter fences with barbed wire after consultations with Bradford Council.

No one at Cheshire-based project agents Edward Roscoe was available to say when the towers will be installed or reveal exact details of their use.

Father Donal Lucey, pastoral director at Myddelton Lodge, is not worried about the arrival of the mast behind his retreat centre.

"Telecommunications mast is a grand title for what it is. It will not be seen from many roads," he said.

AN hi design son of restor glory. The li in 184 preac Dr Ro hung to Ilk in Ch But it about event remov Howe now s thank



Lantern back to old glory

Sept. 93.

AN historic lantern designed by an adopted son of Ilkley has been restored to its former glory. The light was designed in 1840 by historian, preacher and blacksmith Dr Robert Collyer and hung from an iron archway at the entrance to Ilkley Parish Church in Church Street. But it fell into disrepair about a decade ago and eventually needed to be removed in 1991. However, the lantern can now shine once more thanks to a donation in

memory of the late Arthur Laver. Mr Laver died in his 80s in March after many years service as a warden at the church. Dr Collyer became a famous Unitarian minister in America after serving his blacksmith's apprenticeship in Ilkley during the 1830-40s.

● The Rev Peter Marshall, Vicar of Ilkley Parish, is pictured at Collyer Gate with Edward Crossley, five, of Parish Ghyll Road, Ilkley.



The tarn on Ilkley Moor features prominently in this aerial view from the 1960s. Ilkley College can be seen far right of picture whilst the Craiglands Hotel and car park appear bottom centre.

Nov 1993

Nov 1993



10.6.93.

MORNING AFTER THE STORM: Mud and debris left in The Grove at the junction with Bolton Bridge Road. Picture supplied by J D Mounsey, of Sedbergh, Cumbria.

DISASTER STRIKES ILKLEY

VIVID flashes of lightning accompanied by loud claps of thunder led to one of the biggest disasters ever to strike Ilkley in modern times on July 12, 1900.

It was a warning of a storm which was to be remembered in history as the great flood.

Torrential rain soon turned Ilkley's streets into rivers, property was damaged and a man died in the old coaching works. Buildings collapsed, roads were torn up and hundreds of poultry drowned. The bottom of Church Street was under six feet of water and all areas in the vicinity of becks which flowed from the area on the moor were severely affected.

The damage was estimated at between £50,000 and £70,000 and the flood was believed to be unparalleled in the history of the valley.

The rain came down so heavily and persistently that in half an hour Brook Street and

other thoroughfares were turned into gigantic mountainous torrents.

The greatest destruction was wrought along the line of the three principal streams having their source on Ilkley Moor. The channels worn by the rush of water measured as much as a yard or two in depth and several yards across.

The first effects of the storm were felt about 2pm and for two hours its raged with the most terrible violence.

In Westwood Drive the water piled up tons upon tons of rocks and boulders, many of them half a ton in weight.

It was at Brogden's coaching works in Chapel Lane, that the proprietor's son, Alfred, lost his life. The foundations of the works were undermined and the building collapsed and was totally wrecked.

It was believed the storm was caused by a cloud burst over Ilkley Moor.



Esme Greenwood receives the inscribed clock to mark her 30 years of service to the Manor House from past chairman John Smith. 8.7.93

"The changes which have happened to this building have been the work of Esme and other enthusiasts," said former chairman of the society, John Smith, in the address.

Guiding light

"I remember when I was at Ilkley Grammar School what a sad building this was.

"Esme joined in 1963 and she has been a guiding light. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Esme. She has been a tireless worker for things connected to Ilkley and we very much appreciate that.

"We have worked together to get people to come to the Manor House and to enjoy it. This is what this building is all about - people coming here to enjoy themselves," he said. Seconds later the clock took

its trip through time and space.

Once it had been put back together again Mrs Greenwood said: "I have great pleasure in accepting this lovely little clock. It will bring back many memories and I will always treasure it."

A graduate of Leeds College of Art, Mrs Greenwood moved to Ilkley in 1962 and immediately got involved with the Manor House through her interest in architecture.

She was the chairman of Friends of the Manor House from 1981-87. She remained as vice-chairman until April when she stood down owing to poor health.

She said one of her most important achievements had been to spearhead resistance to plans by Bradford Metropolitan Council to close the gallery soon after she joined the society.

"They were thinking about closing it down and turning it into offices. I and other people fought tooth and nail. It is now a cultural centre," she said.

She also spearheaded the successful campaign against plans to build flats next to the gallery in the early 80s: "That was our moment of triumph. We had defended the building."

"She is just an Ilkley person who loves the history of Ilkley," said Bill Godfrey, chairman of Friends of the Manor House.

A Glean on the old Lost Life of Ilkley was a major exhibition staged by the Bradford Arts, Museums and Libraries Division at the Manor House to mark the centenary of Ilkley Museum last year.



ILKLEY and its MUSEUM 1892 - 1992

During the exhibition which ran from August 1 to October 31, almost seven and a half thousand people visited the exhibition which incorporated many of the original 1892 exhibits and gave details of the development of the Museum from its foundation until it came to its present home in the Manor House in 1961.

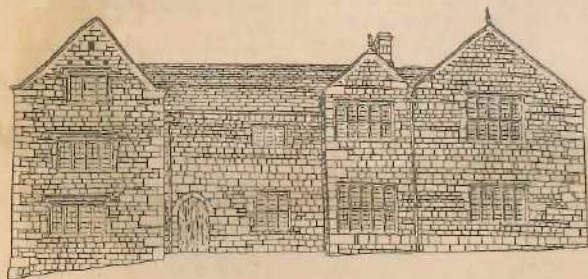
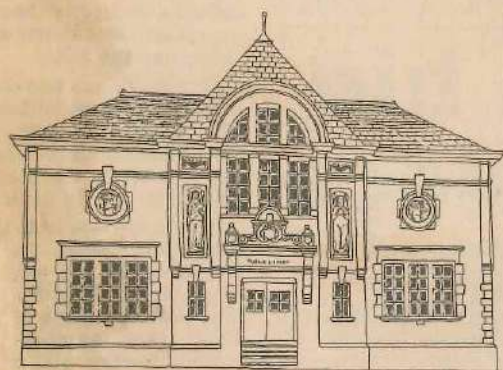
The story of the Museum, its moves from the Wesleyan Chapel to the Public Library and finally to the Manor House and the dedicated individuals who have curated and provided for it over the years has now been produced in a booklet, "Ilkley and its Museum 1892-1992."

The booklet contains maps, black and white illustrations and extracts from the Ilkley Gazette pertaining to the history of the museum.

The authors, Gavin Edwards, Assistant Keeper of History and Denise Shillitoe, chairman of the Museum Centenary Liaison Committee have produced an informative and readable account of the museum's development.

The brief history of the museum shows clearly how a few dedicated individuals have secured its future since 1892. The booklet is dedicated to one of these people, Eleanor Holt, who died last year. She campaigned vigorously for the Manor House, its environment and its teaching facilities.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Manor House the booklet is available from the Manor House.



Ilkley blooms ^{93.}

ILKLEY has surged forward in a 'riot of colour' to maintain its title as the region's bloom town.

Organisers this week recorded a hat-trick of victories in the Yorkshire and Humberside Britain in Bloom competition by winning the 1993 best town category.

Ilkley will now strive for further glory by representing the region in the national finals later this year.

The Ilkley in Bloom committee over-

took halfway leader Knaresborough in the summer poll to retain a title it won 12 months ago and in 1990.

This year's overall victory was by five clear points with judges commenting: "The town is a riot of colour, tidiness and tended lawns and trees."

Ilkley trailed Knaresborough by one mark after this year's spring marks but assessors then accurately hinted there could be better to come.

Ilkley in Bloom committee chairman

Patricia Shankley was delighted by Tuesday's announcement and added: "Praise must go to the gardeners, residents and everybody who has helped. They are the ones who have won it for us."

The town followed its first regional triumph three years ago by winning the national title and then finished a worthy second in the European Florale contest.

This meant Ilkley was ineligible to officially compete for the 1991 Yorkshire

and Humberside title and so is now celebrating its third victory

The town was pipped by neighbour Addingham for the Wybone Cup in the Keep Britain Tidy award. But the village finished a disappointing joint ninth in the small country town section

Judges praised the efforts of Addingham's 'active committee' and advised that 'attention to the stream banks through the village can produce a higher mark'.

History group lines up lectures ^{14.8.93.}

THE Olicana Historical Society always endeavours to provide local themes and local speakers for its winter programme.

The seven monthly lectures, which begin in September, feature topics ranging from 'Marriage and divorce in mediaeval Northern England' to 'Roman Catholic families of the Wharfe Valley and their records'.

The latter promises to be of direct interest to Ilkley and its past because of the influence of the Roman Catholic Middleton family in Ilkley over many centuries.

The local theme is also to be found in the lectures to be given by a former Ilkley resident, Stanley Ellis, the expert on Yorkshire dialect, and a current resident, Emeritus Professor Derek Long, who will talk on Woodworking Crafts of the Past.

Talks on Barden, York and the royal hunting forests of Yorkshire complete the programme. Over the summer months the society organises guided excursions.

This year's programme, with visits so far to Farfield Hall and Stockeld Park, a former Middleton family residence, has been well supported.

CONFIDENTIAL
and even
excavation
interest
building
revolt
preserved
Olicana

22.

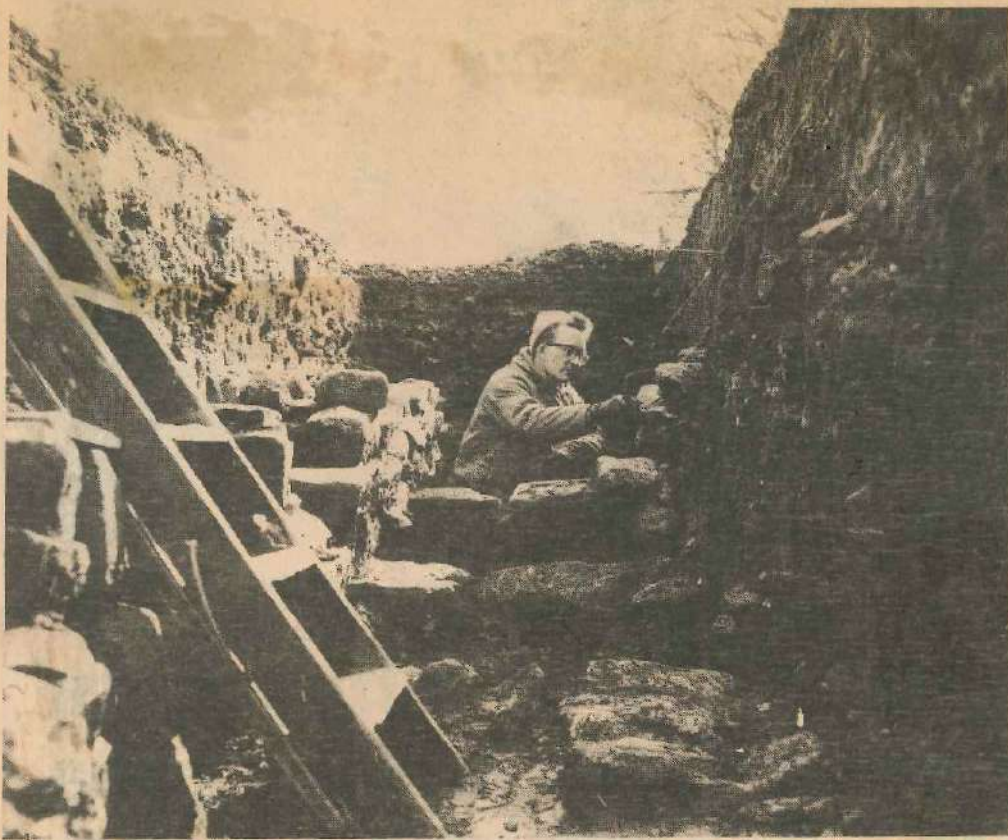
A FINAL
Grove H
by Heal

Our p
has now
down ter

Aireda
Trust hop
the end
period in

But a v
the prop
be retain

If Air
(CHC) ap
tion then
Bottomle



CONFIRMATION of the establishment of the Roman Fort of Olicana at Ilkley in AD 97 and evidence of its development through to the fourth century was unearthed during excavations in April 1962. Mr Brian Hartley, of Leeds University thought the most interesting find had been the recovery of traces of late second century timber buildings. There was evidence these buildings had been destroyed during a native revolt at the end of the second century. Another interesting find had been a well preserved wooden 'bit' used by one of the cavalry troopers known to be stationed at Olicana during the Roman occupation. Our picture shows excavations in the north-east area of the Roman fort behind the Parish Church. *at Dec. 1993*



22.4.93

A FINAL decision on the future of Ilkley's Grove Hospital looks likely to be made by Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley.

Our picture shows the Victorian building has now been boarded up after it was shut down temporarily at the end of March.

Airedale National Health Service (NHS) Trust hopes to make the closure permanent at the end of a three month public consultation period in June.

But a watchdog body has objected against the proposal and called for the whole site to be retained for health care.

If Airedale Community Health Council (CHC) approves its sub-committee's opposition then the whole matter will be sent to Mrs Bottomley by Bradford Health Authority.

Many of the 58 staff left the convalescent and general practitioner unit for new jobs before its doors were bolted on March 31.

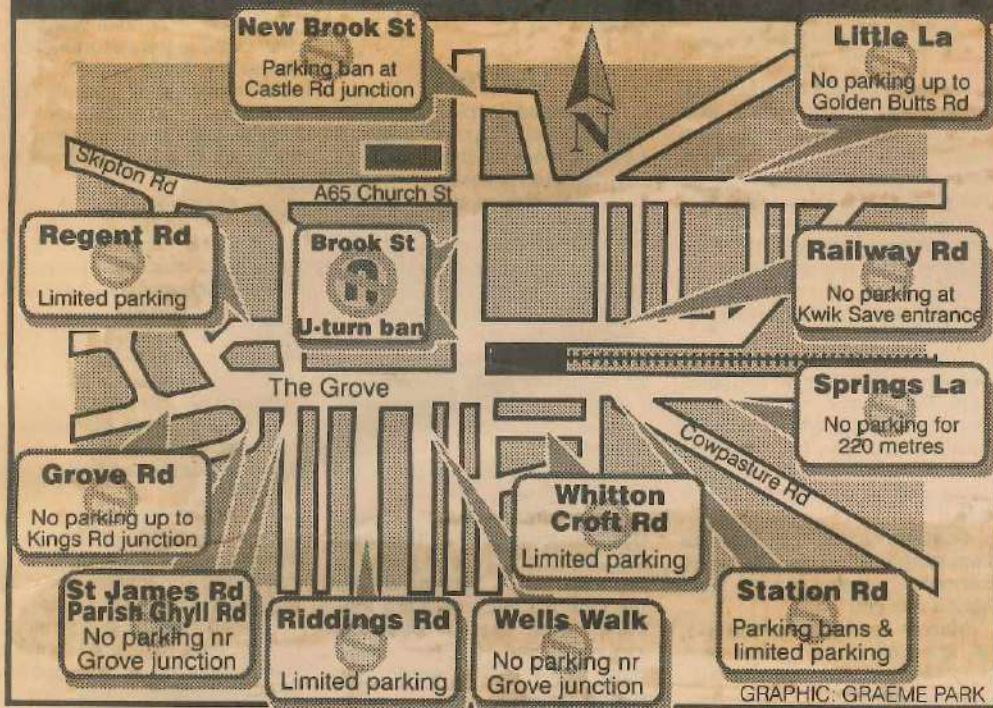
Yet CHC members believe the site could be redeveloped as a multi-purpose community hospital serving the Wharfe Valley.

When part of Airedale Health Authority, Trust chiefs pledged to open such a facility for the district before the end of the century.

The Grove was revealed to be one of the sites under investigation alongside land at Scalebor Park Hospital in Burley-in-Wharfedale.

CHC members also expressed concern at the sub-committee meeting this week that the Trust wants to replace the 10 GP beds from The Grove with six beds at private nursing homes.

ILKLEY TOWN KEY CHANGES



GRAPHIC: GRAEME PARK

A PACKAGE of new traffic restrictions has finally been introduced in Ilkley to make roads safer and less congested. But where are the changes and what do they mean? **STEVE DENNIS** reports.

THE frustrating task of spot-the-parking-space may be that little bit harder for motorists from now on. 28.10.93

The outstanding feature of the long-awaited Ilkley traffic plan is the proliferation of double, single and broken yellow lines in and around the town centre.

Almost 100 parking spaces have been lost as a result of the new restrictions introduced by Bradford Council over the past fortnight.

But the figure is not as alarming as it initially seems. The majority of those spaces are at junctions where — if you follow the Highway Code — you would not park anyway.

Nevertheless about 40

"genuine" parking spaces have disappeared. But highway chiefs insist the measures are necessary to make roads around Ilkley safer.

So have U-turns in **BROOK STREET** — a move which will hit taxi drivers the most. There is a new one-way system in force in **OLD LANE**, meaning motorists can only drive down the lane which links Maxwell Road and Ben Rhydding Road.

Hazardous areas targeted for safety improvements include **SPRINGS LANE**. Double yellow lines aim to stop parked cars clogging up the road outside Leconfield House and the Tesco supermarket.

GROVE ROAD should also be less congested after the council decided to clamp down on parking between its junction with The Grove and Kings Road. Parking is also banned in **RIDDINGS ROAD** outside the Lecture Hall near the police station.

The junctions of the transport interchange in **STATION ROAD** should now be clear of parked vehicles and traffic should flow more freely along **LITTLE LANE** now that a stretch of double yellow lines extends from Leeds Road to Golden Butts Road.

NEW BROOK STREET attracts parked cars like honey attracts bees but parking is no longer allowed near its junction with Castle Road. **ST JAMES ROAD** and **SEFTON DRIVE** also have a ban around their junctions.

It is all change in **WHITTON CROFT ROAD**. No waiting between 8am-6pm Mon-Sat is in force on the majority of the residential side of the street. Unaffected areas of that side of the road are free for parking — but only at a two hour limit.

The other side of the road, behind the Kings Hall and Town Hall, can also be used for parking but waiting is restricted to five hours.

No waiting areas between 8am-6pm Mon Sat also exist in **BOLLING ROAD**, near the Wheatley Avenue junction; **PARISH GHYLL ROAD** and **REGENT ROAD**.

Areas where waiting is limited to half an hour are parts of **REGENT ROAD** and **RIDDINGS ROAD**.

A two hour limit is now imposed in **RAILWAY ROAD**, outside Sunwin House, **SOUTH HAWKSWORTH STREET** and **STATION ROAD**, near the bus stops.



The tunnel under the moor road at Ilkley which farmer Geoffrey Rawson fears could collapse on his sheep because of the number of heavy vehicles using the road.

"This dry stone wall is holding up the road," said Mr Rawson, a farmer for 30 years. "This road was made for horses and carts.

"It has done 200 years but at this rate it will not last another 20."

His wife has raised the matter with Ilkley Road Safety Committee which has informed City Hall about the issue.

Earlier this year, Mr Rawson said six of his sheep had died in less than a month after accidents with vehicles on the moor road which a neighbouring farmer then labelled 'a motorway'.

An application by farmers to Bradford Council for fencing was passed four years ago, but the idea was eventually abandoned for cost reasons.

Mr Rawson said sheep had as much right on the road as vehicles but that a plea for a cattle grid was also turned down.

Seat for Eleanor

Nov 1993

A MEMORIAL for ardent community campaigner Eleanor Holt - who died a year ago - could be in place in Ilkley by Christmas.

Fund raising is progressing well for a tree and a seat with plaque which will be sited near the Manor House Museum - a favourite place of the 72-year-old woman.

Further donations are still needed before the memorial fund reaches its target. Ilkley district councillor Martin Smith is asking people to donate to a fund set up at the Yorkshire Bank under the account number 117620. He says if more donations can be received by the end of the second week in November, arrangements can be made for the planting of the tree and the purchase of the seat.

ILKLEY hotel an £500,000 the N And change The Hotel H formation walks in 1994 before change.

The wa Hotel.

Bl

PAPERS Parliame Model A have bee

The 8, belonging Wharfed were sold institution in London

They r and relig across th Fairfax was the famous a The fir was knig

Eyesore toilet is left out of sell-off plans

9.9.93.
A PUBLIC toilet closed down 16 years ago has been left out of Bradford Council's plans to sell off derelict loos.

Located on the east side of the New Brook Street bridge underpass leading to the Memorial Gardens, the prominent stone building had its windows and doors bricked up in 1979.

"I think it is an eyesore," said Ilkley parish councillor Rowland Hill.

"There is a lot of good stone there. They could get rid of it and grass it over and put some money in their pockets - you get a terrific price for Yorkshire stone."

Yet it was not included in Bradford Council's plan to cut costs by selling off 17 loos, including those at Hebers Ghyll and Kings Road in Ilkley.

And Keith Thomson, chairman of Bradford's environmental action committee, which is staging the sell-off, did not know that the toilet existed.

A combination of factors led to its closure only years after it was built.

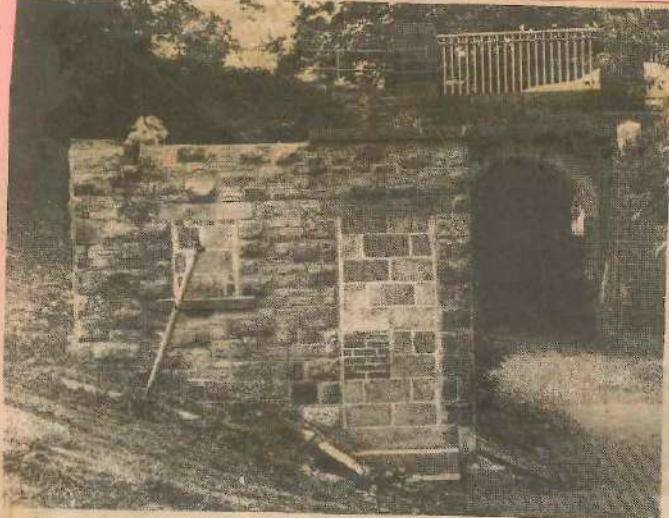
While open it was said to

be a notorious haunt for homosexuals and suffered from the handiwork of teenage vandals.

Then in 1977 the newly completed Ilkley West Main Drainage Scheme made the facility obsolete because the pipes ran into the old system.

It was closed while connection plans to the new system were considered, but more vandalism caused extensive damage and the decision to seal the building was made.

Since then it has remained an eyesore and is a perfect candidate for sell-off or demolition - an issue raised by Ilkley Parish Council in 1979 and 1986.



The long-closed toilet

ILKLEY'S most historic hotel has undergone an eye-catching £500,000 revamp for the New Year.

And more spectacular changes are on the cards.

The revitalised Craiglands Hotel has had such a transformation that anyone who walks into the new reception in 1994 may have to look twice before believing the scale of change.

by Steve Dennis

Dec. 1993.

Owners Roddy and Pat Barclay have laid the ghost of troubled times to rest and launched a new chapter in the history of the Victorian hotel.

A new landscaped parking area and frontage, reception, refurbished en suite rooms and a more open-plan look for the revamped lounge and bar area form the first part of an

ambitious redevelopment scheme.

But the Scottish owners - who rescued a crisis-hit Craiglands from an uncertain future 11 months ago - do not seem content to stop there. A new balcony, more refurbished bedrooms and a grand idea to create a swimming pool and leisure centre on the site of the former reception area, are envisaged.

It is all part and parcel of an eagerness to restore the glory days to an hotel which began its life as a hydropathic spa in the 1880s.

Through door

The person who has been recruited to help see the ambitions become reality is marketing consultant Gill Hammuri, who lives in Ilkley. She believes the hardest part of her job is getting people to the hotel doors.

"But once they step through that door, they will see what has been done and cannot fail to be impressed," she said confidently.

But everyone - from management and staff to the hotel's very own pet St Bernard dog, Thor - realise they have to break free from the stigma of the old Craiglands.

Mr Barclay appreciates the old image will not fade away easily. "It is understandable. Over the years, the place had been run down. We have to accept that change does not happen overnight," he said.

One of the main objectives is to ensure the hotel bar - called the Antler bar - becomes a new focal point for the people of Ilkley.

"We want people to feel free to pop in for a drink, come up here and meet some friends and have a chat. It is the ideal meeting place," he added.



The warm and inviting staircase area at the Craiglands Hotel. Below: The new-look lounge, which has also been extended.



Black Tom's papers sold for a six-figure sum

Dec. 93.

PAPERS belonging to Black Tom Fairfax - the Parliamentary general in charge of the New Model Army during the English Civil War - have been auctioned off for £441,582.

The 5,000 pamphlets, tracts and manuscripts belonging to this member of the historic Wharfedale family - the Fairfax Collection - were sold to various bidders including libraries, institutions and private collectors, at Sotheby's in London on Tuesday.

They record every aspect of political, social and religious life during the war which swept across the country between 1642 and 1649.

Fairfax, born at the family home in Denton, was the third baron of that name and became famous as victor at the battle of Naseby.

The first Lord Fairfax, also born at Denton, was knighted on the battlefield by the Earl of

Essex before Rouen and was often employed by Queen Elizabeth in secret matters. His son was Ferdinando, the Parliamentary general who defeated Prince Rupert at the battle of Marston Moor in 1644.

Denton had come into the possession of the Fairfax family in 1515 through marriage to the Thwaites family. For a couple of centuries it was their ancestral home but the fifth Baron married a daughter of Lord Colepepper, heiress of six million acres in Virginia, USA. The story of his settlement inspired Thackeray's famous novel, 'The Virginians'.

From the eighth Baron, the Fairfaxes remained American citizens and none of them took the title until the 12th Baron, who spent much time in England and was confirmed in his title by the House of Lords in 1908.

PRICES were slashed, shelves almost bare and the building began to feel empty.

Broadbents - the shop synonymous with Ilkley - was preparing to close for the final time. The name which has survived almost 70 years in the business world will become nothing more than a memory from next month.

One full-time and five part-time jobs will go.

The end of an era is just a fortnight away after shop owner John Neale decided to close the book on Broadbents and opt for early retirement.

Mr Neale has sold the premises to AWS of Leeds who, it is understood, will make the property available to let.

"Nothing goes on forever," said the man with the Brummie accent as he observed the sparsity of the stock around him.

"It will be sad to leave and it is depressing seeing the shop in this state, but retirement

is what I have been working towards. I suppose the time is right," he added.

But Mr Neale has ensured that trading will cease on a high note with the help of a half-price sale - a move which has brought the bargain hunters out in force.

At times during the past week, it seemed like the January sales had started three months prematurely as queues to enter the shop stretched along The Grove.

Mr Neale admitted he never expected such a huge response.

"We had to stop people coming in because you simply could not move in the aisles. It was chaos," he said.

"The way these past few days have gone, we could be closed before the end of the month. I have never known the place so busy," he added.

But busy is what Broadbents Booksellers Limited has always been. In the 21 years he and his wife, Marion, have run the shop, they have repaired 3,000 pens and placed more than 10,000 special orders for books.

The history of the business began in 1926 when a man called George Broadbent bought Gothic House, premises in Brook Street now occupied by a fish and chip shop and restaurant.

New name

He acquired a book and stationery shop from a man called Beckett, who initially bought the business from its founder, John Shuttleworth, in the late 1800s - the man who launched the Ilkley Gazette in 1861.

Broadbents was the new name in Brook Street before the business moved to its present premises in The Grove in 1930 - three years before Broadbent sold out to the Holdsworth family.

Two generations of that family ensured that Broadbents went from strength to strength before John and Marion Neale took over in 1972.

Mr Neale said this week: "Ilkley will not be the same without us and I know we will be missed. I feel sorry for the regular customers who have supported us over the years."

by STEVE DENNIS



Owner John Neale wheels out the sale sign that signals the end for one of Ilkley's most famous shops.

D-day on barrier

22.7.93.
OPPONENTS of an unpopular flood barrier scheme were today hoping to learn it had been finally scrapped.

The £1.83m project for the banks of the River Wharfe in Ilkley has encountered widespread protest since it was first unveiled in March last year.

Residents voted overwhelmingly against the idea in separate National Rivers Authority (NRA) and Ilkley Parish Council polls and at a public meeting last November.

But a recommendation to delete the one-mile long scheme was deferred by the NRA until its Regional Flood Defence Committee meeting today in Leeds.

The proposal covers areas on both sides of the River Wharfe from the Crum Wheel to the junction of Langbar Road and Nesfield Road.

Protesters have complained it is based on the worst scenario - a repeat of the flash floods which hit Ilkley in 1936.

PRISONERS BUILD VALLEY DRIVE



SEPTEMBER, 1945 saw a new link road between Ilkley and Ben Rhydding under construction. German prisoners of war from a camp at Otley were engaged in the construction of the road to become known as Valley Drive which was to pass through a new council housing estate.

The Gazette at that time said "that this link would come one day has been clear for over 20 years but it has taken longer than most people expected. There has been a footpath link for some time - a way used more or less unofficially by cyclists."

WILLIAM for his two crown of preparing

William kingdom le officers did the Domes pertaining t

William's nish, for each it before 1066 as in the time William would Harold's claim owned it at th in 1086, what and 1086, as population, sources like and.

The Domes Ilkley contain longer in con was the cent in Domesda administratio carried out. basis of the of land held.

The caruc value of the at the time purely a valu relationship the ground a ficantly, but said to conta

Ilkle

The leagu lieved to ha furlongs, or but again th order of mag exact meas the entry fo neat squar woodland land makes sions are on indication o than any pa



The great



THIS new junior school costing £1m has opened at Ben Rhydding.

It extends the facilities of the Licensed Victuallers' School which accommodates pupils from three to 16 and boarders from seven onwards and is open to children of the licensed trades and pupils from other walks of life.

Specially designed for juniors, using natural materials to fit into the Wharfe Valley environment, the new school comprises eight classrooms complemented by a library and an exhibition area. A playground surrounds the building.

Pupils follow the national curriculum at the junior school, with attention to traditional learning and teaching methods. Staff from the senior school are available to teach a wide range of subjects and junior pupils are given the opportunity to use the significant sports facilities of the senior school from the swimming pool to the new sports hall and athletic fields.

Extra curriculum activities are an important feature of the Licensed Victuallers' School and teachers and specialist staff provide these activities from five onwards.

Day pupils and boarders can select from a choice of 30 different clubs. Outdoor pursuits are also available for juniors under the supervision of a specialist, with safety a key priority. Junior expeditions are featured throughout the year.

The prep school was founded in 1892 but has been at Clevedon House since 1905.

WILLIAM the Conqueror is today remembered for his two great achievements — wresting the crown of England from King Harold in 1066, and preparing the Domesday Book.

William's urge to understand the nature of his new kingdom led to the carrying out of this extensive survey. His officers did not neglect Wharfedale in their enquiries, and the Domesday book provides us with several entries pertaining to Ilkley.

William's men set out to establish, for each manor, who owned it before 1066 (always referred to as 'in the time of King Edward' as William would not acknowledge Harold's claim to the throne), who owned it at the time of the survey in 1086, what its value was in 1066 and 1086, as well as the working population, and the natural resources like pasture and woodland.

The Domesday entries for Ilkley contain several terms no longer in common use. The manor was the central unit of landholding in Domesday, and through it administration and taxation were carried out. Taxation was on the basis of the number of carucates of land held.

The carucate, like the rateable value of the 20th century, appears at the time of Domesday to be purely a value for taxation and its relationship to actual acreage on the ground appears to vary significantly, but the carucate is often said to contain 120 acres.

Ilkley's entries

The league is generally believed to have contained twelve furlongs, or one and a half miles, but again this is more a guide to order of magnitude rather than an exact measurement. In addition, the entry for Otley, which lists neat squares of underwood, woodland pasture, and arable land makes it clear that dimensions are only intended to give an indication of the total area rather than any particular shape.

The Domesday book is arranged by county, and then by landowner. In the list of the Yorkshire lands of William de Percy, we find two entries pertaining to the parish of Ilkley:

Manor. In Illicleia (Ilkley) Gamall had three carucates of land taxable where two ploughs are possible. Now William has it. Waste. Value in the time of King Edward, 20 shillings. A church and a priest there. Woodland pasture one league long and four furlongs wide. The whole manor, one league long and eight furlongs wide.

Manor. In Nacefield (Nesfield) Gamalbarn had three carucates of land taxable, where two ploughs are possible.

William de Percy held about 80 manors in Yorkshire and 30 in Lincolnshire, as well as further lands in Essex and Hampshire in 1086. He is reputed to have come over to England from France in 1067, and was associated with the refounding of Whitby Abbey. William de Percy died in Palestine on the first crusade.

Of the previous English landowners, Gamall and Gamalbarn (ie son of Gamall), we know nothing with certainty. Within the lands granted to William de Percy in the West Riding a number are described as belonging to Gamalbarn and it is probable that he had held lands in Beamsley, Askwith and Addingham.

The list of possessions of the Archbishop of York mentions

IN the first of a series of features on Ilkley in days gone by local historian and author of "Ilkley The Victorian Era" David Carpenter takes a look at the area at the time of William the Conqueror.



Norman soldiers depicted in the Bayeux tapestry. Did such men carry their devastation to Ilkley in 1069-70?

Ƶ In ILLICLEIA. h̄b Gamel. III. car' tre ad gl̄d. ubi. II. car' pos. ēē. Nc h̄t Wifls. 7 wast. ē. T.R.E. uat xx. sot. Ibi æccla 7 p̄br. Silua past. I. lev' l̄g. 7 IIII. q̄rent' laf. Toť Ƶ. I. leu l̄g. 7 VIII. q̄rent' laf.

The Latin text of the Domesday entry for Ilkley, showing the extensive abbreviation used.

further places in the parish of Ilkley. His manor of Otley included several outlying farmsteads or berewicks. Stube (Stubham), Middeltune (Middleton), and Ilecilue (Ilkley) are included in the list of these, but individual details of these holdings are not given.

So we know that in 1066 Ilkley included at least five centres of population. It seems likely that the manor of Ilkley was centred close to the Parish Church, and the manor of Nesfield close to the existing village. The berewick of Middleton was probably sited near the old village of Middleton, at the triangle of old lanes above Curly Hill, and the berewick of Stubham was probably sited at Low Hall, on Rupert Road.

parish had been, at best, transported to their new Norman landlord's other manors. At worst they had been put to the sword like large numbers of others and their houses burnt and crops destroyed.

Ilkley was entirely waste, and the Archbishop's manor of Otley mainly waste, its value being less than a third of what it had been before the conquest. The scant details provided for Nesfield lead one to suppose that this holding too was waste.

In the West Riding as a whole, many places are described as waste or partly waste, and many more are without details implying that they too were waste. Almost all the land higher up in Wharfedale comes into this category and it is clear that upper Wharfedale was almost completely uninhabited.

The waste was largely as a result of Conqueror's 'harrying of the North' in the winter of 1069-70 17 years before. The ancient kingdom of Northumbria was the centre of unrest against William's occupation and York changed hands repeatedly during continued fighting between the Normans and the English in alliance with the Danes.

When William finally retook York, he set to ensure that the North could no longer form a base for rebellion against him and embarked upon a campaign of destruction against Yorkshire in particular, but extending also into Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire and the immense destruction caused is apparent in the Domesday record.

It is not clear, however, whether the villages described as waste in 1086 were actually laid waste by William's men. It is possible that migration took place from untouched villages in the marginal land of the Pennines to those with better land to the east whose populations had been wiped out during William's campaigns.

So we cannot say with certainty whether William's men carried their ruthless devastation into Ilkley itself or whether the village had lain deserted after William de Percy transferred the population to another of his manors.

Whatever the cause of Ilkley being described as waste, we may be sure that the priest at the church had scant congregations compared to his pre-conquest predecessors who had seen the erection of the splendid crosses, still standing in the Parish Church many years before.



The great seal of William the Conqueror, showing his likeness throned and on horseback.

Wiped out

The location of the Archbishop's berewick in Ilkley is uncertain, but possible locations include Holling Hall, Ben Rhydding near the Wheatley Hotel, and Todthorpe, close to the existing house of this name on Hangingstone Road.

But by 1086 and the Domesday survey, these communities had been all but wiped out.

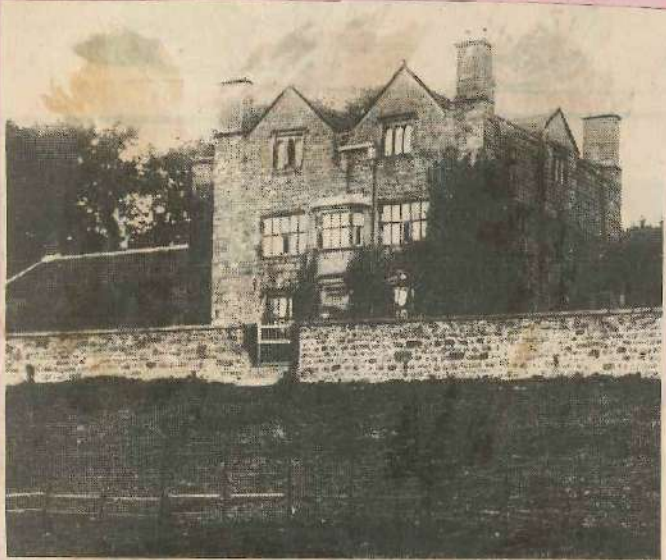
The English population of the

ONE of the most historic buildings in the Wharfe Valley could shortly be up for sale.

Myddelton Lodge, which dates back to 1260, overlooks Ilkley from the north of the town off Langbar Road.

The former monastery was owned by the famous Middleton family and served as a secret meeting place for Roman Catholics persecuted after the 16th century English Reformation.

It is now used as a pastoral retreat centre attended by more than 100 visitors a week. Famous guests have included Bryan Mosley - who plays Alf Roberts in television's Coronation Street.



Middleton Lodge, once the family home of the Middletons.

2.9.93

Glimpses of their wealth, culture, house, family life and political ups and downs are revealed. They experienced particularly difficult days as Catholics under Elizabeth I and as royalist supporters in the Cromwellian period.



The Coat of Arms belonging to the Middleton family.

ASPECTS of the Middleton family in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is the theme of a compact new temporary exhibition at Ilkley Manor House.

Using some of the evidence gathered over the past three years during ongoing work on the Middleton Papers, a WEA group, in conjunction with Manor House staff and with the co-operation of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the Church of the Sacred Heart, has mounted a collection of original documents, facsimiles, transcripts, notes and pictures to present a slice of the history of the Catholic family which dominated Ilkley for centuries.

One set of documents reveals how the Middletons had to secure special passports to travel abroad but they were forbidden to go to Rome. They seem to have been throughout this period travellers in Europe - supporters of a grand tour sort of experience as well as feeling more at ease in Catholic parts of Europe such as Paris, Venice and Padoua.

Survivors

They were survivors, for though the estates were confiscated by Parliamentarians they were recovered in the reign of Charles II. The use of the estates was purchased by a consortium in the 1650s from the Parliamentary committee which was holding them. In modern terms the \$5,000 paid then would be counted in hundred of thousands.

For students of clothing of the period the collection is particularly rich and it has been difficult to know what to omit. What is presented gives a fascinating picture of the links between the family and their tailors cum agents cum friends in London.

Another interesting group of documents relates to the Stockeld library which the Middletons put together. A handwritten catalogue of the early eighteenth century lists a varied collection of books on theology, history, politics and general literature.

There are not many library catalogues relating to provincial recusant families of this period. While what is displayed might seem sparse, topics like this have generated a deal of research which the competition for space and the need for

balance in the exhibition inevitably excluded.

Home visited

Coinciding with the preparations for the exhibition some of the group joined Olicana History Society members on a guided visit to Middleton Lodge and its grounds. Extensive renovation work on this historic former Middleton family residence is to begin soon.

Such renovation is bound to add to the knowledge of the rooms in the house and of the additional building work in the seventeenth century which documents on display show.

Mystery now surrounds why the building and estate is planned to be sold by the Congregation of the Passion, believed to be based in London.

Solicitors acting for the owners are first inviting objections or comments about the proposal by April 4 in accordance with the Charities Act.

Christopher Blythe, of Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, would not reveal why the Lodge may go on the market.

"I do not think there is anything significant in it. You will not be getting a wholesale supermarket development at all," he said this week.

CLOSE BY

The Lodge is leased from the Congregation of the Passion by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds which reopened the retreat centre in 1985.

Pastoral director Father Donal Lucey would not comment this week on the proposal to sell the estate.

But it is possible part of the estate could suffer from the Department of Transport's (DoT) plans for a £17m Ilkley bypass.

The unfinished line of the dual carriageway passes close by the retreat's Calvary garden with its stone-carved Stations of the Cross.

The WEA group aims to continue its research over the next few years. The Middleton Collection held at the YAS library in Leeds is regarded as a mine of relatively

unexplored information about Ilkley and its surroundings in this period.

The long term intention is provide a computerised guide to the collection. However, the group is keen to continue to explore sets of documents or single documents, such as the clothing lists and the library catalogue, in tandem with the index preparation.

Gavin Edwards, Buildings' Officer at the Manor House said he was pleased to see a local theme developed by local people exhibited in the local museum. He hoped in the future to see this part of the ground floor display used for other local exhibitions of similar quality.



MYDDLETON Lodge, which dates back to 1260 and is one of the oldest buildings in Wharfedale, bears an interesting list of historical facts.

Locally it is well known as the former home of the Middleton family and Lord of the Manor who came over after the Norman conquest and who built the Lodge itself in Elizabethan times.

It was one of the strongholds of Catholicism in the North throughout the Reformation and was the scene of worship by the Middletons and other local Catholics until the erection of the Sacred Heart Church in 1879.

The Lodge came into the possession of the Passionist Fathers in 1922 being used as a Monastery and for the training of their missionary priests.

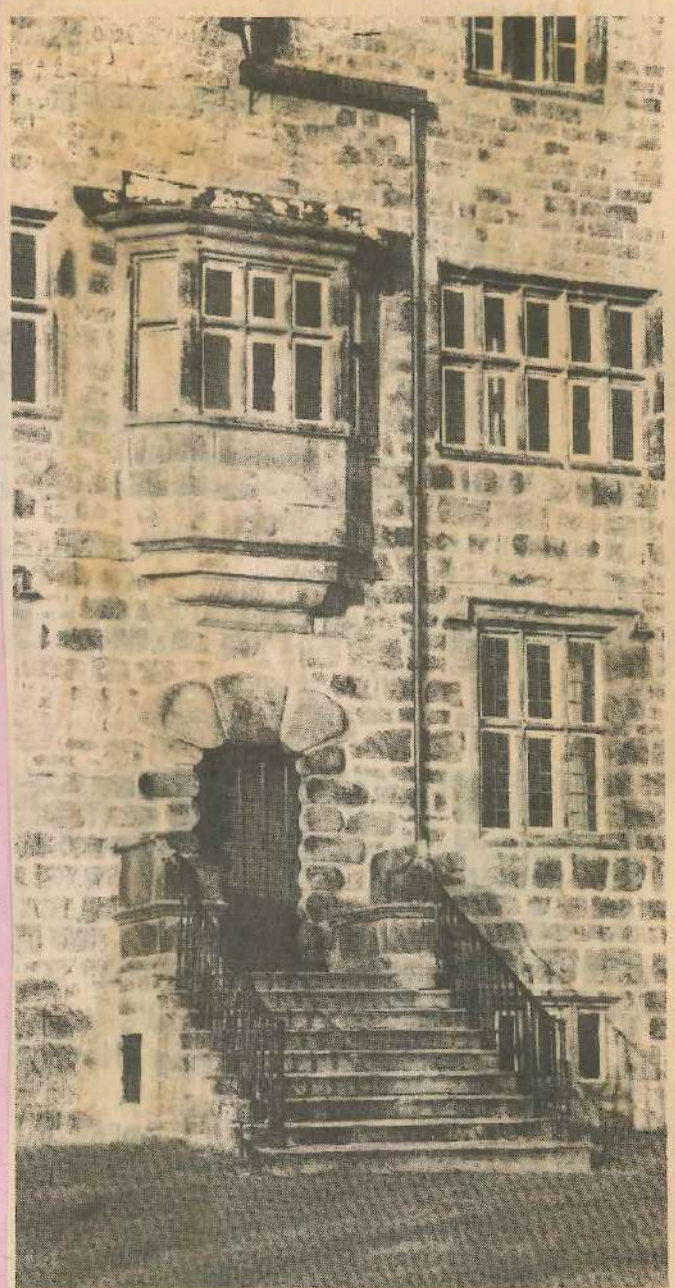
Shortly before the war in 1939 outhouses were converted into a lay retreat house.

The retreat was used as a place where people could go for a period of spiritual renewal, to talk and discuss problems and for prayers and silence.

As well as priests it was used by the clergy, parish groups and church organisations, Anglican and non-conformist, in addition to Catholics.

Fears for the future of the Retreat House were expressed in 1984 and in 1985 the Passionist Fathers left Ilkley Monastery after an association with the town which lasted for more than 60 years.

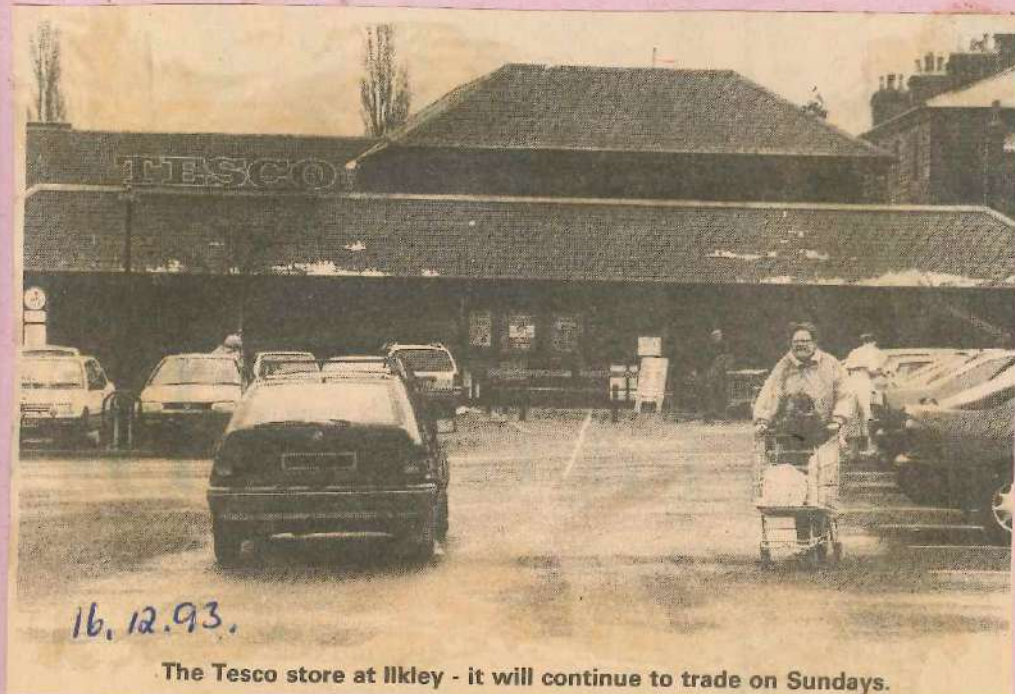
Although the Passionist Fathers withdrew because they did not have enough men to run it adequately any more, it has continued to be used for the same purpose.



The ornate front door with oriel window above



Part of the staircase of 1620



The Tesco store at Ilkley - it will continue to trade on Sundays.