

ILKLEY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS OF LOCAL  
HISTORICAL INTEREST

VOLUME VI

1974 - 1976

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THE OLICANA MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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OLICANA MUSEUM AND

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCRAP BOOK

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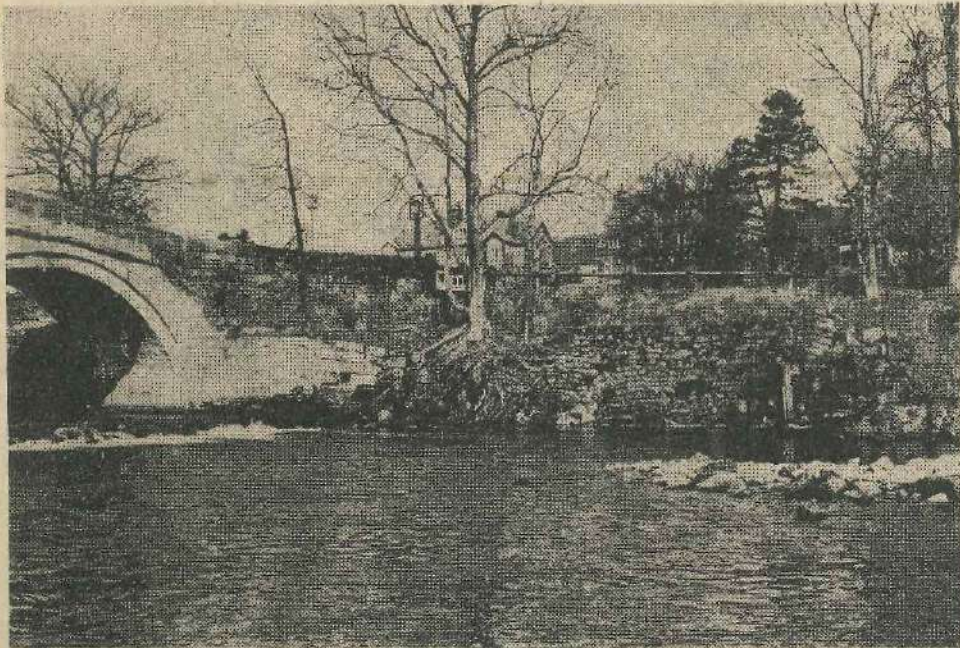
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18 April 1975

## THIRD CENTURY COMPLETED BY PICTURESQUE STONE STRUCTURE



At the base of the wall to the right of the picture when the river is low can be seen the foundations of the first two arch bridge. It was at this point that the river was crossed and traces of the old bridge can be seen on either side.

Examination of the banks on either side of the river some 20 yards downstream from the Ikley old bridge will reveal remains of the structure which immediately preceded it. This was a two arch bridge which constantly was in need of repair due to damage caused by succeeding floods and was finally washed away in 1673 by the huge floods which did immense damage in Wharfedale destroying bridges at Kettlewell, Burnsall, Barden, Bolton Abbey and Otley. Though there have been arguments about the actual date when the present bridge was built, 1675 is generally accepted as the date when most of the work was done.

Writing to the Ikley Free Press in 1879, the Rev. Robert Collyer argued that until the beginning of the 17th century there was no bridge at Ikley. From a map published in 1610 he gathered there were fords at Addingham, Ikley and Burley and a bridge at Otley. The Ikley ford was probably close to the point where the boating stretch ends in these days or may be a few yards above it. If the Roman road passes immediately to the west of Low Hall, as some of us believe it does, then by accepting this the line to the ford and on to the fort is maintained. The discovery of a Roman altar reputedly by Camden under the steps of a house when he visited Ikley as a historian is believed to confirm this.

Camden claims that the altar was raised by the Roman Prefect at Ikley, Claudi (ous) Fronto in gratitude for his escape from death when he slipped on the slippery stones and was saved from the deep water by the intervention of Verbeia, goddess of the River. His inscription read, "To Verbeia, Sacred, Clodius Fronto, Dec. Prefect of the Cohort. Second Ligones."

### JOHN CROOKE

There was evidently a bridge at Ikley in the earliest part of the 17th century because there is an entry in the Pontefract Sessions Order Book, 14 April, 1639, which refers to repairs to a bridge being washed away. It read—Ikley bridge: John Croke, a free mason having undertaken the work at Ikley Bridge for the building thereof and provided materials for the said worke and having browte up both the endes and raised up the pillars and both the arches, the said worke was sodainely taken away by the violence of a flood the XIIIth of July last; and inasmuch as the surveyors of the work did then certifie that there was noe defect or neglect in the said Croke or the workemen there but that it was onely the Act of God and that he sustayned loss to the value of one hundred pounds be estreated on the whole of the West Riding, and be paid over to the said Croke for the work aforesaid."

Nine years later it was

again in a very poor state of repair. Sitting at Wetherby sessions the Justices decided that some of them should view the Ikley bridge and present a true account to the next sessions as to the likely cost of its repair and the cost of a new stone bridge. It is recorded that at Wakefield in April, 1649, it was reported that £340 would rebuild it. As a result £300 was estreated on the Riding. But in August of that year the York Assizes was told that "£300 will not go nigh to finish the work" and a further £50 was estreated on the Riding." Troubles continued. In January 1658 the Wetherby Sessions had a report that the bridge was "washed away, nothing remaining save the abutments on both sides."

### BROKEN DOWN

The Order Book recorded that the bridge remained "broken down by a great inundation, to be viewed and certified." An amount of £430 for re-edifying, certified and estreated, and security to be taken from the workmen to uphold it for three years." That was in 1659 at Pontefract, and again at Pontefract two years later, April, 1661, it was recorded "charged on the Riding; broken down to be viewed and ascertained whether a good foundation be there or noe, and certified. It has broken down several times the last twenty years."

Meeting at Knaresborough in October, 1661, it was certified that there may be got a good foundation, a further view was ordered, and the cost to be certified. It was agreed to certify an expenditure of £500 but this sum was not to be estreated "until the workmen had given a bond in £1,000 to uphold the bridge for seven years, as it has been such a great charge upon the Riding by several tymes falling down."

This bond was said to have been forfeited when the Justices met at Pontefract in April, 1664, but there was a petition by three masons that their work to be examined to see if whether the fall of the bridge was not occasioned by the violent flood set forth in

the Petition or by their not completing the work substantially as they should have done, and certify to Wetherby Sessions, at Knaresborough in October, 1664.

Following this examination a Chancery Suit was instituted against the masons, but in October, 1665, it was decided to go no further with the prosecution, "on their paying such moneys as are already expended touching the same. This was done and the bond of £1,000 cancelled. It was not until April, 1670, that the bond was ordered to be delivered up."

### REGISTER

The flood of 1673 which destroyed so many bridges and property in the Wharfe Valley was recorded in the Otley Parish Register as follows.—A.D. 1673. This summer is remarkable for the abundant and continual rain therein. On the eleventh day of this month there was a wonderful inundation of waters in the Northern parts. This river of Wharfe was never known within memory of man to be so big by a full yard in height running up in direct line to Hallhillwell. It overturned Kettlewell Bridge, Burnsall Bridge, Bolton Bridge, Ikley Bridge, and Otley, and the greatest part of the water mills. It also nearly swept away Pool low fuller mills, and carried them down the water whole like to a ship. It left neither corn nor cattle upon the coasts thereof." This account was copied into the Ikley Parish Register."

### HAINSWORTH

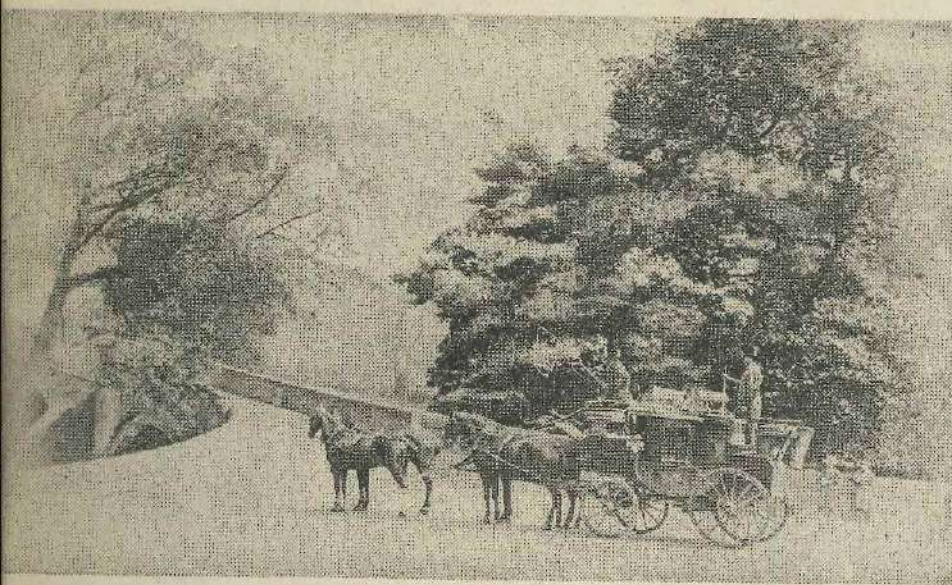
Mr. Jonathan Hainsworth, rate collector and nuisance inspector to the Ikley Local Board, and something of an authority but proved to be not always certain in his information, or perhaps more correctly with his conclusions based on what he had discovered, wrote in reply to Dr. Collyer in 1879. At that time, he told the Ikley Free Press, the foundations of the abutment on the left bank and those of the centre pier as well were still intact and quite visible about twenty yards below the present bridge.

His comments will appear in the second article.

R.M.G.

ESTABLISHED 1820  
Dacre, Son & Hartley  
CHARTERED SURVEYORS.

# BUILDING OF A STRUCTURE WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD FLOOD WATERS FOR THREE HUUNDRED YEARS



The more leisurely days of the end of the last century are recalled by this picture, when horse drawn vehicles such as this carried visitors to Bolton Abbey by way of Nesfield and Beamsley. Apart from the ford, the only way of crossing the river was by means of the Old Bridge.

The destruction of the two arch bridge over the River Wharfe at Ilkley in 1673 by the most devastating flood within living memory left a debris of dressed stone which still can be seen not only just below the present "old" bridge but at different parts lower down stream. The replacement of the two arch bridge was begun at a point slightly above the old line in 1675 and was finished the following year. Thus for three centuries this bridge has been a subject for artists and professional and amateur photographers.

Last week the first article dealt with the constant problems attending the two arch bridge built it would seem at the beginning of the 17th century. The high cost of its repairs and replacements proved too much for the West Riding Justices and they eventually ordered a new bridge to be erected to the west of the previous one.

Mr. Jonathan Hainsworth, late collector and nuisance inspector, and a student of local history, had some comment to make in the Ilkley Free Press in reply to some notes submitted by Robert Collyer. At that time, he said it was possible to see not only the remains of the abutment on the left bank but also those of the centre pier. He wrote, "Looking from pier to abutment, it is patent that the excessive width of the two openings which would compel the adoption of a flat or elliptical form of arch, the enormous strain of which, combined with an evident lightness of the sustaining abutments, plainly indicate the primary cause of the two-fold failure; and the least scour of the great floods betwixt the masonry and the sandy embankments would be as fatal to the old bridge as the nibble of a weazel to that ogriish erection a "Samson trap."

No blame therefore to honest John Crooke, the builder. Traces of the wreck may be seen for some distance down the bed of the river, and some three or four years ago a splayed piece of parapet coping, like the older portions on the present bridge was recovered by some workmen, showing that the original materials have been utilized for a third time. When the new wall in front of bridge house was built, a worn causeway was come upon which ran alongside and level with the Parish Gill beck. This may have been a portion of the original pathway leading to the old bridge, as a broader causeway laid at a higher level led up from the beck to the southern end of the new bridge. The level and the direction of the latter pavement, as many remember seeing it, lent force to the comparison which old people made betwixt Ilkley Bridge as it used to be, and the roof of a house. As it is more than probable that the old bridge was a cheap, inartistic, convenient but insecure concern, so the new design, in the natural order of things, was expensive, picturesque, inconvenient and most substantial as it was left by the masons

### Later Date?

Mr. Hainsworth goes on to suggest that the bridge may have been built at a much later date than 1675. He says

he "chanced upon the initials W. G. and the date 1739 in two places" the inscription being quite as weatherworn as any of the other curious old banker marks to be found on almost every stone. "This," says Mr. Hainsworth, would give the age of the bridge as 140 years and not 200 as Mr. Collyer had supposed, "and betwixt the fall of the old bridge and the building of the piers of the present bridge, there would be an interval of 66 years with only a tantalizing and melancholy ruin. The wonder is, not that they waited so long for the rebuilding as that the work was begun so soon; heart to begin a third time could only come with a new generation, after so much disappointment and loss."

Mr. Hainsworth's claim does not appear to have received much backing and indeed led to some argument from the Rev. Collyer who would have none of it. The high arch and the steep approaches at any rate proved something of a problem to teamsters with heavy waggons and was regarded as useless for the purpose. More use was made of a ford down stream. It was described as a foolish piece of workmanship.

### Completed

In 1676, the bridge completed there was a request from the workmen for the bridge to be viewed, they claiming its sufficiency, and eventually the inspection was carried out by Henry, Lord Fairfax. There were some problems due to the floods, and in 1683 the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. William Hustler and eleven parishioners asked for the bridge to be viewed. They asked for the repair of damage done "by the late flood and strength of ice through which the bridge has grown ruinous at the west point of the north pillar and several stones clear driven out, as also several great ruins is made in the banks at both wings of the south landstalls by the s'd flood." In 1689 repairs were in progress at the north pillar several stones being re-instated and the pavement below the archway being carefully relaid."

The problem of approach to the bridge by all but the lightest conveyances continued through to the end of the century, apparently right through the next and into the 19th when the land arches and the improved approaches are believed to have been added.

The old structure has been battered by many high floods in its 300 years. In November, 1866, Jonathan Hainsworth indicated by cutting a line on the bridge near the stone steps leading down to the boating length the point reached by the flood waters.

Since then another has been added slightly higher, and it is understood that a flood in the last 20 years actually surpassed that but was never marked on the bridge. Repairs have been carried out from time to time but considering the huge mass of water moving at speed, carrying heavy tree trunks and other objects which batter the bridge, the structure has done remarkably well to survive.

### Paved Road

Mr. Hainsworth writing in 1879 said it was not generally known "that a boulder paved road some six feet in width, well set on a bed of peat and ashes underlies the modern tarmacadam in Brodge Lane, being a portion of the old pack saddle road leading westward along the river side remains of which may still be seen in many places."

By 1884 there were signs that the public and the members of the Local Board were becoming exasperated by the accidents caused by large vehicles and teams of horses crossing the bridge, and also those befalling the more reckless riders.

They decided in the middle of the year to accept a resolution to level and to widen the bridge, but a month later rescinded the resolution which had not met with universal approval. It later transpired that at the time Mr. Middleton, who apparently had not been consulted had not looked upon the question of selling land on the north side of the river.

Towards the end of the year he did not indicate that he was prepared to offer land on that side but no less than 60 to 70 acres and at 5s. a yard.

It was a decision which brought into being the Wharfedale Estate Company, the provision of the "New Bridge" and the removal of property which prevented the extension of Brook Street towards and across the river, the destruction of a large section of the Middleton Woods, and the building of costly villas on that side of the river.

R.M.G.

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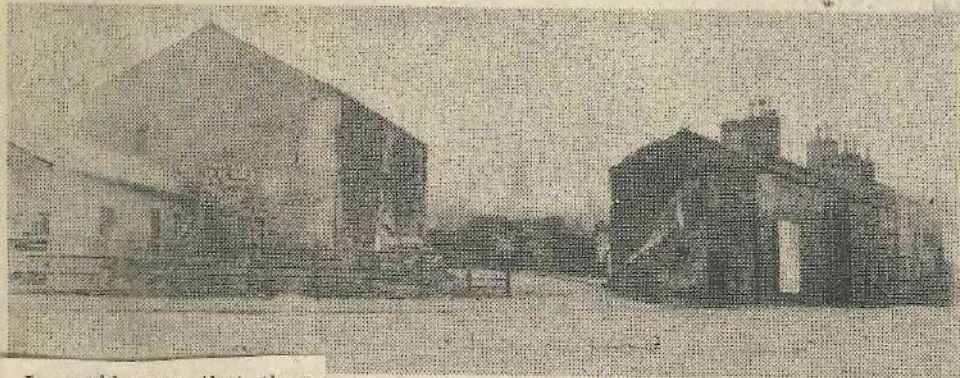
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### WIDE

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## OLD FARMSTEAD HOME OF ANCIENT FAMILY BECAME CONTROVERSIAL SITE FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The Bolling family of Bradford had an Ilkley branch which by the 18th and 19th century had built itself to some wealth and to some authority in this district. It occupied land on part of which the municipal buildings and the post office now stand. In the time of the Bollings the house and the land around was known as the Bolling Farm. It is known they rented it as far back as 1706, held it for 160 years. As Sedbergh House it was afterwards occupied by a member of the Margerison family, then by Mr. E. H. Wade and after his death in 1894 was bought by the Ilkley Council as a potential site for municipal buildings and so started a controversy which wrangled on for a decade.



It would seem that there is no record of the builder of the house known as Bolling Farm but it was so long in the occupation of the Bollings it would seem they had something to do with it. It was actually owned during their occupation by the Sedbergh School who had money invested in different properties in the town. The Bollings, it was said, owned all the houses on the east side of Brook Street, which were later converted to shops. They built the Crescent Hotel in 1860. More of them in a footnote to this article. Their property passed to their nephews, the Margerisons, one of whom resided at Sedbergh House. He was succeeded by E. H. Wade, a man of some standing in Ilkley and Bradford.

The proposal of the Ilkley Urban Council to buy Sedbergh House and its gardens met with immediate opposition. At an inquiry in September, 1896, when the Council presented its case for borrowing £6,270 to buy Sedbergh House, and other amounts for the gas undertaking, sewage proposals and to lay out Spences gardens there was no lack of people ready to stand up and oppose the proposal. There was evident fear that this purchase was going to add to the rates, a point of view which the Inspector conducting the inquiry said he could not take into account. It was also argued that there was a larger, much better, and cheaper area of land for sale with a frontage to Wells Road which could be bought for the purpose.

### WIDENED ROAD

The Inspector came down on the side of the Council and approval was given in October, the purchase being carried out in March, 1897. The Council immediately pulled down some old buildings which pushed into Station Road. They widened the road, which was something for which they had sought to purchase the site and having done this they left everything to nature. A pretty job it soon made of it. It was not long before the land was an eyesore. Immediately in front of the station, it caught the eye of people who arrived by train, it was the subject of comment by the hundreds of visitors who came into the town, and caused furiously indignant protests from the ratepayers and the strong opposition which existed among some of the town leaders outside the Council. It was a waste of money, completely unnecessary, they said. Repeated efforts were made to persuade and sometimes to bully the Council into selling the site. One of their constant critics was Oswald Lister. It was not until 1900 when they constructed Chantry Drive and Whitton Croft Road that the Council appeared to awaken to their responsibilities. That accomplished they went to sleep again.

ly pulled down some old buildings which pushed into the road which was something for which they had sought doing done this they left everything to nature. A pretty job

### A NUDGE

In that year the Council had a nudge from the Gazette which thought it a lack of business ability that thousands of pounds should be allowed to lie dead in that way. If they did not intend to build a public library and public buildings on the site, they could plant a few flower beds, put seats for the public there and make it a very pleasant place.

Not, the Gazette hastily

added, that it was anxious to see too costly public offices erected there. Oh, dear me no. The Gazette apparently recalled that a good many of its readers thought the Town Hall site all that it had said in its earlier paragraph. No, said the Gazette, warning to the idea, the Council accommodation in Parish Ghyll Road, was satisfactory and ample. Indeed, said the Gazette more enthusiastically it was a much better rent than it had been on the Grove or was likely to be elsewhere. The offices might be a little out of the way, but ratepayers had need to make only occasional visits so "the inconvenience in this direction is comparatively small."

### LIBRARY

The Gazette recalled that part of the Town Hall scheme had been the provision of a library. So just in case readers might think the newspaper might be just a little backward in not pressing for this, it suggested that although the necessity for library buildings might not at present exist "a few daily papers and periodicals at the Museum could be provided at small cost and with no little satisfaction and pleasure to a large number of working class residents."

It was in fact the possibility of providing library accommodation that re-awakened the entire scheme for library and town hall. In 1903, Mr. Carnegie offered to give £3,000 to the Council to erect a free library. Things began to move. In August 1903, the Local Government Board sanctioned the use of part of the Station Road site for a library. In November the Council invited competitive designs for the buildings. They also asked the Institute of British architects to nominate one of their members to act as assessor and were taken aback when the person in question indicated his terms as being 100 guineas and travelling expenses. This sum, said the shocked members, they regarded as excessive and much greater than any of them dreamed of paying. Could the figure not be reduced or another architect appointed at less cost? They decided to seek the views of the president of the Institute.

years old this year, tell us that "Robert Bolling of Bolling, whose will is dated 1487 held lands at Hethlee. The Bollings are well remembered in Ilkley. They came from Chellow and Bolling, by Bradford, about 1690 when we find Edward Bolling, gent., living in our town, who was made churchwarden in 1695, was trustee of the church and school funds in 1701 rented part of the Sedbergh School property, then known as Bollings Farm in 1706. His fourth son was born in 1708, and in 1745 married Phoebe, daughter of 'vicar' Lister. Eight children were born of this marriage of which John born on St. John's Day, 1746, was the eldest. He married Mary daughter of Ellis Cunliff in 1776 and four years after this, in 1780, his father died and was buried in the North aisle of the church. John Bolling and his wife Mary had five children. Phoebe, second, married Richard Margerison. The old Bolling home was a noteworthy sight 50 years ago"—apparently about 1830—"Natty and Robert of the elder family were living. Ellis, William and Lister of the later, all single men and all clinging to the old nest with Mary Cunliff to mind them. Those who knew her said she was a wonderful woman. She took summer boarders before any house was built for that purpose. Fine old families came to her house and she sent their boys home to dream of her splendid country table. The Bollings had a great deal of money among them for those times and were counted a little close. It was true and not true. They were savers but could give and were distinguished for the most absolute and spotless integrity. They would drive a close bargain, but would not peril their honour even in horse trade."

Sixty entries had been received. Some time later it was said the Council had accepted the terms though it was not indicated whether they had been reduced.

The Sub-Committee examined the entries and at their meeting in May, 1904—71 years ago—they chose the design of Mr. William Bakewell of Park Square, Leeds. Second choice went to the plan of Mr. Reginald T. Longden of Burslem who gained £50 and third prize to Messrs. Septimus Warwick and Herbert A. Hall, joint architects, of Lancaster Road. It has some times been said that the particular type of clock tower was an after-thought because a heavier style would not be suitable for the site. The type of clock tower as erected however appears in the winning sketch. The cost of the library was shown as £2,991 and that of the public offices and assembly hall as £7,062, a total of £10,053.

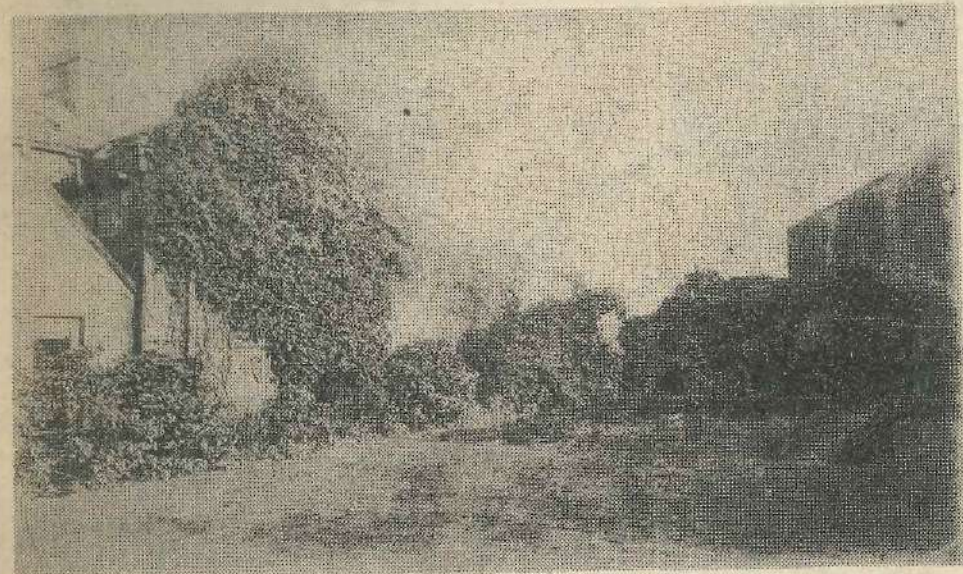
R. M. GREEN

Note.—Dr. Robert Collyer and J. H. Turner in their publication "Ilkley: Ancient and Modern" which is 90

30 May 1975

## Opposition concentrates on appeal and public campaign

Opposition to the Ilkley Urban Council's proposal to build a public library, town hall and assembly room on the site in Station Road of the former Bolling's Farm, later Sedbergh House, was concentrated on the inquiry into the application to borrow £10,000 for the development and on a public campaign immediately afterwards. After buying the site, demolishing some buildings to widen Station Road, the Council had allowed by neglect the area to become derelict. It was not until 1903 when Mr. Carnegie offered £3,000 for a free library that the Council revived its scheme for municipal buildings.



Part of the Sedbergh House and its garden which made way for the Public Library and Town Hall Scheme at the beginning of the century. The tower of Tower Buildings, also now pulled down and replaced by flats, gives an idea of the position Sedbergh House once occupied. Previously it was Bolling's farm, the home of the Ilkley branch of the noted Bradford family.

It was in January, 1905 that a public inquiry was held at the offices of the Council into the Council's application to borrow £10,000 for the public offices in Station Road and £2,300 for the provision of a refuse destructor on land adjoining the sewage works and the cemetery. The town hall scheme provoked considerable opposition.

The Clerk, Mr. Frank Hall, admitted that it was not denied that the Council's offices in the past five years had been located in three different places. It was now felt, he said, that the time had now arrived when the town was "of sufficient value and importance to have its own buildings for the trans-action of its public activities." He did not hesitate to admit that their present offices were the most suitable of any the Council had occupied. Yet the authority failed to see why a site which was purchased some eight years previously for the purpose should any longer remain idle and un-built upon, whilst at the same time they were paying £100 a year for office accommodation.

Ever since the Town Hall site had been purchased, said Mr. Hall, it had incurred an annual charge of £340 a year for interest and instalment alone and the Council did not feel justified in defraying such a charge from the rates any longer without making efforts to utilize the land to the best advantage.

### ASSEMBLY HALL

The advantages of an assembly hall would be a most useful portion of Ilkley's public buildings. Neither the Congregational Lecture nor St. Margaret's Hall adequately provided what was required. It was doubted whether any health resort of similar population and importance of Ilkley was so lacking of accommodation for a theatrical company, concerts, balls and other public functions. It was anticipated that the annual income would provide a substantial sum towards meeting the

yearly charge for interest and instalment on the capital account.

Mr. J. W. Benson, Chairman of the Council, said a large number of influential ratepayers obtained their livelihood by means of visitors and it was essential that the local authority should do its utmost to increase Ilkley's popularity as a health resort. He was quite prepared to admit that this scheme would involve a slight increase in the rates, but, said Mr. Benson, the District Rate was only 3s. 4d. in the £ and this was sevenpence less than four years before.

There were people present who supported the offices part of the scheme but were against the free library and Mr. J. W. Dixon pointed out that the library part of the scheme had nothing to do with that inquiry. The money for the library was being provided by Mr. Carnegie, he said.

### FOR 20 YEARS

Mr. H. E. Milnes saw no reason why the Council should not remain in their present accommodation for the next 20 years. "They are large enough in every respect and will be for fully that period at least," he said. I cannot see how the Council are going to benefit by new offices. We may be paying £100 a year rent but it will be £1,000 a year if this scheme is gone on with. We have plenty of public halls and certainly more than get filled."

Mr. C. Dilly, well known local hotelier, thought a public hall of the character proposed was quite unnecessary. If it was visitors they were catering for then the best thing that could be erected was a winter garden. The present offices were built for the purpose and were more than sufficient for their requirements and would be so for many years to come. "If we made a bad bargain in purchasing the Town Hall site there is no reason why we should make a worse in erecting buildings of this character thereon. I am per-

fectly sure that the opposition to the proposal is very strong and the Council should have taken a poll of the ratepayers on the subject."

### "RATES DOUBLE"

Mr. F. Sutcliffe thought both the public offices and the hall were totally unnecessary. He drew attention to the number of empty houses in the town. "If the Council have their way the rates will be double what they are today in ten years time," he said.

There was some argument between the Clerk and Mr. Isaac Dean who wanted to know if the lowest tender was accepted for the erection of those buildings.

Mr. Dixon intervened to say that Mr. Dean was one of those who tendered and so was out of order, and when Mr. L. T. Learoyd said he would ask the question, Mr. Dixon said the same objection applied.

Mr. Dilly: Well, I did not tender so I will ask the question.

The Clerk: The Council were not under obligation to accept any tender.

Mr. Dilly: Why wasn't the lowest tender accepted when the man was able to do the work.

The Clerk: The advertisement inviting tenders had a clause to the effect—the lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### £150 HIRE EXPECTED

Replying to the other objections, the Clerk said Mr. Milnes had said there were at least another half dozen halls in the town and had included the Victoria Hall but that was now used solely as a warehouse. The Council reckoned they would get £150 from the letting of their hall and not £10 as suggested by Mr. Milnes. "The whole thing will mean an expenditure equal to a twopenny rate including cost of furnishings.

The Inspector said if a loan was sanctioned for 30 years it would mean a three half-penny rate.

R. M. GREEN

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June 6 1975

# MANY FURTHER PROBLEMS BEFORE OPENING CEREMONIES ARE EVENTUALLY CARRIED OUT

Pleas by over 600 signatories to a petition asking for postponement of a loan sanction decision for the development of the Station Road site as a public library and Town Hall were ignored by the Local Government Board in 1905. Instead they later gave their consent. The severe depression in trade and the large number of empty houses in the town were two of the reasons submitted. Before the foundation stones were laid in the following year extra land had to be bought because the stage as designed was not big enough. In 1907 two men died when a cornice stone crashed through the scaffolding. There were emotional scenes when Dr. Robert Collyer opened the library in September 1907. The opening of the Town Hall came in the following Spring.



Laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at the end of January, 1906, is Mr. J. T. Jackson, Chairman of the Town Hall Free Library and Museum Committee, who was also two years later to open the Town Hall itself. The foundation stone of the Library was laid by Mr. J. W. Dixon, Chairman of the Council. Mr. J. A. Middlebrook, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presided, and the Gazette recorded that others of the official party included Messrs. J. W. Benson, J. C. Naylor, J. Dimsdale, I. Dean, J. C. Barker, M. Hawksworth and J. R. Harper together with Mr. W. Bakewell (architect), Mr. F. Hall (Clerk), Mr. T. H. Smith (surveyor), Mr. W. Everitt (gasworks manager). Mr. Jackson said the population of Ilkley was 8,000 but this was increased by many thousands during the summer season. With the completion of the Town Hall buildings "we shall lay claim to being the metropolis of Wharfedale and put pressure on the powers that be to grant us a local branch of magistrates and a County Court of our own which will save much expense and trouble to the shopkeepers, and litigants in the neighbourhood." Alas some 69 years later, the bench of magistrates and the County Court is a longer distance away from Ilkley.

The Inquiry closed, it seemed now to be just a matter of awaiting the Inspector's report and the acceptance by the Minister. The opposition had other views however. Forming themselves into an "Ilkley Ratepayers Committee" they waited upon the Council, presented their views sent copies of their objections to the Local Government Board, who held up their decision. Copies of the correspondence and the Ilkley Council's reaction to the points made by the Ratepayers occupied four and a half columns of the Gazette in May, 1905.

The Ratepayers Committee came back with a reply to the Council and published the names and addresses of the 18 members of the Committee showing they were of some standing and large contributors to the rates. The reply challenged that the scheme would be to Ilkley's advantage and as far as the value of an assembly hall was concerned referred to the suggestion of the purchase of Ilkley Hall being dropped by the Council in view of the opposition by ratepayers.

In June the Local Government Board intimated that it had sanctioned the loan, and by August the initial work of preparing the site had begun.

### STAGE TOO SMALL

Before the year was out, however, there was serious news for the Council. The stage, as planned was not large enough for the hall, certainly if the building was to attract the type of company the Council had in mind. Accordingly after consultation with the architect, it was

decided to acquire land to the south of the building; the road and sewer would have to be diverted. This explains the reason for the kink in Whitton Croft Road. It was agreed to buy 240 yards at 10s. a yard, and to carry out the necessary alterations. It was considered that the Local Government Board would need to know about the purchase of land and it was agreed to supply the necessary information.

The Gazette for 3 February, 1906, included nearly a page of reports and pictures in connection with the laying of the foundation stone. For the Public Library this was done by Mr. J. W. Dixon, Chairman of the Council, and for the Public Offices and Assembly Room by Mr. J. T. Jackson, Chairman of the Town Hall, Free Library and Museum Committee.

Local contractors employed in the work were Mr. Geo. Smith (excavator, mason and bricklayer), Mr. Thomas Smith (carpenter and joiner), R. and T. L. Nelson (plumbers and glaziers), Mr. G. W. Hampshire (painter), Mr. Oswald Lister (plasterer).

There were speeches by Mr. Dixon, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Benson, and Mr. Naylor, and there was a private dinner party at Wells House in the evening when Mr. Jackson entertained Councillors, Council officials and some of his friends.

The following week there was submitted an account of the likely cost of the stage accommodation extension, raising the stage, and so on and these were approved at £1,041. The Local Government Board indicated they were prepared to give their formal consent.

### TRAGEDY

Tragedy struck the erection of the Assembly Hall portion of the buildings when a cornice stone which had been hoisted on to a platform caused the scaffolding to collapse as it was being transferred to a bogey to be trundled to another part. Four men fell to the ground and two of them were trapped under the six hundredweight stone and were killed. Frank Carter (43) foreman bricklayer, Leamington Road, Ilkley, suffered terrible injuries and is believed to have died instantly. William Mitchell (45) a mason living in lodgings in Ilkley but whose home was in Wortley was said to have breathed only a minute or two. John Clarke, labourer, of Addingham, who also fell from the platform was too ill to attend the inquest but Joseph Spence, labourer, Ilkley said he was able to catch hold of a ladder, clung to it and was able to save himself. There was a verdict of accidental death.

### LIBRARY OPENING

The public library section of the buildings was opened before completion in order to meet the timetable of Dr. Robert Collyer, who was ap-

prenticed to a blacksmith's shop in Ilkley, served his time and then emigrated to the United States where he became a famous preacher first in Chicago and then in New York. He had accepted an invitation to perform the opening ceremony when it was believed the library would be ready in September, 1907, and had arranged a further programme of visits as a result. The work however had not been completed as planned.

### EMOTIONAL

It was an emotional occasion. Apparently the entire village turned out to honour to this famous man. A bust of Dr. Collyer and a bust of Mr. Carnegie was unveiled and then the party adjourned to the Assembly Hall. It was reckoned that the people who crowded in their numbered 1800. They gave Dr. Collyer a tremendous ovation. He knew and said so, they knew and hardly dared to think of it, that this would probably be his last visit to the place he loved so much. It was 69 years since he had walked over Denton Moor to become apprenticed to Jackie Birch, fifty seven years since he had departed for America. He would be 84 in December. On the evening of the opening ceremony Dr. Collyer was entertained to dinner by Mr. J. T. Jackson at Wells House. Afterwards on the way to Mr. Jackson's residence, Elmleigh, it was decided to see the coloured lights outside the Town Hall buildings. The word had gone round and there was a "dense throng" to greet them outside the station. They followed them, hand and all, to Mr. Jackson's home and there from the front steps Dr. Collyer made "a neat little speech" in so doing making unmistakable sign of emotion.

### TOWN HALL

The Town Hall was opened in April, 1908, by Mr. J. T. Jackson who had laid the foundation stone some two years before. On 6 May, 1908, the Council met in the Council Chamber for the first time. In March 1874 they met there as the Ilkley Urban Council for the last time, but the Parish Council continues to meet there, its dignity permitted to remain unimpaired by a Bradford Metropolitan Council which has more tolerance and more sense of what is right than some other authorities of equal standing.

The Library grew to a high standard of efficiency and continues to serve the community. The Town Hall had to undergo many changes after the re-organisation of local government came into effect, the King's Hall and the Winter Garden have each made their contribution to the town's activities. They have played a full part, even though their financial situation has at times caused problems for those who had charge of them.

1974

## DR. ROBERT COLLYER OPENS NEW ILKLEY LIBRARY, SPEAKS OF BOOKS, READING AND THE OLD VILLAGE

Dr. Robert Collyer was often heard to tell how every weary moment he won from his boyhood duties as a mill worker in Washburndale was spent in reading whatever book he could get hold of. Once he had a precious penny to spend and after long and careful consideration he finally bought a booklet in Otley. When he became apprenticed to Jackie Birch, the Ilkley blacksmith, his reading habits received some direction from John Dobson, local preacher, who organised a class for young men in the village. It was something which greatly influenced his preaching and his writing. "Half dozen men owe more to good John Dobson than to any other man, myself among the rest. Their life has been greatly worth living because he helped them so nobly at the start and directed them so wisely." When Dr. Collyer opened the Ilkley Library in September 1907, an occasion when the village fully demonstrated its affection and regard for him, the famous preacher spoke about his choice of books and reading habits. He was then approaching his 84th birthday, and was paying his eighth visit since his emigration to the United States.

Dr. Collyer recalled that in the United States when a town had grown in some eminence as Ilkley had grown in those sixty years, they were almost sure to find four essential foundations — the church, the school, the town hall and the library, "and the library comes last as a rule, but until it comes the town in the common estimation takes a back seat." The mother church in Ilkley was more than a thousand years old, some 300 years previously after a little argument it was agreed to spend the £100 left by George Marshall "to be employed to some charitable and godly use" for the building of a school house; the new town hall was following one or two Council offices, "and now with the Town Hall stands the Free Library, the home for the treasures of knowledge and wisdom and of inspiration. So in these primal things Ilkley standeth four square."

Dr. Collyer continued "How many books will you number? So many every man and woman in the town, rich or poor, will hold on equal terms can say, 'This is our library, a trust in which we are all partners' subject to the terms established when you take them to your homes for your own delight, that there shall be timely return. For our good Sir Walter Scott says "so many friends who borrow his books are good book-keepers but bad accountants." Dr. Collyer quoted words from book lovers "far and wide who know whereof they write," on the value of books. He went on, "I think we should bring some such spirit to the reading as the authors to the writing, or we miss the finest secret and the sweetest satisfaction. They have given me the best there was in their mind and heart: I must bring to them the best there is in mine; my mind must be as purely alive to read in its degree as their was to write. Whilst it may well be that I must take more time to exhaust such books than the writers took to fill them if that can ever be done."

### THREE TIMES

Dr. Collyer spoke of a farmer in New Hampshire who gave his farm to his sons that he might satisfy his hunger to read all the books he could lay his hands on. "He read a book first," his daughter told me, "to see if it was worth reading, and, if he found good treasure, a second time to find what worth there was and store it away, and then a third time to be sure he had missed nothing worth the storing. She told me people would come from far and wide to talk to him about books. He was the cycloaedia of good literature." "When I crossed Denton Moor those 69 years ago, I had worked in the factory in the Washburn almost seven years, and thought most of the time 13 hours in each five days in the week and 11

hours on the Saturday, but I had read all the books I could lay my hands on, all the books in the house that would stay my hunger and all my father could borrow in the factory commune. I brought the hunger with me to Ilkley to read on the old terms—by day-light and by candle light, and when these failed by the open fire, so that Master Birch said I should be blind if I kept on before I was out of my time. And so it has been down to this day.

### GOOD BOOKS

"And now may I tell you what I mean by good books from my own experience, for I can find no better way. There are books which stimulate you as the wines do, of which you can sip slowly, feeling the glow and glamour, to be aware in time that you want something which holds a fiercer fire. And books you can read as some take drugs, to relieve their pain or shut out the desolation, or afford you blissful visions for the time. You may devour books in an over measure that, it may be, will do no harm, except to waste your time and prompt the question 'Will a man fill himself with the east wind?' These are only what the sea foam is to the sea at the best—the beaten syllabus of book nature, so that when I read them they remind me of the sign I once saw over a soda fountain in the Far West with the inscription 'Sweetened Wind.'

Turning to novels, Dr. Collyer said he had read them with pleasure and delight "from the time when the first I ever read came my way—The Vicar of Wakefield. It has been said that 'Novels are our weekday sermons, and their writers our weekday preachers, who should always take us into clean and good company. For things have come to a pretty pass with us when we smuggle our company into our homes and hide them in our closets.

### SEVENTY YEARS

He concluded with the following comment, "And now may I dwell for a few moments on my own experience and what I have learned at prime cost in the full seventy years of my reading. If, when I read a book about the God and Father of us all, in whom we live and move and have our being, I find it has removed Him farther from me; or about man that it has removed me farther from him or about the world, which is my home, that the book has shaken down upon it a new desolation, or about life, that has made my own life less worth living; or about moral principles that they are not so clear as when the author began to talk with me; then I know that on these primal and cardinal things in my life, the book is not a good book for me. It may be good for another, I say nothing to that, I only know this for myself. But if

the book touches the soul in me, and brings God nearer to my heart and life; if it be of humanity and brings me nearer to the heart and life of my fellow men, or in philosophy and science if my book makes the world and the universe glow with a new truth and grace—a poem, a story, a book of adventure or history or biography—and I feel it makes me all the more a man, more sincere and true more upright and downright, then, no matter who wrote the book, or what men say about it, the judgement seat is set in my own soul."

### EARLY DAYS

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

"And before this journey to the Motherland, the last I can hope to make I had crossed the ocean seven times to see my kith and kin first and then as they say make a bee line to Ilkley; with my heart in my mouth to stand beside my graves in your churchyard, down to see the old friends whose life was blended with mine and talk with them of the days that are no more and yet are for evermore while I live on the earth, steal into the old church by my home, and touch there the memories of the living and the dead, mellowed by the enchantment of time and distance. . . . then I must drink at the old white wells, climb to the crest above to drink in the glory of the moors and fells and beauty of our Wharfedale. So it is true that I did not leave my old Ilkley, but carried it with me and hold it still."

R. M. GREEN.



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May 2nd 1975.

ILKLEY BRIDGES (3)

STEPPING STONES AND FERRY HAVE COMPETITION FROM IRON BRIDGE BUILT TO SERVE DENTON VILLAGE



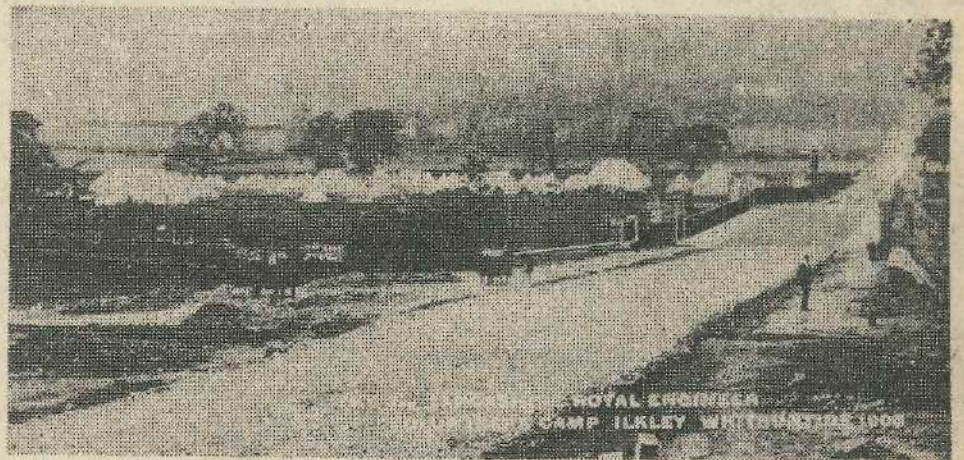
This "strong but tasteful structure" came into existence as a river crossing near the bottom of Wheatley Lane at Ben Rhydding in 1882 and until Ilkley Urban Council bought it in 1948 with the ready co-operation of the owners, the Executor of the late Mr. Arthur Hill, it carried traffic over the River Wharfe at that point on payment of toll. Until the bridge was built, apart from the fords, there was no bridge between Ilkley Old Bridge and Otley Bridge. People except when the stones were washed away crossed by the stepping stones between Leeds Road and Carter's Lane, or by a ferry pulled by means of a wire just below.

It was not until 1906 when the New Bridge was formally opened as part of the New Brook Street scheme that pressure for an alternative to serve more adequately the town centre came about. In the meantime there had been built the bridge near the bottom of Wheatley Lane to serve Denton and Askwith and that part of the community. It came about only after years of controversy and did not come into the possession of the Ilkley Urban Council until the end of 1948 after being a toll bridge for most of its lifetime.

ILKLEY BRIDGES

May 9th 1975.

NEW BRIDGE PROVIDED AS PART OF MAJOR PLANNING SCHEME TO BRING NEW MIDDLETON LINK

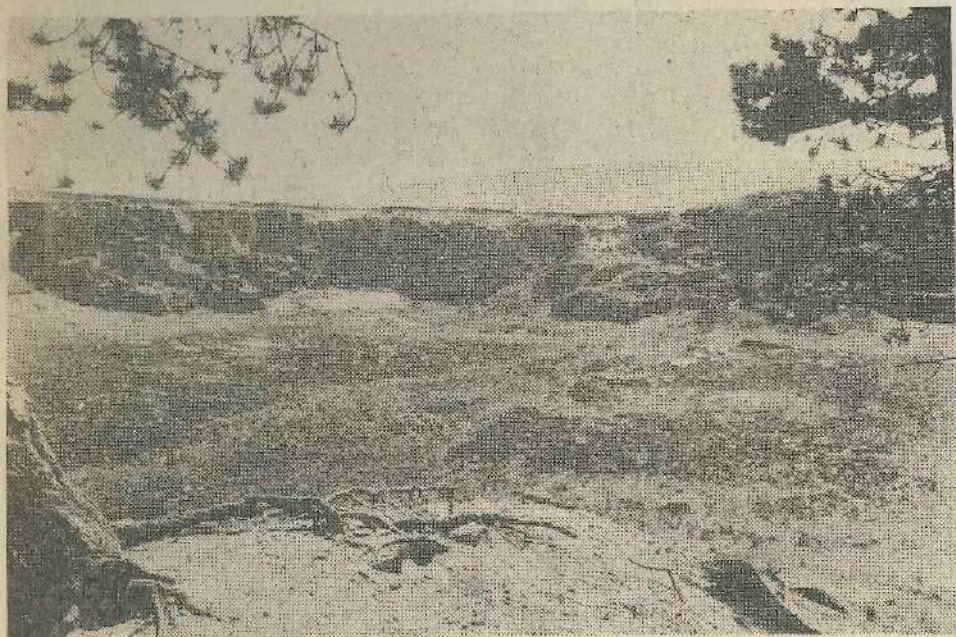


The 3rd Lancashire Royal Volunteers were frequent visitors to Ilkley at the beginning of the century and were welcomed by the inhabitants especially the the tradesmen who were responsible for supplies of provisions. They camped principally on what is now the West Holmes and the picture shows their spread of canvas a year before the New Bridge was officially opened. The actual opening of the bridge in June, 1906, was delayed to co-incide with their arrival by train and they were the first body of men officially to pass over the bridge.

The New Bridge, still so called after 70 years, came into existence officially in 1906 as part of an ambitious scheme to develop the Middleton side of the river and to clear the middle of inns and buildings at the bottom of Brook Street. The scheme caused a tremendous devastation of woodland but fortunately was never carried out as originally planned. It would have destroyed a much greater area on the other side of the river. Some 30 years later a suspension bridge was provided near the Crum Wheel, one reason for this being to provide a means of taking Middleton sewage to the plant in the vicinity of the cemetery.

# LORD OF MANOR ARGUES WITH DOCTOR OVER MOOR QUARRYING

Dr. James Fletcher Little was the man who paid £10 for the huge rock discovered in Mr. Brumfitt's field at the top of Panorama, had it cut into four or five pieces to aid its transportation and made a gift of it to Ilkley Local Board. Dr. Little's idea was that it should be re-erected in the vicinity of the Tarn, but the Board decided on a site near S. Margaret's Church. Probably its removal destroyed what peculiar significance it possessed from its original and particular orientation. Dr. Little was a champion of the right of people to wander at will over the moor, and was in frequent conflict with the Lord of the Manor of Ilkley as a result.



The quarry behind the Cow and Calf Rocks which caused Dr. James Fletcher Little to protest to the Lord of the Manor that his responsibilities should include regard for the wishes and the interests of the public. Dr. Little strongly criticised the action of Mr. William Middleton in allowing this quarry to be opened, and this led to an offer by the Lord of the Manor to sell the moor to the Ilkley Local Board.

When he was medical officer to the Ben Rhydding Hydro and a member of the Ilkley Local Board, Dr. Little was a militant worker for what he deemed to be the public's right to walk anywhere over the moor irrespective of the well defined footpaths. There had been a deal of controversy over action taken by gamekeepers and the courts against people found wandering at will. There had been stories of physical attacks by gamekeepers and without question there had been what might be faithfully reported as "unpleasant incidents".

At the beginning of 1884 Dr. Little was in full cry about the conduct of gamekeepers on the moor and he condemned Mr. William Middleton for permitting his employees to treat members of the public in the way Dr. Little asserted they did. He wrote to Mr. Middleton and he wrote to the Gazette claiming that the common people had the right to roam all over the moor. He tried to persuade the Local Board to make a stand on the matter.

A further complaint against the Lord of the Manor was that he had permitted sods to be taken from the moor and this, maintained Dr. Little, led to complaints from the freeholders that the moor grazing rights were affected.

## NEW QUARRY

What eventually led to a showdown between the Lord of the Manor, who had not many months to live, was his permission for a new quarry behind the Cow and Calf Rocks to be opened, and this had proved to be, said Dr. Little, an act of wanton destruction of the beauty of the moor. This one would do more than all the other quarries on the moorside to destroy the natural attractions of one of the loveliest bits of nature in Yorkshire, said the indignant Dr. Little.

"During the short time this quarry has been worked a large quantity of debris and rubbish has been thrown out and forms a most unsightly heap," said Dr. Little. He emphasised the historic significance of stone found in this area. "The stone where exposed, in most cases shows footprints of birds, and the marks left by the ripples of the waves in an age when the valley of the Wharfe was one vast expanse of water and the slopes of Rombalds Moor were a wave washed shore. When the quarry has been worked a little longer it will be opened out into that lovely glen

## REPRIMANDED

Warning to his subject, Dr. Little had a word about the Lord of the Manor. "It is a monstrous thing," he commented, "that nowadays when roughs are ceasing to destroy the saplings by the road side, and half educated people to

cut their names on every block of wood or stone, that a Lord of the Manor should continue and all unchecked, to deface and disfigure the beauty of his native land."

Stern words, but Dr. Little had more to say. "A Lord of the Manor has to be taught," he wrote, "that it is the act of a bad citizen to turn private and personal rights to the public and common injury. He has to learn and sometimes to his cost, that it is the duty of all good citizens to restrain and, if necessary, forcibly prevent the bad citizen from molesting or impairing the properties, the liberties and the convenience of one and all." Dr. Little described the action of the Lord of the Manor as another of the bold and audacious attacks by Mr. Middleton on the rights of the public and commoners.

## SQUIRE REPLIES

Through his solicitors Mr. Middleton some time later addressed a contrite letter to the Board. He was anxious not to do anything, he said, which would needlessly damage the scenery about Ilkley, or lessen the attraction of the town to residents and visitors, but at the same time he could not be expected for the benefit of the public to surrender his property or to submit to interference in the exercise of his rights without adequate compensation.

He followed by offering to sell the moor to the Local Board, at least the surface, the rocks and stones exposed thereon with the exclusive right of sporting thereon, and on the adjoining moor as Hollinghall Moor.

The letter said "The sale would be subject to such rights of common as exist on Ilkley Moor, including such rights as belong to Mr. Middleton in respect of enclosed lands within the manor, and to a reservation to him of all unsold springs and streams on the moor, and of all coal, iron, stone, general and other minerals thereunder with convenient means of working the same and disposing of the produce but it would be provided that no quarry shaft or pit should be opened on the face of the moor."

The Board would thus have the liberty of forming walks, drives and footpaths in any direction they pleased over Ilkley Moor "but it must be understood that any claims by the commoners for anything done by the Board must be met and satisfied by the Board and by Mr. Middleton," the solicitors warned.

The shooting rights over Hollinghall Moor had been included for the reason that it was desirable that the sporting rights over the two moors should be held in the same hands. They were at that time held together on lease until December, 1885.

## INDIFFERENT

This letter was brought to

the attention of the Board at a special meeting called to discuss the position of the Board following upon the sudden death of its Surveyor. To augment the proposals contained in the letter, Mr. W. J. S. Thompson, an agent for Mr. Middleton and a member of the Board, produced another letter from the same solicitors which said that in the event of the Local Board declining or feeling themselves unable to accept the terms of the sale communicated in the other letter, "Mr. Middleton desires that you will mention to the Board that is his willing for the present to make concessions for the sake of having peace and harmony with the people of Ilkley. In order that there may remain no further occasion for the publication of annoying remarks in reference to the exercise of his manorial rights on Ilkley Moor, he intends to discontinue the getting of stone from the two quarries near the Cow and Calf Rocks until he decides upon selling land for building purposes on the north side of the Wharfe, and of this event there is no immediate prospect. . . . sale of sods placed in the hands of the Board, shooting rights on moor rented to Board."

## OLIVE BRANCH

These arrangements were submitted purely with a view to removing "every cause of complaint and with the purpose of allaying the dissatisfaction which is alleged to exist," said Mr. Middleton. Indeed, he added those concessions would have been granted long ago had they been requested by Board. Still holding out the olive branch he explained, "The circumstances of his property in Ilkley are such that it is inevitable that many occasions of difference and difficulty will arise, but his great desire is to continue on neighbourly terms with the people of Ilkley and to do what he can for the benefit of the town.

"If unfortunately, questions and disputes should arise, he thinks that at least that is due to the friendly feeling he has always shown is that the matter should first be brought to his notice before misrepresentations of the facts of the case accompanied by unfair comment, are published throughout the country in channels which he declines to use, got such explanations as are capable of being rendered.

## IRREGULAR

Dr. Little and Mr. J. Dobson regarded the communications as irregular. Dr. Little indeed, said it was almost impossible for some members of the Board to listen quietly to the terms of the letter.

The matter was passed to a Committee but apparently no action was taken.

R. M. Green

## SHRI FOR ILK

The o the Manor, M sideration by of the offer in 1885, and there were cation for th the freeholder pelled to hold were in agree

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## SHREWD COUNCILLORS BARGAIN FOR ACQUISITION WHICH GAVE ILKLEY ITS UNIQUE HERITAGE

The offer of Ilkley Moor with most of its rights made by the Lord of the Manor, Mr. William Middleton, appears to have received little serious consideration by the Ilkley Local Board and there is no information of discussion of the offer in the remaining months of 1884. Mr. Middleton died in February, 1885, and was succeeded by his brother, Mr. C. M. Middleton. About 1890 there were certain rumours that the Lord of the Manor intended to make application for the enclosure of the moors. It was made known that if one-third of the freeholders made application, then the Enclosure Commissioners were compelled to hold an inquiry and, on that occasion, if two thirds of the freeholders were in agreement, enclosure would automatically follow.

There was understandable consternation in the village as the rumours grew because the Lord of the Manor held two thirds of the moorland rights. Should an approach be made to Mr. Middleton? Should there be a public meeting at which strong protests be made about the proposal, should it be shown to be true? The difficulty was that no-one had any information, there were only rumours.

Thomas Horsman, who was to be in such conflict with Oswald Lister over a period of years, had a better idea. On his own account he went to see Mr. Middleton and found he was ready to discuss the matter in a friendly way. Mr. Horsman told two of his fellow members of the Local Board what he had done and what the Lord of the Manor had to say. The three of them continued conversations with the Lord of the Manor whose attitude remained one of friendly and generous co-operation.

Mr. William Dobson, twice a Chairman of the Ilkley Urban Council, an authority on the town's history, and a man with a great affection for Ilkley, told the story during the days of the Second World War, as the final payment of the loan was due to be paid.

### CAME TO TERMS

Thomas Horsman and his two colleagues came to terms with the Lord of the Manor and then they called a special meeting of the Local Board. It was held on 21 October, 1892 and with Mr. Jabez Dobson in the chair there were present Eli Ibberson, John Brown, Henry Ellis, John Foster, J. A. Middlebrook, John Beanlands, J. C. Barker, Wm. Critchley, Thomas Horsman and John Illingworth.

It was proposed by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Horsman that the sum of £13,500 should be paid to Mr. Middleton's agent for the land, common and manorial rights, and that the sum of £200 should be paid for professional fees to the mortgagees, solicitors and surveyors.

Determined that Ilkley should have the moor, they signified their willingness to be bound, collectively in the sum of £500 for the fulfilling of the agreement. Only one member was absent from the meeting. He was Mr. Isaac Dean who immediately on being told of what had transpired agreed that his name should be added to this list.

It was, said Mr. William Dobson when telling the story, a bold step to take. It called for vision, tact and courage. Ilkley's population was then only 5,700; its rateable value £34,000 and the rates a modest sum. "Only a few months before they had resolved to take compulsory powers to purchase the gasworks for £56,000. They were not buying for that day. They had seen that a great danger existed, and they were buying for tomorrow and the day after."

Splendid words to describe a great occasion.

### "BRAVE NEWS"

From Dr. Robert Collyer, over in the United States, came a message of jubilation. "This is brave news you send me over the seas about the purchase of the moors and the upland pastures by and for Ilkley through all time. It is the best investment the town has ever made to my thinking if Ilkley want to hold her own and win, and she will do both now. I have been scared more than once at the rumours which would float over to us that there was some latent purpose of enclosing the moors and leaving out the folk who love to ramble there, as I have done, and drink in its wild and ever fresh delights but I drew a long breath when I read the good news and said, 'Ilkley is all right now and need only guard wisely what she has taken into her own keeping.'"

Before the meeting with the Lord of the Manor there had been an arrangement made to lease Hebers Ghyll with permission to construct certain paths for the use of the public. Further consultation resulted in agreement over a suggestion that the Moor purchase should include Hebers Ghyll and Panorama Woods in the purchase. What great joy and pleasure they have provided for millions of visitors since then!

### LOAN BID

On 1 February, 1893, it was resolved to make application to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £17,000 for the purpose of purchasing Ilkley Moor, Hollin Hall Moor, Hebers Ghyll, the Allotments, Silver Well Farm, Panorama Rocks together with the Manorial Rights and with all the mineral water and sporting rights, and all the powers and privileges retained by Mr. Middleton and his predecessors under their land conveyances.

The Clerk to the Local Board was instructed to prepare a petition to the Local Government Board to be signed by ratepayers and owners in favour of the purchase. The petition concluded with the words:-

"Your petitioners therefore pray that your honourable Board will sanction the proposals of the Local Board, and thus put beyond doubt any interference with the main attractions of the district as a health resort."

Four hundred people signed the petition representing £18,000 rateable value. The Local Government Inquiry was held on 21 April, 1893. It occupied over two hours. No-one attended to oppose the proposal. Sanction was granted.

### ILKLEY'S HERITAGE

Mr. Dobson said this was Ilkley's heritage. Thousands of people from all over the country had regained health and physical fitness over on those moors.

Mr. Middleton undoubtedly could have got considerably more money for the moor had

he wished but his sympathies were with the people of the town which had been home to him and his forebears. Had it been sold to a company with a commercial outlook the moors would have been quarried for stone, suitable plots would have been let off for building purposes its waters would have been collected by a private company and sold to the town at far more than was being paid today.

One wonders had William Dobson been alive when the Rombalds Water Board came into existence or had there been a successor in his mould whether a section of the moor would have been permitted to be taken over so easily, perhaps "quietly" is the better word, and whether or not there would have been much more determined opposition to something which had been carried out without, it is suspected, some of those directly concerned with the matter being aware of it.

### HEAR THE WORDS

For those to whom the moor is just a piece of common land, something on which to ride motor-cycles to the disadvantage of pedestrians, to tear the turf with horses hooves, and to interfere with its natural state and the attraction to be found in this, hear the words of William Dobson:-

"I have wandered the moors from north to south, and east to west in all weathers. I have gone when my only company has been the call of the grouse the snipe and the stonechat. To stand in the stillness and gaze upon the surrounding beauty makes you say, 'What a wonderful creation' and immediately you think there can be no creation without a Creator. Our gratitude goes out to the councillors who have gone before us who have had the wisdom and foresight to hand down to us this beautiful moorland. It is Ilkley's heritage."

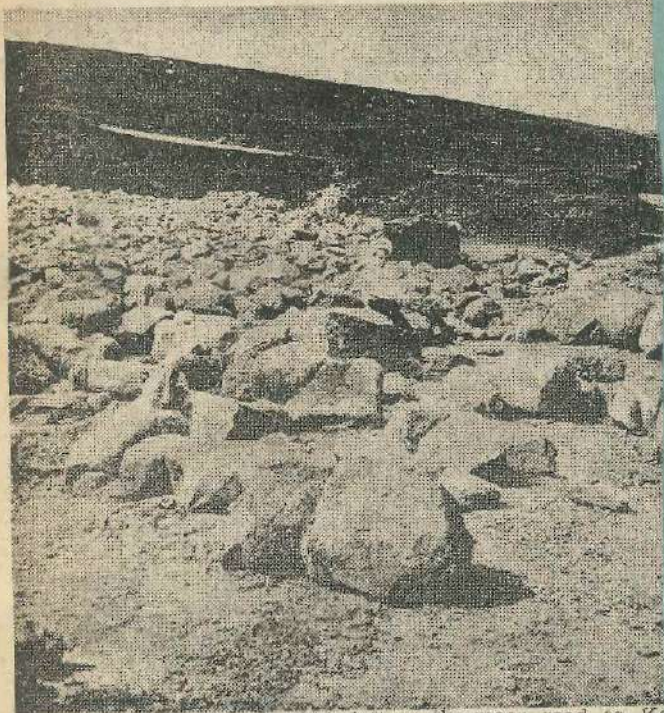
Those who have wandered across the moor as Mr. Dobson did, who have shared the experiences he treasured so much, wonder if there will be similar opportunities for the generations to come; whether a different approach will interfere with the natural state of the moor and all it means to the lovers of the open countryside.

The Bradford Metropolitan Council has been entrusted with Ilkley's heritage; let us hope they are fully aware of that responsibility and that the Ilkley Parish Council is alert and bigilant to see they are. Today the moor is invaded by horse and pony riders, by the riders of motor cycles; an increasing number of motorists travel up and park along the Keighley Road, an increasing number travel up the road to White Wells and the clutter of cars around those buildings become bigger and bigger. The growth of these activities have caused apprehension in the minds of some of us; some recent comments by people in authority have not tended to alleviate that apprehension.

R. M. Green

THEY CA  
TO MOCK  
SOME

18 July 1975  
Hundreds of sight-  
aster. Some scoffed at th  
some made off with what  
others gave generously to  
an appeal to help those who had suffered financially.  
people of a more learned bent eager to see what links  
been exposed and concerned lest damage had been  
marked rocks.



Huge boulders and rubble left on the moor road to K...  
demolished the bridge and carried away stones which had be  
road which crossed the moor near this point. Below this sp  
gouged out of the hillside and remains to this day.

A closer examination of  
the debris left behind and of  
rocks newly exposed un-  
covered relics of the ice-age,  
said the Gazette. The opinion  
was held that something in the  
nature of a cloud burst had  
taken place immediately  
above the Keighley Road for  
this was shown to have had  
deep furrows torn out of it  
over quite a considerable  
distance.

The newly constructed  
reservoir at Ghyll Head above  
the Cow and Calf Rocks and  
near the source of Backstone  
Beck had "no inconsiderable  
damage," and terrible havoc  
had been wrought near the  
head of Spicy Ghyll with  
much of a like nature on the  
moor above Hebers Ghyll.

As mentioned in last week's  
article, Hebers Ghyll had its  
watercourse gouged out to a  
considerable depth and the  
effect had been to introduce  
wildness and grandeur to a  
picture hitherto somewhat  
tame. On the other hand the  
sight of broken sidewalks and  
demolished bridges a little  
distance above with an accu-  
mulation of debris was not  
pleasant to look upon. At the  
foot of the Ghyll considerable  
damage was done, the bridge,  
the culvert and the new road  
suffering most heavily.

**INQUIRY**

A public inquiry was opened  
during the week after the flood  
and varying estimates of the  
total cost of damages were  
put forward. An estimate of  
£11,000 was considered by the  
Gazette to be on the low side,  
but some between £60,000 and  
£70,000 were regarded as too  
much. Yet when individual  
property owners spoke of  
amounts of £400 and £500 re-  
quired to restore the damage  
to their own properties the  
higher sums were not thought  
to be as ridiculous as they did  
on first hearing.

There were plenty to attend  
a meeting held in the Lecture  
Hall to consider what could be  
arranged to provide imme-  
diate aid for those who had  
suffered personal hardship.  
Occupants of cottages in  
Chapel Lane had been hardly  
hit. It was a meeting of people  
outstandingly able to arrange  
means of help and in many  
cases to make substantial  
monetary contributions of  
their own. There was an im-  
mediate and generous re-  
sponse to appeals for financial  
assistance. There were con-  
gratulations for Mr. J. C.  
Naylor, Chairman of the  
Council on his promptness in

should not serve on the com-  
mittee, though the responsi-  
bilities placed on them in  
other ways were fairly sub-  
stantial.

Later in the year it was  
agreed that information about  
the sums agreed to be given to  
people in distress should not  
be made public, but a special  
fund to help Mr. Brogden the  
most seriously hurt both per-  
sonally and materially should  
be closed at £443 2s 10d.

**CHAPEL LANE**

There was a feeling that the  
disaster provided an oppor-  
tunity for the cottages in  
Chapel Lane to be removed  
and this was mentioned both  
at the meeting of the Com-  
mittee and at the inquest on  
Alfred Brogden. It was  
thought by a juror that none  
of this was the business of the  
inquest but the Coroner, Mr.  
T. P. Brown, thought such a  
rider might strengthen the  
Council's hands and it was  
agreed to express the view that  
the cottages which were in an  
insanitary condition should  
be either pulled down or the  
coach shop, when rebuilt, put  
back six feet from the brook.

**INQUEST**

At the inquest Edward  
Brogden, eldest son of Mr.  
Robert Brogden said he last  
saw his brother alive just  
after the water had broken  
into the shop. The storm was  
raging violently and his brother  
was kneeling down look-  
ing though the hoist calling  
to the smiths below to get out  
of the way. He saw the roof  
of the paint shop fall burying  
his brother beneath it. Had he  
not gone back to warn the  
other men he thought his brother  
would have got clear  
away.

Mr. Brogden was buried at  
Ilkley Cemetery after a short  
service at St. Margaret's  
church. He and his father and  
brothers had been choirmen at  
the church for several years.  
The Rev. Irton Smith, vicar,  
and the Rev. H. R. Hughes  
conducted the service and the  
choir were in attendance. "An  
immense concourse of sym-  
pathisers" was present said the  
Gazette, and crowds of people  
were in the streets as the pro-  
cession moved through the  
shuttered shops.

**MEDAL AWARD**

Mr. Benjamin Gummersall,  
joiner and builder of Ilkley,  
was awarded the Royal  
Humane Society's medal for  
gallantry for his action in re-  
scuing two aged people, Ellen  
Hudson and Joseph Cawood  
from their cottages in Chapel  
Lane. When other rescue  
attempts had failed Mr. Gum-  
mersall tied a rope round his  
waist and waded into each  
house where the water was  
rushing through to a depth of  
six feet. The rescue of the  
man was much the easier be-  
cause he had reached a point  
near the door and Mr. Gum-  
mersall was able to grasp him.  
The old lady was on a kitchen

**NO WOMEN**

There was something of an  
argument, and how strange it  
reads today, as to the suita-  
bility of women to be on the  
committee especially said one  
male as the distribution of  
money would be one of its  
main tasks. It was decided by  
a large majority that women

window. No...  
done this than the water  
finding a fresh outlet swept  
the old lady through. Mr.  
Gummersall grabbed her but  
could do more than hold her  
head above water until ano-  
ther man also with a rope tied  
round his waist went to his  
help.

**HEBERS GHYLL**

The Bradford Observer com-  
menting on the immense dam-  
age caused to Hebers Ghyll  
said large crowds of people  
were now flocking there from  
wide afield "The Ghyll was  
never so attractive in the  
sylvan loveliness which has  
been its characteristic as it is  
now with the marks upon it  
of the hand of nature in her  
roughest mood. From top to  
bottom the flood has torn  
and scarred the ravine, wash-  
ing out great holes in  
some places, piling up  
boulders in chaotic masses  
elsewhere, wrenching trees  
out of the earth and indeed  
changing the whole lineament  
of the ghyll. At the bottom is a  
very striking illustration of  
contemptuous treatment of  
the puny works of man. Cross-  
ing the ghyll was a new made  
road, lifted high above the bed  
of the stream by a thick solid  
embankment carried over a  
culvert thought to be of suf-  
ficient breadth and depth.  
But the culvert has totally  
disappeared and for a space of  
about 30 feet square every-  
thing above the bed of the  
stream has been cut clean  
away as if by a knife, the  
broken ends of the road way  
being left that distance apart."

**MORE STORMS**

Within a few days of this  
flood there was another severe  
thunderstorm in Ilkley on 21  
July. The rain descended in  
torrents, it was reported and  
there was a vivid lightning  
with the storm centred for the  
most part on the Nesfield and  
Middleton districts. Trees  
were struck and three cows  
killed at Low Austby.

On 3 August, the beck  
through Parish Ghyll over-  
flowed its banks and problems  
were created through the deb-  
ris and boulders left by the  
previous flood. Mr. Brogden's  
property was again in danger  
and water is reported to have  
rushed through the houses in  
Chapel Lane very much as it  
did on 12 July. Houses in  
Bridge Lane and Church were  
flooded to a depth of several  
feet and basements in Bolton  
Bridge Road, Brook Street  
and Skipton Road were simi-  
larly affected.

**REPAIR COSTS**

At a public inquiry the  
Council sought to borrow  
£11,000 of repairs to property  
which included Hebers Ghyll  
culvert, £1,500; Cowpasture  
Road bridge, £2,500; Ben Rhyd-  
ding Road bridge, £500; Grove  
culvert, £125; Keighley Road  
bridge, £350; Brook Street  
culvert, £1,000.

R. M. Green



The scene where Church Street joins Cunliffe Road and Bridge Lane. Water rushed  
down Parish Ghyll and Cunliffe Road on the one side and Brook Street on the other.  
The picture shows what was left behind rather than what was happening whilst the  
storm was at its peak.

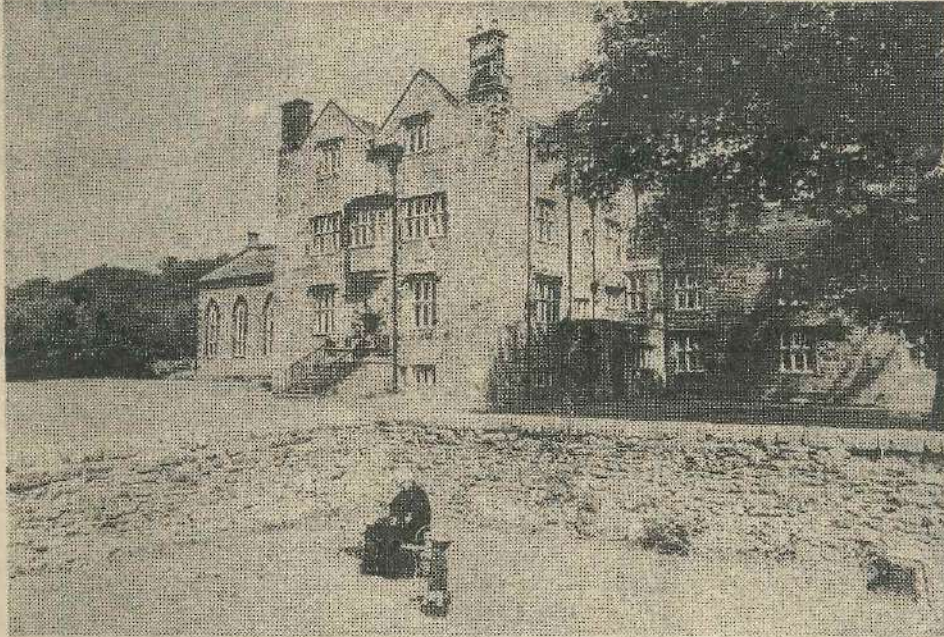
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## MIDDLETON FAMILY CONTROLLED ILKLEY AREA FOR 800 YEARS UP TO PRESENT CENTURY

The sale of Ilkley moor to the Ilkley Local Board in 1893 followed by a large portion of the Middleton estates on the north side of the river to the Wharfedale Estate Company had virtually ended what had been a period of influence by one family for nearly 800 years before the death of Mr. C. M. Middleton towards the end of 1904. The Middletons claimed to be the descendants of one of the warriors who came over with the Norman invasion and through a female ancestor said they could trace their descent to the Conqueror himself.



Middleton Lodge for so many years the home of the Lords of the Manor of Ilkley. The chapel is seen to the left of the building.

For six centuries the estate of the Middletons ran in direct line up to William who died in 1763 and left his estate to his sister's grandson William Constable, who assumed the name of Middleton on taking over the estate. His grandmother was Elizabeth Middleton who married Sir Carnaby Haggerston, of Haggerston, Northumberland. Their son and William's father was William Haggerston who assumed the additional surname of Constable and became "of Everingham".

William Constable, who became William Middleton married Clara Louisa Grace, daughter of William Grace of Clero and their son was Peter who married in July, 1812, the daughter of Lord Stourton. Peter Middleton died in 1866 and it has been suggested that although greatly liked by the people in the valley he was a man of some extravagance and caused eventually the two sons who succeeded him, first William Joseph Middleton who was his heir and then Charles Marmaduke Middleton who succeeded on the death of his bachelor brother in 1885 some financial problems which caused each of them to sell portions of the estate until it was exhausted.

### 300 YEARS

The home of the Middletons on the hillside was known for some 300 years as a place to which Catholics could go to practice their religion when harsh penalties were exacted if they were caught doing so and some of the Middletons and their followers were made to suffer.

In 1825 William Constable Middleton after the passing of the Relief Acts allowing Catholics to practise their religion openly (the information is taken from the notice board now outside Middleton Lodge) built the chapel attached to the Lodge and this was opened in May, 1825.

There is a footpath over the Langbar Moor along which Catholics tracked to Middleton Lodge during these times of persecution which earned itself the name of Catholic Way, or Catholic Gate, and is still known as such.

Some burials had taken place in the Middleton Lodge Chapel and in February, 1906, the bodies had to be removed to the Ilkley Cemetery. They included the remains of Wm.

A deal of the earlier history of the Middleton family can be found at greater length in Ilkley Ancient and Modern written by Dr. Robert Collyer and J. H. Turner. In this chapter is set out many accounts of J. H. Turner. In this chapter of activities of the Middletons, some not entirely to their credit.

### HISTORY

Writing in 1830, Dr. Shaw referred to the tomb of Sir Adam de Middleton in the All Saints Church at Ilkley and the record from the computus of Bolton Priory in 1315 concerning the expenses for the funeral.

Sir Adam was the son of Sir Peter de Middleton who married the daughter of Sir Robert de Plumpton living at Nes-

field in 1290. Sir Peter was descended from Hypolitus de Braham or Brame who had lands at Middleton, Stubham and Follifoot and settled them in the middle of the 13th century on his second son Hugh, who according to the fashion of the day assumed the name "de Middleton". He was followed by Sir Robert, Sir Peter, and Sir Adam, who died unmarried in 1315 and was succeeded by his brother, William de Middleton. The estate then ran well in direct line from father to son for six centuries to 1763 up to William Constable succeeding his grandmother's brother.

His son, Peter, apparently was the one who started the dissipation of the estates, a situation foreseen by his father who is reported to have made the comment "the axe will ring when I am gone."

### GENEROUS

William Joseph though at times not in accord with the inhabitants of Ilkley—in a previous article reference was made to the criticism of him made by James Fletcher Litte, and in the Across the Years Feature there is reference 100 years ago to his unwillingness to restore the stepping stones on the Middleton side—he was generous in his willingness to make site available for all manner of buildings and at reasonable prices and for the building of churches to serve worshippers who belonged to a faith different from his own.

He was the man who sold most of the land so long in his family's ownership on the south side of the river for building plots and who made possible most of Ilkley's development during the 19th century. He had been educated at Stoneyhurst College and spent most of his early life in the Rhine district of Germany. It was said that when he succeeded his father in 1866 Ilkley was "in the pure rusticity of village life". He was the squire of authority and never failed to let the village people know it, but he frequently was on the side of the villagers in their distress over some ruling by the Local Board.

### SERMON ANGER

Mr. William Joseph Middleton died at the Lodge in February, 1885 and was buried there. The funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Gallwey and occupied four columns of the Gazette. It caused an immediate protest by the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. A. C. Downer, who pointed out that many Protestants had attended out of respect for Mr. Middleton and his family. "I regret to say," wrote the Vicar to the Gazette, "that, with a bad taste hardly credible, the preacher of the funeral sermon used his opportunity to spring upon them a long and carefully prepared controversial discourse, attacking the Protestant Religion and calculated to subvert the faith of his hearers."

The Editor accepted the letter from Dr. Downer with an indication that no others on the subject would be published. The sermon, he said, was inserted in respect to the memory of the departed, and the adherents of his faith.

### SOLD THE MOOR

Mr. Charles Marmaduke Middleton who succeeded to the estates on the death of his brother was the Middleton who agreed to sell the Moor for public use, at a generous price well below one he could have got in the market. He treated with the representatives of the Local Board in a friendly, courteous and generous manner and deserves to be remembered for that.

Mr. C. M. Middleton vacated the Lodge soon after he had sold the Moor and for a time it was tenanted by others but was vacant at the time of his death in October, 1906. He was the second son and fifth of the ten children of Mr. Peter Middleton. His pursuits, it was said, did not carry him far afield and home life for him "had a wonderful charm." Mr. C. M. Middleton died at the age of 84 at Ripon and his body was brought by train to Ilkley and interred at Ilkley Cemetery. Two of his three sons, Mr. Marmaduke Middleton and the Rev. Reginald Middleton attended the service, a third son, Mr. Lionel Middleton being in India.

### BODIES EXHUMED

This was almost the last of the Middleton's Ilkley connections but in February, 1906, the bodies of those living at the Lodge were exhumed and re-interred at Ilkley Cemetery.

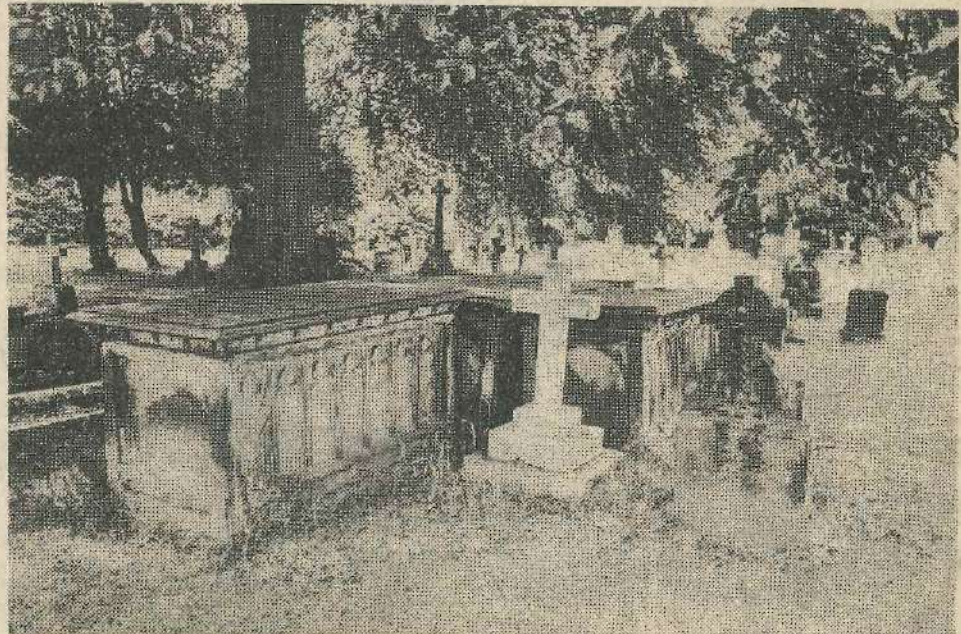
The first interment in the Lodge Chapel was on 30 December 1825 and was followed in August, 1837, by the burial of the Rev. Fr. James Bada Burgess who had been chaplain to the Middletons. William Middleton, who built the chapel was buried there in December, 1847, and his grandson, William Joseph Middleton in 1885. There had been in addition the burial of a little girl in 1877, her mother before her marriage being a lady's maid in the service of the Middleton family.

The greatest secrecy was observed with regard to the exhumation, the removal of the remains, the transfer of the tombstones and the digging of new graves taking place when the fewest people were about. In some cases new coffins had to be provided.

### EARLY MORNING

Only a few officials were present for the re-interment which was intended for midnight but was delayed to two in the morning and then in rain. The coffins were placed alongside their graves and Fr. Galli conducted a suitable service. The remains of members of the Middleton family were re-interred alongside those of Mr. C. M. Middleton and Major John Middleton and those of Fr. Burgess and the little girl in one grave at the west of this Catholic section of the cemetery.

Some years ago the tombstones of the old fashioned table pattern were noticed to have slipped and the Middleton graves appeared to have indications of neglect. Immediately this had been pointed out attention was given to them and the stones restored to a neatness which it was only fitting should accompany the last resting places of representatives of a family which for so long held such a position of authority in the Ilkley district. R. M. Green



The cluster of the Middleton family graves in the Ilkley Cemetery. They are sited in the Catholic portion to the left after passing through the main entrance.

# ILKLEY TOWN CENTRE SUFFERED SERIOUS DEVASTATION AND ONE MAN DIED IN THUNDERSTORM

One man died and thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to property in a severe thunderstorm which struck Ilkley on the afternoon of 12 July, 1900. The storm was confined to the moorland area between Hebers Ghyll and Backstone Beck and the streams in those areas rushed as flooded torrents down the hillside into the town destroying or damaging whatever lay in their way. The vivid flashes of lightning and rolling crashing thunder continued for several hours. Tons of deposits carried down by the streams were left in streets. One part of the town was cut off from the other and schoolchildren had to be taken home by means of carts.



The scene in Brook Street after the bursting of the culvert. Water flowed from here to the Star, Wharfedale and Wheatshaf Inns at the bottom causing a considerable amount of damage.

For two days the weather | **BROOK STREET** | disaster. Tradesmen's refuse

3/8/73



One of the r arch" i gap. We Westvil where t ending months

22/6/73

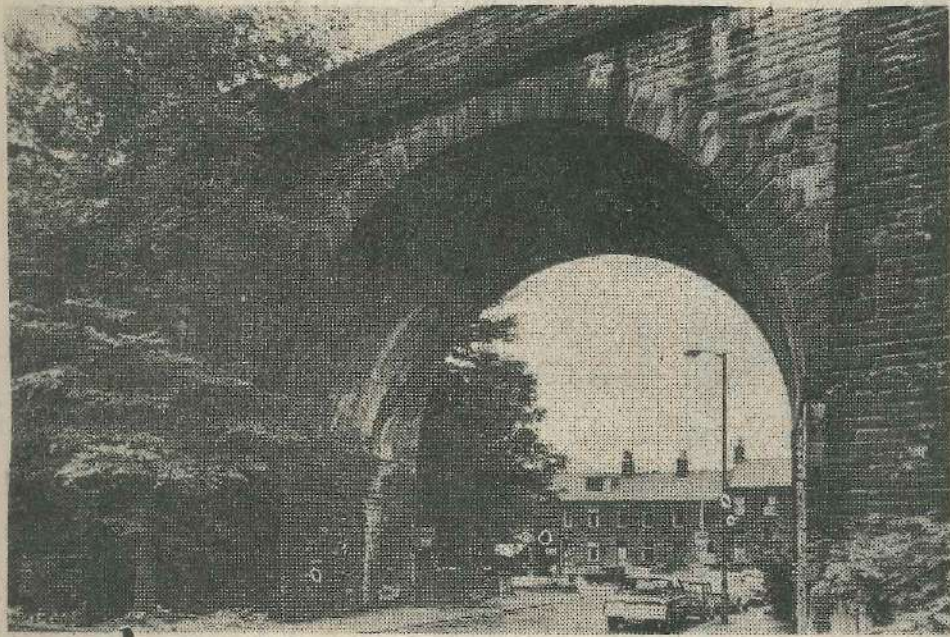
### WESTVILLE ROAD BRIDGE COMING DOWN



Westville Road was closed to traffic this week as work started on the demolition of the railway bridge. This will be followed shortly by the removal of the embankment and demolition of the viaduct.

3/8/73

### ILKLEY FEATURE TO DISAPPEAR



One of the features which will disappear from Ilkley as a result of the demolition of the railway viaduct is the skew arch which spans Bolton Bridge Rd. The name "skew arch" is gained from the fact that it spans obliquely and therefore longer than the gap. Work has now started on the scheme with the removal of the stone bridge over Westville Road and part of the embankment between there and Yew Bank Terrace where the viaduct structure begins. From there the viaduct contains 26 arches before ending in the Brook Street car park. The scheme, which is expected to take nine months to complete, is costing £62,200.

3/8/73

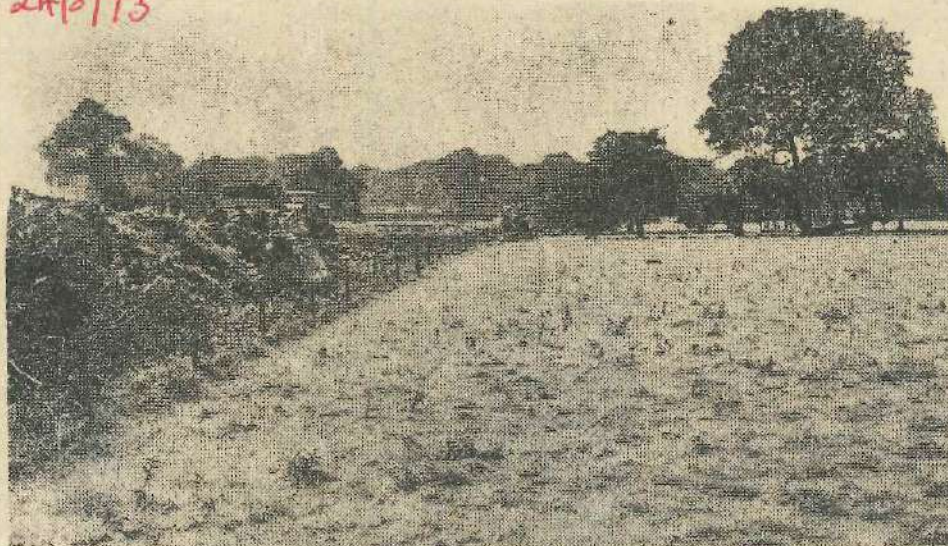
### LAST OF RAIL ARCH



This arch, part of the railway viaduct, over Cunliffe Road was demolished yesterday (Thursday) morning, a group of people assembling to watch it go.

### SKIPTON ROAD EMBANKMENT GOES

24/8/73



Work has been in progress in recent weeks on the levelling of the railway embankment south of Skipton Road from the point where the bridge carried the line over the road.

7/9/73 ROAD BLOCKED BY DEBRIS



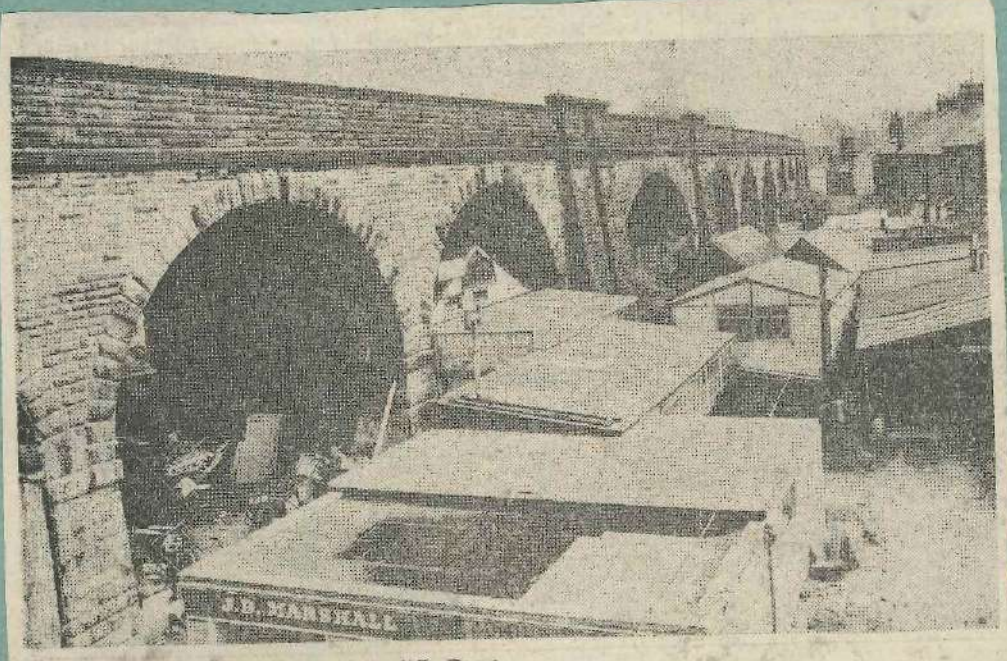
Since last week-end Cunliffe Road has been blocked by the debris resulting from the demolition of the section of the railway viaduct at this point. Traffic has been diverted

CLEARANCE BEHIND REGENT ROAD

14/9/73



The railway viaduct down the picture shows the opened view from the Brook Street car park across Cunliffe Road and behind Regent Road.



The area to the west of Cunliffe Road.

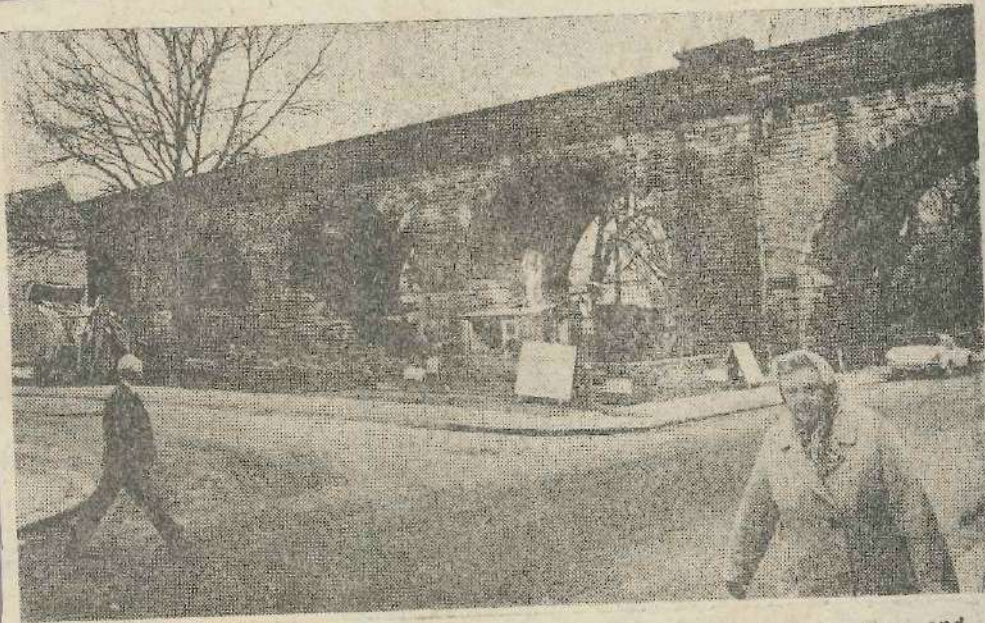


# BREAKING THROUGH ANOTHER ARCH

19/10/73

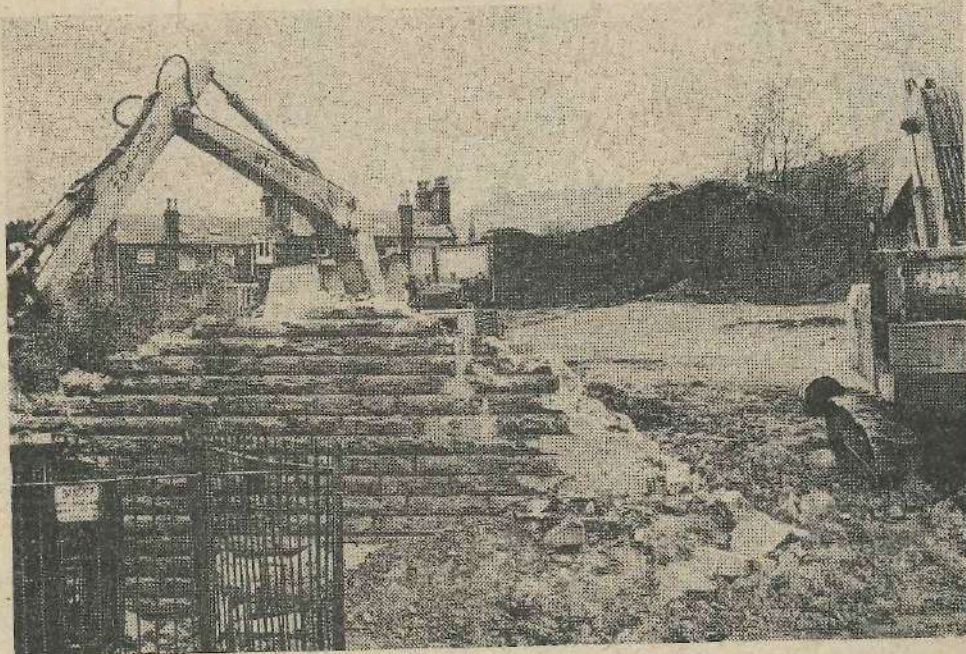


The break through of the arch which carried the railway over Bolton Bridge Road at Ikley. The road is closed to traffic on account of the rubble which falls upon it.



The demolition of the shop occupied for some years as a footwear store and repairers by the late Mr. George Eaton further opened out the west side of Cunliffe Road.

# KNOCKING DOWN THE FINAL STRETCH



Work on the removal of the railway viaduct entered upon its final stage this week. This is the view from Westville Road as the last stretch of the bridge is about to go down.

17 May 1974

2 Jan 1976

# HEALTH INSPECTOR RESISTS HOSTILE EVIDENCE AT AN ILKLEY PUBLIC INQUIRY

The hostile views of Ilkley Councillors in their evidence in support of a request to the Local Government Board for authority to dismiss their Health Officer lost so much impact during cross examination at a public inquiry that when the official himself gave his own side of the position the result appeared a foregone conclusion. So it proved to be. Not only was the permission refused but the Council was told to pay all the costs of the inquiry, a situation not only to their own chagrin but to the wrath of the large section of the ratepayers. The Trade Press had some stinging rebukes and gibes to make.

Henry West, Sanitary Inspector to the Ilkley Urban District, began to answer his Councillor critics who sought permission from the Ministry of Health to dismiss him, on the morning of the third day of the public inquiry held in the Council Chamber. He outlined his qualifications and said the statement that he had not kept, and had failed to produce, proper records was not in accordance with the facts. He presented reports every month and when it was suggested that more detail could be included he immediately put the matter right. Where records were not provided they were those for which no request had been made. He agreed that on one occasion a list of figures in a report which he obtained for the meeting and which he provided simply by going to his office and getting it had a wrong addition but this was pointed out at the time.

A further so called discrepancy was because he had calculated on a calendar month whereas the period covered was based on a lunar month. He had always worked the hours agreed with the Council, had never taken his full fortnight's holiday and it was not his suggestion that the refuse collections should be every ten days instead of every seven. It was a Committee decision. He had never advised it and in fact deprecated it. He had advised people about their plans but had never drawn any up for them. Such work was done by his brother, Mr. J. West, who had an office in Bradford.

### NOT ARCHITECT

Under cross-examination Mr. West could not say why the Councillors were taking the attitude towards him, which they had shown earlier in the inquiry. His brother, he said, was not an architect, but a builder. He was closely questioned about an account for four guineas sent from his own private address. Mr. West said he had sent the account in to get the money for his brother. It was easier to do it that way because his brother lived in Bradford.

Asked if it was not a fact that he had not been speaking terms with the Council, Mr. F. E. Eckersley, or with the Surveyor, Mr. Gameson, witness said he was on speaking terms as far as he knew. It was not on his side. When he was asked questions about what Dr. Bates had said to him on occasion including an allegation that Dr. Bates had said he would advise the Council to ask for Mr. West's resignation, Counsel for Mr. West interposed to say they had not seen Dr. Bates at the inquiry. It

was said he was ill. Mr. West denied that Dr. Bates had said he would advise the Council to ask for his resignation. He had heard witness after witness tell the inquiry that he regarded complaints from ratepayers which had been received as frivolous, but that was not true.

### COUNSEL CLASH

There was a clash between Counsel when Mr. Mortimer said Mr. West among other things had been accused of forgery by Mr. Cautley appearing for the Council. There was no such accusation, said Mr. Cautley. He had suggested to Mr. West he had received a cheque and that the writing on the back of the cheque was in his writing. (Mr. Cautley at the time had suggested to Mr. West that two signatures on the back of the cheque and that of his brother were in Mr. H. West's handwriting).

Mr. West then had to answer questions about work which he had said he had requested to be done to the premises

as the first time he had drawn the attention of the owner to the matter. He was asked why he had made all those incorrect statements, and replied that he was unaware he had made any incorrect statements.

A book showing complaints about the collection of household refuse had been kept up to the war, but lapsed during the war period. It had then had been started again after the war. As far as he knew it had been kept accurately.

### COLLECTIONS

Further questions were about the decision to change the refuse collection period from seven to ten days and Mr. West maintained that he had no recollections of a conversation with Mr. Eckersley about the high cost of the estimate for the following year and of making a suggestion that the period of the collection should be every ten days instead of every seven. Nor could he recollect the Committee saying they would try it.

Mr. West agreed that complaints were more numerous after the ten day collection but could not account for the fact that in the complaint book, which he had said was accurately kept, only four complaints were entered up to July in 1921. To some questions he gave no reply, and pressed for reasons why complaints were not entered he said they adopted a different system.

Mr. West denied that there had been repeated complaints, said he had only heard of the Medical Officer's threat to resign because of his dissatisfaction with the refuse collection. He did not know why he had been put on probation. On several occasions Mr. West continued not to reply to questions put to him.

### NOT FAIR SHOW

Mr. L. F. Learoyd said he had been a member of the Council for five years. "I have always found Mr. West most obliging, willing to carry out everything I have put before him, and to furnish me with any particulars I have wanted," he said. Some of his fellow Councillors had not given Mr. West a fair show. "They had a way of shooting bullets at him when we were in Committee about minor things, which, if they had gone to his office they could have tried to clear up. They saved these bullets to the sanitary meeting when he wasn't in a position to answer them."

In cross-examination about the letter which had been sent to Mr. West putting him on probation, it was pointed out that Mr. Eckersley had read the letter as it was proposed to be sent and asked for any objections to the wording of any part of it. Had Mr. Learoyd objected?

No, he said, he had not, because he knew it was not as stated and that the Ministry of Health had a say in the matter. He voted for it "because I knew it was not worth the paper it was written on."

Mr. West had been showered with complaints at Committee meetings. He had not heard to say he had not been, and

if he had said that Mr. Learoyd did not agree with him.

### IT WAS TRUE

Mr. J. F. Hewitt said soon after joining the Council he found Mr. West was not "persona grata" with some of the members. Generally speaking he thought Mr. Learoyd had put the position very fairly. He thought over the 14 years as a resident of Ilkley, the removal of refuse had been satisfactory. Pressed to say why he had voted for the letter referring to probation to be sent, Mr. Hewitt finally admitted that he voted for the letter because he believed the contents were true. Asked if anything had happened since that caused him to believe that they were untrue he did not answer. He denied he had been rejected by the ratepayers in 1922 because of any claim that the sanitary conditions were unsatisfactory. He believed it was because of rate increases.

### TO BLESS

Mr. Mortimer in his address to the Commissioners said the issue was one of whether Mr. West was to be dismissed as an unfaithful servant of the Council after 21 years service. He spoke for over an hour. He said the Medical Officer's evidence disposed of the major part of the case against Mr. West. "He was the Balaam brought to curse, and remained to bless."

Mr. Cautley for the Council commented that if vehemence of language would win cases, Mr. Mortimer would win the case. Mr. Mortimer had attacked members of the Council who had given evidence and charged them with unpleasant reasons for their comments about Mr. West. Mr. Cautley asked who those Councillors were and went on to speak of their contribution to the local community. All had complained there were constant complaints about Mr. West and they could get no satisfactory answer from him. Why had Mr. J. West not been called before them to answer questions that might have been put to him?

### DECISION

The decision of the Minister in favour of Mr. West was received on the morning of Friday, 13 April. This included the comment, "Not only do all the charges fail, but also the great majority of them were either unsupported by evidence or were of a trivial character. . . . The Minister is not satisfied that Mr. West committed any breach of his contract. The Minister is at a loss to understand how the application to him for the removal of Mr. West from his office can be justified and it is in his opinion a matter for regret that so great an expense has been incurred by the insistence of the Council on charges resting upon so slight a foundation. The Minister has no doubt that it would in the circumstances be unjust to allow the expense of defending himself against these charges to fall upon Mr. West, and he proposed therefore to issue an order directing that the costs properly incurred by Mr. West in connection with the charges made against him and the local inquiry which those charges rendered necessary shall be paid to Mr. West by the Council. The question whether the costs incurred by the Council themselves are ultimately to be allowed to fall on the local rates will be a matter for consideration by the district auditor."

It was stated in January, 1925, that the costs totalled £734 of which £412 was Council expenditure and £322 incurred by Mr. West. It was not apparently considered that the amount should be met by the Councillors.

Immediately after the inquiry the resignation of Dr. Richardson was received and tributes were paid to him for his devoted work as Medical Officer.

In August, 1923, after pressure from the Council, Mr. J. Senior electrical engineer to the Council for six years tendered his resignation and this was accepted.

R. M. Green

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9 Jan 1976

# LOCAL BOARD IS ALARMED OVER OSWALD LISTER'S PLANS TO BUILD SEVEN COTTAGES IN PARADISE

Consternation was caused among members of the Ilkley Local Board in 1892 when Mr. Oswald Lister, builder, contractor, master plasterer, self-taught amateur Lawyer, and a scourge of authority, submitted plans for a terrace of seven cottages on land alongside the Ilkley Old Bridge. Known as "Paradise" and some years later as "titty-bottle park" the area justified neither description when Oswald put in his plans. "Hideous and undesirable" said the Gazette of the proposed development. It led to an involved dispute not helped by the fact that Oswald at the same time was concerned in another row over a proposal to build in Victoria Road.

At their wits end the Ilkley Local Board had twice rejected the plans, once because Mr. Lister proposed to put cellars in the cottages—a suggestion regarded as foolish and unwise in view of the river's close proximity—and a second time because the Board claimed they were not in accordance with the bye-laws. The Building Committee would rather not have had any buildings on that piece of land but the third time the plans were placed before them there was nothing could be found wrong and the Board had been bound to approve them.

At their May meeting in 1892 they heard Mr. Lister was prepared to sell the land for £400 but the Board was dubious about spending such money because they had several other commitments including a loan of £10,000 for the purchase of Golden Butts and the buildings they intended to erect there.

However, the Board decided to hold a special meeting in the middle of May, and there one Local Board member after another spoke from an agony of mind caused by a realisation that Mr. Oswald Lister appeared to have them in his grasp. There were at the same time one or two members whose cunning could match Oswald's when it came to a card up the sleeve and as the meeting progressed their dexterity in flipping the trump card at the right moment was revealed.

Mr. T. Horsman, who had been one of the group deputed to see Mr. Lister said it had been explained to them that Mr. Lister had paid close on £300 for the land and that it had cost him a further £100 in retaining walls and other improvements. He had persuaded Mr. Lister to reduce his price by £10 and to agree that if the Board gave their promise of purchase he would not charge any interest until they got the sanction of the Local Government Board to a loan.

### LAND TO WEST

They also felt it would be a happy idea if they could get the strip of land to the west of the bridge on the same side and had approached Mr. C. Dilly, the owner of the Middleton Hotel. Mr. Dilly said if the Board was prepared to purchase the piece or if they wished to do so by public subscription he would be prepared to give £10 towards it. Alternatively so long as he was owner of the Middleton Hotel and the grounds he would be prepared to leave the ground free for public use. He was not prepared to give it to the town.

The Board decided at this stage to enquire into the possibility of Mr. Lister being able to build there at all and the Clerk read the conditions of sale which indicated that "only one message should be erected on the land of the minimum value of £250."

Mr. Barker thought they had all been asleep over this matter and Mr. Horsman said it appeared to be evident that only one building could be erected on the land. He submitted that the best way to make terms with Mr. Lister was to go to the solicitors to Mr. C. M. Middleton and ask them to enforce the conditions of sale which the Board's Clerk had just read out. At the same time they had to realise that in addition to the purchase money it would cost them £230 which brought the total to £630. He thought they should try to reach some agreement with Mr. Dilly and not have two bites at the cherry. The matter could be achieved by degrees but before

### LEGAL POSITION

Mr. Henry Ellis said the conditions of sale raised a very important legal position and they had to be extremely careful how they went about this matter. They had passed plans for seven cottages when the conditions of sale said only one building could be erected there. They had to see Mr. Lister and find out if he had the authority for acting as he had and they had to consult with Mr. Middleton's solicitors to see if they would act in the matter.

The Chairman, Mr. Jabez Dobson, said if the plans for seven cottages were right according to their bye-laws then they had no option but to pass them. If Mr. Middleton's solicitors thought the conditions imposed when the land was sold should be adhered to then they might be willing to bring pressure on Mr. Lister to abide by them. It was not something the Board could do.

Mr. Ell Ibberson thought the land should be part of a "great promenade from Ash Grove to the Bridge, including a part of Mr. Wray's property. He did not think the Local Board could enforce Mr. Lister to abide by the conditions which obtained when he bought the property, but there was one man who could. When he bought the land Mr. Lister's hopes and purposes were to make a large sum of money out of sand. That had been a complete failure and had he thought that would be the result he was certain Mr. Lister would not have been interested in buying it. He was talking about seven houses to frighten them. The Board should have bought the land when it was up for sale. He thought £400 was an awful

price but if the ratepayers thought the Board should buy it at that stage for that unreasonable price he thought they should commit the error he thought it would be to buy the land at that price.

### DECISION

It was finally decided to appoint a committee to see Mr. Middleton's solicitors and to have further discussion with Mr. Oswald Lister. It was felt that since the Board had learned that it was a condition of the sale of the land that only one building could be erected upon it, the Board's position had altered materially from what it was when they started the meeting.

The Chairman suspected that Mr. Lister would have some sort of arrangement with the solicitors to the Lord of the Manor.

At its January meeting, 1893, the Board confirmed a decision of its Building and General Purposes Committee disapproving plans by Mr. Lister for four "lodges" in Paradise for Mr. Lister and they also turned down, as they did throughout the year Mr. Lister's plans for 12 houses in Victoria Drive.

When the question of the Paradise cottages was again before the Local Board, Mr. Ell Ibberson, explained they had been turned down again because the plans were contrary to the bye-laws. The Board was not, as had been suggested that the Board was against working men's houses. They were, however, against "rookeries" — apparently a reference to tall houses—and the pinch came when houses reached a height of 25 feet and more.

### KEPT A LOAD

There was also a reference to the removal by Mr. Lister of a quantity of limestone that had been on land in Bridge Lane for two years. Mr. Lister had been seen and said that having become "possessor" of the land he had become possessor of all that was upon it. He therefore claimed all the stone that was on the stone staith. He had now said that he would return one load but would keep another to pay him for having riddled it. It was Mr. Lister's view that if the Board got one load back they would do very well.

Mr. Lister Metaphorically rolled up his sleeves and wrote a long and pointedly personal letter to the Gazette about some of the things which he said the Board had permitted, quoted replies to letters he had sent to Mr. Middleton's agents which he claimed, indicated the Local Board had no business to be on land in Bridge Lane at all. Paradise, after the work he had put into it, had cost him £530, and he offered it to the Local Board for £400, thus making the Board a present of £130. The Board then sent their "runner" said Mr. Lister to Mr. Middleton's agent and the fight began in earnest. Mr. Lister wrote, "The solicitors found Oswald to be a man of stamina and, to cut it short they have retired from the contest which tried to force me to build only one house. They have left Oswald master of Paradise and he can build his four (six) cottages and stables, and there is not a man in England can stop him I will not today offer it at £400 I am master of the situation and can make it pay me upon its cost, although I admit I am sorry to have to desecrate this beautiful piece of land."

Mr. Lister described his tangle with the Surveyor, told how he let the land in Bridge Lane to a photographer on condition that he "should garden it and keep it tidy". He had pleaded hard for the removal of a heap of limestones and when nothing was done "I gave orders to devastate the garden as soon as the crop was got in, and got what rubbish I could and carted it on. I am determined to leave matters as they are until the Board clear up the land of the stone they keep depositing there."

### "ANIMUS"

In one of his final flings, Mr. Lister said this "animus" had come about because he had declined to give a strip of land for widening Springs Lane. He said that several members of the Board had done very nicely in having private roads built by ratepayers money and there was an instance where he could put his veto on it.

The following week Mr. Lister was challenging, and backing his challenge with sums of money, members of the Board over what he said were violations of the bye-laws. He announced his intention of contesting the election shortly to take place. He did so but was not elected.

His plans continued to be turned down, and Mr. Lister continued to protest. He was taken by the Local Board to law about the matter and appeared before the High Court with the severe warning issued that he must not proceed with the plans which contravened the local bye-laws. Mr. Lister had said he intended to start digging the foundations in August, 1894, and Mr. Justice Chitty told him he would be in serious trouble if he did. His plans were finally approved in November, 1894, the required

### WITHDRAWN

In 1897 Oswald again offered "Paradise" for sale, but it was withdrawn at £575 and he was in trouble in 1901 both with the County Council and the local Council over hoardings which he and Mr. Septimus Wray had put on a part of "Paradise". On the instructions of the County Council, the hoardings were pulled down. The County ruled that where the hoardings had been erected was waste land which had been encroached upon by those two persons.

Paradise did eventually come in to the possession of the Council and is now a pleasant little park much appreciated by those who wish to read and study in pleasant surroundings with the River Wharfe providing the music as it negotiates the arches of the old bridge to flurry among the scattered remains of a bridge of centuries ago to the quieter passage of the boat-quiet stretch.

THE OLICANA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

R. M. Green

MUSEUM PROPOSAL (1)

ROMAN AND OLDER DISCOVERIES  
IN ILKLEY SHOULD BE KEPT  
UNDER ONE ROOF, SAID EXPERTS

Ten years before the end of the last century there was a growing realisation in Ilkley that discoveries indicating the occupation of the area by Roman cohorts and evidence of their identity should be gathered under one roof. The feeling steadily gathered momentum and the result was the opening by Dr. Robert Collyer of the former Wesleyan Chapel at the junction of Skipton Road and Bolton Bridge Road as a museum. As a start, Mrs. Douglas of Ilkley Hall gave the Roman gravestone found behind the Rose and Crown Hotel to the Ilkley Local Board.

In May, 1891, a visit by members of the Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society was followed by a paper given by Mr. William Cudworth, a Bradford journalist and an authority on Roman remains. He thought that when the Roman fort was first established, the Wharfe would almost wash the buttresses of its ramparts. This was borne out by the discovery of Mr. Thomas Horsman who had found two layers of river sand and pebbles several feet below the level of the nursery (now the Memorial Gardens) showing that the course of the river had been altered in the meantime. Mr. Cudworth referred to a "fine piece of pavement, found during the Grove hospital extension, undoubtedly forming part of the road from Aberford through Adel, Otley Chevin, Burley Woodhead and on to Addingham moor to join up with the Roman road passing Elslack and Broughton to Ribchester," Mr. Cudworth made reference to other Roman Roads which converged upon Ilkley and especially the one from Aldborough over the Middleton moors which crossed the one from Adel to Ribchester to the south of the fort to Ilkley and then went forward to West Morton, over Harden Moor and on to Manchester. He listed "finds" outside the site of the railway station, a well in Brook Street with pottery at the bottom and emphasised the need for these to be gathered together and added to those in private hands and exhibited in a museum which was suggested for the village.

RATEPAYERS SUPPORT

Mr. Cudworth's lecture aroused immense interest and in July of 1891 he accepted an

invitation to address the half yearly meeting of the Ilkley Ratepayers Protection Association, a body comprising a lively set of members with extensive ideas about what protection needed to be afforded the ratepayers. Mr. L. Darlington, was the Chairman of the meeting and spoke of the growing number of people showing support for a museum.

A fairly large audience was old by Mr. Cudworth "that long before such mushroom towns as Leeds and Bradford were ever thought of, Ilkley was of some importance for its time, both in the Roman period and in the period before. "Old maps of the ancient British period indicated that Ilkley occupied a position as a Belgic Settlement and it was placed upon a most ancient British trackway which the Romans used from east to west. It needed no further argument of his to show that a similar honour was not accorded either Leeds or Bradford. He had seen evidence within the last quarter of an hour in a local shop of a people who were the inhabitants of Ilkley and the surrounding heights before the Romans.

FLINT FINDER

Flints in the area occupied by the Brigantes to the south east of the Cow and Calf Rocks, and along the moor top are frequently found by Mr. John Reeves of Lister Street at the present time as he follows his pursuit of searching the moor for such objects and keeping an unofficial eye on the cup and ring stones of which Ilkley has examples almost unique in the country.

Mr. Cudworth recalled the outrages committed on other discoveries. The shaft of one of the three crosses in the churchyard had in by-gone days been used as gate post "and drilled so a big iron contrivance could be used for holding the gate up. That was an injury which would exist for all time." Mr. Cudworth said there was a need to establish a museum to safeguard such things as that, but he warned there would be a need for money to establish it, to keep it going, and to pay for the expenses which would naturally arise. But he thought that once it was shown there was a serious endeavour there would be generous people coming forward with their help. They had not only in Ilkley ancient Roman remains to deal with but ancient British remains as well, and with the development going on in Ilkley at that time it was essential that valuable items which helped to bring information about the place should be carefully gathered and looked after.

It is perhaps worth giving a reminder that such discoveries are still being made. In 1975 work on a building on the Grove brought to light examples of Roman pottery.

In September of 1891 the discovery was made of part of a Roman millstone "in the grounds adjoining the residence of Mr. Richards. The Grove, followed editorial comments in the Gazette and letters in favour of the establishment of a museum. A meeting was held at the home of Dr. Carter, a local authority on Roman finds, and the question of purchasing the old Castle (Manor House) was raised. It was thought that first of all a public meeting should be held.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

When the Committee met at the Coffee tavern, Brook Street, in November the question of renting the old Wesleyan Chapel at the corner of Skipton Road with Bolton Bridge Road was gone into. On the motion of Dr. Carter seconded by Mr. Clarkson (Hon. Secretary) it was indicated that a sum of £22 be offered for rent per annum "on the understanding that permission be granted to make the necessary alterations with the option of purchase at any time during the tenancy". It was agreed to inspect the property to decide what would need to be done. A letter of appeal to the public of Ilkley was approved. This made the following points— the need for a suitable building and the purchase of show cases and money to cover incidental expenses; 2, to acquire some of the ring markings and other known curiosities; 3, to organise a systematic search of those sites which in the past have proved so prolific as signs of the early history of the place. It is intended to rent the old Wesleyan Chapel at the junction of Bolton Bridge Roads and Skipton Roads, but should sufficient funds be forthcoming it is further proposed to erect a suitable building in which provision will be made for a School of art as it is thought these two objects coming in combination will be beneficial to the community.

The letter was signed by Dr. Godfrey Carter (president) and George Clarkson, Hon. Secretary, together with the names of a group of prominent people in the village.

Meeting at the Brook Street Coffee Tavern the following week, the Committee was told by Mr. R. T. Haines representing the owners of the former Wesleyan Chapel that the bank would not give compensation for the contemplated alterations to the building in the event of it being taken at a rental. It was agreed after discussion that an amount not exceeding £350 be offered for the building. Mr. James Ellison of Steeton offered his large collection of fossils, minerals, and other natural history objects with which he had to part owing to lack of room and which he was anxious should be preserved in its entirety.

R. M. Green

MUSEUM PROPOSAL (2)

RELICS OF ILKLEY'S HISTORY  
FOR PERIOD OVER 400 YEARS  
CARRIED AWAY ON TRAINS

Relics of the 400 years Roman occupation of Ilkley and before they were carried away on the train so numerous were they, Dr. Godfrey Carter wrote in the Gazette in April 1892. Many were destroyed. A Roman Bath, he wrote, lay partially under a new building in Weston Road. The other portion was left out to make way for the foundations and the stones comprising it were brought up to mend the road. The lesson was not learned. Some ten years later havoc was created among the east and west sections of the Roman fort in the carrying out of the Brook Street extension.

The Museum Committee were not too enthusiastic about joining in a scheme to establish public buildings in Wells Road to accommodate the public buildings and to provide accommodation for other organisations when representatives of local associations met on a Saturday evening in December, 1891. Mr. F. S. Sievert said the Museum Committee had got a "considerable sum of money in hand already and were about to embark on a scheme in order to induce people to come forward with their subscriptions. They intended renting the old Wesleyan chapel. The building they were met to consider that evening would not be erected at least for another year. That would not prevent them from renting a place temporarily. They had passed a resolution that they did not entertain any part of the Wells Road scheme only so far as the rental of a suitable room was concerned and if the Building Committee provided suitable rooms they, as a Museum Committee, would give the question their most favourable consideration. The School of Art would have been willing to go in with the scheme if they were in a position to pay the rent.

The Chairman, Mr. E. P. Dove, thought it was clear that the Museum project and the School of Art were not in a position to undertake any responsibility in connection with the Wells Road proposal. They should be left out of any consideration about a Town Hall scheme.

OLD CHAPEL

Mr. L. Darlington thought that if suitable rooms could be provided there might be a possibility of the Museum Committee joining in. Yet the Museum Committee should not let the grass grow under their feet. They must go on and that was why they had started negotiations in respect of the Wesleyan Chapel.

At a further meeting of the Museum Committee in the Brook Street Coffee Tavern, it was reported that the old Wesleyan Chapel in Skipton Road had been offered to the Committee for £385 and Dr. Carter moved and Mr. Sievert seconded that the building be bought at this price. This was agreed but at another meeting a few days later it was reported that four members of the Committee had signed a requisition expressing the view that the price of £385 was too high. It was agreed to postpone the question of purchase of the Chapel and that in the meantime estimates be obtained of the cost of purchasing nearby land and erecting a building upon it. It was decided to offer Mr. Ellison of Steeton £100 for his collection offered to the Museum Committee.

The next meeting reported a donation of £100 from Mr. Barran and a decision to approach the owners of the Wesleyan Chapel with a view to offering a price lower than they required. This was successful and a special meeting in February agreed to close an offer to sell at £360 with the money expected to be forthcoming in reasonable time—six months being suggested. It was reckoned that a further sum of up to £400 would be required to adapt the building for museum purposes. The purchase of Mr. Ellison's collection meant that already to start the Committee possessed the finest natural history collection in Yorkshire and this together with their

locally found exhibits of the Roman and earlier times gave them a remarkable send off. It was agreed to canvass the district for subscriptions, at the same time pointing out to those who had promised to subscribe that it would be of considerable help if they would indicate the extent of their subscription.

TRUSTEES

The Museum Committee decided to ask Mr. Barran, M.P., Mr. T. P. Muff and Mr. D'Arcy Wyvill to act as trustees for the new building to house the museum. Mr. Pate and Mr. Hainsworth Junr. were asked to examine the building and to advise as to the flooring of the building before the internal alterations were finally decided upon.

The Committee noted that a letter had appeared in the Keighley News congratulating the Ilkley Committee on its acquisition of the fine collection of Mr. James Ellison of Steeton and regretting that the first offer of the collection was not made to the Keighley Museum. "Formed entirely by a shoemaker during his leisure hours, and arranged in a beautiful scientific manner, this collection has long been a source of attraction to the general public, as well as to the naturalist and geologist far and wide. If the property has already become the property of the Ilkley Committee is now too late to move in the matter and we must resign to our more fortunate and enterprising neighbours this remarkable monument of the indomitable energy and perseverance of a working man," said the letter.

At the end of March the Committee were confronted with the problem of using most of their money on the purchase and leaving themselves with little reserve or buying the property through a building society and using their funds to pay for alterations and repairs. It was decided to follow the second course. Repair estimates were masonry, £72 19s; joinery £40 10s; plumbing £30; slating £6 8s; plastering £7 6s. 8d; painting £12. A list of subscribers was presented.

DISCOVERIES

In mid-April there was a long letter from Dr. Godfrey Carter, president of the Museum, announcing that it was hoped to open the Museum in July (the actual date of Dr. Robert Collyer's visit was towards the end of August) which was a matter of great satisfaction to the inhabitants of Wharfedale in general and to those of Ilkley in particular. He wrote of the items which had been found in Ilkley and which were in private hands but either promised as a gift or on loan to the new Museum. "The gas mains along the Grove, for a short distance, are laid upon the old Roman pathway which was found intact there and was not disturbed. In Brook Street was lately found a Roman well, the octagonally arranged oaken planks black and are strong yet; and one or two of them I possess. The well was dry and at the bottom was found a beautiful Roman pitcher, which had no doubt accidentally dropped into the water by someone who came to draw. (This appears to be a reference to the well found when the foundations were being dug for W. A. Johnson's cafe and shop where Ilkley toffee was made and sold in souvenir tins and which is still at the corner of Brook Street and West Street,

a confectionery coffee shop floor—R.M.G. "Near the letter on ancient burials many a helmet 'Severus' had where Castle Wells Road ground. It is sible to put a Ilkley without light some of this year the all the beaut and drinking made, with d Grove, with a clay as good as when aban

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# WELLS ROAD WAS REGARDED FOR 20 YEARS AS SUITABLE FOR TOWN HALL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

In the final quarter of the last century there was an increasing awareness on the part of influential residents of growing Ilkley's needs for public buildings to house the Local Board offices and to provide accommodation for the increasing number of events arranged by local organisations and for their Committee meetings. For a period of twenty years Wells Road was popularly regarded as providing at least two alternative sites suitable for a Town Hall and public Buildings.

The scheme announced in 1876 had taken a more practical shape than its predecessors, said the Gazette, 100 years ago. It was sited in Wells Road and Wells Promenade and had three frontages. "The principal entrance is placed in the centre of the front in Wells Road, which leads through a spacious vestibule into the Great Hall. This hall is capable of accommodating 700 persons and has at one end provision for a large orchestra. The hall occupies the centre of the block and has an open timber roof, and is partly lighted from the top on the principle adopted in the Leeds Town Hall by large dormers in the roof which form prominent features in the exterior. The end

of the Hall fronts into the Hospital Walk towards the Wesleyan chapel, and has two storeys of windows, the lower ones being square headed and the upper tier consisting of tall two-tier windows with traceried heads and in the centre of these a large rose window, 10ft in diameter, also filled with tracery. The vestibule is surmounted by a lofty clock tower having a deep enriched parapet, slated spire and four tall octagonal angle pinnacles. At the foot of the tower the principal doorway boldly projects, the arch mouldings resting on four orders of granite shafts, and over this doorway is a four light traceried window. Under the great hall is a room 18ft high which it is proposed to make into a gymnasium.

hands being bought by Mr. A. Davy from Mr. James Rhodes, but Mr. Davy had expressed a willingness to sell it to the Company without realising any profit from the transaction. Nearly £3,000 already had been subscribed.

In May the architects reported that they had made certain changes which had reduced the cost from £8,000 to £5,000 but as time elapsed the scheme failed to make progress and apparently appears to have been abandoned.

### OPPOSITE SITE

There were occasional attempts to revive the idea over the years but the most serious one was in the latter half of 1891 with the site on the opposite side of the Wells Road alongside the Public Library company's property which today is a cafe with a dentist's surgery above.

The architect was Mr. G. A. Adkin and he presented plans to a meeting of representatives of the Library Company, the Ilkley Local Board, the Museum Committee, the Ilkley School of Art, the Olicana Lodge of Freemasons and the Ratepayers Protection Association. The meeting was held on Saturday night at the Library Company's premises.

There was provision for Local Board offices, a museum, school of art, Freemasons Lodge, telephone exchange, public offices and three lock-up shops with cellaring, together with a large public hall fitted with stage, capable of accommodating 750 people to be approached by means of a spacious central arcade with a main entrance upon Wells Road to which a frontage of 80 feet would be presented.

The estimated rental to be derived from the various occupants was, the Chairman Mr. E. P. Dove, stated expected to be £520. The estimated cost of carrying out the scheme, including the purchase of the site offered at 25s per yard, was £6,800. It was suggested that £3,000 should be raised in shares and £4,000 on mortgage. The representatives were requested to consult their organisations and a further meeting was arranged to be held before Christmas, 1891.

### MUSEUM ATTITUDE

When this meeting was held, the Museum Society explained their negotiations for the former Wesleyan Chapel, now part of Glovers Garages premises at the junction of Bolton Bridge Road with Skipton Road, either to rent or to buy, though these negotiations did not preclude the Museum Committee from taking an interest in the public buildings proposal.

Mr. Darlington further outlined the proposals for the use of the building, and this led to the question of whether the Local Board would entertain the building for offices. It was believed that they were seeking better accommodation than they then used and perhaps they would be prepared to support the idea if they could get offices without having to build.

The proposals never got much beyond the talking stage. Probably the purchase of the Sedbergh House estate with the intention of building municipal offices there dampened the enthusiasm of speculators though there was much criticism about the slowness of the Ilkley Council in proceeding with the idea. It was explained in a preceding article that it was not until the Council obtained a generous contribution from the Carnegie Trust towards the cost of a public library in Station Road that it was decided some years into the new century to go ahead with the building of a Town Hall and winter gardens.

### FOR LOCAL BOARD

"This lower hall is approached by an area and staircase in the cross street, and lighted by a tier of lofty mullioned windows. The whole of the upper floor pointing into Wells Road is arranged for board room and offices for the Local Board, having a separate entrance and staircase at the upper end of the principal facade adjoining the ladies college. The room on the right hand side of the principal entrance on the ground floor and contiguous to the great hall is the ladies retiring or cloak room, and is suggested as a public library and reading room.

"The rooms under these are a suite of offices and the retiring rooms for performers, each having a separate entrance. The buildings on the other side of the great hall fronting into the Wells-walk, are arranged for a gentlemen's club, Freemasons' Lodge, caretakers house, and a suite of public billiard rooms, the whole replete with necessary entrances, staircases, cellaring, etc. On this side there is also an entrance to the gallery of the hall. The ground floor will be well raised above the streets by a flight of steps. It is proposed to erect the building of stone with slated high pitched roof. The exterior is well broken in outline and the detail will be of bold simple character.

### PICTURESQUE

The aim of the architects is to produce a picturesque and telling effect at the smallest possible cost consistent with goodness of material and soundness of construction. The estimated cost of the building is £10,000. It is proposed immediately to form a company for carrying out the undertaking and several local gentlemen have already expressed their willingness to take shares. We believe the promoters of the scheme are very hopeful of success. It would be well if the gentlemen resident in Ilkley would come forward, and lay a shoulder to the wheel and thereby help forward one of the most long needed requirements of the place."

The proposal was for some weeks in abeyance but was brought to life again in April, 1876, when a meeting "of influential gentlemen was held in the Board Room, the architects, Messrs. Peterson and Thompson describing their proposals."

It was decided to approve the idea and form a Limited Liability Company this to be called the Ilkley Town Hall Company Limited for the purpose of building a Town Hall in Ilkley if three-fourths of the capital be raised in three months. It was agreed that the capital of the company be £10,000, allotted in 1,000 shares of £10 each; and that £1 be paid on application £1 10s on allotment in three months; £2 10s in six months; £2 10s in nine months, and £2 10s in 12 months. The site,

a confectioner's shop and a coffee shop on the ground floor.—R.M.G.)

"Near the Parish Church", the letter continues, "was the ancient burial place, and many a helmeted follower of 'Severus' has kept sentry where Castle Hill and lower Wells Road (?) occupy the ground. It is almost impossible to put spade to earth in Ilkley without bringing to light some fresh curio. Only this year the Pottery where all the beautiful Roman vases and drinking vessels were made, was discovered on the Grove, with a bed of prepared clay as good and as fit for use as when abandoned.

### TAKEN AWAY

"Some beautiful coins have also been excavated in the church yard. I have seen antiquarians standing by the side of excavations in our town, filling their pockets with coins, boar's teeth, pottery, and even specimens of Roman ironwork, and taking them away by train because there was no-one here who considered the custody of such local relics as a matter of interest.

Dr. Carter goes on to point out that it was only in the autumn of the previous year that the work of providing a museum really began and efforts to raise money were started. There had been encountered all sorts of difficulties but there had been a persistence to show evidence of the remarkable history of Ilkley not only through the 400 years of Roman occupation of the district but even before that. He could foresee the museum occupying a place of great importance in the future history of the place but also becoming an educational centre and lead perhaps to a more extended use than otherwise it could possibly hope to do. "With an excellent library a thoroughly good collection of natural history objects, with all our local antiquities collected within its walls, together with a complete exhibition of the flora of Wharfedale which is already promised and with more documents and brasses, I think without doubt our museum will be a place worth going to see."

H. M. Green

(Note: In September, 1891 when the Green Lane Cottage, a popular subject for the artist and the photographer, was demolished, a section of Roman road was uncovered and left where it was undamaged.—R.M.G.)

## CHANCERY OF ST. NICHOLAS PASSES TO GOVERNORS OF SEDBERGH SCHOOL

Towards the end of the last century a public inquiry was held at Ilkley to inquire into the charities which existed in the town. A similar inquiry was held in the following year to look into the Addingham charities. Whilst dealing with these it may not be amiss to look briefly at the way in which Sedbergh School Governors came into possession of a large amount of land in Ilkley which earned them a fair amount of money in rents.

The chantry dedicated to St. Nicholas was founded within the church at Ilkley by one of the early Middletons, Robert Collyer and J. Horsfall Turner tells us in their "Ilkley: Ancient and Modern". After some research they came to the conclusion that the man was William de Middleton who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1239 and 1241. The Chantry was subsequently with others taken over by Edward VI and in May, 1552, was given by him to Sedbergh Grammar School Governors "with all its rights and appurtenances and all His Majesty's messuages, lands, etc., (fallen into his hands by the Act for Dissolving Chantries) called Bakestone Beck, Hedes, Longlands, Cowgate, Cowclose, Eutclose, Stones, Hughcroft, Bindeholme, Gayresheads, Dike-close, in the tenures of Richard Parish, Richard Robinson, William Shutt, Thomas Swyer, Francis Meering and William Coghill to hold to his said Majesty in of his manor of Wakefield by fealty only in free socage."

This explains the introduction of the description "Sedbergh" into some parts of the town and to some properties. The Governors leased farms and lands to loyal tenants and eventually sold them off. Mr. George Wallace who conducted the Ilkley inquiry into charities missed his train and as a result the hearing which was attended by several people with knowledge of Ilkley public events, did not start until the afternoon instead of 10.30 in the morning. It was held in the "Parish Church Room, the Grove, on 18 July, 1891."

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. Wallace thought the most important thing in Ilkley was the School founded by Marshall and Heber and I am afraid I cannot distinguish between the school, and several other charities because there is the Richard Whitton's charity, and Watkinson's charity which have all been applied to school purposes and for a good many years these poor charities, and the Ilkley poor's money and the John Cunliffe Charity have been administered together in such a way that it is rather difficult to distinguish one from the other and I think the best way to do would be to run through the history of these together and then take the administration. If the Vicar will tell me what he does with the dole charities I will take the school charities afterwards."

### NOT SUFFICIENT

The Commissioner referred to the gift £100 in about 1608 or 1609 to maintain a grammar school at Ilkley and said his dates must be wrong because in 1607 there was a second award for the benefit of the

schoolmaster. This second gift had to be put out at ten per cent interest for the maintenance of a school master, the vicar to be the schoolmaster if fit and capable. Then the parishioners in 1836 build a school house by subscription. The original £100 which had been reduced to £89 was put into the hands of Reginald Heber and Christopher Boynton to accumulate at compound interest until the original sum was produced. There were no children there at the time to be taught by that will because the money was not sufficient for the purpose. The parents were to make a bargain with the schoolmaster as to the amount they were to pay. Then £100 was spent in inclosing lands in 1695. Referring to a sum of £200 bequeathed by Reginald Heber, the Commissioner asked if there was not a benefaction board in the church somewhere.

The Rev. Howard Kempson, Vicar of Ilkley, thought there were boards in the belfry.

### BEVERLEY FARM

The Commissioner: In 1695 Reginald Heber bequeathed £100 for the benefit of the schoolmaster and £100 for the increase of the emoluments of the Vicar of Ilkley. To that £200, £56 was given by various persons. I think they were a certain John Lister who gave £20, and a number of others who gave £37 10s 6d, making £57 10s 6d., the same sum as the £56 with a little leakage said to be given augmentation of Marshall's and Heber's gifts. At any rate the £256 were invested in the charities on a farm at Beverley, a house and 27 acres of land 3 roads 20 perches. These in 1701 were conveyed to R. Whitton and the trustees then being the churchwardens, the necessary expenses were paid and they applied the rent and produce to the joint use of the Vicar of Ilkley and schoolmaster in proportion to the sums mentioned, the schoolmaster to teach the male children of the Ilkley parish gratis. Joseph Watkinson gave in 1669 a dole of 30s annually to the poor of the parish, and in 1675 the capital of £30 which he bequeathed was expended in a close called "Rawcroft" under the present title of "The Riddings".

### WHITTONS CLOSE

In 1670 Richard Whitton conveyed certain lands or moneys to the use of the poor of Ilkley. I do not know whether it was land or money. Richard Whitton was a descendant of Joseph Watkinson and he gave a close known as Whitton's close and he gave it in accordance with the instructions which Joseph Watkinson's son, I think, had left, Joseph Watkinson being the real benefactor. I believe there was another Watkinson,

one of the same family. Then there was a certain Thomas Maude, who at some date left seven cow gates on the cow-pasture to the use of the poor of Ilkley. It is doubtful whether those cow gates were the incorporeal right or actually an interest in the land.

### COWPASTURES

"It seems to have been taken that it was an interest in land, because in 1858 Ilkley Cow-pasture was allotted by the Enclosure Commissioners, and 12 acres were given to the Trustees of this charity for the use of the poor to represent the seven cattle gates that they used to have there. Of course that had all been sold with the exception of one house, which is called "The Bracken". The estates of Bewerley were added somewhere about 1851 by an enclosure award.—The Bewerley Enclosure Act. There must have been an award, and it took place somewhere about the year 1850. The Bewerley Estates were sold in 1873 or 1874 but before that the school had ceased to exist, and I want to know when that happened. The nearest I think is 1869.

Mr. Kempson thought that would be the time the National School was built.

### INVESTIGATION

The Commissioner said that for some years before that there had been great dissatisfaction with the school and in 1864 the ratepayers presented a memorial praying for an investigation. In 1866 a Commissioner was sent down. He visited Ilkley and reported on the state of the charities, which report is still in existence, and evidently the school was just on its last legs at that date. A scheme was formed for the Grammar School and after certain alterations were approved in 1872 but the school seems not to have on under that scheme. I suppose there was a want of money to support it."

Mr. Darlington observed that the scheme did not go on till 1883 and Dr. Scott said the National Schools took the place of the other. Mr. Humphris and Mr. Rli Ibberson pointed out that the National Schools had no money at all from the Turst.

R. M. Green

## GREAT DISSATISFACTION OVER MONEYS LEFT FOR SCHOOL AND FOR THE POOR

Money left for the establishment of a grammar school at Ilkley had been used in such a way, or hardly used at all, that there was great dissatisfaction in the village about the situation, it was said at the public inquiry into Ilkley charities held towards the end of the last century. There was a similar feeling about moneys left to the poor.

The Commissioner stated: "In 1872, schemes were framed for devoting certain of those charity lands which had been left for the poor for educational purposes. There was a scheme to devote Whitton's Croft as a site for the new Grammar School and to devote Cow Close Gate to founding one exhibition of £10 a year tenable for three years at the Grammar School, and to increase the stipend of the headmaster, and to devote the land of Joseph Watkinson to Grammar School trusts. The money which came in from those estates ceased to come to the poor, and there was considerable discussion at the time as to how much the vicar ought to get out of these rents, because of the original trust having been partly for the schoolmaster and partly for the vicar. A rough line was drawn by the Commissioners after consultation with the vicar (Mr. Snowdon) and the trustees and they decided to give two-thirds of the rents to school purposes and one-third to the vicar, and they would be doing what was practically a fair thing under the circumstances.

### CONFUSION

"As a matter of fact, there was a great deal of difficulty connected with this, because some of the charities were given for the benefit of the school alone, others were given for the school on the assumption that the vicar was going to be the schoolmaster, and others were given partly for the school and partly for the vicar. So it is not at all surprising that there was a certain amount of confusion in dealing with the lands of this charity, and that sometimes it has been doubted whether the one-third due to the vicar ought to be deducted from the purchase money of certain closes or not. One-third of the purchase money has been set aside as a kind of sinking fund to remain at compound interest for the benefit of the vicar, or to be applied afterwards in some way or another for church purposes, and two-thirds of the purchase money has been invested in the names of the official trustees of charitable funds on behalf of the school authorities for the school trusts and the income is being paid over to the trustees of the school. When they sold the Pateley Bridge estates they paid over one-third of the purchase money to the Queen Anne Bounty Fund, and perhaps this is accumulating to be transferred in the same way."

### QUESTIONS

The Commissioner asked if this was what they called their "sinking fund" and Mr. Darlington said it was. Where did they get their dividends from, asked the

Commissioner, and Mr. Darlington said they came from the sales of other lands which had been parts of the trust. The money was sent to the Official Receiver.

Commissioner: But then at the time Pateley Bridge estates were sold one-third went to the Queen Anne's Bounty.

Mr. Ibberson: Then one-third went to the school and one-third to the vicar? Is that it?

Commissioner: I think two-thirds went to the school and one-third was accumulating for ecclesiastical purposes. The schools charities were amalgamated with the poor's charities — lumped up together to the incomes which used to be differentiated, part of which was given to the vicar, and part to the poor, and in consequence of mixing up these funds they had to make a wide calculation to see how much the share of the vicar and the school should be out of these, and the result arrived at was that the school ought to benefit to the extent of two-thirds of those funds, and the vicar, or church in general to the extent of one-third.

Mr. J. Wilde said Cow-pasture land was let in leases and those leases in after years were made freehold, and those amounts came in periodically.

### "BRACKEN"

Mr. Wilde said he had heard the name "Bracken." That was one of the houses. His impression was that two-third of the income derived from the sale of those went to the vicar, because it was on a different footing from the other; and that one-third went to the other. They got two-thirds from the Pateley Bridge estate. The vicar had not touched that because it was invested somewhere.

Commissioner: The school was getting two-thirds, because the church-wardens got possession of 12 acres of land that was really for the benefit of the poor.

Mr. Ibberson: And that was dole money really.

Mr. Wilde: They have used it for educational purposes.

There was further discussion on this point and Mr. Wilde thought it all suggested from what they had learned that their vicar did not get any benefit.

Commissioner: Oh yes, he does. They might not pay him the whole because the fund exercises an equitable jurisdiction, and would consider whether the vicar requires as much money as is settled on it.

The Rev. Howard Kempson said interest on £2,000 was paid and he thought he got the whole of the third of the Pateley Bridge estate.

### COWPASTURE ROAD

The Commissioner: In 1881 the trustees of this school purchased from the Sedbergh School governors five acres of Cowpasture Road for the purpose of building a new school, which school is almost completed. The purchase money for that site was £2,420 which was paid partly out of moneys which the trustees had in hand at the Bradford Old Bank and amounting to

£1,320 and £1,100 was out consolidated charity. The amount of £1,320 was an endowment of the Endowment Commissioners late the school started. It went into a school which was from the and allowed taken.

"In 1881 began to up in par 1901. By the whole had been ing but Bracken's school a the cha the sch £12,491 in in the b in 1892 Charity given to from d greaves. estimate as to the poor. The ties ref school.

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ILKLEY  
CHARITIES 19 March 1976

## SCARCELY ANY ABJECT POVERTY IN ILKLEY AND POOR DID NOT WANT, VICAR TELLS COMMISSIONER

There was scarcely any abject poverty in Ilkley and with small amounts totalling a considerable sum from collections for the purpose, the poor did not want, said the Vicar of Ilkley, the Rev. Howard Kempson, when he was invited to comment on the position at an investigation into Ilkley's Charities towards the end of the last century.

The Commissioner Mr. George Wallace, had turned to a dole left by John Cunliffe of Addingham. In 1812, he said, they had £65 11s 8d invested in the Skipton and Otley Road (Turnpike). It was left to the Vicar and the churchwardens for the time being upon trust to pay the interest and produce thereof, with the appropriation of his son Ellis Cunliffe Lister and his heirs, to such poor families who had not received parochial relief, but who should be considered most proper objects. That amount was represented by £69 9s 10d three per cent consols. He asked the Rev. Kempson if he could help them in any way.

Mr. Kempson said he had distributed small amounts per annum to the poor, and a considerable sum was devoted to that purpose from the church collections "therefore the poor did not want." There was scarcely any abject poverty in Ilkley and it appeared to him to be a wise thing to devote that money to the helping of convalescent homes. To that special purpose he gave away about 12s. 6d. in the year to poor people.

"The dole had never been distributed on one particular day in his time. There was a deaf and dumb man who received 10s annually, and a poor woman who received 2s 6d. He should say on average four or five people were sent to convalescent homes during each year, and they were all assisted in that way from 15s to 25s. From the £115 previously mentioned he received £2 17s 4d interest and from Cunliffe's charity £1 11s 4d. He had assisted five people since January. They generally went to Southport, but one was then at Whitby and another at Rhyl. He started that system in 1887, and it was a system that seemed to commend itself to most people.

### "DECIDED EVIL."

His opinion was that doles were a decided evil. He had had to do with them in another parish and it was not only a tremendous burden to him but a source of the greatest dissatisfaction, not only to him as almoner but the people were not thankful.

Mr. Humphris: You don't mean to say that the doles at Ilkley as at present distributed are an evil?

Commissioner: These are not called doles.

Mr. Ibberson. As a guardian I think they are a great boon.

Replying to further questions, the Vicar said he had never made the least distinction or religious preference. People very rarely came to apply. He heard through the doctors and then they had a Scripture reader who told them. The Overseer gave them no assistance. Nesfield, Langbar and Middleton would

each come in for benefit if necessary. He made no distinction between parish and town.

### WELLS HOUSE PAYMENT

The commissioner asked if there were any other Ilkley charities and Mr. Ibberson said there used to be a payment of seven guineas from Wells House and he wanted to know where that money was going to now.

Mr. Wilde said when Wells House was built they took from the common a portion of land, and the Select Vestry, which looked very closely after any encroachment of the moor made them pay seven guineas. It would be in 1855 or 1856 and they paid the amount to the overseers.

Mr. Ibberson believed it was so until Ilkley joined the Wharfedale Union, then they thought it was no use paying it to the Wharfedale Union. They didn't know it could be credited to the Ilkley account and it had never been paid since. The only report was it was being paid into the bank.

The Commissioner asked who made them pay this, and Mr. Wilde said it was the Select Vestry who were the township authority at the time. This went on for years year by year it was acknowledged.

The Commissioner could not see what they had to do with the commons, and Mr. Wilde thought they should get hold of the Overseers book because it would show the payments. His impression was that if the overseers took the matter up they could compel the descendants of the man who really got the book to find it.

The Rev. I. Smith (St. Margaret's), felt it would not depend on the book. He took it that the Wells House people would not deny the whole story.

Mr. Wilde: They say, prove to us the people entitled to receive it, and they will pay it.

Commissioner: I suppose the Select Vestry made the people pay it to them.

Mr. Wilde: It was paid to the Overseers and passed through the Overseers Accounts.

### IN EXISTENCE?

Commissioner: And this book is in existence?

Mr. T. J. Pate (Assistant Overseer): I have no books going further back than 1863. The book referred to is the Overseers minute and account book previous to that date.

The Commissioner: You say this book has disappeared somehow. Who was the overseer before 1863?

Mr. Pate said there was a Mr. Gill had it and Mr. Wilde said Charles Gill had it in his possession. He was dead.

Mr. Pate had never seen the book but Mr. Wilde said he had when he was Overseer for

two or three years.

Mr. Wilde was asked if he was one of the Select Committee who made Wells House pay the seven Guineas.

He said he was a member of the Select Committee in 1856. They would have had no end of trouble on the moor had they not insisted on the payment, he said. In reply to the Commissioner, Mr. Wilde said the moor was owned by the Lord of the Manor, Mr. Middleton, who did not join them in their action. He could not say what happened to the soil. In the meantime the land was brought from Mr. Middleton.

### ENCROACHMENT

The Commissioner: The story really is that they encroached some acres upon the common, and that Mr. Middleton, the Lord of the Manor, was the owner of the soil and that you, on behalf of the commoners—the persons having the common rights—told the Wells House Company that they must pay you an annuity for giving up the rights of that part of the common, and they agreed to pay seven guineas a year, and paid it for a number of years—

Mr. Wilde: Ten at least to my knowledge.

Commissioner:—and then they have purchased the freehold from the Lord of the Manor, but have not bought up the common right, and I suppose the commoners can still sue for the loss of their common. Have they ever been asked for this money?

Mr. Wilde: Letters have been written about it. It is a question with them whether it belongs to the Select Vestry the Overseers, or the Local Board.

Commissioner: They do not refuse to pay but they say they must know exactly to whom to pay it?—I believe there is something in it, that they don't distribute it because they might have it all to pay in a lump. All these money came into the hands of the overseers for distribution among the poor. The money was received by the overseers, I think for the relief of the poor. This difficulty arose when the Local Board was established.

### MIDDLETON

Dealing with the Middleton charities, Mr. Humphris, in the absence of Mr. Alderson, stated that William Currer left £45 by his will to the poor of Middleton. The money was deposited in the Otley Savings Bank, and removed in 1885. The net sum of £47 11s was drawn by Matthew Mason and George Lister (overseers) and Edward Moore (churchwarden). All accounts stood in the names of the Overseers and the churchwardens of Middleton. The capital sum in 1865 was £45

13s 5d which sum was now in the Ilkley Branch of the Craven Bank but upon its withdrawal from Otley it was made up to £50 before it was deposited in the Craven Bank, and the interest was now drawn by the Overseers of Middleton—John Alderson of Low Hall and James Pedley of Ling Park; and Edward Moore churchwarden. He (Mr. Humphris) was told that the money was distributed to the poor of Middleton by John Alderson, but he did not know how.

Commissioner: Then as to Benson's Charity of Middleton. There was a certain family of Hawsworth that seems to have given a certain amount of trouble in this district. There was £30 secured by the bond of Christopher Hawsworth, left by Robert Benson. This was some time at the beginning of the century.

Mr. Wilde: He left it as a trustee for the charity.

Commissioner: I do not understand what it was charged on. I think it was on the Hawsworth estates. I suppose it was simply a mortgage on the estate.

Mr. Wilde: Would it be some money that Benson had no use for, and he invested it and lent it out on mortgage or something of that sort?

Commissioner: It used to be paid out to the poor of Middleton. The son, John Hawsworth, son of Charles Hawsworth, in 1820 refused to pay because he said his father's estate was insufficient to pay this rent charge. In 1829 the churchwardens and overseers were about to take proceedings to recover it.

Nothing was said further, there were no matters to bring before the Commissioner and thanks were expressed to him.

R. M. GREEN

£1,320 and the balance of £1,100 was obtained by selling out consols belonging to the charity. There was an endowment of £2,000. In 1883 there was an endowed scheme by the Endowed School Commissioners which will regulate the school when it is started. It makes this school into a secondary school at which boys will be taught from the ages of eight to 17, and allows of boarders being taken.

"In 1888 Whitton Croft was begun to be sold, being taken up in parcels in 1889, 1890 and 1901. By the middle of 1891 the whole of Whitton Croft had been sold, and left nothing but this one house, "The Bracken" and the site of the school as the sole estate of the charity. The funds of the school consist of over £12,491 in consols, the balance in the bank being £173 8s 11d. In 1892 permission of the Charity Commissioners was given to erect this school from designs of Mr. Hargreaves. The schools were estimated to cost £6,900. Then as to the old doles for the poor. The whole of the charities referred to go to the school.

### THE POOR.

Vicar of St. Margaret's, the Rev. Irton Smith, asked what was the amount of the privilege offered to the poor for the exchange of these doles, and Mr. Kempson said it was one in ten. Ten free scholars would be taught if there were 100 boys.

Commissioner: As to the Ilkley poor's money there was a sum of £300 given by different persons for the poor of the township of Ilkley. Of that sum, £115 was still in existence and as far back as 1829 there was no more than £115. Replying to Mr. Humphris, the Commissioner said no-one knew what had become of the balance.

Mr. Wilde said a deal of the money was given by people who came to Ilkley for a time. They found Ilkley "very poor".

The Commissioner said it must have been long before Mr. Wilde's time £115 was there at the beginning of the century.

### VICAR, WARDENS

Commissioner: In 1861 the vicar and the churchwardens who were also the trustees of the Cowpasture Estate were desirous of making a road on the Cowpasture so as to facilitate the sale for building purposes. They had no money to make the road and they got permission to get the £115 out of the Skipton Bank, and, as it were, they borrowed it from themselves as trustees for the poor's money, and devoted the interest of the £115 to doles, using the capital for making the Crossbeck Road. He did not know how the £115 got back again into the Craven Bank. It was astonishing that there was no record of it. In 1884 the money was in the Craven Bank.

Mr. Kempson: We have made enquiries at the bank and, we could not get to know when this money was placed there originally.

R. M. GREEN

23 April 1976

# EIGHT TO ONE VOTE AGAINST COUNCIL IN POLL REQUESTED BY ILKLEY RATEPAYERS

No time was lost in challenging the official view that the ratepayers at a meeting in the Winter Garden late in 1928 had approved the Council's intention to make application for a Bill in Parliament giving powers to build a new reservoir and to create a municipal golf course, bring about improvement to the electricity and gas supplies etc. Cr. Fred Sugden, the only one of the Crs. to oppose the idea, soon had the 100 signatures of ratepayers required to request a poll, had paid his cheque and the scene was set for early in 1929. The result was an eight to one rejection of the proposal.

In the days before the poll the battle raged without let or hindrance. Letters were published in the Gazette, leaflets were printed and circulated. The intentions of some of the leading participants were contrasted with their actions and comments of the past. The impression is certainly gained on reading

the views of those days that the Council support was the weaker and an awareness of this in the first month of 1929 produced arguments which were hardly likely to have any bearing on the issue.

The principal objection to the Bill appeared to have been aroused by the proposal to build a new reservoir. On this issue were the main figures quoted and argued upon. The cost was estimated at £30,000 and there were people only too ready to argue that the Authority had not taken all the means open to it to secure additional water and at far less expense than a new reservoir would cost. Looking at the matter nearly 50 years later and in the knowledge of some of the acute situations in which Ilkley found itself on occasions, it would be difficult to maintain that the opposition of those days was fully justified.

### SHAFT IDEA

At the public meeting Mr. William Dobson had said that in 1906 Professor Kendall had reported about the possibility of sinking a shaft to add to Ilkley's water supply from the moors above Hebers Ghyll.

The Clerk to the Council, Mr. F. S. Eckersley, was asked about this and he said from a geographical standpoint the strata inclined to the south and Ilkley was not as favourably placed for obtaining a supply of water from this source as was the Aire Valley. Professor Kendall's suggestion was to sink a shaft 250 feet deep and obtain water from it by means of pumping, or alternatively to construct a tunnel having an outlet to the west of Hebers Ghyll. The tunnel would be 1,300 yards long and might serve the purpose of a storage reservoir with a capacity of half a million gallons. The estimated cost of the tunnel scheme was £10,000.

Such a scheme would probably cost twice as much in 1929, it was thought, and Mr. Eckersley doubted whether it would provide a constant and regular supply of water.

### TRADERS

When the Ilkley Chamber of Trade met to consider its attitude, Mr. W. Dobson, who was its president, reviewed the situation, and was of the opinion that not enough time had been given by the Council for Committee consideration. More time should have been given to the financial and waterworks clauses and then they should have come before the electorate, explained the purposes and the cost and the effect on the town. There were matters in the Bill with which he was not fully conversant and that was one of the reasons why he was not voting for it.

This caused one of the Traders to comment that there must be other members of the Council in a similar position and Mr. Dobson replied that he could only speak for himself.

Mr. J. McEvoy had not attended the meeting of the electors but from what he had heard since he came to the conclusion that many of the electors had attended to "work up" the Councillors and have some fun with them. That had apparently been the spirit of the meeting, he said.

A few of the traders signed the requisition forms for a poll to be held but there was no definite attitude adopted either for or against the Bill.

### OPPOSITION

B. Whitfield presided at the meeting of opposition held in the Riddings Lecture Hall. He was local of the Town Hall (repeatedly elaborate), the Winter Garden and the electricity showroom, which competed with traders in the town and which cost nearly £5,000 and only had a rateable value of £100.

Mr. J. H. Armitage, president of the Leeds Property Owners Association, spoke for over an hour, attacking various clauses of the Bill. He had a clash with Cr. H. E. Duncan, Chairman of the Waterworks Committee, and then with Cr. T. H. Firth, Chairman of Ilkley Council, in which Cr. Sugden joined. Mr. Armitage said one clause gave the Council power to buy any land in Ilkley they liked and before they had decided what they wanted to do with it. "If you give your Council power to do that, you are bigger fools in Ilkley than I take you for. Let them come to you and tell you why they want a particular piece of land, and then let you say whether they shall do so or

Cr. Fred Sugden said again that in his opinion the Bill had been unduly rushed. He quoted a reply from Mr. Lewis Mitchell, Bradford Waterworks Engineer who was an Ilkley resident. Mr. Sugden had drawn Mr. Mitchell's attention to statements made by Mr. Duncan at the previous meeting in respect of a water supply to Ilkley from the Bradford undertaking. Mr. Mitchell did not accept Mr. Duncan's views, and commented, "I may state in my opinion the Ilkley Council, having regard to all the circumstances, would not be well advised in proceeding with the contemplated scheme."

Cr. Sugden maintained that the Council did not understand the Bill and he did not think until they did that it would be fair for them to pass it.

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It was 10.30 p.m. when Cr. H. E. Duncan mounted the platform and the meeting had then been in progress for two



## WAS OPPORTUNITY MISSED OF PROVIDING UNIQUE FEATURE IN ILKLEY VILLAGE CENTRE?

Just over a century and a score years ago, did the people who took underground the streams which had flowed open to the skies for hundreds of years miss the rare opportunity of providing for Ilkley an attraction which possibly would have been unique in the country? Had there been support for the people who opposed the idea, people who partially removed the newly installed covering, Ilkley might have possessed, given a sensible approach to the task, a stream direct from the moor flowing through the village centre to the river. A promenade with seats and bedecked with flowers and plants, wide highways on either side and the stream displaying its seasonal moods in association with those of the moor, the woods and the riverside surely would have provided a feature unmatched anywhere else in the country.

An old guide book published by C. Denton from the office of the Ilkley Free Press gives the date when the stream was filled in. It describes the action as an unpopular move, and says "considerable opposition was offered by some of the inhabitants to the closing of the old watercourse, a portion of the beck being actually disinterred by a few zealous partisans of the old style wheel it had been closed in and macadamised for about a twelvemonth; and even after this long lapse of years it remains a question as to whether the wisest course was adopted. A stream of pure water pouring in a torrent from the running down the broad moor, with its banks carefully kept and with a little air from the landscape garden centre. The Brook Street would have formed a charming object of attraction to visit the principal moor streams. Space might have been arranged for a carriage drive on each side of the stream, and ornamental footbridges at intervals would have kept up communication between the sides of the 'boulevard' later.

### SEASONAL APPEALS

The sides of the stream for one half of the way down were steep grass banks made in the spring and in the winter there were flowers. In the winter there were occasions when the stream reoccurred in a torrent from the running down the broad moor, flooding out of the street, with its banks carefully kept and with a little air from the landscape garden centre. The Brook Street would have formed a charming object of attraction to visit the principal moor streams. Space might have been arranged for a carriage drive on each side of the stream, and ornamental footbridges at intervals would have kept up communication between the sides of the 'boulevard' later.

### UNIQUE?

Now here was an idea which would have provided Ilkley with something unique to add to its riverside and woods. From the top of Mill Gill in its natural surroundings the stream could have passed between the bottom of Wesleyan Chapel on Skipton Brook Street, and the change effected in 1904 could have been planned to accept the stream as part of them right down to the river. Modern developments no doubt could have been embraced to meet present requirements. The opportunity was there at the time they were pulling Ilkley apart and re-planning its centre to provide something of an even greater attraction than the stream in Dawlish does for Devon visitors.

Mr. John Dobson, mentor of Robert Collyer, has left us with a graphic description of the picturesque appearance of the stream as it flowed through the centre of the village; Robert Collyer and others have added to it.

A carriage bridge crossed the stream at the upper part of the main thoroughfare. This has been the subject of paintings and sketches with the originals altered to meet the impressions of the artist. From this bridge the stream was open down to the lower carriage bridge in front of the old Wharfedale Inn which was removed with other buildings when the New Brook Street way was opened. Somewhere between these two bridges and opposite Usher's shop, later to become Worfolk's, chemists, and for many years Dickinson's, newsagents, was a foot bridge. This consisted of two "massive slabs of stone whose inner ends rested on a rough pier in the centre of the beck. As there was no protection on the sides, the old folks' lanterns on dark and stormy nights did not always prevent them from falling off, and on one occasion a man fell in and was drowned. Further down there were stepping stones and another footbridge, similar to the other one, opposite the point where the Crescent was built."

Mr. Dobson continued, "There was a footpath of irregular width and character on the east side of the beck, the carriageway being on the west side and in one or two places so narrow that two conveyances could hardly pass. Opposite where the Station Hotel now stands the

beck was seven or eight feet below the road. (The Station Hotel, well-known as a coaching point, was owned by the Dobsons, and stood immediately below what is now Barclays Bank and at the site bus stop for Keighley and Skipton. It was pulled down when the railway was extended to Skipton.—R.M.G.)

spoke of the village being frequented in the summer season on account of its spring issuing from the side of the mountain near to the town. Whether there are any virtues in the water, more than its purity, and the tenacity of its component parts for internal use, by which it may sooner pass the uttermost meanders of circulation, and which gives it a consequent coldness in the use of bathing, is a point which the inquisitive must determine."

Some 50 years later, Thomas Shaw, of Otley, was evidently well aware of this account when he wrote "History of Wharfedale" opines Collyer, and had "done a bit of copying from it. Shaw made the point that for "scrofulous cases, long confinement in populous towns, effects arising from late hours, the abuse of liquors, etc., it is certainly excellent. It has acquired a reputation and has long been established."

Collyer reckons that the White Wells were built by Mr. William Middleton "about a century ago" which would give a date in the last quarter of the 18th century. He says the water was formerly gathered at the foot of the crag in a circular well but carried forwards by a stone channel to the White House when the present well was erected. Few would think of leaving Ilkley without a copious draught of the ice-cold water, he thought.

### THE WELLS

A guide book of 1829 is quoted by Collyer as stating in respect of the spring "The spring supplies 90 gallons per minute; there are two dressing rooms; the bath, of oblong form, is uncovered; the water is turned off after being used by two persons; there is also a shower bath. At the end of the old bath is a sitting room with stable under it for asses. W. Butterfield and his wife are very obliging and have held the baths for about ten years. The baths are rented off W. Middleton Esq. by Mr. Joseph Bealand. There is a chalybeate spring in the cleft west of Castle Hill beneficial for weak eyes. Every house-keeper can drink the water gratis but visitors are expected to pay 1s per week or 1s 6d for two weeks, 2s 6d four weeks.

In the 1880's the pure water was piped from White Wells to a fountain half-way down the moor, close to the small stone bridge which crosses the Willie Hall Spout stream and between White Wells and the stone reservoir. The cost was met by Mr. E. W. Crawley and the purpose was to make the famous waters a little easier to reach, removing the final steep climb to the Wells. White Wells has now lost its original standing, the baths of interest only to those looking into history; they were at more than one stage in danger of being lost altogether. The fountain was summarily removed when the water Board not so long ago carried out work in the vicinity of the stone reservoir, changing the landscape and indeed removing the ancient charm of the area immediately surrounding the fountain.

### CORN MILLS

There appears to be no record indicating the year when the two corn mills which give the ghyll its name came into being. It is known they were still in existence in 1867 but within a year or two they had gone. They were worked by the Lister family in the last century and possibly longer

Midland Hotel. It is possible to trace the pool which provided the supply of water for the upper mill and quite easy to trace the basin in which the water was stored. The mill itself was across the present Queen's Road. The water for lower mill was held at the top of the ghyll and across

what is now Wells Promenade. This lower mill also stood on the east bank and across what is today the Promenade, roughly just to the west of the modern erection named the Mews stands. There is little if anything to indicate precisely its site, but records of the time when the Middleton's were beginning to sell their lands give an accurate indication.

There are now no treks to drink of the famous stream, of the Canker Wells site and of the chalybeate spring at the top of Heber's Ghyll; no treks perhaps, but still plenty drink appreciatively when they are in their vicinity of the waters which brought Ilkley fame and a reputation and there are, in all parts, of the world, people ready to say that they have never met water as cold and as refreshing as that which flows off the gathering grounds of Rombalds Moor.

R. M. Green

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### LETTERS

What most of the speakers had not said at the meeting, they included in long letters to the Gazette. They were not going to miss any chances of the electors being ill-informed on the eve of poll. There was also a letter from the Clerk, Mr. P. S. Eckersley, accepting responsibility for the inclusion of the Electricity Engineer's name in the electoral list when it should not have been, but it was absolutely untrue to say he had done it deliberately. He accepted the responsibility though the name had been included without his knowledge.

### HEAVY DEFEAT

The poll resulted in 1,777 votes being cast against the Bill and 257 in favour of it. It meant that the Bill was dead, said the Council Chairman, Cr. T. H. Firth. "The result certainly leaves us in rather a peculiar position," said Cr. Firth.

At the February meeting it was agreed that Mr. Sugden's cheque for £80 sent when he caused a poll to be requisitioned should be returned to him. In the same issue of the Gazette it was reported that the Waterworks Committee had met for some time considering a report on irregularities in connection with a water supply. In the following issue it was reported that the Committee had caused an investigation to be made and some falsification of charts had been carried out without the knowledge of the Water Engineer. Accordingly it was recommended that the Waterworks Foreman be dismissed. The report of the Council meeting which had set out accounts of meetings with members of the Waterworks staff, occupied over four columns of the Gazette.

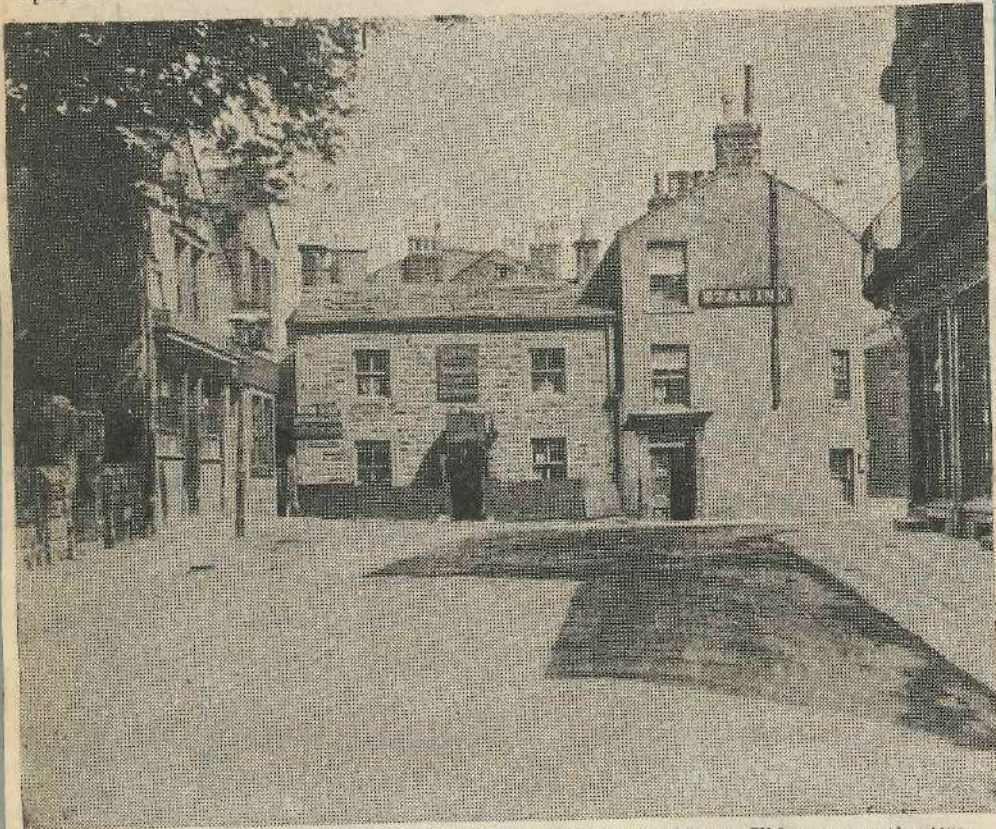
The news caused concern in the town. It was considered that opposition to the Council's Bill proposals had been more than justified.

R. M. GREEN

# ILKLEY'S LAST YEARS AS SMALL VILLAGE IN FIRST HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

28 May 1976

The last authoritative account of Ilkley as a village of thatched cottages clustered on either side of an open moorland stream as it had been for centuries is contained in a survey carried out in 1838. The first hint of the changes which were about to begin appears in a tithe commutation plan of a few years later, and a further survey in the early 1850's brings evidence of the initial redevelopment.



Picture shows how the Old Star Inn blocked Church Street, Ilkley, up to the time of its demolition in July, 1905. Seen on the left of the picture is the old Wheat Sheaf Hotel which was demolished in the early 1960's.

The establishment of the Ilkley Bath Charity and the building of a new hospital to the south of the Grove to provide accommodation for its patients early in the last century, the start of the Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment in 1843 and its opening in 1846 brought an awareness of what Ilkley had to offer first to the people in the nearby industrial centres and then to the whole country.

The coming of the railway, the sales of the Middleton estates, gave impetus to the transformation from an untidy and somewhat filthy place set picturesquely in its woodland, moorland and riverside environment, if somewhat lacking in the principles of hygiene, to an inland spa which attracted visitors during the "season" daily and for much longer periods. People were to come eventually in their thousands by special trains and by road in the wagnettes, privately owned horse drawn vehicles, by bicycle and on foot.

The area at the bottom of the village street was to remain unchanged for more than another half century.

The houses and stables which straddled the bottom of Brook Street, and which later were to become the Wharfedale Inn and the Star, were slightly in front of the Wheat Sheaf causing a "kink" in the traffic as it entered Church Street and emerged from it. Alongside the Wheat Sheaf was the property of William Suthill — a house occupied by John Hudson and a house and stables occupied by Bryan Rigg. Immediately behind these buildings were houses owned by William Middleton and occupied by Thomas Brown, the widow Harper and William Richmond. Slightly to the east Edward and William Hudson had a stable, behind them John Bartle occupied a house. On the east side of them the Brook Street stream passed under the Otley Road and down between a ravine to the river. It was this stream that so many hundreds of years ago provided the Roman fort with its east side defence. Older inhabitants who lived comparatively recently remembered the steep hillside covered with blackberry bushes and collecting fruit in the late autumn. Up to a few years ago, elderly people used to refer to the short cut

The Wheat Sheaf, owned by William Middleton, was occupied by Thomas Barnes and included stables and garden, and other premises. Some two and a half centuries before Reginald Heber, the barrister who had much to do with the early years and provided a legacy for the grammar school on Skipton Road had an office in one of the rooms in premises here. Apparently it was too far to expect people to call at his home at Hollin Hall farm. This group of buildings round the Wheat Sheaf remained with some occasional alterations to their structure and in their occupants until then were all swept away at the start of the century with the introduction of the New Brook Street scheme.

Alongside them the Parish Church was in a somewhat primitive state. It was not until the arrival of the Rev. George Fenton as curate that anything was done about it. Only a few years before this survey was taken the floor of the church, records Dr. Collyer and Mr. J. H. Turner, in "Ilkley: Ancient and Modern, the aisles were flagged, but the rest of the floor was primitive mother earth. The ancient oaken benches were full of decay and a terror to the sitter if he was a man of weight. Parson Fenton had them taken out and new pews put in of pine which overcame the evil odours by its sweet-

pungency. He had the dial of the clock painted and the one pointer it could ever boast gilded. He had the pulpits brought down to a fair human level for himself. He spared the beautiful Watkinson pew, let us thank him for that and here and there a bit of old work which had it in an antique grace or the shadow of a cunning human hand."

The comment goes on, "I think the old clock itself was persuaded to keep decent time in Mr. Fenton's days, and warned against striking when the whim took it, to the bewilderment of half the town and all the labourers who had no watch. He made the church hold many more people, and had the pews set apart for each person who had a claim, and then he had all this set forth on a big board with a list of the charities, and placed on the north wall. The church was very ugly, but the days had not

portable, except for sleeping. He helped to get the first organ. Parson Fenton won the love of the whole parish for his works' sake and the people would do anything in the world for him, except lend him money."

The church was to be restored and re-opened some 20 years later and re-opened on 6 May, 1861, the Gazette being first published about the same time. The total cost of £1,300 was raised before the end of the re-opening day. The Rev. John Snowdon had been the vicar since August, 1842 and he achieved much in his time. He had much to do with the establishment of the Ilkley Bath Charity Hospital and for many years was its secretary. "The wall of the south aisle, the tower, and the pillars of the nave were alone left standing." The bells were increased in number, the national schools built all in Mr. Snowdon's time.

But this is looking ahead. Rev. Snowdon left the Church Street vicarage because it was in such a ruinous condition. He rented a house in Wells Road (owned by Miss Batty) and a few years afterwards "the new parsonage was built on the glebe land a little higher up, the cost being defrayed by a grant from the Queen's Anne Bounty and the Vicar's large donation. It was occupied in 1848. There is a modern problem indicated by Collyer's note. He had to root out certain immemorial squatters when he began to build the new parsonage. They went far and wide telling of their woes at having to leave t'owd thack but he found them better quarters and paid the bills."

Twenty five years before the church had been described by Dr. Whitaker as "in the worst condition of any in the deanery" and it was still so when Parson Fenton started the work of improvement.

Dr. Richardson of Bierley in 1709 said "Ilkley is now a very mean place and is equally dirty and insignificant, chiefly famous for a cold well. At the Brook Street — Church Street corner and what is today the car park was Banks Croft owned by William Middleton and occupied by Joseph Beamland. Coming up the west side of Brook Street from the corner were houses, gardens owned by William Middleton and

Thomas Beanlands, Thomas Hanson and William Fozzard. Sedbergh School owned the neighbouring land and property. Francis Dobson and James Dobson had a house and stables here, a centre of the coaching industry, and William Bolling had Lambert Croft, a meadow. There was then the Common pound almost opposite what is today Railway Road, and to the west Thomas Stevenson had Low Croft, Craven Croft — two meadows — a house, garden

and premises. Thomas Barnes had a stack yard which stretched from the rear of the upper part of Brook Street to Green Lane and a fair portion of it too. Gardens and crofts existed to the west of this.

On the east side of Brook Street towards the top about where Woolworths is now and the shops immediately above were a barn, stables, yard, etc. held by Richard Lister from William Middleton. Moving down were houses and gardens. To the east of them was a large area known as Scafe Croft with Pearty Croft nearby and both in the possession of Nicolas Cunliff who owned most of the land and property on this (Wheatley) side of the stream. Round the corner into what is now the Crescent Hotel or its dining room Nicolas Cunliff, John Tomlinson and Thomas Kettlewell owned the property mostly cottages and gardens. At the other side of the road were John Birch's smithy where Robert Collyer was apprenticed, the smith's house and garden; Thomas Stevenson's carpenters shop which apparently was owned by Jacky Birch as well; a house and garden occupied by John Teal; a barn, fold and yard tenanted by James Rigg; all this property in the ownership of the Lord of the Manor.

R. M. GREEN

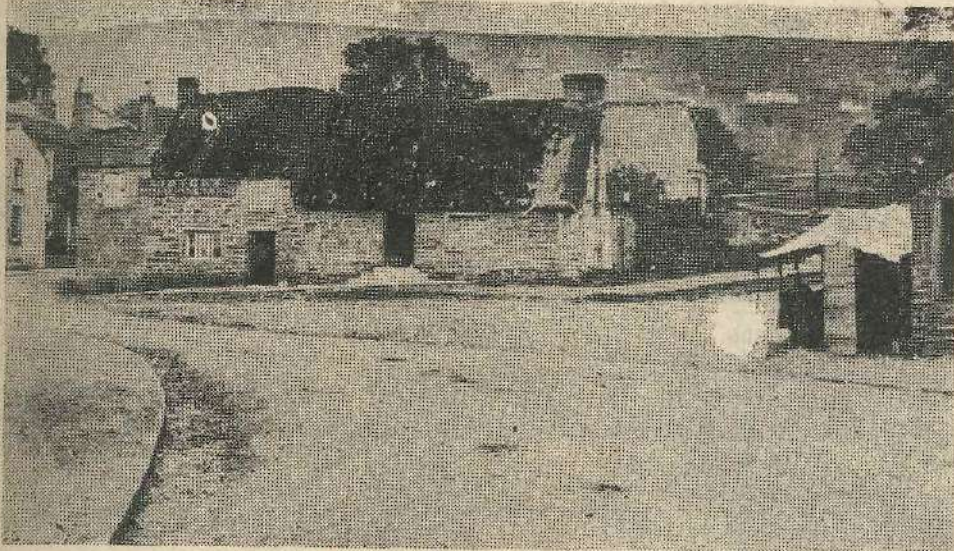
to be continued

# ILKLEY MORE PICTURESQUE THAN WHOLESOME IN ITS VILLAGE DAYS

June 18 1976

Most of the villagers lived in the thatched properties immediately alongside the stream which had flowed down the village centre for centuries and the cottages behind them. They were much more picturesque than they were wholesome and materials which gardeners complain is difficult to get was there for the taking by the possessor of a barrow.

The transformation from a village with some dubious characteristics really began with the building of Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment its extension and the building of the Grove Charity Hospital, but these were still to come. Yet there were signs of the development in the demands for accommodation and the growing interest in Ilkley's streams. The story of the final days of Ilkley as a village with not everything to commend by means continues in this second article.



A view of the top of Brook Street in the middle of the Nineteenth Century before the banks and shops at the bottom of Wells Road and Mill Ghyll were built. In the centre stands Lister's refreshment rooms.

The opening article dealt with the people in the cottages lining the sides of the stream. This tells of those opposite the church, to the west of the upper part of Brook Street and Green Lane. James Rigg occupied the Rose and Crown, and Wm. Lancaster, Samuel Watkinson, John Margerison, John Nowell and Paul Bottomley the houses and gardens further down the lane. The schoolmaster, John Hobson, was living in the old Vicarage at the corner of what is now Hawksworth Street and Church Street. A physical deformity made him an object of ridicule for some. John Seanor occupied the house at the corner of Cunniffe Road and Church Street, providing lodgings in the season and having a high reputation for the excellence of what he had to offer. The same building today has an equally high reputation for the service it provides as the Box Tree Cafe. John Dobson, lecturing in 1873, said "the stream which crosses Grove Road had an open course to the road in front of Mr. Seanor's House." The Listers Arms Hotel, then designated as the New Inn, was occupied by John Lister.

Taking the other side of what is now Church Street from the Church downwards the family of William Parratt who was a stonemason, as were two of his sons, were in the building immediately above the archway leading into Castle Yard. The building was soon to be used as a cafe or restaurant and one of its most constant visitors was Robert Collyer who dearly loved the members of this family and frequently wrote about their kindnesses to him. Whenever he paid one of his visits from the United States the Parratt's were among the first people he called upon.

## THE SHOPS

John Dobson said at this time there were three small shops occupied by grocers, "the most frequented of which was the old house which stands singly in the Castle Yard, directly to the west of the church tower." The tenant as shown by the 1841 census was Elizabeth Lister, and John Dobson adds "This shop had long been the draper's shop in the village for its stock was not confined to groceries by any means." Castle Yard at the time was inhabited by a fair measure of woolcombers, giving some indication of the trade followed by many in the village. There seemed to be quite a number of gardens in this area and at least one orchard. A large family of Ickringills occupied the Castle House which then was owned by William Middleton and this family produced for the church in Emma Ickringill who was later Mrs. William Barker its organist for many years. John Margerison who lived near the Rose and Crown had one of the best gardens in the countryside and the lads of the district were well able to congratulate him on the quality of his produce. He was a "careful" man and Donkey Jackson once described how Margerison was sometimes to be seen "half dressed running after the Friday morning buttercarts on the way to Otley market with the object of saving the shopkeeper's penny profit."

## MAN OF PROPERTY

Opposite the New Inn much property was owned by Nicholas Cunniffe, a man of some stature, and his tenants included J. Neville, Thomas Robinson, Wm. Butterfield, David Rigg, John Mason, Edward and N. Hudson. Joseph Beanlands, a farmer

occupant of Low House. He was in a very large way of business, said Donkey Jackson in an interview in 1900.

The houses alongside the stream in the village centre have been dealt with in a previous article; across the top of Brook Street was property owned by Richard Lister who also had both the upper and the lower corn mills. The village stocks, the carpenter's shop, and other features have been made familiar by the paintings and the picture postcards of the area with one or two variations. Green Lane started here and from the bottom of Wells Walk towards the present United Reformed Church was the home of the Hartleys whose farmhouse was named the Manor House. It must have been a lovely place in the Spring, Summer and Autumn months. The outbuildings and stackyard were sited in front of where the church was later built and the only building apart from the Hartley's property was the Green Lane cottage. John Dobson said of this, "The Green Lane from Hartley's down to the old cottage had both carriage and footways, the latter raised considerably with a narrow grassy slope between it and the carriage road, and ornamented in the springtime with wild flower. Some fine hollies over the fence on the northern side added largely to its beauty. On the south side of the lane a fence divided Hartley's stackyard from the small croft to the west, exactly in front of where the church is built. Along this fence stood a number of magnificent ash trees one of which was said to have 400 feet of timber in it. The few trees now standing a little to the west of the old cottage are but an insignificant remnant of what formerly stood there. About 20 yards to the south of these trees stood a very tall hedge-row with forest trees at intervals, some of the old oaks which grace this fence still remaining."

William Bolling with Anne Robinson and Joseph Robinson had the site of the present municipal buildings. "Bolling's Farm" it was previously known as but later became Sedbergh House. Sedbergh School had this and other property nearer to the village centre. Behind them higher up Wells Road were fields known as Meadow Croft and Pit Garth.

R. M. GREEN

THE OLICANA MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

# THE FINAL YEARS BEFORE ILKLEY'S TRANSFORMATION TO INLAND SPA

The building of the Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment was the main, indeed the only, development of note in the first decade after the 1838 Survey. The second decade brought buildings of similar purpose along the fringe of the moor—Wells House, Craiglands, Troutbeck were the more notable, yet it was not until the beginning of the fourth decade that the sudden and enormous transformation of Ilkley took place. The opening of the railway helped, but the greatest influence of all was the Middleton land sales. Until they came along there was no space for Ilkley to develop.

William Bolling who was a member of a family which owned considerable land in the Ilkley and Wheatley areas, sold part of his possessions at Wheatley to Mr. Hamer Stansfeld in 1843 and on this site in 1846 was erected the Ben Rhydding Hydro. It has variously been described as the first and the second institution of its kind in the country. Whatever its order or precedence writers of the time were high in their praise of it, and Robert Collyer and J. Horsfall Turner referred to it as "one of the finest of its kind in the world".

The first physician was Dr. Rischaneck, a Silesian, who was succeeded by Dr. William McLeod in 1847. This physician was not long before he was proprietor of the place, led the Wheatley villagers in efforts to obtain improvements, became a member of the Ilkley Local Board and was in a state of constant acrimony with Mr. John Shuttleworth, who founded the Ilkley Gazette. Dr. McLeod once referred to Mr. Shuttleworth "as a man completely without scholarship". Unabashed, Mr. Shuttleworth retorted that this might be true, but he did take the precaution of employing people who had, perhaps as much scholarship as Dr. McLeod, probably a little more, and who certainly had more than most members of the Local Board.

### WORLD KNOWN

At any rate Dr. McLeod made Ben Rhydding a place not only known throughout the world, but in its immediate environment a place to be treated with respect and its proprietor a man few ventured to argue with. The next survey to follow the 1838 Survey was one for 1851 and this indicates the sure foundations upon which the Hydropathic Establishment then stood.

This second survey hints at the influence it possessed as an employer of labour and as a provider of finance to the public purse. William Marlehead (?) is shown in 1851 as the doctor and he is resident with his wife and three year old child. The list of guests included a worsted spinner, a silk mercer, a machine maker, a foreman, a Vicar, a clerk, a tobacco manufacturer, a cotton broker, several "fund holders", several annuitants, and the staff comprised ten servants, two waiters, two bath attendants, two nurses, a housekeeper and a watchman.

In close association was a livery stable kept by Daniel Dobson, and of its group of workpeople, three women had laundress qualifications.

### WHEATLEY HALL

William Bolling appeared also to have made a second notable move. The occupier of Wheatley Old Hall at the 1838 survey, he had given away to the Mawson family by 1851; reference was made in the previous article to the help given by the Mawsons to the Methodist cause at Wheatley where the first organised Wesleyan Methodist services were held in the kitchen of the Hall.

Under the heading of "Wheatley Hall" in the 1851 survey are such well known local names in addition to John Mawson as Richard Ellis (65) farmer, Henry Kettlewell (36) farmer, their wives and their children. Thomas Proctor who lived at Ben Rhydding Lodge with his wife Elizabeth was a butler and in the village and its surrounding area were farming families by the name of Walker, Lister and Cowburn. Martha Ward taught music and Margaret Walker was a seamstress.

Up at Hanginstone was John Ramsden (52), his wife, their children, John Hodgson a ninety year old retired farmer, and Joseph Mead, also a farmer, his wife and their family. William Mead and Brian Mead are shown as farmer workers.

At Prospect House not far away is Mary Lister (57) as a Lodging House keeper, with Edward Watson (61) her assistant. The Robinsons who were later to move down to the bottom of Cowpasture Road where they introduced their wood-working firm, made national fame as the inventors of the "invalid couch" were represented at Prospect House by Lister Robinson, then a 13 year old lad. Following members of the family became known for gifted pursuits. They were to be succeeded in the business at the bottom of Cowpasture Road by Hartley and Sons, a business which continued until fairly recently.

### AMONG FIRST

Mount Pleasant was one of the first groups of houses to be developed in Ilkley and so also was Belle Vue nearby. They were among the earliest to offer accommodation to visitors and consequently there were recorded as living there more servants than is normally the case in one community except for the hotels. For a similar reason homes in Mount Pleasant and Belle Vue which attracted a fair measure of professional people had a large number of people living there. John L. Armitage for instance, was prominent and highly respected in Ilkley as a magistrate, Henry Strachan as a manager and Henry Bramley as a "proprietor of houses", obviously among the more respectable kind. Belle Vue Terrace had its clergymen, their widows, a matron, landed proprietors.

Ilkley Hall had a group of respectable women resident there with not a man among them and the "servant-cook" was entered simply as "Rebecca".

Listed as "The Crescent", Rombalds Moor, was obviously a prominent boarding house in the village. These places are all classified in one section of the survey as "All that part of the township of Ilkley known as the East out quarter comprising Wheatley, Hanginstone, Cowpasture and Rombalds Moor" and is an indication of the open spaces between buildings from Wheatley to Ilkley skirting the moor edge. The lodging house keeper at the Crescent was Mrs. Usher with whom quite distinguished local people stayed until the accommodation being prepared for them was built and made ready. Thus the first physician to Ben Rhydding Hydropathic Establishment stayed here for a while, and so did the Rev. John Snowdon, after vacating his Church Street vicarage and building a new one in Wells Road, residential property which is shortly to have flats erected in its grounds. At the 1851 survey Mrs. Usher's guests included a retired Rector, a landed proprietor, a bonnet maker and a lodging house keeper.

### OLD COTTON MILL

John Hartley (63), his wife Elizabeth (58), his son Charles (28) and Sarah Robinson (17), were farmers at Hill Top, and George Holmes, the gamekeeper, lived at Silverwell Cottage. With him were his wife Ellen, and their children Francis, Catherine and June. In the old cotton mill, which stood where the Wells House stables were later, Robert Atkinson was a wool comber as he was in 1838. His wife Mary (46) was there and they had five offspring ranging from 20 to five years of age.

Based also apparently on the old cotton mill was Thomas Hodgson, a 40 year old farmer, his wife, Elizabeth, and four children. A 77 year old annuitant, and one of 27 years of age, a cooper, and a seamstress were there too. Joseph Barrett and his family occupied Rakes Cottage. At the Vicarage was the Rev. John Snowdon, his wife, and five children from eight to one—John, Jasper, William, Margaret and Edward. Their servant was Margaret M. Laren and Mary Harper was the nurse.

### FEW CHANGES

In this period the village of Ilkley had undergone few major changes. Other sections of the 1851 survey were divided into "All that part of the township of Ilkley which lies on the south side of the Otley and Ilkley Turnpike Road as far as Rakes Gate and Cowpasture Gate," and "All that part of the township of Ilkley known as the west out quarter which lies on the North side of the Otley and Skipton Road including Chapel Lane and West Wood." There was also the "whole of the township of Nesfield cum Langbar including Low Austby, High Austby Farms and West Hall".

Strangely there is no reference to the Middleton family in this 1851 survey. At the Lodge in 1851 is a butler, a game watcher, a carter and two servants; but no Middletons. The Aldersons are still in possession at the Low Hall, the Kettlewells at Beck Foot, and John Howell, a land agent is at the school house. The Kendalls hold Windsover, there are several Hardwicks in the vicinity, and "Houdsons" too. Deans, Denbys, Pullans and Robinsons are at Nesfield, some Skillingtons, Metcalfes and Grays are in the vicinity and Pedleys and Pickards also. Thomas Harrison is at Low Austby House, and Peter Hawksworth at High Austby House. Each has plenty of land. John Kelly occupies Oliver House and his wife and children hawk pins and tape. Benjamin Briggs Popplewell to whom were referred in an earlier article is at Beacon Hill House, and down in the valley the Umpleby family hold West Hall.

The main sign of questioned progress at Ilkley in the immediate years to follow was the filling in of the Brook Street beck. Such places as Wells House, Craiglands, Troutbeck and Rockwood came to the fringe of the moor. The measured advance was in train but the sudden flood of transformation was as yet "just around the corner."

R. M. Green

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26 Nov 1976

# BRADFORD TRADE SLUMP PUTS HALT TO ILKLEY'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND LEAVES NEW HOUSES EMPTY

Just over one hundred years ago, not only the Ilkley villagers but the inhabitants of the West Riding were discussing with astonishment the remarkable growth of Ilkley from a tiny village to a prosperous inland spa in the few years following upon the sale of portions of the Middleton estate. Articles describing the great advancement had been appearing for some months in the evening and morning newspapers published in the nearby cities on both sides of the Pennines.

By 1876, however, there had been a slump in trade, especially in the textile and allied circles. Money was not as free as a result and the impetus in the building trade had slackened perceptibly. The demand for houses hardly existed and it was reckoned in 1876 that at least 100 new houses stood empty in Ilkley awaiting buyers or even tenants. The gold rush was over at least for the time being. Extracts from the newspapers of the time and a summary of points made in some of the articles set out the position.

With the exception of the area around the church Ilkley had changed so much in the previous six years it was written in 1873 that its upper part was virtually unrecognisable and a transformation of the outskirts was making rapid progress. Where there had been little to distinguish some portions from the nearby moorland there were now "palatial hydropathic establishments and magnificent villas."

The Ilkley Convalescent Home to the south of the Grove, then known as the Ilkley Hospital, carried on in a splendid building the work which had "been expended in a cottage". Plans for the provision of more churches and the replacement of others were under consideration. Land which 30 years previously was sold at 4½d per square yard was said to be bringing the fortunate buyers no less than nine to ten per cent per annum.

The goods department of the Otley and Ilkley Joint Railway Company had doubled its income in six years, the passenger traffic had nearly doubled. The number of passengers booked at Ilkley in 1867 was 67,000 and in 1872 it was 100,000. This did not include the large number of excursionists estimated at 200,000, passholders, estimated at 100, return tickets, pleasure and picnic parties.

## SEMON HOME

Tenders were about to be sought for the erection of Mr. Charles Semon's Convalescent Home, and in close proximity land sold by the Lord of the Manor, Mr. William Middleton the previous autumn, was being developed. The construction of Westwood Drive to serve the Home and some of the other property had presented some difficulty with the last 30 or 40 yards producing some rough and heavy work.

Some of the "carriage roads" in the area simply bore numbers at this stage. Queen's Road, Parish Ghyll Drive, Parish Gill Road were either partly completed or planned and so were several public footpaths, some of them to the moor "and will be much more pleasant even in their rough state than the wet and boggy tracks hitherto use." Commented the Free Press in 1873.

## PRETTIEST PART

"The whole of the new roads are drained with improved sanitary pipes from 21 ins to 12

ins diameter, and precautions have been taken to prevent the drains from being washed up as in Westwood Road in June, 1872... As much of the timber has been preserved as possibly could be and this district abounds with rich and extensive views; in fact when the new roads are planted with shrubs and the various sites are occupied with villas West Wood will be the prettiest part of Ilkley. But one great drawback is its distance from the station. The cost of the new roads is estimated at from £5,000 to £6,000".

Near to Woodbank and in Riddings Road, on the Wheatley side of the village villas were being erected. The Convalescent Home in Castle Hill was making building progress, in the lower part of the Grove houses were being built, the Grove Hydropathic had been undergoing 'considerable enlargement' and building was actively going on in the vicinity of Wellington and Leeds Roads, and the High School in Parish Gill Road has recently had additions made to it while several houses have been erected on the Addingham Road.

## 'FAST EXTENDING'

The Free Press concluded, "It will be seen then that Ilkley is fast extending on all sides. And there is every probability of a continuance of building operations, as the new hotel to be erected in the Addingham Road, the projected new hydropathic establishment on Ben Rhydding Road and the new street to be formed near Chapel Lane, will occupy considerable time in their completion should nothing else turn up. But it is highly probable that the jingle of the trowel and the sharp sound of the chisel will be heard at Ilkley for years to come and that the Union Jack will continue periodically to float from the top of many new erections yet to be built."

## INVESTMENT

Eight years later the Gazette was commenting in an editorial on the progress of Ilkley. It said, "Within the last dozen years we have witnessed most rapid changes in Ilkley. Residential buildings of the most elegant original and varied designs, have sprung into existence on every hand. So much so that the area they now cover is almost to the extreme limits of the township's boundary lines, except on the south, where is the valued stretch of

moorland—really the sea of Ilkley over which there is free range.

"It is well known that the building progress has been induced by the acquisition of favourite sites afforded by the frequent sales that have been made from time to time. These great changes, however, could never have been accomplished by the resident population, as they could not have possessed the means, if the will was not available for such enterprises. From the manufacturing districts this alone could come, and long years of prosperous trade having brought enormous riches, these land sales presented a fair opening to invest accumulated fortunes by erecting pleasant and comfortable houses in a region of health and surrounded by agreeable scenery.

"The demand for houses at one time was far beyond the facilities for production, hence many capitalists to speculate further than their own requirements, expecting a profitable return therefrom.

## STOPPAGE

"The arrest, however of the gushing trade caused also a stoppage of the demand for houses, and the result was, about two years ago, that considerably more than 100 houses, a large proportion of which were an expensive kind, were in the market with no prospect of their becoming productive. This put a stop to further speculating, and since that time operations in this line have been of the most meagre description, and many an investor has heartily rued the day when he first entertained the idea. Rents have necessarily been lowered, and a temptation of this kind has to some extent led to the occupancy of many houses which no doubt would still have been vacant. The number now empty is considerably less than it was and it would seem that the extreme depression has passed by—let us hope to return no more in our day.

"We are now in the midst of a season which, as regards the number of visitors resorting here, is in favourable comparison with any that we have lately had. There need be no apprehension that Ilkley will ever lose favour, for it is generally acknowledged by all travellers that there is no more naturally favoured spot and it must be admitted that much has been done to increase its attractiveness, thought there yet may be social requirements, as possessed by other places, which we still lack.

"In the period we named, no less than six costly places of worship, at an aggregate cost of between thirty and forty thousand pounds have been erected; scores of miles of new roads made; new extensive cemetery; enlarged waterworks and a more complete system of sewerage effected. These are all great undertakings and there are many minor ones which we need not enumerate. It is enough, however, to mention these to show that we are in a fair order for still more extensions. That these are shortly to come is a matter of certainty for next month a further sale of land is to take place.

## DE LUXE OF ILKLEY

"The position of this land can truly be said to be the de luxe of Ilkley. Situated on the western side, and forming what is known as the Panorama and Breary Woods it commands the grandest and loveliest views which can possibly be obtained. It has been our pleasure to wander thereabouts at all seasons of the year and in each we have enjoyed the scene, scarcely knowing to which belongs the preference. In the Spring there may be said to be a double charm, for besides the leafy freshness and floral gaiety there is the ringing melody of the winged habitues of this glorious locality. Several roads run in a parallel direction westward from Ilkley, and will we understand ultimately culminate in one which will have its exit on to the main Bolton Road at Holling Hall. Other property situate at the bottom of Brook Street is to be included in the sale which may result in considerable improvements in that locality. There is also sur la tapis well founded rumours of other rather gigantic undertakings of much desired kind, particularly of one which we trust we shall shortly be able to lay before our readers."

This final paragraph was evidently an attempt to revive what had been known as the Grove Gardens scheme on the "Parish Ghyll". A concert hall with a "handsome entrance with a covered way for carriages to set down and take up visitors" was proposed. Public swimming baths, and other "high class entertainments" were in mind. The capital to be provided was £12,500. Nothing came of the idea.

R. M. Green

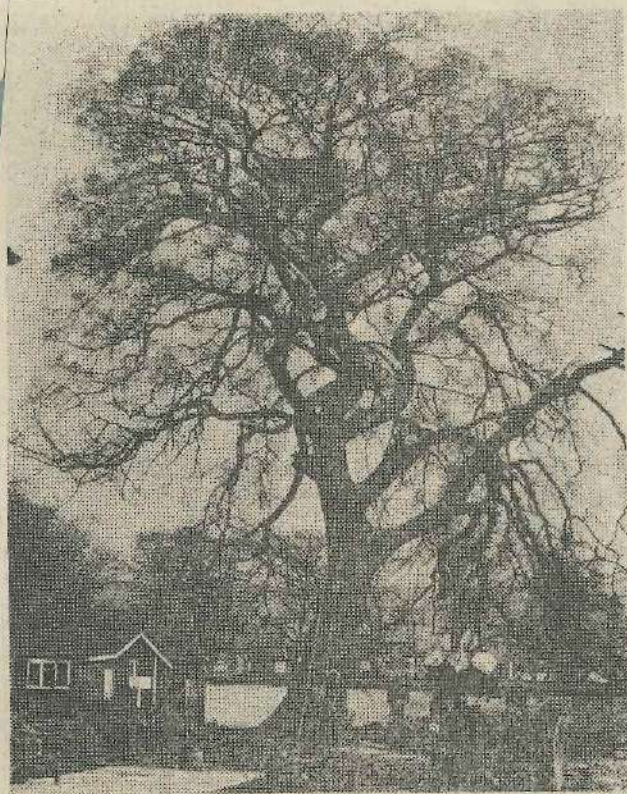
Last night Feb 4 the Council decided to cut it down. Wicked!

# Telegraph & Argus

BRADFORD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1974



22 March 1974  
**CRASHED THROUGH GARAGE**



The old elm tree in the grounds of Menston Hall under which Fairfax and Cromwell are supposed to have prepared plans for the battle of Marston Moor was felled this week. A strong wind upset the calculations of the fellers and the trunk crashed through the roof of a garage causing some damage to a car inside. Picture shows work in progress in removing some of the branches before the trunk was felled.

## FATE OF MENSTON HALL ELM IN THE BALANCE



### CONCERN ABOUT MENSTON TREE



Curator of Ilkley Manor House, Miss E. M. Fletcher, expressed concern in a letter to the Ilkley Gazette last week about this tree in the grounds of Menston Hall which is threatened by the building of lavatories and garages. The tree was in existence in 1644, when Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentary forces, and General Lord Fairfax, sat beneath its branches to discuss plans for the furtherance of their cause. Says Miss Fletcher, "Its surrounding lawn has already been spoiled by garages, these now are being converted into lavatories and 14 new garages are being built. The bulldozers are tearing at its roots. Can the old tree withstand the onslaught?"

The fate of a 400-year-old elm tree in the grounds of Menston Hall will be decided when Ilkley Council meets on Monday.

The tree has recently been inspected and the council has to decide whether or not it should be cut down.

Attempts to save the tree have been made by Miss Elsie Fletcher, who lives at the hall, and who has written a history of Menston.

According to her research the tree is the one under which Oliver Cromwell and Charles Fairfax met and sat to talk at a stone table the day before the Battle of Marston Moor.

"I suppose I look upon it as my tree," said Miss Fletcher, who is over 80. "The tree is not diseased at all and it has such historical interest I do think it should be saved."

Mr. Ronald Wade, chairman of the West Riding branch of the Council for the preservation of Rural England, said that the Council had written to Ilkley Council asking for the tree to be retained, because of its historical interest and age.

Picture shows Miss Fletcher and the tree.

Lord Fairfax (General)

## Old elm goes way of King Charles

"IT IS NOT fit that you should sit here any longer — you shall now give place to better men" — a statement made by Oliver Cromwell to the Rump Parliament and a suitable epitaph for a tree he is reputed to have sat under in 1644 on the eve of the Battle of Marston Moor.

Yesterday the tree, in the grounds of Menston Hall, Menston, near Leeds, was felled despite protests from nature lovers.

It signified its own disapproval by falling off course and through the roof of a garage block.

One garage was badly damaged and the roof and windscreen of an eight-month-old car inside were respectively dented and smashed.

The car belonged to Mr. James Riggott, husband of the warden at Menston Hall, an old people's home.

The elm was ordered to be cut down by Ilkley Urban Council on the advice of a tree specialist who pronounced its roots as rotten and its bearing as unsafe.

According to Mr. David Norfolk, of Ilkley, who felled the elm, a gust of



Mr. Riggott clears the debris of the elm, and garage, from his car.

wind caught it in mid-air. "It's a bad tree to deal with," he told the Yorkshire Post minutes before the mishap.

One person who was sad

to see the elm finally fall was Miss Elsie Fletcher, 86, a local historian who lives at the Hall and has fought to save it. "It's a great shame," she said.

## OBITUARY

### MISS E. M. FLETCHER

The funeral takes place at Menston Parish Church this (Friday) afternoon of Miss Elsie M. Fletcher, who died at the home of a friend at Chorley, aged 88. It was typical of Miss Fletcher's ebullient personality that she had expressed a wish that the funeral service should be a thanksgiving. She left a directive: "Send me off cheerily on a new journey joyfully anticipated".

Miss Fletcher founded a private kindergarten and junior school in 1910 at Howdene, Menston, where she introduced personally devised methods of early education which were many years ahead of their time. Much of her teaching method she later published in book form, and the best remembered "Youngsters in Yorkshire" was one of a series which did much to develop a child's awareness of the beauty and wonder of nature and history.

On her retirement in 1954 old scholars presented her with a gift of £150 which provided for a visit to Rome and Florence. From that experience she developed a thirst for travel and visited Holland, Sweden, Spain, America, France, Cyprus, Greece, Jamaica, Barbados and Argentina, always searching to increase her knowledge of history and the arts.

#### Gift of expression

Miss Fletcher had the gift of expression, her writing and lectures were unusually fascinating, and full of humour. The last of her publications was a tribute to Dr. Robert Collyer, written for the 1973 Ilkley Literature Festival.

In 1972 she published the story of Menston Hall where she had been resident from the time it was converted to self-contained dwellings for the senior retired people of Menston.

Miss Fletcher was outspoken about planners and developers. Her last outcry concerned the felling of the elm tree which some historians believed to have marked the place where Cromwell held conference before the Battle of Marston Moor.

She was the first Hon. Curator of the Ilkley Manor House Museum having used her influence to save that property from demolition; a keen supporter of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, The Society for the Prevention of Rural England, the National Trust, the Chippendale Society of Otley, a founder member of the Olicana museum and Historical Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She was also intensely interested in the reclaiming of White Wells, Ilkley, and one of her booklets on local history "Baths and Wells" was published for the Manor House Museum.

It was characteristic that children should have loved Miss Fletcher. Of their own accord they sought her out at Menston Hall, asking her about times past and present and in many cases seeking her help with outdoor projects and homework. Many old pupils of Howdene School became friends and admirers, and frequently visited her.

The funeral service is to be followed by cremation at Rawdon.

L T Sept 6 1974

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7 March 1975

ACROSS THE YEARS

Local Board Decides to Build New Reservoir at Hill Top

100 Years Ago

In a report on the water situation at Ilkley in February, 1875, Mr. Edward Filliter, a Civil Engineer, of Leeds, said the springs on Ilkley Moor produced a total during a dry season of 175,514 gallons a day, which would give 25 gallons a day per head of population of 7,000, more than twice the number it was then. He recommended the Board which had purchased most of the land required in the area, to persevere with the original scheme of building a reservoir near Hill Top but with a precaution that all the boggy land be suitably drained. He advised that the reservoir be 50 feet square and 12 feet deep and that it be carried over by arching. This would hold 180,000 gallons which added to that stored at Weary Hill would give about one day's supply. It was recommended that the conduits be made of cast-iron pipes instead of earthen ware which were very liable to leakage. The cost of the scheme was estimated at £3,500. It was agreed to accept the scheme and to borrow £4,000.

"An exceedingly handsome and elaborate design for a fountain in Brook Street was submitted by the architect, Mr. Clarke, to a full attendance of members of the Committee in February, 1875. The cost was estimated to be £300. The Committee whilst full of praise for the design felt the cost was greater than they could reasonably expect to raise and so it was agreed to ask the architect to prepare another design with a limit on the expense of £200. The amount already subscribed had reached £170.

ACROSS THE YEARS

Local Board Appointment for construction of reservoirs

100 Years Ago

The appointment of a Clerk of Works for the construction of reservoirs at Hill Top and Weary Hill occupied the attention of the Ilkley Local Board at the end of May, 1875. There were two applicants, Mr. I. Proctor at 40s. a week, and Mr. J. Hainsworth, a member of the Board at 35s. a week, who had both been recommended from six by the sub-Committee. Mr. Sewell proposing Mr. Hainsworth spoke highly in his favour. He was a good penman, he said, and would be able to correspond with the engineers. He was also a thorough practical man, well known to them all and highly esteemed by the people of the town. In reply to a question the Clerk said appointment would mean that Mr. Hainsworth would have to resign his seat on the Board, and he read Mr. Hainsworth's letter of resignation. Mr. Proctor was then nominated by a member who pointed out that he was a townsman too. There was no seconder for this and Mr. Hainsworth was appointed.

Burley Athletic Club held

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Burley Athletic Club held its eighth annual sports in the Cricket Field. There were offered eight silver cups, eight gold medals, eight silver medals, two bronze medals to the value of £80. The event occupied four hours from 2.30 p.m. and the number of spectators did not diminish until the last event was completed. Music was provided by Messrs Oates Ingham and Sons reed band under the direction of Mr. E. Dutton. The secretary for the sports was Mr. E. P. Arnold and it was largely due to his efforts, said the Gazette, that they were such a success.

At a property sale in Ilkley 100 years ago "Wharfe Cottage" with a garden fronting to Leeds Road and including a stable and coach house was withdrawn at £575. A dwelling house and garden also in Leeds Road was sold to Mr. Robert Foster of Leeds for £350. The auctioneer, Mr. George Poole of Bradford said it was the cheapest lot he had ever sold. Four dwelling houses in Railway Road offered as one lot were withdrawn at £975. Offered separately there were no bids. Bridge House had one restriction that no mill should be built on the property. It had once been used for selling beer and it was considered there would be no difficulty in obtaining a licence. It was withdrawn at £1,550.

75 Years Ago

"So far as the Ilkley Hall Gardens Company are concerned the idea of developing the Ilkley Hall estate as a place of resort and attraction for visitors has now been abandoned, and any further move in this direction will have to be taken in hand by other owners, as the Estate Company at their meeting on Tuesday decided to wind up their affairs and sell out," said the Gazette in May, 1900. "We have it on very good authority that its purchase on behalf of the town, or by residents prepared to develop it as at first proposed can be effected at pretty much the same figure as the company themselves secured it. It seems a pity to see the estate cut up and parcelled into building lots, but unless it is in some way to be made to secure it for the benefit of the town, this is what it is sure to come to.

A decision to provide the Wharfedale Estate Company with gas at sixpence per thousand feet less than it was being retailed to Ilkley consumers was being viewed with no great favour, said the Gazette. They were told by the Council that this was a good commercial transaction and would result in considerable profit. "As they are supposed to have gone into the matter thoroughly and studied it at all points we can only hope that the future may prove their policy in this particular to have been wise, judicious and far seeing. In any case it will prove an immense advantage to the company, for with gas and water already to hand the prospect of disposing of some of the Middleton plots is very considerably improved, and an attempt to do so, we understand, is to be made very shortly."

For a long time streets in the Ash Grove district have been in a most disgraceful condition. After a little rain most of them have been over the boot tops in mud. Owners are to receive notice to put the streets in a passable state of repair.

50 Years Ago

Regrettably the Ilkley Gazette in early June, 1925, noted a "terrible motor coach disaster" at Dibbles Bridge, Hebden, near Grassington, the scene at the end of May, 1975, of a similar incident. In the accident 50 years ago, the coach crashed through the wall of the bridge and dropped 30 feet to the bank of the stream below. Seven people were killed and twelve seriously injured. All the killed and injured were from York and district. The driver in an interview said, "It was purely a case of the brakes falling."

Members of Wharfedale Rural District Council passed a resolution of sympathy with relatives of the victims. In discussion, members commented that it brought to their minds the need of something being done in the regulation of transport on moorland roads, especially with regard to the inspection and supervision of motor coaches and buses.

"Steady progress is being made with the erection of the new covered grandstand and dressing rooms on the ground of the Ilkley Rugby Club," commented the Ilkley Gazette on 19 June, 1925. "When completed it will form one of the best equipped stands and dressing rooms in the county. The sum of £150 is still required to complete the scheme." Up to date £1,340 had been received and a further £21 promised.

A "useful postal convenience" for the residents of Middleton was provided by the erection of a pillar box at the junction of Denton Road and Middleton Avenue near the cricket field entrance. Weekday collections were at 8 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 6.45 pm. and on Sundays at 5 p.m. only.

No. 14 Wheatley Avenue was sold by auction for £610.

For the 23rd year in succession Mr. J. C. Naylor was re-elected Chairman of the Ilkley and District Education Committee. Mr. Naylor, who was first elected to the old School Board in 1878 and was the first Chairman of the Education Committee, having a continuous service on these two bodies of over 46 years. He had recently retired from his practice as dental surgeon in Leeds. Welcomed on to the committee were Mr. H. T. Musgrave, of Burley, and Mr. J. H. Armistead and Mr. W. Rhodes, of Ilkley.

25 Years Ago

With the weather not at its best for open air swimming, Ilkley Youth Council held its first annual swimming gala at the Bathing Pool in June 1950. A large crowd saw the 1st Ben Rhydding Scouts win the shield for most points gained. The 2nd Ilkley Guides and 1st Ilkley Scouts were runners-up. Individual certificates were awarded to J. MacDonald (2), O. Wood (2), D. Crawshaw (2) and J. Haswell.

Officers and committee elected at Ilkley Rugby Club for 1950-51 were.—President, Mr. G. Brook; Treasurer, Mr. A. Brearley; Secretary, Mr. T. Ackernley; Assistant Secretary, Mr. P. D. Wardman; Fixture Secretary, Mr. A. Garside; 1st Team Secretary, Mr. J. L. Thompson; 'A' team Secretary, Mr. J. T. Burdock; 1st team Captain, Mr. G. Burton; 1st team Vice-captain, Mr. K. Douglas; Committee, Messrs. E. Chary, B. Diggle, K. Murgatroyd, P. Burt, J. Dalton, R. M. Green, A. King, F. D. Marshall, P. H. Brumfit, E. Skinner, S. Tipping and D. S. Todd.

There were two entries from the Ilkley and District Motor Club in the Yorkshire Centre Scramble at Shibden, Halifax. They were T. W. Rathmell, of Wyvil Road, Ilkley, and Dr J. S. Whiteley, Leeds. In the 350cc class, T. W. Rathmell was placed fifth but ignition trouble in the Experts race caused him to retire. Dr. Whiteley also retired from this race.

The importance of having more actors and producers was stressed at the annual meeting of the Ilkley-Burley Players in the Playhouse, Ilkley, by the President Mr. J. W. Sutcliffe. Mr. Sutcliffe was re-elected, with Secretary Miss M. Illingworth; Treasurer, Mr. W. Hanbridge; Publicity Manager, Mr. G. Ingle; Stage Manager, Mr. K. Wild; House Manager Mrs. M. Brooke. Two members of the General Committee on the Play Reading Committee, Messrs. J. Lund and Don Wray. Play Reading Committee, Mrs. D. Fenwick, Miss D. Shutt, Mrs. W. Hanbridge and Mr. E. Paley.



## WATER LEVELS FALLING AS DROUGHT CONTINUES

The continuing dry spell which has led to water shortages throughout the country has had its effect on the level of the River Wharfe at Ilkley. In places the river bed is exposed for almost its full width, as in the picture below, taken near the New Bridge.

As the drought continues the Yorkshire Water Authority has applied to the Department of the Environ-

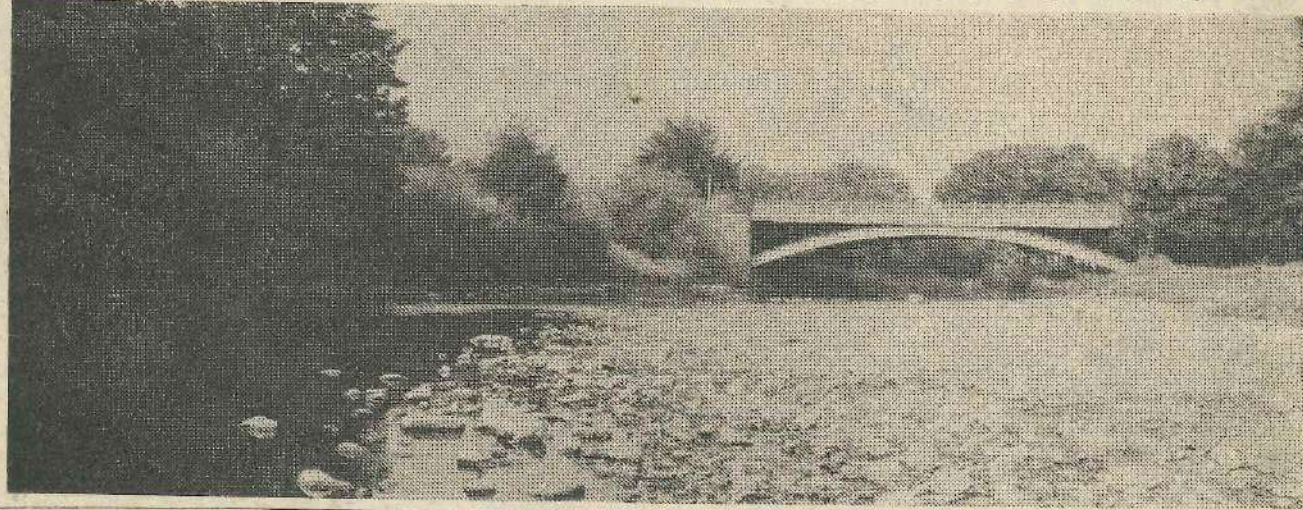
ment for a ban on the use of water for non-essential purposes.

However, the ban when imposed will not immediately affect the Authority's Western Division, which includes Ilkley. It will at first apply only to the North Central, South Western and Eastern Divisions, which cover Leeds, Harrogate, Wakefield, Caldervale, Kirkstall and Hull.

The Authority has applied for a ban on watering by hose-pipe, sprinkler or tanker of ornamental gardens, sports grounds, lawns, playing fields, golf courses and race courses; filling or topping up of swimming pools and ornamental pools other than fish ponds; use of mechanical or automatic car washes; washing of load vehicles other than for safety or hygiene; cleaning of the exterior of build-

ings; using ornamental cascades and fountains, even if the water is recycled; using automatic flushing cisterns while buildings are unoccupied.

Water stocks in reservoirs in the Western Division dropped again last week, down to about 63.9 per cent. However, in the Leeds and Harrogate area stocks are near the 30 per cent danger level.



10.4.76.

### EMERGENCY MEASURES TO COMBAT DROUGHT PROBLEMS

#### Burst mains at Otley, Guiseley and Burley

The serious position created by the water shortage is being brought home to local consumers in announcements that emergency measures to combat the drought have been extended to the Yorkshire Water Authority's Western Division, which includes Otley, Aireborough, Burley, Menston and Ilkley. This division has so far escaped official restrictions.

The position has not been helped by a series of water main bursts—one of the more serious ones being at Guiseley on Monday.

In Leeds Central Division, which includes Horsforth and parts of the former Wharfedale Rural area, the shortage is stated to be acute, and emergency measures, including standpipes, are being planned.

The Western Division, states the Water Authority, relies almost entirely on impounding reservoirs for its supplies and although its position is better than in other areas, the stock of water remaining in the reservoirs is now down to 64 per cent of capacity. With a depletion rate of 4 per cent per week, this means that unless there is heavy, prolonged rain in the catchment areas in the near future, the reservoirs could be dry in 16 weeks time.

As a first step the Western Division has followed in the footsteps of other areas by imposing a hosepipe ban for the watering of gardens and washing private cars, and consumers are being asked to make every effort to economise in every way possible.

On a broader basis, the Yorkshire Water Authority, like others in Wales and the South West, as gone so far as to seek power to cut off water at any time — even to industry — under the emergency drought act which was rushed through Parliament ten days ago.

#### Mains in danger

It is ironic that the water main fractures are directly attributable to the drought conditions. A spokesman for the Yorkshire Water Authority said the ground is so dry that it is beginning to crack and break up, with

the result that the mains do not have sufficient support. Those mains going alongside and passing under main roads were being subjected to vibration, and the old cast iron ones are in danger of cracking.

Last week, a four-inch main burst in Leeds Road, Otley, and there was a minor burst in the Weston Drive area of Otley at the weekend.

The more serious burst at Guiseley occurred early on Monday morning, flooding the main Leeds Road at Greenbottom to a depth of six inches.

The force of the escaping water from the eight-inch main ripped up paving stones and thousands of gallons of water were lost before workmen managed to stop the leak.

Guiseley newsagent, Mr. J. M. Smith, whose shop is only a few yards from the burst, said it looked as though a bomb had gone off. "A large section of pavement was ripped up and there was water everywhere," he said.

Early on Tuesday morning workmen were called to a burst in a six-inch main in Main Street at Burley. The burst was not a serious one and only a comparatively little water was lost.

Some scattered showers at the weekend in the Leeds area, including Horsforth, have had no effect on the overall position.