

# **ILKLEY IN THE INTER WAR YEARS**

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**A diary listing by each week and month**

Richard Thackrah

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## FOREWORD

Inspiration for writing such a work comes from many Ilkley and District / Wharfedale historians who have prepared books / booklets in many formats. I would like to acknowledge the following people, past and present, and hope that my own contributions will be viewed as a constructive, descriptive appraisal of modern Ilkley from the launch of the Ilkley Gazette in the 1860s. I apologise if any people have been missed from the following list:

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Richard Thackrah has been a resident of Ilkley for two spells over the last six decades. He gained his degrees in History, Geography and Education and has taught in primary, secondary and adult education. He has written textbooks reference books and general interest books, including a "Guide to Ilkley" and "Victorian Yorkshire" both published by the "Dalesman" and articles and short pieces for the "Ilkley Gazette".

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN WARTIME

When one studies local history and has the privilege of looking at paper copies of one's own local newspaper, one can easily get carried away with a whole series of 'ed' words. One has explored, discovered, found, connected, engaged, unearthed, imagined, created, unlocked, opened, revealed and celebrated – in this case the history of an iconic town solely from the pages of the Ilkley Gazette since 1868. The paper actually appeared initially in May 1861, but the first 8 ½ years of the paper are for some reason lost or unavailable.

Wood pulp came into Great Britain from Norway until 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1940. Paper was rationed from September 1939 and newspapers limited to the amount they could use. By 1945 newspapers were limited to 25% of the pre-War consumption. The 'Control of Paper Order' came in to affect in 1940 after Norway was seized by the Nazis. Importation of newsprint and wood pulp had been stopped. A drastic reduction in the number of pages per issue was inevitable and reports were definitely limited in length.

In spite of economics borne out of necessity, local newspaper editors continued to present fairly and accurately items of local news. It was likely these would appear in summarised form and items of minor importance eliminated, or if any other changes would have to be made as a result of the Order or the paper would ask for the indulgence of the readers.

One can read about war's impact on the Home Front, the people amused themselves in the face of adversity and the way in which public morale was kept high through a mixture of propaganda and judicious reporting. The papers showed hopes and fears of the British people at large, air raids, black outs, the destruction of property, evacuation of children, the loss or absence of loved ones, rationing and conception all became facts of life.

People had an appetite for local as well as national news. Both types of papers carried out the wishes of government in controlling morale. They were limited in size in 1940 because of the nature of newsprint and circulation numbers were restricted to the then prevailing level for the duration of the war. The UK had been economically and emotionally drained by the war both at national, regional and local level. Local papers as well showed how news of world events could be mirrored and expressed to the people.

People lived with the constant threat of attack and families often became divided as a result of the fighting. Thousands worked very long hours, often volunteering their free time to help the war effort, as well as keeping normal jobs but there was a worry that people on the Home Front might grow disillusioned with war and this could lead to defeat. Local officials used censorship and propaganda to maintain morale of citizens during the war. It was felt that keeping secret certain details which might cause people to lose hope would be best for morale of the country.

## ILKLEY IN THE INTER-WAR YEARS (1919 to 1939)

**1919**

### ***January***

*3 January* Private Barwick, a Prisoner of War since 27 May, arrived home on 1 January 1919.

*3 January* Ilkley Sergeant decorated in Germany: One of the British Generals with the Army of Occupation in Germany held public investiture of war honours in a German city park and gave Sergeant A.W. Butcher (Royal Field Artillery) the Military Medal. It was awarded for gallantry while getting guns into action under shell fire at Neuf Mesnil. Many troops and indeed many German citizens assembled for the ceremony.

*3 January* Poem: 'New Year and a New World'.

*3 January* A lady wrote to the Ilkley Gazette to suggest a YMCA type hut as a suitable memorial to be used for youths in their spare time, with recreation such as billiards, a teetotal canteen all run on attractive lines. Why not provide an attractive recreation room, as lads are being tempted daily to play billiards at the public houses. It is up to us to see that the budding manhood of this place is kept pure and made worthy of the blood shed for them.

*3 January* Account of a Zeppelin's visit to Wharfedale, where bombs were dropped on 25 September 1916. Seven Zeppelins flew over the North Sea on a still and dark night – one reached a Sheffield neighbourhood and another nearly got to Leeds. Bombs were being dropped plentifully at Harewood and Collingham. It is thought that the pilot mistook the River Wharfe for the River Aire and really had Leeds or even Sheffield as his objective. A Zeppelin flew over Ripon but missed the big military camp and dropped five bombs close to the village of Wormald Green, all in open fields. It hovered over Harrogate in pitch darkness, then glided to Harewood, dropping a bomb in an open field at Weeton. It reached Harewood Park and incendiaries were dropped in quick succession, though no harm was done, although Harewood House, being used as a Red Cross Hospital was nearly blown to pieces.

One bomb dropped near the entrance gates of the Park and another fell on the corner of a cottage roof into a water cistern, doing no damage beyond crashing through the roof and flooding the bedroom with water. A high explosive missile left a big hole in a turnip field and another incendiary bomb dropped into an empty hen house.

The Zeppelin then fired on an anti-aircraft station between Harewood and Collingham after being spotted by a searchlight. Bombs were dropped on the anti-aircraft station but landed in fields. The Zeppelin then made off with all speed. No one was killed or injured in the Wharfedale District.

*10 January* Captain Johnson (West Yorkshire Regiment) made an OBE for war service. He already has an MBE.

Captain R.C. Illingworth DSO mentioned in Douglas Haig's dispatch.

Lieutenant Colonel C.F. Potter DSO is made a CMG.

*10 January* Low barometer reading on 5 January 1919. In Ilkley, with brilliant sunshine and clear frosty atmosphere, the glass was as low as 28.7!

*10 January* Zeppelin visit to Wharfedale: a bomb is said to have been dropped at Bolton Abbey. All the lights were extinguished in Ilkley and explosions rattled the windows at many Ilkley houses. A bomb dropped in a meadow at Bolton Abbey failed to explode. The bomb was found by two men and afterwards was taken charge of by the village policeman and sent away. The sound of Zeppelin engines were heard in Ilkley and Addingham. On the occasion of another Yorkshire raid, an airship was brought down in flames on the Yorkshire coast and could be seen descending to its doom from the railway footbridge between Railway Road and Springs Lane.

*10 January* Sapper W.C. Habishaw, Royal Engineers, found dead in a lorry at Treviso in Italy on 29 December 1918. He died of natural causes. He had been in the mountains repairing electrical communications. He was buried and a military funeral was held at Lancenigo, three miles north of Treviso.

*10 January* Private Fred Barwick's story of cruelty as a German Prisoner of War. Starvation rations (cabbage and carrot water, bread and coffee ersatz). He was employed on the railways and was for three months in Camp Lamsdorf. The Brits were treated more cruelly than the French, Russians, Roumanians and Portuguese. The Prussian guards were cruel. He saw many Prisoners of War shot down or bayoneted, and exhausted by the lack of food. He was in hospital twice because of the poor food and weakness.. He received shirts, socks and soap from the Red Cross. He returned home via Wilhelmshaven and Denmark to Scotland.

*10 January* Private S. Kellett who was taken a Prisoner of War on 11 November 1914 and put in Gardelegen camp. There was typhus fever in the camp and he volunteered as a hospital orderly. He went to Parey on the Elbe to help build a canal, and then on to a sulphur factory where it was very bad, followed by a stone quarry for 18 months, and then back to the sulphur quarry as an interpreter, where he got the prisoners their wooden shoes and parcels. Even after the Armistice, prisoners were not fed at Gardelegen and not released until 25 November, then home via Stettin (Szczecin) Copenhagen and Leith.



At Parey on the Elbe he had to live in a piggery. A German officer admitted that there was little food in the country.

The Germans were in a bad way, with boots being made of wood and paper and shirts made of paper.

*10 January* Lieutenant Dawson (Royal Air Force) back in England. He had been a Prisoner of War at Strohen and Bad Colberg since April 1917.

*10 January* Private C. Wolstenholme, an Ilkley man in the Canadian infantry was a Prisoner of War for three years and eight months. He fared quite well and got a fair number of parcels through the Red Cross, sent by two Ilkley ladies.

*17 January* Military intelligence Lieutenant (acting Captain) F.W.B. Maufe MC gazetted as Captain.

*17 January* 'The Vengeance of Paula' and 'Beauty and the Rogue' – two films showing at Kings Hall.

Henry Fulford, golf pro at Bradford Golf Club. He lived in Ilkley and became a golf pro at Le Touquet Club near Boulogne.

*17 January* 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant H.H. Tomalin (Yorkshire Regiment) awarded the Military Cross.

Captain F.W. Musgrove (West Yorkshire Regiment) awarded the Military Cross.

Fancy Dress Ball and Whist Drive at the Ilkley Branch of the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers at Kings Hall. 500 attended including 300 dancers, 88 whist players and 100 spectators.

*24 January* Private C.N. Dalton (West Riding Regiment) is home from Germany where he has been a Prisoner of War since 3 September 1916. He was a farm worker and the food was scarce, but he was not unkindly treated.

Lieutenant G.C. Calvert (Yorkshire Light Infantry) died from typhoid and pneumonia.

Ilkley Public Library: 5,043 books borrowed in December 1918, including 3,746 fiction.

*24 January* Site secured and paid for (£300) for a parochial hall at Ben Rhydding.

Ilkley Auxiliary Military Hospital to close at the end of January 1919. The first wounded arrived there on 14 December 1914 and up to date 3,200 wounded men have been dealt with, including those with shell shock, gas poisoning, accidents and various illnesses.

*24 January* Toy making, a new Ilkley industry started by an Ilkley cabinet maker Mr J.H. Cooper in 1917, has now moved from Regents Road to buildings in Springs Lane which were occupied for a long time by Ilkley Rifle Club. It is a large building with proper toy making machinery. Mr Cooper has provided as much employment as possible for wounded soldiers.

*24 January* Gell and Mennel's experience in the 'Black Hole of Lille' has appeared as a picture in one of the illustrated papers.

War record Leeds Bantams 'The Little Men with Stout Hearts' just been published (17<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment).

*31 January* Local M.P. Mr A.R. Barrand addressed Ilkley Liberal Associations. Ilkley Labour Party in connection with Ilkley Trades Council held a Whist drive and ball.

Ilkley War Savings Committee £7,358-9s-6d for investing in war certificates up to the end of January.

*31 January* Theft of jewellery from Ben Rhydding Hydro and a quantity of jewellery valued at £350, the property of Blanche White of Wakefield, was taken by a man of no fixed address James Robertson (aged 76).

Private W. Myers spoke in Manningham regarding his experiences as a Prisoner of War in Germany – starvation rations, and tree felling and quarrying.

## ***February***

*7 February* 'Little Terror': week of the drama of circus life at Kings Hall Pictures.

*7 February* Sergeant Arthur Steel of Leeds and formerly of Ilkley is with the Army of Occupation near Cologne and has been awarded Meritorious Service Medal.

*7 February* Captain P.H. Walker awarded Military Cross and a bar (Wharfedale Howitzers).

Belgian Refugees Farewell Party at Kings Hall on 4 February. Most left Ilkley by train for Antwerp via Leeds and Hull on 5 February 1919. 48 left after 4½ years in Ilkley. There was a feeling of sadness as not many knew what state they would find their own country.

*7 February* Ilkley Urban District Council and incorporation proposal for Ilkley to receive a charter like Fleetwood, Dartford, Tipton and Oswaldtwistle. None have had to pay for the added dignity and increased powers by increased rates. Soon ratepayers can voice their opinions at a public meeting.

*7 February* Flying age and flying craze. Aeroplanes which have done duty as war planes are now offered for sale at a low figure and new ones cost little more than the cost of a good motor car.

*7 February* Commercial uses of flying machines are attracting attention. 'The Stray' at Harrogate has been suggested as a good place for passenger lanes between there and the East Coast. It has been considered as possibly being extended to Ilkley but there is no grass like 'The Stray' in Ilkley.

Ilkley Moor has been suggested as a starting point for trial flights to Beamsley Beacon.

*14 February* Gas explosion in an unoccupied shop in 'The Arcade' but no-one was injured. The gas accumulated through a leakage in the next door furniture shop.

Lieutenant S. Bellhouse, Leeds Howitzers, awarded Croix de Guerre (with palm) for gallantry in Rheims Wood on 3 July 1918. He lives in Ben Rhydding.

*14 February* Gunner T.W. Saunders died in a Nazareth Hospital circa September 1917. His tank was blown up by the Turks at Gaza in Palestine on 19 April 1917. The information came from a man who had survived in Saunder's tank: Lieutenant Corporal Featherstone of Brooklands, a returned Turkish Prisoner of War.

*21 February* 'What Gratitude?' Men who have fought and lost their jobs was raised at a meeting of Ilkley and District soldiers and Sailors Christmas Gifts Committee. Councillor W.R. Dobson said apprentices who had joined up at 18 were coming back as men of 22 to find themselves stranded because they were too old to continue their apprenticeships.

*21 February* Article on White Wells – a little of their history and the Council's improvement Scheme.

Proposal for tearoom development: the site selected is 60 yards to the south east of White Wells, just under the hill on which trees stand so conspicuously.

A tearoom 24ft by 18ft will have seating for about 60 people with a small kitchen attached and a veranda surrounding the building will be 6ft wide to provide shelter from rain. Building estimated to cost about £575.

*21 February* Returned POW's entertained to a supper by the council and a whist drive in Ilkley.

*21 February* Ilkley has already enjoyed Royal favour so far as in the granting of a Charter, for in 1252 Henry III raised Ilkley to the dignity of a market town by Royal Charter. Peter de Percy and his heirs may forever have a market on Wednesday weekly at his manor of Illeclay in the county of York, and a fair every year for eight days unless such an event be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and fairs. This

situation is bound to help if equal royal favour is bestowed by King George V and his Privy Council.

*28 February* Presentation to Father Faes, a Belgian priest refugee of Ilkley who helped Father Galli at the Presbytery and ministered as a general worker, spiritual comforter, adviser and friend of his own compatriots. Ilkley Urban District Council gave him a silver chalice and purse of money to return with him to his parish at Malines in Belgium.

*28 February* Competitive schemes suggested for Ilkley War Memorial Sub Committee. Sites:

1. Brook Street top
2. corner of The Grove and Bolton Bridge Road as contiguous with Spence's Garden
3. Top of West View on the verge of the Moors.

Three designs have been submitted: an Athenian temple; a Winged Victory and a Memorial Cross.

If Brook Street is chosen, something needs to be done about the appearance of the railway bridge. Land at the end of the Grove could be bought for £1250 and the late Miss Lucy Lund left £200 on the condition that this plot would be an appreciated asset in 50 years' time. It was agreed to adopt this site and advertise for competitive designs for the memorial.

*28 February* Private Haywood and Sergeant Earnshaw died from pneumonia.

*28 February* On Peace Night, bonfires are to be lit on all the high hills possible, the same as for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and Edward VII's Coronation.

Address on 'Causes of Industrial Unrest' given to Ilkley Women Liberals. One of the greatest causes was one man, one job all the time. Long hours and monotony of labour had a deleterious effect upon character.

## **March**

*7 March* Ilkley Food Control Committee agreed to fix the price of milk in the district at 9d per quart.

Kings Hall Pictures: 'The Wooing of Princess Tonia'.

National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors. Great sacrifices were made by many of the men who had served for King and Country and a promise had been made in 1914 that no man, woman or child should suffer through services rendered.

*7 March* County Council Election for West Riding for Ilkley Division. Mr Lionel Cresswell (Conservative) elected 1,091 votes. Mrs Lucy Reith (Independent) 507 votes. Mr Cresswell's majority was 581.

*7 March* Ilkley gentleman commits suicide in a Middleton Moor sheepfold by a bullet through the head.

40 German Prisoners of War at Skipton Camp have died of influenza.

*7 March* Late trains to Ilkley – complaints by passengers being help up in Burley for one or one and a half hours in a cold room or 'shed' with no information as to why provided. It is a scandalous shame that with fares at the present figure passengers are treated like this. No wonder influenza and kindred elements are rife when people have to wait in such cold and cheerless conditions.

*7 March* Returning Belgians complain of high prices. A Belgian lady who has been resident at Ilkley has returned to Antwerp and writes to say the price of food is three times as much as it is in England. Perhaps not three times as much, but the quality is such as to show the difference. Butchers meat is 18s per pound and boots are £2-10s to £3 a pair.

*14 March* Shoemith Walter Thirkell interred with military honours at Ilkley Cemetery. He died from pneumonia following influenza while on leave from Belgium.

No cheap trains for Easter break to health and pleasure resorts, but perhaps can run at Whitsuntide.

*14 March* John Thomas Barber died in Leeds aged 74, a well known writer and bookman. The author of one of the most popular Yorkshire dialect rhymes ever written 'Bramla Band' recited at innumerable festive gatherings in Ilkley by the late Abraham Riley.

*14 March* Amounts of labour provided by Ilkley District Council during the next twelve months: an inquiry led by the Engineering Inspector under the Local Government Board. For maintenance of the district's roads, it is estimated that the sum of £1,700 would have to be expended and that the work would employ 20 men for 22 weeks. On the main roads the estimated sum was £1,840 providing work for 20 men for 27 weeks.

*14 March* Domestic servant problem – a conference of Wharfedale ladies held in Otley regarding re-organisation of the terms of domestic service. Regarding wages, it was resolved to fix a weekly minimum of 8s 6d with higher wages to be paid according to ability. No decision was made regarding working hours.

*21 March* Unthreshed corn in Wharfedale partly due to the sale of horses and agricultural implements to take place shortly by order of the West Riding Executive

Committee. Farmers had had to plough up good meadow land to produce this corn and now they were unable to get machinery to thresh the crops.

*21 March* Advert: 'Owing to the demobilisation of men, Dean's at 13 Leeds Road Ilkley can now undertake boot repairs quickly'.

*21 March* 'Welcome Home from the War' social held in the Assembly Room, Wells Road Ilkley to welcome demobilised men. In connection with the Wesleyan Church and Sunday School.

*21 March* 'Ghosts of Yesterday': a fine play showing at Yorkshire Picture House.

Advert: 'A.J. Robinson, boot maker and repairer, Little Lane, Ilkley – business will re-open 24 March for normal business. I shall be pleased to receive favours from old and new customers'.

Incorporation Proposals. More information is needed about a Charter of Incorporation for the town. Government by municipal corporation is the highest form of self government in existence.

*21 March* Mr William Thompson's Otter Hounds will recommence hunting on the Wharfe this season as soon as the water and weather permit. No meets have been held since 1915.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes: Thrilling Story of Heroism. The Ordeal of Delville Wood in which many Ilkley men took part – at the Wood half of the men were killed by shell fire during the eight days they held the Wood, with four days relief at the end of the first four.

When they finally came out, only 78 men were left in the battalion.

*28 March* Letter to the Ilkley Gazette regarding incorporation. Ilkley possesses all the requisites necessary to make up a compact and self-contained borough. Unlike many other newly incorporated towns, Ilkley would not have to go to the expense of building municipal offices, having already very fine buildings for this purpose. Further, the town owns its own gas and electricity works, slaughter houses etc. In the 90 cases of incorporation, in no single case has an increase in rates occurred through incorporation and no town which has received incorporation in recent years has any desire to revert to its original status.

*28 March* 32 further Belgian refugees left by train to return home.

Recent Local Government Board inquiry says there is no need for a housing scheme in Ilkley. There is a scarcity of properties but it is no worse or as bad as in industrial areas, and with no steps to bring the housing scheme to maturity. Already plans have been prepared for the erection of 90 houses on a plot of 11 acres near Grange

Estate. There is a keen demand for houses up to £40 in rental. The only houses to let there are between £100 and £200 rental.

*28 March* Lady Nott-Bower gave an address on women police to members of the Ilkley Women Citizens Association. They would care and protect children and young girls; supervising places of amusement; be useful in patrolling parks and in checking for concealment of birth. Many blamed the parents for them running about in the streets at night, but this was hardly surprising as they had been closed up all day in a factory or workshop.

*28 March* Ilkley Urban District Council District rate increased from 4s8d to 5s6d. The cost of the advance of wages to working people following upon arbitration proceedings would amount to at least £5,000 a year which was equal to a  $\frac{1}{9}$  of the rate and represented 100% and in some cases 120% increase over the pre-War rate of wages. This meant an increased cost to the town of £6700 a year which was equal to a 3d rate. This represented a percentage of increases over pre-War salaries of 33% which was a considerable increase in expenditure amounting to something like £4,600 more than in the year just ended.

*28 March* Ilkley War Memorial: a monument to the Fallen and help for their dependents. After a detailed discussion, the following resolution was passed by a large majority:

‘That a memorial be erected and that public subscriptions be invited. The funds to be applied in the first place in the erection of a memorial to the men who have fallen, on a site to be hereafter decided upon, and secondly to be applied for the benefit of the widows, children and dependents of the men who had fallen.’

The land for the War Memorial was the property of Mrs Cooke of Summerfield, Ilkley and could be purchased for £1250 (a reasonable price). The Monument would probably cost from £2,000 to £3,000, so the whole scheme would cost about £3,500 altogether. Competitive designs are sought for the design of the monument.

Reverend H.J. Glennie said it should be a purely symbolic memorial and not one created out of self-interest.

*28 March* Advert for Deans and Mennell: ‘With both our principals having been serving with the Colours, our business had to be closed down, and we are glad to be able to inform you that having now been demobilised, we are resuming active operations’.

## ***April***

*4 April* Ilkley Grammar School Old Boy’s Association – a meeting to be held on 12 April to resuscitate the Old Boy’s Association and to consider the raising of a war memorial to the fifty old boys who have fallen in the War.

*4 April* Ilkley Rugby Club and the First World War. Playing members serving 98; killed 18; died 3; wounded 30. Honours: 1 Distinguished Service Order; 3 Military Crosses and bar; 6 Military Crosses; 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals; 2 Military Medals and 6 mentioned in dispatches.

Non-playing members serving 20; killed 4; died 2; wounded 5. Honours: 1 Distinguished Service Order and 1 mentioned in dispatches.

*4 April* Deputy Registration Officer held a court for revision of the voters' lists at the Town Hall yesterday.

*4 April* There will be a Wild West Exhibition and Mammoth Circus at Binn's Field off Leeds Road on 12 April. Action to include the world champion lasso thrower and the Royal Tokiwa, a family of genuine Japanese artistes who are without doubt Japan's greatest entertainers.

*11 April* 'Spinner O' Dreams': an entertaining romance of Old Lancashire at Kings Hall.

War Memorial – Joseph Cooper of Norwood House, Ilkley offered to purchase land at the corner of the Grove and Bolton Bridge Road and steps are being taken to convey the land to Ilkley District Council.

*11 April* James Cook, a stoker on HMS Suffolk has just received his Christmas parcel while in port in Hong Kong. The parcel followed him to Vladivostok, Yokohama, Singapore and Hong Kong – only the cake was inedible!

*11 April* Man allegedly stole £350 from a Wakefield lady staying at Ben Rhydding Hydro.

*18 April* Children's Holiday Home opened for the season yesterday when 26 children arrived from Leeds.

Roads cost more to upkeep. Pre-War limestone was 4s 5d per ton – now it is 7s per ton and still increasing. Tar 4d a gallon is now 6d a gallon. Roadmen's wages were 22s a week are now 46s 6d a week and an application for an increase of 10s has been received. Team labour was 10½d per hour and is now 2s per hour.

*18 April* War Agricultural Executive Committee did not intend to secure any further increase for this year's harvest – existing arable area to stay the same. However, it was desired that the arable area should be maintained unless restoration to grass was sanctioned by the Executive Committee.

*18 April* Mr Maurice Gaunt is elected first president of the reorganised Ilkley Grammar School Old Boys.



*25 April* Madame Lydia Kyasat, famous danseuse of the Imperial Russian Ballet appeared at a matinee performance at Kings Hall.

*25 April* Very busy Easter holiday with glorious weather.

*2 May* Marriage of Lady Blanche Cavendish, second daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire on Wednesday at the Guard's Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London to Captain Evan Cobbold of the Scots Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Lady Evelyn Cobbold of Ipswich. The Duke of Devonshire was detained in Canada by his duties as Governor General.

## **May**

*2 May* Ilkley branch of National Union of Equal Citizenship discussed Pensions for Civilian Widows – formerly the National Union of Women's Suffragette Societies.

*2 May* Welcome Home Dance in St Margaret's Hall for members of the Parish serving in the Army and Navy in the War and either demobbed or home on furlough.

A gathering of former members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment held at Listers Arms Hotel on Saturday with the object of considering some means of keeping alive the comradeship of war.

*2 May* Mr R. Peel, the ex Yorkshire County cricketer has taken up his duties as cricket coach and groundsman at Ilkley Grammar School.

*9 May* Ilkley Holiday Home for Children held an AGM at the Town Hall. The annual report showed that last year 237 children were cared for at the home between 18 April and 23 October 1918. Of these, 123 were from Leeds and gained 493½ lbs in weight, and 97 were from Bradford and gained 279 lbs.

*9 May* Captain T.H.B. Maufe celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 6 May. Church bells rang at the Parish Church in the evening and Bradford Chamber of Commerce formally sent him congratulations.

*9 May* Supplement of pleasant walks in Ilkley area and maintaining purity of water supply.

Olicana – excavations on the site of the Roman Fort. Preliminary examination of the remains is presently on progress. The object of the trench presently being dug is to locate the work of the two periods and to ascertain the amount and depth of the debris of the Roman period so that an accurate idea can be arrived at of the cost of completely excavating the site.

National Chamber of Trade annual conference held in Ilkley. It was originally due for Bradford but the Government still had requisition for some of the best hotels in Bradford and therefore Ilkley filled the gap. Church Parade and Annual Meeting: the

meeting was addressed by Mr G.H. Wardle MP; Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Labour.

George V sent a telegram conveying his appreciation of the local assurances of the conference. 500 delegates and friends attended the civic reception at Cartwright Hall, Bradford, then there was a motor tour to Harrogate and Knaresborough. Some delegates visited some of Bradford's textile works.

*9 May* Although there are busts of Carnegie and Collyer at the entrance to the library, no-one knows who they were, or are confused by them, so brass tablets placed on busts so people know who they really were.

*16 May* The Duchess of Devonshire with her daughter Lady Dorothy and son Lord Hartington is on her way to Canada to rejoin her husband, the Governor General.

*16 May* Several people complained about the dust in the streets and the absence of the water cart.

*16 May* Middleton Sanatorium to be further enlarged. Huts are to be built for 50 additional patients and necessary staff.

£10,000 is provided for the adaptation and equipment for Farnley Park camp to be allocated for the provision of additional accommodation for the treatment of tuberculosis patients.

*16 May* Public viewing allowed of the excavations of the Roman site: masonry, a portion of the outer wall of the fort, foundations of the rampart, paving, a stone drain and pieces of pottery.

*16 May* Ex-Service Men's Club – opening of new premises at Tower Buildings away from the Arcade. It cost £100 to furnish the new rooms – billiard room and table. There is the possibility of another room and billiard table, a canteen and a reading and card room.

*23 May* At the exhibition in the Winter Gardens of Ilkley Arts Club, Mr Leonard Wood gave a lecture after opening the show 'Art in Peace and War'.

*23 May* The Council agreed to take a poll on the question of incorporation: a ballot paper 'in favour of' or 'against'. Opposition possibly from three sources:

1. Possible opposition of Railway Companies as they will be liable to pay an increased proportion of local rates in the event of incorporation.
2. Link with West Riding County Council because of the possibility of the Council of the new formed Borough becoming an L.E.A.
3. It is stated that working men would be debarred from becoming candidates for election to the Borough Council, by reason of the fact that they 'would not have the necessary qualification as ratepayers or property owners. This is

misleading, as the possession of property or a railway qualification is NOT necessary.

The improvement of the condition of the roads, whilst important, does not affect the question of Incorporation.

*30 May* Ilkley soldier's death in Germany on 21 May in Cologne: Private Bernard Pickard of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers. He was in the Army of Occupation in Germany and based in Cologne. There are no details of his illness.

*30 May* Ilkley, a bracing and popular health resort, but suffering from a considerable drawback of an inadequate and inconvenient train service.

*30 May* Royal Oak Day: 'Royal Oak Day 29<sup>th</sup> May, if you don't give a holiday, we will all run away'. Yesterday, most Ilkley youngsters going to school were noticed to be either wearing or carrying sprigs of oak and the above 'quatrain' was repeated over and over again. After the Battle of Worcester in 1651 when Cromwell's army inflicted a crushing defeat on the Royalists, Charles II succeeded in evading capture by climbing into thick foliated oak trees in woods at Boscobel in Staffordshire.

## ***June***

*6 June* Ilkley Trades Council and Labour Party opposed to Incorporation.

*6 June* Moor Shelter Tea Room – after detailed discussion, it was decided to consider tenders for the erection of a public shelter and refreshment room near White Wells.

*6 June* Lieutenant Colonel Hayden DSO has been made an OBE. He was a Commanding Officer in the 9<sup>th</sup> West Riding Regiment in which many Ilkley men served.

Lieutenant Colonel John Henry Hastings Duncan receives an OBE. He lies in Middleton, Ilkley. Major R. Dobson of Rombald House also received an OBE. He was with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was an Royal Air Force Medical Officer.

Captain R.C. Dobson of Ilkley (Royal Garrison Artillery) is awarded the Military Cross.

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) G.B. Yoxall 6<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire (T.F.) is awarded the Military Cross. He is from Parish Ghyll Road, Ilkley.

Sergeant R. Powell, Division 245 West Riding Brigade, is awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Ilkley Battery Wharfedale Howitzer is awarded a distinction on the Western Front.

*13 June* Mr F.S. Eckersley, Clerk to Ilkley District Council, is awarded the Order of St Sava, V Class (Chevalier) by Serbia for calling attention to the needs of the Serbian people. A handsome sum was raised in Ilkley for the Serbian people.

Captain (Acting Major) H.T. Bates (Royal Army Medical Corps) (T.F.) is made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services in France – doing surgery at the casualty clearing stations. He is the eldest son of Dr W.R. Bates of Ilkley.

Glorious weather at Whitsuntide (as at Easter), delightful conditions and big crowds.

*13 June* Magistrates warned of the dangerous nature of Ilkley Road where it passes through Addingham and later on discussed additional expenditure on this scheme.

*20 June* Coming Peace Celebrations meeting to discuss tea for children which Mr Sidney Kellett J.P. of Middleton Lodge has offered to provide.

Extension alterations to Passenger Train Service came into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1919.

*20 June* Flag Day in aid of the French Red Cross raised £63-6s-2d and one for the Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers Association raised £32 3s.

Dr A.J. Fleure, University of Wales, gave a speech in Ilkley: 'Given a reasonable population, incorporation would surely mean increased power to protect the district's amenities from the dangers of industrial individualism'

*20 June* Problem with sewage smells at Crum Wheel corner on the Middleton side of the river.

*20 June* News that Germans are prepared to sign the Peace Treaty received in Ilkley very quietly soon enough to shout when the Treaty is actually signed.

*27 June* Announcement made on screen at Kings Hall Picture Show: some cheering but no demonstration in streets. United Service procession to the top of Brook Street where the National Anthem is sung; sports and games at East Holmes Field and brass band and Ilkley Municipal Orchestra.

No fireworks due to light evenings and the idea of a bonfire on the Moor abandoned owing to potential damage.

*27 June* Vote for Incorporation on 21 June 1919: 489 persons against the Proposal. Out of the 3,112 electors entitled to vote, 1,067 recorded their votes and of that number 773 voted against incorporation and 284 voted in favour – a majority against of 489.

*27 June* War Memorial: Walter H. Brierley FSA, FRIBA acting as the assessor of competitive designs for the memorial which a limited number of leading architects were invited to send in.

Memorial comprises laying out and planting of the site of the public garden and erection of a monument to perpetuate the memory of the men of Ilkley who lost their lives in the War. The cost is not to exceed £3,500.

Sale of Denton Park Estate. A portion which belonged to the late M. D'Arcy Wyvill, the central portion, has been sold privately to the Rt. Hon. A.H. Illingworth the Postmaster General who lives there. The eastern part was sold to Mr Hunter, a Bradford solicitor for a client for £14,000.

## **July**

*4 July* Field Day festivities on behalf of the Labour Party took place on Holmes Field – sports, brass band and dancing.

Ilkley Peace Celebrations – all men who served with the Forces are invited to Tea in Kings Hall accompanied by wives or mothers. Tea, Dance and Whist Drive, and the Municipal Orchestra will be playing.

*4 July* Peace Treaty signed (very quiet in Ilkley) and the announcement was placed on the board outside the newsagents shop. Flags were hoisted from the Town Hall and other buildings and a few private residents displayed flags and streamers, but no enthusiasm manifested not even by youngsters. The Parish Church bells rang and there was a special thanksgiving service at St Margaret's Church.

*4 July* A vivacious young lady dressed in breeches, puttees, regimental cap and leather driving coat and gloves was summoned to court on 20 April for driving a motor cycle in a dangerous manner in Ilkley and failing to produce a driving licence. The speed was 30 mph. She had been driving with the forces in France. She was fined £1-19s with 1s costs for dangerous driving and 5s 6d with 1s costs for a second offence. Total cost: £2-6s-6d.

*11 July* Ilkley Grammar School boy dies J.E. Barrett of Otley from over-exertion in the swimming pool. This led to the Old Ilkley Grammar School reunion cricket match and swimming races being abandoned. Two golf matches on the Moor Links went ahead as planned.

*11 July* Sunday Evening Concerts at Kings Hall. Difficulty dealing with crowded audiences – seats reserved during the week.

*11 July* Further excavations at the Roman Fort.

*11 July* Sergeant A. Brown awarded Meritorious Service Medal.

*18 July* Tea at Kings Hall.

Children's Sunday Schools.

Mass meeting at the top of Brook Street.

3pm: Procession of Ilkley Brass Band: Brook Street, Church Street, Bolton Bridge Road, The Grove.

Disperse for tea.

4pm: Aged folks tea: Winter Gardens and Town Hall.

5pm: Sports and games in East Holmes Field.

7pm: Cinema Exhibition at Kings Hall.

Children each receive a medal and the day finishes with a fireworks display.

Stoney Lea Hydro Peace Celebrations.

Peace Thanksgiving Services ordered by Royal Proclamation.

*18 July* North Eastern rail strike now affected trains on the Ilkley line.

*18 July* Ilkley Pavilion: 'The Planets' – a variety company in the charge of Mr Graham Roberts who have proved very successful during the present week at the Pavilion.

Beacon fires on Ilkley Moor.

Memorial to former Ilkley bell ringer and Vicar of Ilkley William Snowden, and dedication of his memorial tablet.

*25 July* Ilkley Roman Fort – story of the excavations and editorial.

Purchase of Ben Rhydding Bridge. Ilkley Urban District Council are seeking the cooperation of West Riding County Council and Wharfedale Rural District Council with a view to purchasing Ben Rhydding Bridge from the toll. It can be purchased for £1,000 and Ilkley Council are preparing to pay £600 towards this sum.

The unfinished composition by the late Sergeant Edgar Earnshaw, the first movement of a string quartet, was performed at the Municipal Band Concert in Kings Hall. He was a wonderfully gifted pianist and composer and his untimely death at 25 followed years of hard fighting in the trenches.

*25 July* Lieutenant Colonel Rabagliati MC who represented the Royal Air Force on Armistice Commission at the Spa has been awarded the decoration Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by the French President.

Poem: 'March Past of Our Heroes'.

*25 July* Miss D.S. Brierley , only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Brierley of Heber Cottage is one of the nurses mentioned by Sir D. Haig in his last dispatch. She spent 3½ years as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse in France. Amongst others mentioned Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Hastings DSO, OBE of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment and Lieutenant C.G. Maufe 1<sup>st</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

*25 July* Peace celebrations in Ilkley and District amidst great rejoicings on 18 and 19 July 1919. Many buildings were covered in streamers (brightly coloured) and flags big and little were everywhere.

*25 July* Ex-servicemen entertained. Municipal Orchestra played at a United Service at the Parish Church. Mass gatherings and a procession at the top of Brook Street. School banners pretty but only one bore an inscription appropriate to the occasion. Singing of English, American and French national airs at the top of Brook Street and the National Anthem. Tea for children and aged folks. Sports: children and adults races and tug of war; Morris dancing; climbing a greasy pole; and fire balloons of ordinary and zeppelin shape got well away. Many fireworks. Beautiful crown figured in electric light. Beacon fires in other districts could be widely seen despite the rain setting in. Jazz band at Wharfedale School, Ben Rhydding; muddy reel arch at Burley and Ministry tea for old folks and returning ex-service personnel.

Professor F.J.C. Hearnshaw M.A. LL.D., Chairman of Medieval History at London University and author of 'England in the Making' and with a long connection with Ilkley, dies His father was in the Wesleyan ministry and retired to Ilkley and his sister was the wife to Mr R.S. Dower.

## ***August***

*1 August* Members of the National Association of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors held the first annual sports and boxing tournament on Holmes Field. Ilkley Brass Band played various selections.

*1 August* Mark Hambourg, one of the most brilliant pianist of the day gave a recital at Kings Hall.

Ilkley Urban District Council special meeting to consider the advisability of raising the price of gas consequent upon the increased price of coal. The Council recommended that the cost of gas be increased from 4/- 3d per 1,000 cubic feet to 5/- 3per 1,000 cubic feet, an increase of 9d. Coke would be increased in price from 30/- to 36/- per ton. These changes will be operative from 1 July 1919. For those using slot meters, the price would be 1d for every 16 feet or 5/- 2d per 1,000 cubic feet.

On the housing question, the Council recommended to proceed with the erection of 28 houses fronting and abutting Leeds Road as soon as possible.

*8 August* Local Food Control – worry over rising milk prices and cases of over-charging for food. There were concerns about profiteering amongst us and meat that went rotten in transit.

As the King has expressed a wish that schools should be given an extra holiday to commemorate the signing of the Peace, Ilkley Grammar School will reopen on 24 September instead of 18 September 1919.

*8 August* Desecration of Calvary at Middleton Lodge where people had carved their name.

A need for public conveniences in Ilkley for visitors and the public generally.

War honours – how Captain Lupton won his Military Cross and bar, and how Major Petrie won his Distinguished Service Order, and the story of Lieutenant Ambler's Military Cross.

*15 August* Death of John Henry Dawson, Chairman of the directors of Wilkinson & Dawson Ltd, Builders, Joiners and Undertakers of Bradford and Ben Rhydding.

*15 August* A gentleman from Leeds staying in Ilkley remarked on the large number of Jews in the town. He had hoped coming to Ilkley would have got them out of sight and mind for a time.

*15 August* Grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor brace of 140 on 12 August and 73 on 13 August. On Middleton Moor, brace of 131 on 12 August.

*15 August* Letter to the Editor: 'holding a limited competition among a small number of architects selected by an outside assessor, however eminent, is most unjust. I could understand limiting a competition to local men and understand that holding one can open competition. Whether the Committee like it or not, their action has deliberately debarred from submitting designs a number of local ex-servicemen who have the best right of all to compete.'

*22 August* War memorial assessor W.B. Brierley of York attended the Town Hall to examine designs.

Holidays on the Moor – the summer joys of an inland resort. Daily Mail special correspondent says four to five thousand visitors are here in the holiday period. Ilkley has never been so full. Londoners and Northumbrians are especially fond of the Wharfe Valley.

*22 August* A neglected Roman altar in the garden of an unoccupied house at the corner of West View and Crossbeck Road. The altar had been flung down and is lying on its side. Surely Ilkley Museum should secure its possession and put it on show.



*22 August* Kings Hall manager to be appointed.

*29 August* Interesting lecture by Windyridge' author W. Riley on 'The Moors and Moorland Folk'.

James Dickinson aged 84 was knocked down by a motor car opposite Listers Arms Hotel and died on the way to the hospital.

Plays 'John Glayde's Honour' and 'Freedom of the Sea' put on at Kings Hall by Mr Leonard Lawrence's company.

*29 August* War Memorial: Mr Brierley has approved a design by Mr J.J. Joass of London showing a monument plain but dignified and of graceful and impressive proportions, surmounted by a very appropriate memorial urn. It will be a four-sided stone column with the names of the fallen on bronze panels. The total cost will be £3,500, £775 of which is absorbed by the monument, £300 by the bronze panels and £150 by the gates.

*29 August* Ilkley Monkey Rack Club – here 'old codgers' and young ones sit and discuss public matters. Someone poking fun and asking people to attend the meeting of the Monkey Rack Club at Monkey Rack Club on Monkey Rack. Those who qualify for membership include retired tradesmen, insurance agents etc., and the Club's objectives are:

1. To pull from together the Council.
2. To criticise persons passing the Monkey Rack.
3. Any gossip which can suitably be dealt with by washerwomen.

## **September**

*5 September* Brevet: Major Rabagliati resigns his commission. He joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7½ years ago, was awarded a Military Cross in the Royal Flying Corps, and the French Chevalier d'Honneur. He is the great nephew of the late John Bright, his mother being a niece of the great statesman and reformer.

Seven designs for the War Memorial are now on view in Kings Hall Annexe. The Ilkley Gazette prefers the Statue of Victory.

*5 September* Ilkley District Council letter from Colonel Huntriss with reference to the presentation to Ilkley of war trophies captured from German armies by the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The Chairman of the Council is to see Colonel Huntriss on this matter.

*12 September* Play 'The Marriage of Kitty' produced at Kings Hall.

New rationing scheme – if his or her grey reference booklet is not handed in, it should be left at the Food Office at the Town Hall on 13 September. He must fill in

the necessary details and take it to the grocer or butcher between 22 September and 27 September. From his retailer he will receive his shopping card.

*12 September* Professor Moorman, Chairman of English Language and Literature at Leeds University drowned in the River Wharfe at Hawkswick, Upper Wharfedale. while on holiday with his wife and children. At the time, he was teaching his young daughter to swim. His daughter was in difficulties in the water and the Professor who had a weak heart tried to rescue her but died of heart failure caused by exertion and low temperature. Professor Moorman was a well-known dialect researcher.

*19 September* Food shortages are worse in the agricultural districts than in Ilkley. Price of milk there is 6½d to 7½d per quart but in an agricultural district it is 11d a quart.

Poem: 'Ilkley'.

## **October**

*3 October* 'Fatal Orchid' principal film at Kings Hall.

Leeds Workpeople's Hospital Fund agreed to purchase Crossbeck (Ilkley) Convalescent Home for £2,750.

Ilkley District Council: captured German guns for Ilkley from certain members are being sent to the West Riding. One councillor believed that Ilkley should have two guns – an extra one because Ilkley possessed a Victoria Cross.

*3 October* Railway strike caused problems: people getting to work and disorganisation of the Postal Service. A motor charabanc service started to operate between Ilkley and Guiseley and Bradford.

The strike led to the Ministry of Food reducing allowances per head of various foodstuffs. New allowances: sugar 6oz; butter 1oz; margarine 4oz; lard 2oz; bacon and ham 6oz; cheese 2oz; jam, jelly, marmalade 4oz; tea 2oz; meat 1/- 8d worth. Retail price of milk now 8d per quart and it is calculated that 600 quarts per day would be needed for children. Price of rabbits 9½d per lb raised to 10½d per lb. 15 head of cattle and 50 sheep had been obtained.

*10 October* Rail strike ended 5 October 1919 – started 26 September 1919. Railwaymen promised a minimum wage of 40/- which is equal in value to £1 in 1914, rail clerks £200 to £350 a year and station masters £350 plus.

*10 October* One of Yorkshire's leading Concert Parties 'The Tykes' appearing at Ilkley Pavilion.

*10 October* Professor Grant, Head of History at Leeds University gave a lecture on 'Athens' to members of Ilkley University Extension Society.

*10 October* Suburban business has benefited by increased railway fares.

*17 October* French honour for Colonel J.H. Hastings DSO, OBE. He is to be an Officer of the French Legion of Honour.

Judge Romer Macklin ceasing to be County Court Judge in parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. He is moving to a similar position in the Home Counties.

*24 October* Branch of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives formed in Ilkley.

High Court of Yorkshire of Independent Order of Foresters meet in Ilkley for the first time since 1911.

*31 October* Six hundred German officers and men held for so long in captivity at Raikeswood Camp near Skipton left on 27 October 1919 to return home. They left via Hull for Germany. Glad to see them go as British manufacturers and the working man did not want their connection in trade and labour in the UK as in pre-war days.

Serbian War Honours – presentation of Red Cross Decoration to F.S. Eckersley, Mrs Illingworth, Mrs Smith and Mrs Armstrong. The presentation was made in Ilkley Council chamber to the Serbian Consul for Yorkshire .

## ***November***

*7 November* Bonfire night in Ilkley nothing like its pre-War attractiveness. Not many bonfires in Ilkley and intermittent letting off of fireworks.

*7 November* Ilkley Congregational Literary Society lecture on 'Wages Problem' – economic pull on society of certain classes of labour was today forcing up prices.

*14 November* Solemn Requiem Mass at St Margaret's Church for 'The Valiant Dead'.

*21 November* Appeal launched by Ilkley War Memorial Committee for a sum of not less than £6,000 to carry out War Memorial scheme decided upon.

*28 November* Coal price to be reduced by 10/- a ton. Ilkley Urban District Council have reserve stocks amounting to over 200 tons accumulated since 6/- per ton import came into operation.

*28 November* Ilkley man fined £2 with £1 costs for driving a motor car in a dangerous manner in the centre of Bradford. He was driving at 20 mph and collided with a horse wagon in Kirkgate.

## **December**

*5 December* A scheme to be established by the Board of Education to run Ilkley Grammar School from February 1920.

*5 December* Ilkley District Council acquired a yearly tenancy of Holmes Allotments at the rental of £10 per annum and fixed rent of each of allotment occupiers to be 6/- per annum, more than double what they are at present paying.

Ilkley District Council agreed to hand over £200 left by Miss Lucy Lund to the War Memorial Committee, as the land for the Memorial had been purchased and handed over to the Council by Mr Joseph Cooper of Norwood House.

*12 December* With the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Front – an interesting address by Dr Crawford.

*12 December* Letter to Leeds Mercury to say that West End near Ilkley is a village of empty houses.

19 December Ilkley Branch of the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers has received notification that £1.5 million is to be given to the ex-servicemen of Yorkshire and to be known as the 'United Services Fund'.

Ilkley District Education Sub-Committee is very pro the idea for a proposed girls secondary school in Ilkley. Around 60 girls leave the town by train to go to schools in the local area.

*24 December* Ilkley Howitzers 11<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battery – reunion dinner in the town.

## **1920**

### **January**

*2 January* Proposals to secure an improved train service between Ilkley and Bradford.

Wharfedale Music Festival Changes – but will never lose sight of the encouragement of music for its own sake and the discouragement of mere 'pot hunting'.

A Christmas bee – a queen bee which had flown into an Ilkley greenhouse on Tuesday 31 December 1919 was caught there alive.

*9 January* By using Ilkley stone for Ilkley houses, a claim that over £12,000 can be saved.

*16 January* Ilkley and District Chamber of Trade new title for the Ilkley Tradespeoples Association.

*23 January* Considerable difficulty in securing a sufficient amount of coal to keep Gas and Electricity works going. The bulk of the coal has to come from the Northumberland and Durham coalfields.

*30 January* Dedication of Ben Rhydding memorial by the Rector of Guiseley to the memory of Lieutenant William Smeeth (1895 to 1917) Royal Irish Rifles and Royal Flying Corps He was educated at Davis Preparatory School, Ilkley Grammar School and Loretto.

## ***February***

*13 February* Worst flood in Ilkley for 37 years - large tracts of Wharfedale under water. Ben Rhydding bridge submerged for the first time and huge lakes formed at Ilkley. A rapid rise in water levels occurred in Ilkley and golf links and tennis courts were inundated. At the Old Bridge the height of the flood could be compared with the high water mark of 1866. If the storm had continued and another 18 inches of water added, a good deal of Middleton would have been flooded.

*20 February* Ilkley man awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for devotion to duty in a Prisoner of War typhus stricken camp in Germany. He fought at Mons and was taken prisoner at Ypres on 11 November 1914.

## ***March***

*5 March* Plot of land for Pool War Memorial.

*5 March* Ilkley War Memorial – works sub-committee appointment.

*5 March* German gun for Ilkley. The Formidable '5.9'. There has been allocated to Ilkley and has already arrived at Goods Yard a German gun. Intimation was received from the West Riding Territorial headquarters that a 6-inch Howitzer Gun and Carriage has been allocated to Ilkley by the Lord Lieutenant of the County.

*12 March* A suggested limited liability company for developing Ilkley. Ilkley is run for ratepayers and its ratepayers are therefore trustees of one of nature's picture galleries and recreation grounds. We should do nothing therefore to mar the natural attributes of the district but let Ilkley Development Association be turned into a limited liability company with all interested in or likely to benefit by certain specific developments participating as shareholders.

*12 March* The public of Ilkley will have an opportunity of seeing displayed for the first time in Ilkley the battalion flag of the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, the headquarter French Flag and the Kings Colour at a ball and whist drive in the Kings Hall and Winter Gardens.

*12 March* St Margaret's War Memorial – it has been decided to erect a Calvary Cross as a memorial to the men of St Margaret's Church, Ilkley who had fallen in the War.

*12 March* The Ilkley War Memorial monument is to be in Portland stone. The work could be undertaken within the original estimate of £3,500.

*19 March* County Minor Scholarships . Concern expressed in the region, about questions asked of 10-year old children in papers set by West Riding County Council and that children are going five hours without food or rest. Baildon's Education Committee has urged the county council to hold examinations on more humane lines. In arithmetic, a choice of 8 questions out of 11 is set to be done in 80 minutes. Then children aged 10 to 12 are asked to write an essay on the possibilities of the defence of Zeebrugge without the aid of land forces.

*19 March* Public notice about Ilkley War Memorial. The Committee acknowledges with thanks donations totalling £5,182-1s-6d.

*26 March* The proprietors of the Ilkley Free Press (Messrs William Walker of Otley) have purchased 'Ilkley Gazette' from C. & M. Shuttleworth and from 22 March will be incorporated with Ilkley Free Press under the style 'Ilkley Free Press and Gazette'. 'The newspaper will publish full and accurate reports of the events of the week; whole frankness and fearlessness will be the key notes of its comments'.

## **April**

*1 April* At the meeting of the Wharfedale Farmers Union at Otley, anomalies in regard of what prices to charge for meat, were used as arguments in favour of abolition of control in the farming industry.

*9 April* Eastertide at Ilkley – large crowds despite cold weather. An overcoat and mackintosh holiday as it was seven degrees cooler than Easter 1919.

*16 April* Carter fined 10s for having no control over a horse and cart in Ilkley and later found in a nearby pub by police.

*16 April* Captain George Brown Hillman is awarded the OBE for his work as the Medical Officer for Ledston Hall Auxiliary Military Hospital. He is the eldest son of the late Rev. S.D. Hillman who was the pastor of Ilkley Congregational Church for 25 years. Captain George Brown Hillman joined the Royal Army Medical Corps at Castleford, and Army duties took him to Malta for two years. His organising abilities won him warm approval. He married a daughter of Mrs Henderson of Oakburn Road, Ilkley.

*23 April* Buy 'Victory War Bond Policies' by instalments before the end of May. First Government draw July 1920. If you hold a £100 Victory War Bond Policy and you get

your draw this year, you will gain over £90. Drawing takes place every July. Premiums cease at death or if the bond is withdrawn.

*23 April* Man fined 5s for allowing his horse to stray on the highway. The horse probably escaped from its stable.

## **May**

*7 May* Proposal for a delay in completing work on the construction of a shelter and a tea-house on the moors as not enough houses have been built in the aftermath of the First World War. This proposal was defeated at the Ilkley Urban District Council meeting as the tea-house will be completed long before the new houses will be erected.

*14 May* Mr F.S. Eckersley who for over four years acted as secretary to the Ilkley Belgian Hospitality Committee has just received a signal honour from the Belgian King 'Medaille du Roi Albert'. The medal came from the Belgian Embassy in London.

*21 May* Ilkley Parish Council Proposed War Memorial. The names are desired of all officers and men who have fallen in the War who attended the Church or were residents in the Parish. Will relatives please communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary Mr A.A. Matthews, Hollin Close, Ilkley.

*28 May* Washburndale honours its ex-servicemen with a memorial at Fewston Church.

## **June**

*4 June* Ilkley Council – opposition to the extension schemes of Leeds and Bradford.

*5 June* Ilkley man rescued a lady visitor from the stepping stones at Bolton Abbey, by using his long stick for her to grab.

*11 June* Ilkley War Memorial ex-servicemen promoting locally their land scheme at a crowded meeting. A further delay in building the Ilkley War Memorial on a plot of ground at the corner of The Grove and Bolton Bridge Road as a result of the high figure quoted in the only tender. A possibility, if all fails, of obtaining voluntary labour to do at least part of the work.

## **July**

*2 July* Second year of excavations on the site of a Roman fort on behalf of Yorkshire Archaeological Society due to begin on 5 July 1920. Many finds were made in the previous year's work in 1919.

*2 July* Ilkley man George Walmsley, formerly a clerk at Ilkley Gas Works, is now the works manager at Londonderry Gas Yard. An exciting time in the recent riots in

Londonderry, when at great personal risk, he contrived single-handed to maintain the gas supply as long as it remained in the holders.

*9 July* Ben Rhydding parish memorial to be in the form of a stained glass window in the East window of the Parish Church. Owing to the expense of a large window, the Committee responsible for carrying out the memorial are contemplating a smaller window.

*23 July* Annual Conference of Urban District Council's Association held in Ilkley on 17 July and a common theme was the urgency and difficulties of housing problems.

*30 July* Ilkley Grammar School: 214 scholars in 1919 and so far this year 228.

Ilkley roads in a poor state, e.g. The Grove looks as if it is 'crossing mountains and valleys'.

## **August**

*6 August* Ilkley Golf Club – a big increase in lady members. Memorial window dedicated at St Margaret's - a gift of Mr & Mrs S. Kellett of Myddleton Lodge.

*6 August* The River Wharfe has overflowed its banks for the first time in living memory during the month of August.

Sermon at Ilkley Parish Church – the role of the church in relation to the League of Nations is to see the supremacy of the moral law.

*13 August* Earl Haig appeals to ex-servicemen to support a scheme under discussion to use these men to help accelerate the national housing programme.

*13 August* Ilkley branch of the National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors state that arrangements have been made with Great War Veterans of Canada to help all the members intending to emigrate to Canada.

*20 August* The West Riding of Yorkshire has seen a reduction of 50% in the number of unemployed ex-Servicemen in six months but still 233 ex-officers are in need of work.

*20 August* War memorial. Original scheme proposed by Mr J.J. Joass has proved very costly and the War Memorial Committee has placed under consideration a modification of the original design. In the modified scheme, much of the effectiveness of the original is sacrificed and the Committee are very loathe to agree to alterations, therefore there has been no decision as yet.

## **September**

*10 September* Old Battlefront – visit to Wharfedale men's positions. 'When Westende and Middlekerke were in German hands, these seaside resorts were



favourite targets for the guns of Ilkley and Otley batteries during their stay at Nieuwpoort in 1917. The effect of their shellfire had left both these places little more than brickfields.

*17 September* Addingham War Memorial unveiled – impressive sermon by Rev. W.G. Findlay.

## **October**

*1 October* Bandsman Frank Noble, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, son of Mr & Mrs Henry Noble of 3 Wilmot Road, Ilkley, gave evidence at the inquest of three men who met their deaths in street fighting in Dublin on 26 September. Three were killed as they were collecting bread rations in a lorry. Noble was hit in the ankle by a bullet. Twenty men attacked the lorry (presumably Republicans).

*1 October* St Margaret's Church Calvary Cross for a war memorial for worshippers who fell in the 1914-18 War – erected on a piece of land to the west end of the Church at a cost of circa £500.

*8 October* In the entrance hall of the Congregational Lecture Hall and in the Wesleyan Assembly Hall have been placed framed documents bearing the inscription 'During the Great War 1914-19 this building was established and maintained as a hospital for the British sick and wounded. The Army Council express great thanks on behalf of the nation.'

*15 October* Wharfedale Rural District Council: rural rates reduced 6d as an example to others.

Colonel Whiteley C.R.A. 49<sup>th</sup> Division paid a visit of inspection on 13 October to the Ilkley Drill Hall, the Headquarters of the Ilkley Territorial Howitzer Battery. He inspected the excellent equipment and guns in possession of the Battery and expressed himself as extremely satisfied with what he saw.

*22 October* Ilkley Wesleyan Church – unveiling of the War Memorial at an impressive service on 17 October. Birt Boddy, Walter Bradfield, John H. Coultas, William Darnborough, Charles Ellis, James Ellis, Jason Foster, Gordon G. Green, Thomas Healey, Thomas W. King, Baden Lambert, Geoffrey A. Lupton, Allan Moiseley, Edgar Philpott, Ronald Sheard, William Waggitt, John Waggitt. All were members of the congregation and church.

*22 October* Five generations at Ilkley – great, great grandmother to great, great granddaughter. An honour to nurse one's great great granddaughter has fallen to Mrs Thomas Martin of Castle Yard, Ilkley. Her OAP papers state she is 84 but her 'christening' certificate says she is 87.

22 *October* Two youths, one aged 13 and the other 16, charged with stealing a bar of chocolate and 10 pence; and a 'difficult' boy aged 12 charged with stealing 11 eggs from a hen cote. All were bound over under the care of the Probation Officer for 12 months.

## ***November***

5 *November* Ilkley War Memorial – payments to dependents commenced and led to financial relief in many homes. The basis of the payment is an allowance 2s 6d per week for every child under 16 years of age and 5s a week to dependent mothers (mothers who were dependent on the earnings of unmarried sons). Payments backdated to 1 January 1920 and will be made quarterly. 36 children and 6 others are on the Committee's list making 42 in total and a sum of £247, the first three quarters of which have already been distributed and will be paid by the end of the current year. As the children reach the age limit of 16, the amount will be reduced year by year, until by the 14<sup>th</sup> year, the sum paid will be only £13.

## ***December***

3 *December* Airman's letter to his Ilkley wife saying he no longer wanted to live with her. He was about to go to India via Egypt for a few year's military service in the Royal Air Force and had been away most of the First World War. She pleaded in vain with her husband, and was granted a decree of restitution of conjugal rights against her husband.

3 *December* A plea for better lighting in Parish Ghyll which currently looks like a dungeon.

3 *December* Many street lamps are being deliberately damaged in Ilkley.

10 *December* On Saturday 4 December a record 741 volumes were issued from the Library and Book Club – indeed a one day record.

23 *December* A wireless installation is being set up at Ilkley Grammar School and work will be completed hopefully next term.

## **1921**

### ***January***

7 *January* Denton Road, Middleton to be widened to uniform width of 45ft.

14 *January* Rev. B.P. Robin and Miss Glennie. Ilkley curate marries vicar's daughter. An interesting ceremony at St Margaret's.

*21 January* Article on lost walks around Ilkley including Sunningdale, Doubler Stones, over Roman roads, by field paths to Bolton Abbey, in Nesfield Dene and around Denton.

Derivation of name Whingate Nick – the point at which the monks of Bolton Abbey first saw the convoy bringing the wines and so it became Winegate Nick.

Doubler Stones – set due North and South. Their peculiar formation caused by weathering effects of strong winds and sand on two qualities of rock. The mushroom surface was hard rock but the other portion had been worn away by continual impinging of particles of stone.

George Thompson, labourer of Ilkley fined 20s for using obscene language on 15 January.

## ***February***

*4 February* Ilkley Urban District Council Housing estimates rejected by commissioner. The scheme had been for 106 houses and now consideration by the Surveyor has to be given to a reduction in the size of the houses.

Colloidal clay soap is manufactured in Ilkley (the discovery of which is one of the romances of the soap trade and is known to comparatively few people) at the Alpha Mills – the old corn mill in Railway Road – by a company trading under the name of Loftine Ltd.

Founded by Mr Langley Shaw, principal of the firm and formerly a well-known New Zealand sheep farmer and wool expert. In New Zealand he observed native women washing blankets and other woollens, and found the blankets to be clean and soft to the touch but also peculiarly 'lofty' – light and fluffy. He was shown a lump of moist, grey looking earth, which one of the women said was Maori soap. 'HEI HOPE MAORI ANO, KIHEI HE MEA PAKEHA'. It proved to be a distinctly saponaceous clay – aluminium silicate. Mr Shaw saw this as a wool scouring medium – he found that when surplus moisture dried out the clay became absolutely snow-white. It had a body capable of forming an actual substitute for soap material, therefore a soap was prepared in finely powdered form and of practically neutral quality that is free of caustic or corrosive action.

A feature of this particular colloidal clay soap is that fabrics washed with it retain their shape and speedily recover their natural condition. It cleans the dirtiest of garments and is unique in the treatment of delicate fabrics especially silks. It has antiseptic healing properties and a softening effect on the hardest of water, rendering it an adjunct to a hot bath.

*11 February* Ilkley officer in Irish ambush. Captain F.W.P. Williamson of 'Arnleigh', 6 Eaton Road had a thrilling experience in an ambush laid by Irish rebels at Ballinalee

when the rebels sprung an electric mine. A fight followed in which six British soldiers were killed. Others were wounded and the remainder continued in battle until their ammunition was exhausted when they surrendered. At the last moment they were rescued by the Black and Tans. This was possibly the first use by Sinn Feiners of a road mine. Williamson and another man were the only two not killed or wounded but had to surrender after firing all the ammunition they had. They were prisoners for 30 minutes and the Sinn Feiners were about to shoot them when the Black and Tans arrived and the Sinn Feiners fled. Captain Williamson was wounded a month before in an attack on the barracks. He was hit in 49 places with a shot gun discharge, 37 of them being in the face.

Capt Williamson came back to the UK with the body of a Lieutenant Commander killed in the raid, but even when they were landing at Holyhead, a party of Sinn Feiners who had followed them over fired on them as they were leaving the boat.

*25 February* Ilkley branch of the Ilkley and District League of Nations Union formed at a meeting in St Margaret's Hall (covers Burley, Denton, Middleton, Nesfield and Addingham).

*25 February* Forfeited medals to be restored. The Army Council have decided to restore all DCM, MMs and MSMs and other war medals which have been forfeited by soldiers since 4 August 1914 except in those cases where a court martial sentence of death or discharge from the Army for grave offences has been carried out. Gratuities attached to medals, if not already paid, will be paid on restoration of the medals and pensions attached to medals will be restored.

## **March**

*4 March* Rev. H.J. Glennie, Vicar at St Margaret's, spoke on the sins of today. Two prevalent sins since Armistice Day have been and still are fornication or sensuality and covetousness, or the love of money:

1. Vast numbers of people have let themselves go who had held themselves in strict discipline and self-control. The longed-for liberty and freedom from necessary service have passed into licence and self-indulgence, especially in the lusts of the flesh.

2. Everyone in every class began to think of victor's spoils. What pickings are we going to get out of the war? Have strikes of all kinds and concerted movements of every description for bettering everyone's material position, together with no small amount of illicit profiteering become the order of the day? Sensuality and covetousness are rampant everywhere.

*4 March* Letter to editor complaining about overcrowding on the Grove by cars and carriages. It will cost thousands of pounds to widen.

*11 March* Ilkley man accused of obstructing the highway between Burley and Ilkley by riding a motor cycle and side car on the wrong side of the road. He was fined 40s plus 20s costs.

*24 March* New questions on 1921 census: number of children; parentage; number of living rooms in the house; if marriage dissolved by divorce; place of work and whether employer or employee. Questions relating to physical and mental disability no longer appear on the form.

## **April**

*1 April* Vicar of Ilkley, Canon C.J. Hamer, appointed as the editor of the first issue of the Bradford Diocesan Year Book.

Terrible weather on Easter Monday – mediocre Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Day but glorious weather on Easter Tuesday compensated.

*15 April* Mr Eames, Ilkley Grammar School Master, gets an OBE. He joined the Army in 1915 as a sergeant in the Royal Engineers and went to France in September 1915 where he was wounded and invalided home. He did research work at Porton Camp.

*22 April* Northern region of the Library Association meet in Ilkley, and amongst the many talk titles, the one which stands out is 'Yorkshire Moorlands: a recent fiction'.

*22 April* Ilkley Orphanage and Children's Home closed in 1921, having been opened in 1881. The building is now occupied by a Defence Force Unit including part of the local Howitzer Battery.

## **May**

*13 May* An earth tremor with thud and rattling of doors and ornaments occurred at 1pm. It was very pronounced in St John's Road and people came out of their houses to ascertain the cause. It was just a split in the earth's surface or the renewed movement of an old one.

*20 May* St Margaret's War Memorial unveiled by Dr Perowne, the Bishop of Bradford (a Calvary Cross in the grounds). It includes 21 names of the war dead.

*27 May* Ilkley Grammar School speech day. Mr E.C. Petrie spoke about the Empire as the most essential part of the wider community of the League of Nations. Unlike most Empires, the British one did not rule by force.

## **June**

*10 June* Efforts to preserve the moor paths of Wharfedale as ancient rights of way. Paths include the Timble to Langbar and the bridle path from Denton to Blubberhouses.

## **July**

*15 July* Mrs Peggy Wilkinson married Mr Frank Dunk of Ben Rhydding Hydro in 1895 at Stoney Leigh in Ilkley. Now living in Nottingham as Mrs Edward Henry Smith-Wilkinson with her husband, she is now one of the wealthiest women in the world due to the inexhaustible wonders of her wardrobe dubbed the Countess of Monte Cristo and allegedly more dresses than possessed by Queen Elizabeth – a Russian sable coat worth £15,000 and a chinchilla coat insured for £8,000.

Mrs Wilkinson is said to have spent £1 million in Paris. Ungracious rumours say she is 58 years old but she states she is only 46. Her second husband is Harry Piker. She made judicious investments in the war which could be now worth anything. Mrs Wilkinson has a couple of real gold bath tubs.

## **August**

*5 August* Open air 'moorland service' held in the Bandstand at West View Park – 1,200 attended from Congregational, Friends, Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist.

*5 August* A group of ladies and men undertook an all night tramp from Saltaire to Fewston by way of Shipley Glen, Rombalds Moor and Denton Moors with an al fresco meal in Denton at 2am. Their path was most difficult through Rocky Valley and by Cow and Calf Rocks.

*19 August* Ilkley Gas – increased cost in manufacture by 300%!

*19 August* E.M. Smeeth of Ben Rhydding has played cricket for Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI versus Northumberland. Yorkshire won by 9 runs. He scored 1 and 20 in two innings.

Ilkley's population in the 1921 census: 9,105 (was 9,145 in 1911). Wharfedale Union population in 1921: 65,376 (was 61,733 in 1911).

## **September**

*9 September* Ilkley Urban District Council – only half the street lamps to be lit. Full lighting cost sixpenny rate. £11,000 for electricity mains and meters. Sanction granted without a local enquiry.

*9 September* The cyclist's rear lamp is now a thing of the past. Regulations enforcing cyclists to carry red rear lamps came under the Defence of the Realm Act

which expired on 31 August, the official end of the war. Motorists and cyclists now revert to pre-war conditions.

The lighting up period is now from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise instead of half an hour in each case as under the Defence of the Realm Act.

*30 September* Bronze tablets bearing the names of the Ilkley men who fell in the war, which will now form part of the Ilkley War Memorial, have arrived and the work of putting them in place is being done.

### ***November***

*11 November* Will Ilkley's electricity plant be scrapped? No further extension to the present works. Purchase in bulk recommended only if economical.

*18 November* Addingham War Memorial, unveiled on the 13 November by Lieutenant Corporal John Smith, was chosen by ex-servicemen of the village

## 1922

### **January**

*6 January* A proposal that Ilkley should take a practical part in the raising of a fund for a wedding present from the County to Princess Mary was brought before Ilkley Urban District Council. A book would be prepared with a list of subscribers. There was discussion about a personal gift or contributing to a fund. The amount placed at her disposal in any fund was according to Princess' advisors to be divided among charities and other similar constitutions.

*13 January* Ilkley prices: Traders and charges of profiteering. Dealers defend milk at 8d even though it is in a milk producing area. 'Daily Mail' points out the problems in discussing price rises and profiteering in various parts of the country. A councillor's wife in Ilkley, with regard to meat prices had paid 2s 4d a pound for best steak in Ilkley 'far too high'.

Ilkley tradespeople resent the 'Daily Mail'. Ilkley people demand best quality and comparisons of prices of these with prices of poorer qualities elsewhere does not fairly represent the position. The Daily Mail reporter states 'cutting undoubtedly has been proceeding at Ilkley as elsewhere, but pressure and comparison of prices by housewives is still urgently needed'.

*13 January* Last season was the most successful in the history of Yorkshire Cricket Club. It's annual report said the total profit was £3,225. Owing to the visit of the Australians, record attendances were registered. 323,013 people paid to see matches in Yorkshire.

*20 January* Ilkley under snow. Wharfedale swept by a blizzard. Delights of tobogganing, e.g. down Hangingstone Road from Highfield Hotel almost to the Town Hall if the police had not intervened because of possible danger to traffic and pedestrians. Later, there were court appearances and proceedings taken for tobogganing down Wells Road on a Sunday. Fifteen young men and women were ordered to pay costs. Police said there had been letters of complaint about tobogganing on the highway.

Depth of snow 9¼ inches – a fall equivalent to 0.77 inches.

*27 January* Three nurses from a Bradford hospital lost on the moors whilst walking from 'Dick Hudson's' to Ilkley. They were caught out at night, reaching Ilkley at 11.30pm. With the help of the police they secured a taxi to Bradford.

### **February**

*10 February* Ilkley residents seek further enlightenment on Ilkley Urban District Council's proposal to extend the portion of their district to include a portion of the



Middleton area. Possible opposition from Wharfedale Rural District Council to this view. Critics thought that Ilkley council were only concerned about how many people could get into Ilkley by one means or another and only wanted Middleton to provide lodging hoses for Ilkley residents.

*10 February* At a meeting of Ilkley and District OAP Committee, three claims were allowed for the full amount of 10s per week.

*10 February* Again, calls made for the restoration of the pre-War 10.05pm Ilkley to Leeds train.

*24 February* Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital: donations give a surplus on the year's working. Annual subscriptions less than 1/- per head. Proposed extension of operating theatre.

*24 February* War memorial payment contributions to the widows of men who fell in the war on behalf of their children under the age of 15. Payments commenced on the 1 January 1920 and each widow receive 2s6d per week for each child under that age. The sums so paid out in the year 1920 amounted to £241-2s-6d and for 1921 to £206-17s-6d. These payments continue until the youngest child is 15 years of age.

## **March**

*3 March* General rejoicing at the marriage of Princess Mary on 28 February 1922.

*17 March* Record rate increase – a leap at Ilkley from 6s to 7s6d in the pound – equivalent to 8s6d rate spent in 1921. High costs of roads, sanitation, gas and cemetery cited.

*17 March* Work on Ilkley War Memorial will probably be completed by Easter. Memorial Committee have called the attention of the architect and contractors to the fact that after every downpour of rain, water lodges on the flagging at the back of the memorial and work be put in hand to remedy this defect.

*17 March* Mr F.H. Humphris of Grove Mount has presented the Committee with a chestnut cast from a tree at Verdun during the memorable siege. This is to be planted on the memorial site.

*31 March* Report on the 1921 Census – West Riding will be the third report in the UK to be published after London & adjacent counties and Lancashire.

## **May**

*5 May* Norman Tennant A.R.C.A., son of Mr G.C. Tennant, Wells Road, Ilkley has had an etching entitled 'Caledonian Market' hung in the Royal Academy.

*12 May* Otley War Memorial unveiled in Grove Hill Park.

*12 May* Letter to the Editor: Sunday golf on the Moor – protest to Ilkley Council. Will public rights be curtailed? Protest letter by local ratepayers. A protest, in any case, at playing golf on the Sabbath (day of rest).

*12 May* Letter to the Editor: concern that Sunday concerts no longer have ‘specifically’ sacred music as they did before the War – now music includes waltzes, ragtime, a march, a dancing suite, a nautical march and comic opera!

*19 May* Two early summer moorland fires in Hebers Ghyll and near the Crocodile Rock.

## **June**

*2 June* Ilkley rate collector sentenced to six months imprisonment on charges of embezzling various sums amounting to £198-19s-7d. The defendant has been in the employment of Ilkley Urban District Council for seven years or so as an assistant overseer and rate collector.

*2 June* Death of Hendrik Willem Scholder. He died at Clan-y-don, home of his daughter in Ilkley, at the age of 83. He has been a regular summer visitor to Ilkley for the past 16 years. He held an important appointment at the Royal Court of Holland, and was responsible for the whole of the coaches and saddler of the Royal Suite and preparation for Dutch state occasions.

*16 June* Malton and Ryedale hounds to come to the River Wharfe for otter hunting on 26 June.

*16 June* Well-known comedian Mr G.P. Huntley visits Ilkley with his latest sketch ‘Wallpapers’.

## **July**

*14 July* Decision of Middleton ratepayers not to amalgamate with Ilkley Urban District Council area.

*21 July* Ilkley War Memorial will be unveiled this Sunday 23 July at 3.30pm. Next Wednesday 26 July was the date originally fixed for this, but owing to difficulties which have arisen, it will now take place this weekend.

*21 July* Band season re-opens under the direction of Miss Mary Hollins, of the Ilkley Municipal Orchestra.

*21 July* Kings Hall pictures ‘The Queen of Sheba’.

*28 July* ‘Strike Emergency Edition’ of the Ilkley Gazette due to a strike by members of The Typographical Association (employed by Federation of Master Printers of the

United Kingdom and the Newspaper Society) over wage reduction in the printing industry.

## **August**

*25 August* Soap and clothing for Russia Day - £7 raised through Friends Emergency Relief Committee.

## **September**

*8 September* George Rhodes Bottomley of Ben Rhydding and Bradford marries Olive Ingham of Middleton near Ilkley at Bolton Abbey.

Dr Crawford on how to make the best of Ilkley , in particular its natural advantages.

*22 September* 'Black Hats v White Hats' – delightful weather for the famous Ilkley tradesmen's annual match. A growing spirit of carnival.

## **October**

*6 October* 'Woodbine Willie' Rev. G.A. Studdart-Kennedy delighted and impressed a large audience at Guiseley Town Hall when talking about his wartime experiences.

*13 October* Healthy Wharfedale – only one death in three months.

*13 October* Writer to Newcastle Weekly Chronicle says of all the war memorials in the UK, 'there is no one I like better than that at Ilkley'.

*20 October* Ilkley Urban District Council meeting refuses to allow intoxicants to be sold in Kings Hall and Winter Gardens.

## **November**

*17 November* General Election result 15 November 1922: won by Conservative with a Conservative majority of 79 seats. For Pudsey and Otley Division F.H. Fawkes (Squire of Farnley Hall)(Con) 12,396; Arthur R. Barrand (Lib) 8,439; Percy Myers (Lab) 5,818. Conservative majority 3,957. 80% poll. Conservative gain from Liberals.

*24 November* Problems with trespassers on the route from the Swastika Stone to Windgate Nick – in a letter to the Editor. Boards had been interfered with and walls knocked down. Talks between the landowner and Ilkley Urban District Council regarding a stile and an agreed path.

## **December**

*22 December* Ilkley's new motor fire engine named 'Thomas' in honour of Thomas Dean (Fire Brigade Committee), the brigade superintendent in the area. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evolution of Ilkley's equipment. Ceremony at the Town Hall.

## **1923**

### ***January***

*26 January* A rare bird, a fine, large brown owl in a tree near Myddleton Hotel on Skipton Road.

### ***February***

*2 February* Captain M Gordon MC of Ilkley promoted to Major in charge 275<sup>th</sup> West Riding (Bramley) Battery RFA (TF).

*9 February* Ben Rhydding Sports Club – three day bazaar in Ilkley's Kings Hall was opened by Major F.H. Fawkes MP. The club breaks down social barriers. The object of the bazaar was to raise £1,000 to clear off the debt incurred on the purchase of their sports field. Kings Hall was transformed into a street in a Japanese city.

*16 February* The wool industry in the West Riding – a brighter outlook. Unemployment in the industry reduced to the levels of 1913 and coal industry is also getting back to 1913 levels. The area had tremendous natural resources (inference perhaps that commute towns like Ilkley could benefit from such upturns).

*16 February* Old Comrades Association formed of the members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment held their annual meeting at the Rose and Crown Hotel. A dinner is to be held to bring together the old battalion members in surrounding districts.

In the War, the 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes split up considerably. Of the men who had formed the original battalion in 1914, scarcely two dozen were left in the same battalion at the close of the War. This was due to various reasons – casualties men being transferred to other units and through men often being wounded being sent to all kinds of units and centres.

*23 February* A pilgrimage through Northern France – terrible consequences of the war. Etaples the resting place of 11,500 British soldiers is particularly moving.

### ***March***

*9 March* Ministry of Health inquiry at Ilkley into Ilkley Urban District Council's application for the removal of Mr Henry West from the office of sanitary inspector opened on 3 March and closed on 6 March 1923. An all over charge of neglect as the sanitary condition of Ilkley was not of the highest.

*16 March* White headed blackbird seen in Hangingstone Road.

*16 March* Housing problem still remains acute in Ilkley, especially regarding the building of council houses. Some praises of private builders housing but this does not in any way meet demand.

*16 March* Ilkley rates reduced. £6,000 less for ratepayers to pay next year. 6d off the district rate, 8d off the poor rate. Cheaper gas and £1,000 profit. Cost of Ilkley's administration £38,200.

*23 March* More pied blackbirds attracting attention.

*29 March* Moorland Path – right of way. For some time, there has been a discussion whether a public right of way exists along the crest of Ilkley Moor from Swastika Stone joining up the path from the West which terminates well outside the Ilkley boundary at Noon Stone and by means of which a hill top walk could be secured all the way to Doubler Stones on the Silsden side of the Moor.

## **April**

*6 April* Electricity works on Little Lane – complaints from local residents about the noise and smoke – this could be removed as hinted if the Ilkley Works ceases as a generating station.

*27 April* Dr Rudolf Steiner is to visit Ilkley in August to address an educational conference.

## **May**

*4 May* Passionist Father's Monastic Retreat opened.

*4 May* Duke of Wellington's Regimental Memorial Chapel to be dedicated at a service in York Minster on 12 May.

*16 May* Mr W. Martello Gray of St John's Ilkley possesses a stamp collection which is described by a writer in 'The Times' as one of the finest in the country after that of the King. Mr Gray's collection has been on view at the London International Stamp Exhibition.

## **June**

*1 June* Horse pulling a milk float partly sinks through a hole in Wheatley Lane, Ben Rhydding caused by a burst water main. Eventually, with help, the mare was able to free herself.

*1 June* Annual conference of the Pudsey and Otley Divisional Liberal Association calls for unity in liberal ranks.

*8 June* Ilkley and District Council – all wages and salaries to be reviewed in September and proposals for a superannuation scheme.

*15 June* Ilkley postman T.R. Bradley retires after 40 years in which in part he was head postman. In 1883, he was one of the first two men engaged after the inauguration of the Parcel Post and its arrival in Ilkley.

*22 June* Ilkley footpaths. Disputed way Hebers Ghyll to Windygate Nick and Doubler Stones (disputed area is Swastika Stone to Noon Stone). Protests at a public meeting against threats to the path. Evidence of path usage for 51 years. Footpath Preservation Society re-formed.

*29 June* Mrs Rabagliati spoke at the annual meeting of the National Womens' Citizens Association in London in support of the declaration that any restriction of the right of married women to work was an infringement of the liberty of the subject.

## **July**

*6 July* Ilkley electrical engineer asked to resign over the alleged failure to prepare a scheme to purchase electricity in bulk and convert the present generating station into a distributing station. The needs of the coming winter had to be taken into account.

*13 July* On the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the great flood in Ilkley in 1900, a consistent heave wave temperature of 78° has been recorded. With it, a bad thunderstorm causing 36 inches of rain in a short period.

*27 July* 'Growing initiative in school life' was the message from Alderman P.R. Jackson at Ilkley Grammar School speech day in Kings Hall.

*27 July* Ilkley and the Census – record proportion of servants and a favourable position in 'overcrowding statistics'. 89 domestic servants for every 1,000 of the population. This was due to it being a residential and health resort with many hydros. Room accommodation per house 6.73 (second only to Saltburn in Yorkshire).

## **August**

*3 August* 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades Association annually entertains children of the Ilkley men who fell in the War and this year in poor weather they visited Knaresborough.

*17 August* Sheep worrying on Ilkley Moors – police follow dog for a mile.

*24 August* The Queen paid an informal visit to Farnley Hall this week.

*31 August* Jewish summer school at Heathfield School in Ilkley for two weeks linked to Inter-University Jewish Federation discussed ideals for pioneers plus nationalism and Zionist movement.

## **September**

*7 September* Ilkley man Mr H. Bateman has been in Japan in Kobe since July this year – concerns for him after the earthquake there.

*14 September* Worry over wood exports tax and unemployment in the trade.

*21 September* Otley Show – concerns over waning interest.- perhaps move the event to Whit weekend in June in 1924? Ideas to revive young stock show held in the autumn until 1922 taken no further.

*28 September* Death of Captain F.J.F. Cullinan MC, former 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington officer killed in Yokohama earthquake on 1 September 1923 having only returned to the city from a tour in the interior of Japan the previous day. He had been in Japan for three years working for the Rising Sun Petroleum Company. By 1919, he had become the only original officer still with the Battalion. He won the Military Cross at the Bluff in March 1916. He had visited Ilkley in connection with his military duties.

*28 September* Concern over the lack of cold storage in modern houses.

## **October**

*12 October* Local MP addresses meeting at Ben Rhydding about current political questions and government efforts to solve the housing problem. Mrs Rabagliati made some stringent comments about Socialist Sunday Schools: 'they preach sedition and libel'.

*19 October* League of Nations – Ilkley arguments for and against. By 35 votes to 14, members of the Debating Society at their opening meeting of the winter session in the Grove School defeated a motion expressing the opinion 'that the League of Nations is a failure'.

## **November**

*16 November* General Election is to be on 6 December 1923. Conservative majority 2,207. Sir F. Watson (Con) 11,537; Percy Myers (Lab) 5,499 and Sir J. Tudor-Walters (Lib) 9,330. Liberals are the only party to increase their vote. 80% poll in total.

*23 November* Hammonds Bradford Brewery purchase shares in Ilkley Brewery.

## **December**

*14 December* Ilkley Gramophone Society formed.

## **1924**

### ***January***

*24 January* Denton lady makes fruitless effort to save friend; and she rushes to London. The former headmistress of Denton Council School, Mrs Amy Brooks rushed to London to try and prevent her friend, Mr Charles Hepburn, a departmental official at Marconi House, from committing suicide. He was depressed financially.

*11 January* Originator of Spoonerisms, Rev. Dr. William Spooner, Warden of New College, Oxford, is to retire on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is the father of Mr W.W. Spooner of Ashbrook, Ilkley and is fond of spending his vacations in Ilkley.

*11 January* 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades Association provide tea and a trip to see 'Aladdin' for the children of Ilkley men who fell in the War.

*18 January* Ilkley Chamber of Trade agree at their meetings to spend more time discussing the affairs of the town, rather than only looking at the interests of Chamber members.

*18 January* Election expenses for December 1923 General Election: Sir Francis Watson (Con) £868-4s-11½d; Sir J. Tudor-Walters (Lib) £1060-0s-9d; P. Myers (Lab) £225-4s-2d.

*25 January* Major R.F. Lansdale has left the 5<sup>th</sup> Yorkshire Regiment with permission to retain his rank. Full subaltern in the old Volunteers in 1905; captain in the Territorials in 1914 and field officer in the Great War in 1917.

### ***February***

*1 February* School terms in the West Riding – proposed new plan of a six term year postponed until after 31 March next.

*1 February* 1923 rainfall for Ilkley: 45.33"; 1922 rainfall for Ilkley: 37.30"; 1921 rainfall for Ilkley: 30.48"; 1920 rainfall for Ilkley: 37.41"; 1918 rainfall for Ilkley: 44.56".

*8 February* Express desire of Middleton residents to be included in Ilkley. Urban District Council indicated in the minutes of the finance committee – negotiation should begin with Wharfedale Rural District Council.

*8 February* Fascinating talk with slides of an attempt to fly to India and beyond by Geoffrey Malins, Major Blake and Norman Macmillan (visiting lecturers to Ilkley). Their plane was eventually wrecked in the Bay of Bengal and the three men survived until three days later when they were rescued – they had clung for life to one of the floats of the upturned seaplane.



*13 February* An ex-serviceman's institute in Ilkley is five years overdue. The President of Ilkley's British Legion stated that "such an institute is overdue as many ex-servicemen are not organised. Soon, the institute will become more of a reality but it needs public support. It will be undenominational and non-political."

*29 February* 'On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At' has been translated into Esperanto.

*29 February* Yorkshire Master Painter's Federation hold their annual meeting in Ilkley.

### **March**

*7 March* An ever-increasing demand for accommodation at Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital. Most of the patients are in there for surgical reasons.

*14 March* Kings Hall: can the hall be made to pay, even to pay off its loan? The current loss on the Hall was £700 which was equal to a 3d rate. No more pictures to be shown. The Hall is to be closed down after the Music Festival in May and redecorated throughout.

*21 March* Workers' Educational Association is to hold an annual holiday week in Ilkley in June 1925 (organised rambles and other social events and occasional evening lecture). Conversely, the intensive, serious study is done at Saltburn. The main business of the Workers' Educational Association is 'to make men and women think for themselves'

### **April**

*4 April* Ilkley Angling Club turned into the river near the Golf Club house 1,000 two year old fish from the rearing pond in Terrace Ghyll, Middleton.

*17 April* Genealogy of Vavasour family. Albert Carter Vavasour, Wharfedale Rural District Council Chairman dies. Genealogy traced back to 1066. The former seat of the Vavasours was Weston Hall near Otley, probably built in the reign of Henry VIII or Queen Elizabeth.

### **May**

*2 May* James Bradshaw (19) of Parish Ghyll Road is bound for Christchurch, New Zealand with a party of public school boys to learn farming. On 2 October 1925, he was killed by a falling tree at a farm at Gisborne aged 20.

*23 May* Addingham National School scholars visit the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, laying a wreath at the Cenotaph during their visit to London in honour of the men from Addingham who fell in the Great War.

23 May Ilkley Arts and Crafts Exhibition held annually is dead due to a lack of interest from the younger generation. Hobbies and homecrafts are dying out – years ago they had such things to tide over the winter months. In those days, no entertainments, no pictures, no theatres and no dances as we know now. There was more home life, as people spent the evenings at home occupied with this sort of work.

## **June**

20 June Mr Gledhill takes up scholastic appointment under the Southern Rhodesian Government. In the First World War, he was a lieutenant in the Royal Air Force. He was on board a troopship torpedoed in the Mediterranean and narrowly escaped being drowned.

## **August**

1 August Swimming competition: Two lengths: Ronnie T. first; and third in Ghyll Royd Scouts Relay race – Eagle Patrol (R.T. and D. Philipp and G. Fletcher).

15 August At the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley, Yorkshire Scouts, upset by not being included in the programme owing to many items by overseas students and Scottish dancers, broke into the concert with the song 'On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At' and they sang it right through with a large number of verses.

22 August Mr Arthur Henderson, Home Secretary has spent a week resting at Wells House Hydro. He visited Owen Bowen's studio at Collingham Bridge and liked his drawing of the Vale of Mowbray.

29 August Ilkley Urban District Council's Electricity Department, with a view to developing the use of electricity in the homes of Ilkley, have organised an exhibition of domestic electric apparatus. Demonstrations of electric cooking, washing, ironing, vacuum cleaning and heating.

## **September**

5 September Reg Leyland, a London entertainer, entertained a number of visitors staying at Wells House. He is known as the one-man concert-giver.

800 are out of work due to a falling off in the textile trade. Figures are double in the Wharfedale district.

19 September A travelling hawker from Lancashire known as 'mothballs' found dead on the moor between Askwith and Denton.

## **October**

*31 October* 18,593 pennies were spread on the ground around the fountain at the top of Brook Street on 25 October. The money raised s for Leeds Medical Charities.

General Election 29 October 1924. Sir Francis Watson (Con) 14,090; Percy Myers (Lab) 7,001; Ernest Woodhead (Lib) 6,545. Conservative majority 7,080. 80% poll.

## **November**

*7 November* G.W. Thompson resigns from Ilkley postal service. He began as a messenger boy in 1887 and is a prominent social worker.

*28 November* Two Skipton men sent to prison for a series of house break-ins in Ilkley an district.

## **December**

*12 December* Ilkley Grammar School boy awarded the second prize in books in the Royal Colonial Institute Essay Competition Class A (£2-2s).

## **1925**

### **January**

*16 January* Indian's body found on Ilkley Moor at Backstone Beck. John Mohamed Khan, a British subject of Indian descent aged 45 lived at 28 Brewery Road and served in the Army in the First World War. He married an Ilkley girl Miss Burrell. He was unemployed but had estates in India. His death was due to natural causes.

*23 January* Commander Arthur Gerald Harris appointed to HMS 'Impregnable' as a special war staff officer to Commander-in -Charge Commander A.G. Harris RN.

### **February**

*6 February* Ilkley Urban District Council: street lighting to be changed from gas to electricity. A loan for housing to be raised from the Public Works Loans Board – in other words 'Ilkley money for Ilkley Housing.'

*20 February* R.J. Courtney of Ben Rhydding who discovered gold and staked out claims in Central Africa has formed a syndicate under the title of 'The Big Game Group Mining Syndicate'.

*20 February* Pastor B. Lipschutz, a Jewish missionary from Manchester spoke on the persecution of Jews to an audience in the Wesleyan Schoolroom.

*27 February* Ilkley Coronation Hospital: 20 years of valuable work, but more annual subscriptions are needed to meet the increasing demands.

*27 February* Memorial tablet unveiled to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant J.W. Snowden in Ilkley Parish Church: 'In the honourable and affectionate memory of Joseph Whitfield Snowden aged 20, the only son of Edward and Ellen Snowden, who as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Worcester Regiment was killed in Mesopotamia on Sunday 25 February 1917.

### **March**

*6 March* 'How Music Grew in the Historical Sense': a lecture by R.W. Evans to Ilkley Gramophone Society touched on contrapuntal music, the coming of harmony, sonatas and symphonies and Mozart's versatility.

*6 March* Ilkley man on the way to China and Japan. F. Bernard Heare (wool representative for a Bradford firm) caught in a four day hurricane in the Irish Sea on the way from Liverpool to Montreal via Queenstown. He found it very frightening but is okay and is continuing on another vessel.

*13 March* Major Geo. Ewart Rhodes of the Regular Army Reserve of Officers Royal Engineers, son of Mr W. Rhodes of Ilkley, attended the King's service at St James Palace on 10 March. He is an Executive Engineer in the Public Works Department of the Indian Civil Service and he sails for India tomorrow after a nine-month stay in England.

*20 March* Dr Lucy Harris ,an ex Ilkley resident, gave an address in Ilkley about her experiences having been on missionary work in China since 1899. At a hospital in Western China, she had to cross no-man's land in China's civil war. There is still a long way to go to achieve Christianity for all of China.

*20 March* Tender sought for over 40 houses in Ilkley.

*27 March* Strong support for the League of Nations even if the Protocol proved altogether a failure. The MP Sir Francis Watson said that the United Kingdom had not signed the Protocol to avoid estranging America (who could be persuaded to join) and also it was viewed negatively by the Colonies especially India.

### **April**

*17 April* Ilkley's Easter blessed with fine weather. Large crowds and increased traffic.

*17 April* Letter to the Editor from 'Pimple': the general cost of living in Ilkley is much higher than in any other surrounding district. Nevertheless many makes can be bought in Ilkley at the same price as in an industrial area.

*24 April* Ilkley Education Committee is to press for the provision of the long discussed Secondary School for Girls in Ilkley.

*24 April* New hard tennis court laid at Ben Rhydding Sports Club: cost £114

*24 April* Poem 'The Round of Life' by Bishop of Norwich.

## **May**

*8 May* Ilkley as a play centre for many years but the provision of sport has been left to the organisation of the players concerned. Municipal developments are occurring for public access to swimming pools, tennis courts and bowling greens. The provision of facilities for public games in a health resort is a forward movement which will bring the town into line with other holiday places.

*15 May* Progress has been made in the construction of a path from Tarn to White Wells.

*22 May* Fine weather favours Otley show – crowd of 10,000 on the second day.

*22 May* Joint scheme between Ilkley Chamber of Trade and LMS Railway Company to raise a fund for advertising Ilkley as a health resort.

## **June**

*5 June* Ilkley man fined for receiving 194lbs of lead knowing it to have been stolen from Denton Hall. Fined £5.

*19 June* Problems over the ownership of Denton Moor bridle path, delay repairs.

## **July**

*31 July* Ilkley man's radio invention – substitute for high tension battery direct from the mains. Developed by two Ilkley men Mr Stanley Dobson and Mr W. Barraclough. The cost saving is considerable £1-4s per year. It can power up a 10 valves set from an electric light socket.

## **August**

*7 August* Oldest resident in Ilkley dies one month before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*21 August* Dr William Barker (ex Ilkley Grammar School) is Professor of Chemistry at Rhodes University at Grahamstown, South Africa, aged 24.

## **October**

*9 October* Ilkley lady, Miss Catherine Margaret Fox marries Viktor Max Weygand of Berne, Switzerland, at Westminster Cathedral in London.

## **November**

*20 November* Ilkley Book Club - since 1908 foundation the Club has passed on 5,460 volumes to Ilkley Library.

*20 November* Ilkley Urban District Council – Ilkley's roads cost 150/- more than in 1922.

## **December**

*4 December* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the Old Olicanians.

## **1926**

### **January**

*1 January* Absence of 'mumming' over the Christmas and New Year period throughout the West Riding.

New Act starts this week which affects Ilkley – securing assistance for widows and orphans and the promise of increased comfort for old age.

General national worry over what might happen in the coal-mining industry – charged with doubt and anxiety. Hope of reviving trade may be utterly destroyed unless there is a satisfactory settlement between the two sides.

*8 January* Sheep worrying at Ilkley – complaints raised at Otley today in court cases.

*15 January* When carting stones down Queens Drive from Panorama Woods to Ilkley on Monday a lorry was burnt out after skidding into a bank.

*22 January* R.W. Evans secondary Maths teacher Ilkley Grammar School, makes a point in a letter to the Gazette: 'define the parameters for allowing or not allowing sledging on steep roads in Ilkley.!'!

*29 January* With the inclusion of the new Middleton Ward in the Ilkley Urban area and the division of the old East Ward into two (East Ward and Ben Rhydding divided by Backstone Beck) - the new ward division (each to have two representatives). For the new Middleton Ward, two representatives – 15 members of the full Council and not 12 as at present.

*29 January* At Otley Court, two cases in which Ilkley parents summoned with regard to bad attendance at school of their children. One was fined 10s and the other ordered to pay costs.

## **February**

*5 February* Ilkley Urban District Council Meeting . New departure in housing raised at the meeting. 44 new houses are to be erected on a housing site – specifications have been prepared and tenders invited. A new departure as previously invited contractors were asked to send in their own designs, plans and specifications. This time they had not asked the Surveyor to get out plans. Heating – a new style: there would only be one fireplace in the house and the other rooms would be warmed by water radiators from the ‘Cookanheat’ system. This would insure all-round cleanliness and overall a reduction in the cost of heating.

£4,650 scheme for water mains to Middleton land also to be bought for swimming baths.

*12 February* Addingham Parish Council – damage to war memorial ‘a sin and a shame’ – some graffiti has even been done by children.

*19 February* Successful Bridge drive in Ilkley on behalf of Leeds University Appeal Fund: £40 raised.

*19 February* Son of former head of Ilkley Grammar School (Mr Frederick Swann) Dr Meredith Swann died on Tuesday from blood poisoning contracted when performing a post-mortem examination. He was only 32 and a former Ilkley Grammar School pupil.

*26 February* Matron of Coronation Hospital Sister Winifred Gorham died along with her newly born daughter in the Hospital.

## **March**

*5 March* Ilkley Hall estate (purchased by Ilkley Hall Gardens Co. Ltd in 1898 from the late Mrs Grove Grady and there was on the boards at the time that it should be repurchased from the company by the Ilkley Council). In addition to the Ilkley Hall residence, the estate includes 7 acres and 6 perches of grounds. At a public auction, the sale of the property was withdrawn at £7,450 – then it was rumoured that the property had been sold by private treaty at a figure beyond that.

*19 March* ‘On Ilkla Moor Baht ‘At’ has been sung in many countries in many different circumstances, but the Yorkshire Rotarians who are touring South Africa sang it in the depths of a Rand gold mine.

*19 March* Mr J.C. Scott. War time reminiscences in the old 11<sup>th</sup> (Ilkley) Howitzer Battery. Felt like heroes – fought at Ypres and then in the final push in 1918.

*26 March* Talk by Mr F. Whelan, League of Nations Union representative at Geneva, addressing the Ilkley branch of the Union on the work of the League of Nations and

on the admission of Germany into the League of Nations at some time in the future. The League could become a permanent success if the people of the world willed it.

## **April**

*9 April* Record Easter – enormous crowds on Ilkley Moors – glorious weather for the first bank holiday of the year. 30,000 passengers were despatched by train from Ilkley on Easter Monday. A record number of tickets were collected at Ben Rhydding station. Temperature on Maundy Thursday was 60°, Good Friday 65°, Saturday 63°, Sunday 65°, Monday 65° and Tuesday 65°.

*9 April* River pollution – technical advisers report on the River Wharfe. Negative effect on fishing especially of effluent from Ilkley sewage disposal works. From the headwaters to Ilkley, it was reasonably pure but then between Ilkley and Pool there is an amount of organic impurity sufficient to tax fully the legitimate capacity of the river to self cleanse .

## **May**

*14 May* Mr Thomas Buck of Menston dies aged 102 (born 18 October 1823; died 9 May 1926) after having a seizure in his garden. He was the first Wharfedale centenarian since the death of Mrs Elizabeth Watson at Leathley in 1898 at the age of 103.

*14 May* The termination of the General Strike was heard with profound satisfaction and was quickly communicated to others. In one or two cases it was posted up for the public to read. Railwaymen stayed out on strike due to trouble over reinstatement terms. Thinking men among trade unionists are thinking more clearly that the Strike has been a failure. Trade union leaders who called for the Strike are now engaged in trying to explain away their blunder.

## **June**

*4 June* Was the cause of the Strike to protect the miner in his wages and hours? If those wages & hours have been ultimately safeguarded then the battle has been won and not lost.

*4 June* Dr W.R. Bates OBE has been raised to the rank of Esquire in the Order of St John of Jerusalem for whom he has been associated for 45 years.

*11 June* Ilkley greengrocer fined 20s for not removing a building and the threat of £1 a day penalty if the building remained!

## **July**

*2 July* Ilkley Picture House fails in its appeal to West Riding Sessions value £212-10s-and yet Kings Hall is only paid £170.



*9 July* Strong opposition to all-round increases for Poor Law Officers salaries.

*9 July* Australian and English cricket teams have tea in Ilkley on the Sunday of the Third Test at Headingley. In Ilkley they are the guests of Mr J.A. Conry of Menston who lived in Australia and is acquainted with several members of the Australian team and hosted by Mr E. Ackworth of Ben Rhydding who had lived in Australia. Other guests included members of the England selection committee and Yorkshire County Committee. They had tea at Middleton Hotel- it was attended by six Australian and five English members. England won the series.

*16 July* E.C. Behrens of Manchester – partner in Sir Jacob Behrens, a firm of wool merchants in Bradford and Manchester marries Winifred Luckhurst of Coneysthorpe Road, York in a private chapel at Castle Howard (last used in 1889 for a wedding). They intend to live in Ilkley.

*23 July* An increase in tramps in Ilkley. The Poor Law Board are asked to provide more accommodation.

*23 July* Ilkley Howitzers (276<sup>th</sup> West Riding Field Battery (Howitzer) R.A. (T.A.) forms part of the 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade R.A. (T.A.) leaves Ilkley for two weeks training at Redesdale in Northumberland.

*30 July* Ilkley Grammar School Speech Day. Dr J.B. Baillie Vice Chancellor of Leeds University is the guest speaker- in a fatherly speech to the boys he speaks of the love of work and courage. The headmaster warns that blind alley occupations are unsettling and demoralising – done in hope that something better will turn up later.

## **August**

*20 August* The season is to be extended for the Municipal Orchestra in the Winter Gardens (from 29 August to 11 September).

## **September**

*3 September* Local wireless experimenter has been able to communicate with the Byrd Polar Expedition by Mr J. Croysdale of The Grove, Ilkley. His friend G.H. Ramsden in Ilkley has communicated with Rawalpindi in the Himalayas and Australia!

*10 September* Big fireball like flash lightning and lasted for some moments seen in the skies over Ilkley.

## **October**

*15 October* Five Yorkshire Cricket players entertained at Ilkley Moor Golf Club – W. Rhodes, H. Sutcliffe, P. Holmes, A. Dolphin and E. Robinson. They just played a few holes.

*22 October* Early snowfall on 18 October and 14° of ground frost and 9° shade frost.

## **November**

*5 November* Big row in Ilkley Urban District Council over Mr Frank Shackleton's resignation from the chairmanship of the Public Health and Highways Committee on the grounds of interference by officials and members. He wanted an apology for him being put in this position.

*12 November* Ilkley Development Association is proceeding with the scheme of advertising attractions of the district. A new pictorial poster will be ready soon.

*12 November* Ilkley Congregational Church discussed social Christianity. It is a mistake to regard the church merely as an organisation for looking after the morals and behaviour of the community. It should permeate society with Christian qualities and for its members there was a great duty of teaching. The church should produce striking personalities and send them out into public life. The church should be running the risk of defying public opinion all the time.

*19 November* Ilkley record rainfall. So far, seven inches in 18 days. November 1925: 2.69 inches; November 1924: 2.58 inches and November 1923 4.2 inches.

*26 November* Wreath stolen from the foot of the War Memorial at Ilkley Cemetery on 14 November value 15s by a schoolboy and a mill worker.

## **December**

*17 December* Sympathetic approval by Ilkley Education Committee for peace teaching in the spirit of the League of Nations in Ilkley Schools.

*17 December* Craiglands Hotel – a good year despite industrial troubles.

## **1927**

### **January**

*14 January* Hopefully we are now witnessing the dawn of better days: mentioned at Ilkley Royal British Legion Annual General Meeting. To be the last meeting in Cowpasture Road before the move to Mornington House in Railway Road.

*14 January* Total eclipse of the sun will take place on 29 June 1927. For the first time in over 200 years the sun's corona will be visible from a narrow belt stretching across England and North Wales. The last total eclipse visible from England was in 1724. Giggleswick School observatory will be in the centre of the line.

*21 January* The Archbishop of Canterbury appeals for patience before revision of Prayer Book proposals are published. No speculation is necessary.

*28 January* Captain R.S.P. Bates of the 9<sup>th</sup> Jat Regiment, son of Dr W.R. Bates of Ilkley has been mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in the field in Waziristan.

## **February**

*4 February* Major R.R. Lansdale dies at aged 47 in Ben Rhydding – a brewer with Ilkley Brewery for 17 years. He was in the Boer War with the Durham Light Infantry and afterwards at Tadcaster joined the Hussars and received commission in 1904. From 1914-1918 he served in the 5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment and was wounded twice. He received Territorial Decoration for 24 years service in the Territorials. He was wounded by shrapnel in the lung and later gassed, and then for a third time later on was wounded.

*4 February* Ilkley Urban District Council agreed to repairs for the War Memorial – there has been some subsidence at the base of the memorial and the foundation giving way to some extent in certain places. The stone of two of the steps was of poor material, and shallow holes in these steps caused by the weather and also flags at the basement need cementing. The attention of specialists is needed – namely Messrs Wright of Bradford.

*11 February* Proposal for omnibus service over Ilkley Moors road from Bradford to Ilkley opposed by Wharfedale Councils as the road is unsuitable and the vehicle vibration is a danger to Menston Reservoir.

*11 February* Book of Common Prayer revision – controversy over removing the word 'obey' from the marriage service and sanctioning Eucharist vestments in a new Alternative Order of Holy Communion, including the practice of Reservation (this inclusion in the Book of Common Prayer will be an offence to many and a stumbling block to peace. The goodwill of each Parochial Church Council is needed to agree with the alternative book.

*18 February* Female industrial freedom and votes at the age of 21 for women agreed at the Ilkley branch of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship – in line with all branches in England.

## **March**

*4 March* Gramophone recitals in Ilkley to commemorate the centenary of Beethoven's death.

*4 March* More houses for Ilkley – a further 146 in Leeds Road and Wheatley Lane.

*18 March* 3d off district rate and 9d on poor rate.

*18 March* Boys Brigade – two companies formed in Ilkley.

*25 March* Nesfield's postman's shelter to be restored to its old position.

## **April**

*1 April* Oaklands School and Ilkley Grammar School celebrated Beethoven's Centenary with short addresses on his life, plus instrumental and vocal items of his works (died 25 March 1827).

*1 April* The department which has been engaged in the disposal of stores accumulated from the Great War, has completed its task. Sales amount to over £682 million of which only £15 million remains to be collected.

*14 April* Row at Ben Rhydding Sports Club Annual General Meeting over the action of some of the Men's Hockey Section who are associated with a movement leading to the formation of a new Ilkley Hockey Club.

*29 April* Denton School possible closure, and the children would have to attend Ben Rhydding School.

## **May**

*6 May* Ilkley Urban District Council wishing to acquire land near the cemetery but not for internments. Possibility of electrifying the train line from Bradford and Leeds.

*20 May* Arts League of Travelling Theatre – forthcoming visit to Ilkley.

## **June**

*3 June* At Lord Aberconway's home in London, golden wedding celebrations for Dr and Mrs Rabagliati of 'Whinbrae', Ben Rhydding.

*10 June* Britain played a decisive part in the War – Earl Haig's glowing tribute made at the opening of the third biennial conference of the British Empire Service League in London.

*10 June* Motorists – four in all – fined 15s each for driving over Ilkley Old Bridge.

*24 June* No further action to be taken over the amalgamation of Ilkley Council with Wharfedale Union townships.

*24 June* Family feud between brothers-in-law at Ben Rhydding Hydro. Assault unproven and action purely in self-defence.

## **July**

*1 July* Cloudy scenes greeted the eclipse – the sun came out in its final stages, but only weakly. However, a sudden rush of darkness, and its sudden withdrawal was astonishing.

*29 July* Clevedon House School won the 'Lord Roberts Bowl' awarded to schools of not more than 50 boys in the Preparatory Schools Air Rifle Shooting Competition.

## **August**

*19 August* Record rainfall in Ilkley – over 5" this month and still more to come. 5.59" in the last 18 days.

*19 August* Ilkley Church 13<sup>th</sup> Centenary celebrations.

*19 August* Grouse shooting 253 brace on Ilkley Moor.

## **September**

*2 September* Postal warden (Leeds area) annual rally in Ilkley – arbitration court award criticised.

*2 September* Ilkley man, an income tax collector, charged with stealing cash.

*2 September* Ilkley lady visitor to Blackpool left penniless by theft of cash from her handbag.

*9 September* British Association visit to Ilkley Roman site – and mix-up by Farnley Hall visitors who had come to the Roman site in error. The incident caused much embarrassment.

*16 September* Mr Herbert Crowther of Ilkley awarded Imperial Service Medal after 36 years as a postman in Ilkley. During the First World War, he served with the Royal Engineers Postal Section being for a time in Russia.

*23 September* Widespread flooding of farmland – roads and land flooded plus flooding of Burley road.

*23 September* Ilkley's new land purchase £11,000 scheme sanctioned for 130 acres of fields, woods and river.

*30 September* Row over reservations in the Church of England – in the new Book of Common Prayer restricted to Communicating with the Sick, but illegally done for adoration.

## **October**

*7 October* Wharfedale Rural District – rate for new half year 4s 5d in the pound.

*14 October* Man fined £10 for speeding on The Grove at 32 mph!

*28 October* Mr Dixon wished to resign as president of the Royal British Legion in Ilkley but persuaded to stay on until the Legion moves to its new Headquarters.

*28 October* Parking on Back Grove Road – people fined for parking and causing an obstruction while attending the pictures.

## **November**

*4 November* Ilkley Band season to extend over 13 weeks.

*11 November* Ilkley 1,300 years Christianity – generous contribution of £2,220 for Church improvements.

*18 November* ‘Is modern education efficient to equip the training of a schoolboy?’ Mr Bartle of Ilkley Grammar School said young people could learn from each other and be world citizens.

## **December**

*2 December* Ilkley Cricket Club – plea for engaging a professional.

*2 December* Middleton Sanatorium – widespread appeal for clothing over the winter resulted in good responses.

*2 December* Dr Bates talk to Ilkley teachers: keep scholars’ healthy - more time to individual children rather than expectations conforming to type; reform ‘schools for cripples’ and the way the day is structured – a balance between dealing with disability and dealing with their education. Are children lazy through exhaustion or a lack of food? More co-operation is needed over defective vision and deafness.

*16 December* Ilkley Howitzers need more men, especially to serve with pride and confidence.

*16 December* How hospital land was bought.

*23 December* Mr J.T. Jackson dies. He had laid the foundation stone of the Winter Gardens in 1912.

*30 December* Christmas period – a white one and good for sledging but not so for skating. Snowdrifts on the Moors.

## 1928

### **January**

*13 January* Ilkley flying officer killed at Mosul in Mesopotamia. Lieutenant S.G. Haserick in an accident at Hinaidi aerodrome in a Bristol fighter machine of No. 6 (Army Cooperation) Squadron on 9 January 1928. Ages 27 and well-known in Ilkley where he lived in St Margaret's Terrace. His father Edwin Frederick Haserick died in 1914 and his mother who later resided at the Royal Hotel returned to America and now lives in Boston. His sister is a doctor in Southern England. Sidney left Ilkley Grammar School in 1915 and later joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

*20 January* Ilkley parish registers 200 years of local history. Names that cling to Wharfedale.

*20 January* Viscount Lascelles to open new club rooms of the Ilkley branch of the British Legion on 11 February (later postponed due to family bereavement – he actually visited on 24 February for opening)

*20 January* 'Ellison' fossils sold. Ilkley Museum Exhibits notable collection acquired for Keighley Museum. The collection consists of geological specimens from all over the world. Purchase price £100. The owner was Mr James Ellison, a working shoemaker of Steeton. Perhaps they are more of a local interest to Keighley. The collection filled four large cases in the western bay of the Ilkley Museum.

*20 January* Ben Rhydding man Richard Chadind, educated at Ilkley Grammar School and Cambridge University to take up an appointment in chemical engineering with the Kodak Company in India.

### **February**

*17 February* Ilkley branch of the League of Nations Union striking lecture in Ilkley by the Principal of Hull Training College on 'The Adventure of Peace' – seeking self-chosen unity within a bond of love.

*17 February* Swallow's flight: England to South Africa 150 miles a day for one month each way – so states Mr H.B. Booth in an Ilkley lecture on 'The Migration of the Swallow'.

### **March**

*2 March* Lord Lascelles opened Ilkley British Legion Club. Earl Haig noted for his care of men after the War. Lascelles pleaded to keep the Legion clear of party politics. He presented a hunting crop mounted with the crest of the Legion inscribed. The National President to succeed Earl Haig was Earl Jellicoe.

*2 March* Mr J.H. Armistead elected unopposed as a member of West Riding County Council for the Ilkley division.

*9 March* Dr Rabagliati completes 60 years of medical work this month, and is still active in his 86<sup>th</sup> year.

*16 March* Ilkley rates increased 11d in the pound. Poor rate 5s9d. District rate 6s8d.

*16 March* Dr Godfrey Carter – one of Ilkley Museum founders was never keen on the Ellison collection. He was much more keen on relics from Olicana (the Roman name for Ilkley) in the Museum, from Roman soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Legion who formed a garrison cohort for defence of passage of the Wharfe and other roads which skirted the fort.

*23 March* Armstrong Siddeley car prices: 30 h.p. prices from £1,150 to £1,300; 20 h.p. £435 to £825; 15 h.p. £360 to £435 and 14 h.p. £320 to £395.

*23 March* Ilkley Guardians representatives on the Wharfedale Board of Guardians – first contest for 18 years. Five of the seven candidates were elected – all re-elected and had been retiring members and two who were seeking to get elected for the first time failed.

*30 March* Middleton Woods officially opened to the public on 28 March. They cover 58 acres and form part of the estate of 130 acres of woods, fields and river which the Council purchased from the executors of the late William Irwin at a cost of £11,000.

## ***April***

*13 April* Ilkley Board of Health elections – similar situation. Five retirees' re-elected and only one new member chosen.

## ***July***

*6 July* Springs Lane widening approved by the Council. Ilkley industrial undertakings help the rates as a result of £3,777 profit on electricity. Gas works take £1,500 from their reserve fund to the relief of the rates.

*27 July* Ilkley Council angry at the proposed amalgamation of Otley Urban and Wharfedale District Councils as it would be too unwieldy to manage from one centre.

*27 July* Ilkley & District Motor Club visit Fort Dunlop in Birmingham. The party were amazed at the size, organisation and general layout of works which employs 12,000 workers. A 400-acre estate of which 115 acres bear shops and plant and 34 acres used for housing and recreation.



## **August**

*10 August* At a Remembrance service at Menin Gate Ypres on 8 August, 11,000 people took part. In the great march up to the Menin Road, the Yorkshire Section were singing 'On Ilka Moor Baht 'At' which was the marching song of the 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes Wharfedale men during the war.

*24 August* Due to an agreement to stop the Leeds to London train at Holbeck, it is now possible for Ilkley passengers to alight for the London train at Holbeck and so get from Ilkley to London in 4½ hours.

*31 August* Ilkley's Parliamentary bill to try and get extra water storage reservoir.

## **September**

*7 September* Decision by Council deferred to allow buses to run up The Grove to Hebers Ghyll.

*14 September* Angry motorists found cars damaged by soft bitumen as they travelled on the road between Ilkley and Addingham.

*21 September* Ilkley man Mr Parry killed when thrown from his bike while travelling through Suffolk. He was there on a tree felling assignment for Green's of Silsden.

*28 September* Golden wedding for Dr Spooner of Spoonerism fame held at New College Oxford.

## **October**

*5 October* Big fireball and bolide (a large exceptionally bright meteor that often explodes) observed by the Vicar of Weston near Ilkley.

*5 October* Serious loss on Ilkley Municipal Orchestra £250 – more than a penny rate.

*19 October* Ilkley mother and two children injured in a tragic road accident at Charfield, Gloucestershire on 14 October in which a total of fifteen people were killed. They were on the way to Trowbridge to visit an aunt.

## **November**

*9 November* Ilkley Society for Equal Citizenship managed to get three party (Labour, Conservative and Liberal) candidates for Parliament on the same platform at the Lecture Hall. Mr C.G. Gibson (Con), Dr H.S. Houldsworth (Lib) and Mr A.W. Brown (Lab). Foreign affairs are now likely to be taken more seriously by the electors than the hitherto strange apathy.

*30 November* Reduction in the number of visitors to old established hydros and hotels – perhaps holiday habits are changing.

## **December**

*7 December* Thomas Firth of Middleton, Ilkley has been made a Commissioner of Peace for the West Riding – he is the chairman of Ilkley Council and a solicitor.

*21 December* Ilkley Howitzers dinner – the war years are remembered.

## **1929**

### **January**

*18 January & 25 January* Local electoral poll 'Are you for or against the resolutions in favour of the promotion of the Ilkley Urban District Council Bill?'. Much concern that a longer discussion might have produced a better bill, especially the waterworks proposals and the practicability of the Bradford supply Panorama Reservoir being used as a supply one, whereas before it had been a reserve one. Daily water flow 8,490,000 gallons and 32% wastage.

### **February**

*1 February* Electors 8 to 1 against the Bill as deposited in present session of Parliament, and Bill is therefore dead. A 50% poll was very encouraging.

*15 February* Ilkley Chamber of Trade angry with the costs for water and electricity.

Pudsey and Otley Labour Party give support to the proposed Channel Tunnel bill.

*22 February* Breaking up of eleven days of great frost. Skaters' carnival comes to an end. Nine inches of ice on River Wharfe, making it the coldest spell and the coldest February since 1895.

### **March**

*1 March* General Purposes Committee of West Riding County Council has now approved the scheme for the amalgamation of Otley urban district and Wharfedale rural area.

*1 March* Runaway road roller on Weary Hill, near the Convalescent Home on the road over the Moors from Ilkley to Keighley.

February 1929 was the coldest month for 34 years.

*8 March* Mr Frost becomes a part owner of Ghyll Road School with Mr Hammerton of Green Hammerton. His grandfather was Vicar of Christchurch Bradford and the Chaplain to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment; and his great grandfather, the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan, one-time Bishop of Mauritius was also the Vicar of Bradford.

*15 March* Major Fawkes of Wharfedale Rural District Council said there was a rumour that perhaps Ilkley was not interested in an amalgamation because Ilkley Town Hall was not likely to be chosen as the centre of government.

*15 March* March sunshine – only 1” of rain at Ilkley in six weeks.

*22 March* Wharfedale manhunt for manacled fugitive Kenneth Howcroft who escaped from police custody. He had persuaded two elderly ladies, sisters Misses Milner of St James Road, Ilkley, to entrust him with securities and war bonds worth £3,000. Later these securities passed through the office of a Bradford stockbroker and the man received £700. He was caught near Harewood Bridge. He received a year's jail sentence.

## ***April***

*19 April* George Mott elected Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council. Joining the Artist's Rifles in the First World War, he gained his commission from Aldershot and was afterwards gazetted at Forward Rail Heads as Rail Head Supply Officer. Amongst the fronts on which he served in France and Flanders were: Cambrai; the Somme; the Aisne; Chemin des Dames and the Marne and when demobilised he was in charge of the Lille area.

## ***May***

*3 May* Ilkley public tennis courts and bowling green opened.

Efforts to stop water wastage and an inspector to be appointed to make house to house visits.

Surprisingly, in 1928/1929, there were many cases of bus conductors being fined for allowing motor buses to be overcrowded.

*10 May* Letter from the Chairman of the Moor and Parks Committee about vandalism on the Moor and how hard it is to stop people, especially those carving their initials on the rocks. Warning notices about the penalties for such defacement were not effective.

*17 May* Sunday trading and Ilkley traders' action 'to make demand for Sunday trading to such commodities and hours as were a proved necessity in the public interest. The Chamber of Trade appealed to all religious bodies to give a lead, and

that the moral and social conscience of the public might be fully roused to the need for restrictive legislation.

*24 May* Ilkley Grammar School Speech Day Rev. S. Tonkin on Modern Ideal of the Empire – namely interdependence, justice and fairness.

*31 May* General Election Pudsey & Otley. C.G. Gilson elected for the Conservatives with a majority of 4,393 but an increased vote of opponents. 82% poll. C.G. Gibson (Con) 16,729; A.W. Brown (Lab) 12,336; Dr H.S. Houldsworth (Lib) 11,685. Conservative majority: 4,393. A high poll showed that new women voters had exercised their first opportunity for full-time citizenship to a remarkable degree.

## **July**

*5 July* Ratepayers to decide on the Sunday games question – to be a full Council debate, with outspoken comment for and against.

*5 July* Australian Rugby League tourists arrive for a five month tour.

*12 July* Thanksgiving services held in Ilkley churches for King's recovery from grave illness.

*19 July* Ilkley Parish Church first ordination. Bishop of Bradford ordained as Deacons Mr Philip Lea BA, Cantab and Mr Ralph Place, Ben Rhydding, Durham, former to Ilkley Parish Church and latter to St Barnabas, Heaton, Bradford.

*19 July* Local poll on the question of Sunday games in Ilkley: 860 pro and 637 anti.

*19 July* Dimmer hopes for girls secondary school in Ilkley. Perhaps the central school would be at the expense of the girl's secondary school.

*19 July* The former Miss D. Fox of Ilkley (now Lieutenant Colonel England's wife) and her two children and nurse got stuck by rising tide in Morecambe Bay and rescued by a boat.

## **August**

*2 August* Opposition to a reservoir in Ilkley led by Councillor Sugden against F.S. Eckersley, Clerk to Ilkley Urban District Council led to slander action at Leeds Assizes and the Clerk was awarded 150s.

*9 August* Aerodrome site. Report that Sir Alan Cobham had reported unfavourably on the Yeadon Moor site for a Leeds-Bradford aerodrome and probably would not be selected for that purpose – denial of rejection and the Joint Committee representing Leeds and Bradford corporations said the site was still possible as an aerodrome.

*23 August* Ilkley Howitzers are in camp for first training as a mechanised unit.

## **September**

*27 September* Ilkley to Harrogate charabanc comes off the road on Foster Hill between Burley and Otley – no serious injuries.

## **October**

*4 October* No Sunday golf on the Moors.

*4 October* Ilkley bus girl (conductress) charged with sending a letter to the bus depot in Keighley threatening to kill the manager. She had been dismissed from working there. A revolver was found in her possession.

*18 October* Netherwood Estate which Ilkley Urban District Council, subject to the sanction of the Ministry of Health, intends to purchase. The position of the land is clearly indicated in relation to Upper Woodhouse and Hardwick House, Hebers Ghyll and West Buck Stones on the crest of the Moors.

*25 October* Unemployed at Ilkley: 111 men; 30 women; 2 boys. Total 143. Temporarily unemployed: 2 men; 6 women. Total 8.

## **November**

*1 November* Mr Eckersley case dismissed of police court charge alleging false information of a birth. Defendant says he signed a blank register. Case dismissed.

*15 November* Australia rugby league team who were based in Ilkley, take part in Armistice parade in London.

## **1930**

### **January**

*3 January* Former murder mystery also occurred in Cowpasture Road as reported in 'Leeds Intelligencer' in 1856. On 16 June, a Scottish lady Mrs M. Knight was found lying dead in the well known field known as Cowpasture. The lady was staying in Ben Rhydding which she left at 10am to do some shopping in Ilkley and was last seen alive at noon. Her body was found by two people without either purse or pocket handkerchief. The neck exhibited signs of strangulation. Suspicion fell on a party of gypsies which had been encamped in the immediate neighbourhood.

Four days later the feeling of Ilkley people about the poor lady was that she died from a fit of apoplexy. Medical opinion and the absence of her purse pointed the other way. The mystery, adds the Yorkshire Post, does not appear ever to have been cleared up.

*10 January* Migration rush – Canada's continuous demand for men, women and boys. A Migration Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Eugene Ramsden to cover Bradford and district extending to Skipton and Ilkley. First meeting was in Bradford Town Hall when Lord Middleton addressed the members (chairman of Yorkshire Voluntary Migration Committee).

Migration is not a way of getting rid of a surplus population but should be seen as giving people the opportunity of living a better, happier and fuller life than was possible for them in this country.

The new Committee's duties would be divided into encouraging migration to the Empire, to assist in carrying out the migration and to keep in touch with migrants. Of the 1,225 Yorkshire migrants, only 62 were from the Bradford area. Australia had closed its doors to any assisted passage for migrants.

*10 January* Schools – mainly elementary, having been closed since December 1929 due to a diphtheria outbreak, re-opened on 6<sup>th</sup> January although isolated cases are still occurring.

*10 January* Surplus money from the War Memorial Fund was used to ensure the continuity of the British Legion Clubhouse in Railway Road> The Memorial Committee can meet all remaining liabilities and still have a surplus of £800.

*10 January* Mr Gibson, the Otley MP ( which also includes Ilkley) said new members could find the House of Commons a very lonely place. Unless a young man started early in life in the House of Commons and made it his lifework, and unless he was possessed of exceptional ability or unless he had some social influence behind him he could not hope to make a great deal of progress. The House has some interesting personalities.

*17 January* Order in Court for possession of a house where persons to whom lodgings were sub-let had been guilty of conduct which was a nuisance or annoyance to the adjoining occupiers.

*17 January* Discussions at Ilkley Chamber of Trade this week on changes taken place in Ilkley from the point of view of its former promise of high prosperity as a health resort, and its increasing modern development as a residential centre.

*17 January* The creation of the Ben Rhydding Hydro seventy years ago marked the beginning of the rapid growth of Ilkley as a health resort. Other hydros and boarding houses were erected. From 1861 to 1871 the population doubled and almost doubled again in the next ten years. Had that rate of increase been continued, it is almost alarming to realise that Ilkley's population today would have been 120,000. But the pace of increase fell off after 1881 and the population today is little more than double what it was at that time. An effort was made some years ago by the Chamber of Trade to organise boarding house keepers and hydro authorities with the effect of

regaining Ilkley's popularity, but the effort fell through. If such a combination could be secured and made effective, there is no reason why Ilkley, with its invigorating air, its pure water and glorious country should not continue to attract visitors. Ilkley's main development since the War has been as a residential centre; however visitors will always seek the charms of Wharfedale.

*24 January* Alleged new information about the Learoyd murder, seen now as somewhat indefinite and in view of absence of definite confirmation or denial on the part of the local police, should be accepted with due qualification.

*31 January* 'Prince Charming' which is being presented by the Ilkley Operatic Dramatic Society in Kings Hall, was one of the most brilliant productions which the Society has given in the whole of its history.

*31 January* In the spring a band of young Germans, the Markische Spielgemeinde choir were due to visit England and include on their tour a visit to Ilkley on 11<sup>th</sup> April. They specialise in madrigals and country dances and are based at Frankfurt on the Oder. However, the visit was later cancelled due to 'insuperable difficulties'.

## **February**

*7 February* Council changes its mind in terms of a clerical appointment as to what to offer as a salary. The Council agreed to a new list of applicants to be drawn up to say all applicants to be qualified solicitors and under 35 years of age. A salary up to a maximum of £500 per year. They did appoint a Chief Financial Officer on a salary rising up to a maximum of £400.

*7 February* Letter writer to Yorkshire Post said that there should be no progress on developing Yeadon Aerodrome for 'hideous erections' (hangars) and 'internal machines' (planes) were unwanted, as they would cause a horrible level of noise at all hours of the day and night.

*14 February* Miss Audrey Hill of Denton Park, Ilkley to marry Mr Peter Douty, the Scottish international rugby player.

*28 February* Ilkley Coronation Cottage Hospital. Over 5,000 cases treated in 25 years, but a loss of £137 reported on last year's accounts.

*28 February* A new Clerk to Ilkley Council finally appointed – Mr Reuben Dexter Jones from Llandudno, but the age limit of 35 was waived. He was required 'as soon as possible' in Ilkley. He declined the post three days later and Mr Henry C. Hoggett from Loftus was appointed Clerk.

*28 February* Penultimate meeting of the Wharfedale Board of Guardians held at Otley on 21 February.

## **March**

*7 March* Delius and Ilkley – where he gained his love for the Moors. A lecture by Arthur Akeroyd, the Secretary of the Wharfedale Music Festival. Delius' frequent visit to Ilkley as a small boy no doubt laid the seeds of his love for the hills and moors of Yorkshire and his introduction to the music of Chopin at the age of ten awakened his soul to the beauties of that romantic composer's work. He had one quality which was perhaps above all others scarce in our time: a deep, quiet and intrinsic sense of beauty.

*7 March* Ilkley water supply: £7,500 for improving the supply of water to the district. Objection to laying a pipe 15 inches wide from Black Beck to Panorama Reservoir in place of the present 6 inch pipe. The Ministry of Health sanctioned the borrowing of the £7,500.

*7 March* Unique ceremony at Ilkley Council. Award of RSPCA Bronze Medal to Mr J.A. Crawford of Askwith for his gallantry in rescuing a cat from a fire which took place in January at the shop of Mrs Goldberg, Church Street, Ilkley. The cat itself had probably saved the lives of Mrs Goldberg and her children – she had been awakened at 11pm by the cries of her cat.

*7 March* Ilkley Council talk about swimming baths again and having to help building trade unemployment and there was a need to employ local people. Outdoor pools could only be used for a few weeks each summer. It was a scandal that a place such as Ilkley did not have public baths. It was agreed that inquiries be made.

*14 March* Local MP Charles Gibson supported the Prime Minister's View (Mr Stanley Baldwin) about ties of industry and commerce with the Empire, and that these ties can be welded by tariff preferences. Stimulation by safeguarding is better than full-blooded protection as one can select the industries better.

*14 March* Mr F.H. Humphris, Ilkley's 'grand old man' dies, a great servant to the town and to the church. He was in his 94<sup>th</sup> year. He was a Lay Reader in many local churches, a Governor of Ilkley Grammar School since 1866 and a West Riding Commissioner of the Peace since October 1897. He was a great traveller. He advised moderation in everything.

*21 March* S.P.B. Mais, the well-known writer and critic gave a thoughtful address on 'Modern Poetry' at the Winter Gardens. He also advised people to read aloud on Ilkley Moor. Without being arrested for reading out aloud and alone in public, he suggested the Moors where one could read a poem slowly to try and understand what a poet had to say. Poetry will be read as people come to realise more and more the great beauty of the Testament of Beauty.



*21 March* Superintendent Henry Barraclough, Assistant Chief Constable of the West Riding, whose investigation into the Ilkley murder in August 1929 brought him a great deal into the public eye, died in Wakefield after suffering a seizure.

*21 March* Ilkley police investigated a serious assault on an Ilkley maid (in service at a house in King's Road, Ilkley) who was attacked near where she was employed.

*28 March* Wharfedale Board of Guardians had their final meeting on 21 March prior to handing over their duties to the new Guardians Committee for the Skyrack Area which officially takes over on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

*28 March* Long strike in the local wool textile industry beginning to affect firms in the Ilkley area. It was an economic bread and butter policy to get the textile industry on its feet again.

## **April**

*4 April* Douglas Todd, member of the Ilkley Rugby team which won the semi-final round of the Yorkshire Cup beating Huddersfield Old Boys at Lidget Green by 21 points to 8.

*4 April* Mr A.T. Akeroyd on Delius – a lecture recital in Ilkley. Delius, born in 1862, was in the habit of visiting Ilkley with his parents for their summer holidays, and so great was the attraction of Ilkley to him that he and his brother, then aged 8 and 7 years respectively, escaped from their home one morning and walked to Ilkley by way of Shipley Glen. They were found by a family friend and returned to Bradford by train. Delius had a strong urge of the beautiful in nature. The love of nature, learned in childhood, remained with him throughout his life and was found in constant evidence in his works. His words were selected from poetry which he set forth the beauties of nature and the singing of the birds. He allied himself with nature in her best moods. He clearly loved the chromatic in music and some of his companions abounded with it. He did not like being in business and rowed with his parents as he was always keen on music. On his own suggestion, he went to Florida to grow oranges along with Mr Charles Douglas, formerly of Ilkley. Whilst in America, he met Thomas Ward, a New York organist, who was a great assistance in Delius' musical studies and eventually his father let him study music.

*4 April* Mrs Jack Holmes (formerly Miss Mary Shore) who was the heroine of the romance of the visit of the Australian Rugby League tourists last January sailed for Sydney to join her husband. She met her husband at a dance at Ilkley's Kings Hall and was secretly married at the Otley Registry Office and then introduced by her new husband to the fellow players at a match in Rochdale.

*11 April* Advert by Empire Marketing Board: 'Men will talk about unemployment, about the need for new markets, about the lack of orders for British factories, but women must act. Let them ask in the daily shopping for Empire produce, then

Empire farms will prosper, orders will come to British factories and employment will be found for more British workers. Ask first for Home produce. Ask next for produce of the Empire overseas’.

*11 April* Mr R.D. Green of 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes dies. He joined it in 1914 and served throughout the War. He was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes Old Comrades Association as Treasurer and entertained widows and children of men who fell in the War. At heart, he had the interests of those who suffered in the war by injuries or bereavement. He was also on the Relief Committee of the Ilkley board of the British Legion.

*17 April* Fred Sugden elected new Chairman of Ilkley Council. A staunch Liberal, he was deputy military representative at Calverley, Farsley, Hunsworth and Drighlington. He was an insurance manager and was on the local committee of the League of Nations Union.

*25 April* ‘The Fourth Wall’, an A.A. Milne clever detective play.

*25 April* Miss Mary McGuiness, a cyclist, killed by a motor car at the junction of Lister Street and Skipton Road.

*25 April* 67 people wholly unemployed in Ilkley. Men 50; boys 3; women 12 and girls 2.

## **May**

*2 May* The worst storm since 1900 hit Ilkley on 25 April between 4.30pm and 5.30pm – a terrific thunderstorm deluge which lasted an hour. Roads were torn up and gardens ruined by rushing torrents. Four feet of flood water was witnessed in Bridge Lane houses. A baby, John Dawson Parry was found quite safe and dry whilst the sofa on which he lay was afloat on the water. His parents Mr and Mrs L.W. Parry said it was a miracle he survived. Two of many remarkable features were: i) the comparatively small area to which its worst effects were confined; ii) the amount of damage which was done in such a remarkably short time. Over an inch of rain in less than half an hour fell in Spence’s Gardens. Wheatley Lane was for a time 6 to 12 inches deep and Bolling Road was level with water from fence to fence for its whole length, and 6 to 8 inches near Wheatley Road junction.

A flood near the recreation grounds made the main road between Ilkley and Ben Rhydding impassable on foot. So heavy was the hailstorm that panes of glass in street lamps on the upper roads in Ben Rhydding were smashed and mantle rods broken down. Allotment holders suffered severely.

*2 May* Sergeant Robert Brown dies aged 72 at his daughter’s residence in Ilkley. He joined the York and Lancaster regiment in 1880 and took part in the Egyptian campaign and had 12 years service with this regiment. He received the Egyptian war medal for the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir He was in the Boer War with the Yeomanry and

Yorkshire Hussars as a Farrier Sergeant. He held the South African Medal – he was wounded in the shoulder in this war. He was in the Great War aged 57, but when Kitchener's Army recruiting base found out his actual age, he was transferred to the Royal Defence Corps and served in the UK all the war.

*16 May* Lieutenant Colonel C.E.C. Rabagliati driving a Talbot car in the 'Double Twelve' race at Brooklands on 8<sup>th</sup> May received serious head injuries in one of the worst motor racing tragedies which has occurred in this country. The mechanic in Colonel Rabagliati's car was killed, one of the spectators was killed and a number of spectators were more or less seriously injured.

In 1911, straight from Sandhurst, Rabagliati joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire Light Infantry. In 1914 he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps until 1918. He then left the army and joined Lloyds.

*30 May* Child drowned in a pond in an Ilkley garden while on a holiday visit from Salford.

*30 May* Ben Rhydding lady aged 88, Mrs Hartley, takes to the air from Brough Aerodrome, Hull. She is the great-aunt of Captain Norman Blackburn.

## **June**

*6 June* Double decker buses to be allowed in Ilkley for the first time subject to any objections from Ilkley Council who had refused earlier this year to licence any. Now they have agreed to run such buses during Whitsuntide week, Keighley Holiday Week and August Bank Holiday.

*6 June* Arthur Sellers, a former Yorkshire County player, celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30 May by turning out for Steeton against the Sports Club at Ben Rhydding. It was many years since he last played for Yorkshire, however he was still able to show his prowess at batting with fine wrist play and good footwork.

*6 June* Call for Wharfedale women and girls to go out to Australia on the next boat sailing on 19 July to do domestic work.

*13 June* Ilkley had a glorious Whitsuntide with big crowds and sunshine, and many people on the moors and by the riverside.

*20 June* Dr G.B. Hillman adopted as prospective Conservative candidate for Wakefield. Educated at Ilkley High School and Leeds School of Medicine. During the War, he was at first in charge of Lady Wheeler's Auxiliary Military Hospital at Ledston Hall and in 1915 joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He attained the rank of Major in the Malta Command, where he was in charge of two important hospitals.

## **July**

*4 July* On 29 June, between 2,000 and 3,000 ramblers from a wide area of the West Riding gathered to celebrate the formation of the West Riding Ramblers Federation.

*4 July* Frank Smailes, the former Ilkley cricketer and younger brother of the Ilkley fast bowler played for Yorkshire Second XI against Cheshire at Oxton. In his second inning, he top scored with 49.

*11 July* W.F. Fearnley of Otley and Ben Rhydding and a later founder member of the Wharfedale Naturalists Society attended the International Ornithological Congress held in Holland.

*11 July* Gliding over Beamsley Beacon – two gliders took off from the Beacon before a large crowd. They were launched into the air by catapult ropes. An Austrian gliding expert, Herr Kronfield, was in one machine.

*18 July* West Yorkshire Federated Chamber of Trade meet in Ilkley.

*18 July* School attendance. Ilkley occupied sixth place with 89.24% attendance by pupils. Horsforth was first with 92.9%, followed by Fewston 91.2%, Bramhope 91.2%, Yeadon and Rawdon 90.7% and Calverley 49.74%. In the district, 16 of 17 County Major Scholarships were made to pupils from Ilkley.

*25 July* Granville Gibson MP for Pudsey and Otley supported Stanley Baldwin's (MP) resolution in favour of safeguarding the home market against unfair foreign competition and expanding the export market by reciprocal trade agreements with the overseas Empire.

Ilkley Urban District Council agree on a filtration plant for Panorama Reservoir.

## **August**

*8 August* Rain washed out the Bank Holiday.

Mr Ernest Waddilove's wife, Dorothy, dies at St Annes-on-Sea whilst on holiday with her husband and children.

*15 August* Leeds man's body found at Cow and Calf Rocks with a throat wound and a blood stained razor – a suicide due to extreme depression.

*22 August* The new sport of gliding has taken off in Ilkley in a big way. Ilkley Gliding Club is about to purchase the latest Pröfling machine.

*29 August* Herr Magersuppe, a German, has been helping Ilkley Gliding Club and he is a brilliant exponent of this type of flying. Silsden and Draughton Moors are now being utilised.

## **September**

*5 September* Main road widening in Ilkley -various sections of Leeds Road.

*5 September* Poppy Day Appeal 1929 – Ilkley and District raised £245-2s-2d.

*12 September* Soldiers win the right to vote. Many servicemen had no home of their own. It is inevitable that they must give their last address whether staying with parents, relatives or in rooms. So long as the man remained in the Army, even if it should be for 21 years, the address must stand good.

*12 September* Rugby Union in Ilkley – Jubilee celebrations. High tributes to Ilkley's loyalty to the code.

*12 September* 'World Call to the Church'. Undergraduates from Christ's College Cambridge will preach in several Ilkley churches on Sunday. Members of a party of 45 men who are devoting a portion of their vacation to an attempt to present a 'World Call to the Church'.

*19 September* Jubilee of Ilkley Tradesmen's Cricket Match. How the game was played 50 years ago. Two original players as rival captains this year Mr Bill Lister and Mr T.Gee : 'Black Hats' versus 'White Hats'.

Hotel and hydro managers meet to advance Ilkley's prosperity on how the town can be improved by attracting more visitors.

*26 September* H.S. Crabtree, member of Ilkley Gliding Club is at a flying school at Wasserkuppe in Germany has sent a letter describing the progress of gliding among both the army and civilians.

## **October**

*3 October* Ilkley Council's scheme for work for the unemployed to work on 'scavenging' or cleaning dirty streets , had drawn complaints from people. However there was support for the Council agreeing to a filtration plant to be built at Panorama Reservoir and relaying water mains in the town.

*3 October* Make Ilkley known – too often it hides its light under a bushel. Ilkley had been content to let things go and to allow competing resorts to draw visitors away at their own sweet will. Ilkley does not spend enough on advertising its beauties.

*10 October* Fraud in Ilkley. Tradesmen 'duped' by 'advert' canvasser and used Golf Club secretary's name. He was sent to prison for six months.

*17 October* Yorkshire Cricket Team entertained by Mr A. Jenkinson of 'Iddesleigh' Ilkley prior to departure for their South Africa tour.

*17 October* 139 work people registered as unemployed in Ilkley.

*24 October* New printing machine for Ilkley Gazette production by Mssrs Wm Walker and Sons (Otley) Ltd.

*24 October* Hartley's Auctioneers sale – two beautiful cabinets owned by a former Ilkley lady and made for King Charles V of Spain.

*31 October* The Right Hon L.S. Amery MP (Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs) spoke in Ilkley. Free trade was selfish and immoral and one had to support the Empire and so safety and prosperity would win though.

## **November**

*7 November* The ex King George II of Greece, a visitor to Ben Rhydding on 3 November as a guest of Mr E.C. Woodman at 'Wheatley Lawn'. He was going to Bradford for the installation of Mr Heaton as the Worshipful Master of King Edward Lodge of Freemasons.

*7 November* Members of Ilkley Urban District Council stated that Ilkley ' may get a swimming baths after two years.'

*14 November* The Badger Stone – one of Ilkley's most famous cup and ring carved rocks (late Stone Age or early Bronze Age) included in the list of Ancient Monuments scheduled for protection by Her Majesty's Commissioner of Works. It is situated on Ilkley Moor to the east of Spicey Ghyll.

*21 November* Publicity – the life-breath of holiday resorts. Ilkley's needs outlined at a Public Meeting. Expert's emphasis on newspaper advertising.

## **December**

*24 December* Finances- Ilkley Urban District Council. It has nearly £250,000 of assets over liabilities and its loan debt is equivalent to £27 per head of population.

## **1931**

### **January**

*2 January* Unemployment rising in Ilkley – 270 in November 1930 (212 men, 4 boys, 51 women and 3 girls). 34 have been placed (17 men, 11 women and 6 girls).

*9 January* Mr Henry Croudson, organist at 'The Majestic' in Leeds has been appointed organist at the New Cinema, Ilkley.

*9 January* Skating revels in Ilkley after a week of keen frost.

*16 January* A robin has taken shelter in Ilkley Bookstall and comes down on magazines on the counter for his daily crumbs.

*9 January* British Legion Club progress – in a most healthy position. There is possible future help for ex-servicemen from the War Memorial Fund.

*23 January* Mr R.P. O'B Dowling, an Ilkley solicitor disappears while at work in Leeds.

*23 January* Central school at Ilkley Girl's Secondary School Scheme is said to have fallen through. The site was recommended for the new mixed school to serve Ilkley, Burley and Addingham.

*30 January* The Bishop of Bradford, Dr Browne, is to be moved to Worcester. This establishes an interesting precedent in the Church of England – that of a son following his father in the same see (the diocese of a bishop).

## **February**

*6 February* Brother of a Ben Rhydding lady in the New Zealand earthquake at Napier. News is anxiously awaited. He had survived and he sent a telegram.

*13 February* 'What have we done with Victory?' Sir Norman Angell's question at Ilkley. Plea that power should be used as an international police force. If we could not put some spirit of missionaryship into the World Disarmament Conference and awaken our people to issues involved, we should drift back to chaos and to a new war, the results of which would be much worse than the last war as the results of the last war were worse than those which preceded it.

*13 February* Mrs Lucy Cook has died – she was one of the oldest residents in the town at the age of 90 and had lived in Ilkley for 62 years. She undertook a lot of work for the Children's Holiday Home at Highfield.

*27 February* West Yorkshire Federated Chamber of Trade met in Ilkley on 25 February, and the President made an appeal to lift economic troubles out of the rut of party politics.

## **March**

*6 March* No private street works to be put in hand in Ilkley for 18 months.

*6 March* The Thirkell family of Ilkley, covering in a direct line for four generations, established a total of 372 years of railway service and of descendents not in a direct line were added, this total would be materially increased.

*6 March* Wharfedale Bus Committee for the Wharfedale and District area has ceased to exist after six years. Its duties are now being done by the Road Traffic Commissioners following the coming into operation of a new Road Traffic Act.

*13 March* Ilkley branch of the British Israel World Federation meet in the town. A view was expressed which believed that before too long a world verdict supporting British Israel identity.

*13 March* Unprecedentedly in the history of Ilkley Council, a member has resigned to oppose the re-election of a fellow member Mr Dixon! Mr Sugden was first elected in 1927 and still had two years to run of his chairmanship. Mr Sugden defeated Mr Dixon by a majority of nearly two to one.

*20 March* Ilkley rates to be reduced by 2/-8d in the pound.

## ***April***

*2 April* All the retiring members of the Ilkley Urban District Council at this year's elections whose seats were contested were defeated.

*10 April* Mr F.H. Bentham dies aged 70. He was in business in Bradford and a member of the Royal Commission on Poor Law from 1906 to 1909. He took children out of the workhouse and placed them in private homes. He built up a Poor Law system in Bradford which would be a model for the whole country.

*10 April* Publicity Association – new guide for Ilkley and Ben Rhydding.

*10 April* Was Ilkley's Easter Monday crowd a record? Moors thronged with happy holidaymakers.

*10 April* Milk war threat in Ilkley – up to a week ago, milk retailed at 6d per quart, then retailers reduced it to 5d a quart and farmers then decided to sell at 4d a quart. The consumer ended up as the ultimate winner.

*17 April* Milk in Ilkley now sold at 3d per quart and the milk war threat still continues with farmers and retailers failing to agree.

*24 April* Conservative candidate returned unopposed in West Riding County Council by an election caused by the elevation of a sitting member to the aldermanic bench.

*24 April* Ilkley Gliding Club new site! 500 acres at Malham.

*24 April* Sergeant C. Baker dies aged 64, a well known Ilkley figure and former instructor to the Ilkley Volunteers. He remained with the Ilkley Volunteers until a short time before the formation of the Territorial Army system when the present Howitzer Battery was formed.



*24 April* Death of Miss S.E. Mather, a former matron in Ilkley aged 70. Her service was given to the Auxiliary Military Hospital which had 174 beds, and she treated 3,212 military patients, many being in hospital a long time. Miss Mather received the Royal Red Cross 1<sup>st</sup> Class decoration. Miss Burnley, Miss Rabagliati and Miss Sutcliffe all mentioned in Dispatches in connection with this work.

## **May**

*1 May* Every effort is being made to make Ilkley Grand National the sporting trial of the year – a well known rough riding event organised by the Ilkley and District Motor Club.

*1 May* Miss Mather's funeral. No war hospital was better run; nowhere were soldiers better fed. She had a real genius for catering and would only procure the best. When a convoy arrived in Ilkley the difficulty was to find hospital clothes, which did not hang like sacks on the worn and weary Tommies, but after a few weeks the soldiers could button up themselves. She managed a large and changing body of Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs).

*8 May* Mr W.J. Elliot gave a talk at Wheatley Lawn, Ben Rhydding in his capacity as Director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Ignorance as well as drink was a cause of brutality to children. The Society had done very well in Ilkley and their inspectors were not called out to a single case of neglect or cruelty to a child in Ilkley in 1930.

The public needed educating as well as parents. Brutality in the home produced bad citizens.

## **June**

*5 June* High praise for District nurses in Ilkley who were welcomed in the homes. 12,454 visits had been made during the year and there had been 343 patients on the books.

*5 June* Floods in June – including two inches of rain in two days.

Wanton damage done by youths in the Electricity Works yard of Ilkley Council.

*12 June* Cowpers Cross on Keighley Gate Road hit by lightning and badly damaged.

*12 June* Abandoned car mystery – sensational development and charges against two police constables. They were charged at Otley with taking a car without the owner's consent and cruelty to a horse, all at Ling Park on the upland road from Ilkley to Beamsley Beacon. Defendants had to pay costs of £3.

*19 June* 'Knights of the Rucksack' in force on Ilkley Moor. There were young people of all ages in a huge crowd which gathered at the Cow and Calf rocks on 14 June for

the second annual demonstration of the West Riding Ramblers Association. They demanded their rights to roam, but also did not forget that they had obligations. They unanimously passed a resolution declaring that the passing into law of the Access to Mountains Bill was long overdue. Farmer's rights were considered on leaving gates open, breaking down fences and treading down crops of grass: these annoyances had to be rectified and ramblers must be aware of goodwill to farmers.

*26 June* University students of many nations discuss international topics at Ilkley. Sir Norman Angell MP and His Excellency Afifi Pasha the Egyptian Ambassador are among the speakers. The conference at Heathmount Hall, Ilkley, headquarters of the Friendship Holiday Association, was organised by the University of Leeds International Society. Leeds, Liverpool, London and Birmingham University students attended and also those from Egypt, Burma, India, China, Germany and Czechoslovakia. They spoke at length about economic disarmament and fighting tariffs.

William Haigh dies suddenly. He was a wool textile company director and a member of Ilkley Constitutional Club. During the First World War, he was an officer in the Wharfedale Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

## **July**

*10 July* Dr H.T. Bates, Ilkley Medical Officer in his Health Annual Report to Ilkley Urban District Council on how to improve Ilkley's health. No typhoid from river bathing. Disease must be fought in the schools. Water collection has to be carefully monitored and open water courses must not become refuse dumps. River bathing is alright but there is danger from the ignorance of the swiftness of current and treacherous holes in the river bed.

Diphtheria is still an infectious disease in schools. In 1930, there were 79 cases of the disease. There were some maternity cases and diseases associated with infants and babies. Atmospheric pollution is still troublesome in the Wharfedale Valley. Litter deposits on the Moor are unsightly and can lead to medical problems if picked up or trod on. The risk of fire is a concomitant of this. Sanitary provisions for schools are good. Milk is provided by the Education Authority and the milk, supply is excellent.

*10 July* Water in the Panorama Reservoir is to be filtered. Good progress is being made with the £4,300 scheme.

*10 July* 1931 Census. Many more women than men. Ilkley population is 9,721 (in 1921: 9,399). 3,924 males and 5,797 females. The general average shows 1,087 females to every 1,000 men. Otley's population is 11,020. Horsforth has the largest population in the Wharfedale Union at 11,770.

Ilkley's population over the years: 1861: 1,043; 1871: 2,511; 1881: 4,733; 1901: 7,455 and 1911: 7,920. Visitors, travellers, school children enumerated elsewhere

but domicile in Ilkley. 1921 Census in June; 1931 Census in April. There were 350 visitors, 50 of these were at Craiglands, Wells House and Ben Rhydding Golf Hotel. Birth rate in 1930 only 10% on estimated population of 10,000 whereas for England and Wales it is 16.3%.

*17 July* First British Gliding Conference in Ilkley and plans for the further development of a young movement – Ilkley is one of the first clubs in the North. Gliding was one phase of the great efforts that were being made for the conquering of the air and the lessons obtained in gliding were a great asset to anyone seeking to get an air pilot's certificate.

*17 July* Charles Gordon Dingle gained a silver spoon for the second year in succession at the Leeds Baby Day event. He was the only baby to secure the double distinction of gaining 100% of marks for two successive years. He celebrated his second birthday on 12 July.

*17 July* Cyril Walton, an Ilkley man who works as an accountant in Leeds distinguished himself in a recent final exam of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He was placed second in order of merit and awarded the Walter Knox Scholarship.

*24 July* Liberal garden fete held in Ilkley and was addressed by Edmund Harvey, the possible Liberal candidate for Pudsey and Otley. He expressed concern over Germany's threatened collapse, saying that this could not occur without the whole of the world in a greater or lesser degree also suffering. There was also a danger of tariff barriers, the prevention of which tended to promote international goodwill.

*24 July* Ilkley Territorials going to Catterick for their annual two week camp in August. The Ilkley Battery comprises of four officers and 65 other ranks.

*31 July* An 'unusual' vehicle seen at St Margaret's Church Garden Party. A very juvenile 'baby' was driven by an engine of about one-half horsepower which formerly served as the propelling unit of an auto-attachment for 'push' cycles. It was made by Mr H. Maufe and will tow a trailer with three small children in addition to the driver.

## **August**

*7 August* Lady completes 50 years as organist at Ilkley Wesleyan Church. Miss Marian Lister started playing the organ at Birkenshaw Methodist Free Church at the age of 12.

*7 August* Summer school for the teachers of physical education being held at Ilkley Grammar School in the summer holidays.

*7 August* Sir William Watson, the poet who was born at Burley in Wharfedale, celebrated his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 2 August.

*14 August* Talk by R.S. Dower to Ilkley Disarmament Committee about what is meant by disarmament - a definite reduction by an agreed percentage of armaments by all nations. The open meeting in the Town Hall had the object in arousing interest in proposals coming before an International Conference on Disarmament in 1932.

*28 August* James Renwick dies age 66 on 22 August – an outstanding personality. He was Chairman of the directors of William Walker and Sons (Otley) Ltd, printers and publishers, including the Ilkley Gazette. He loved Wharfedale and he loved his fellow men in Wharfedale.

*28 August* A new professional record for the Ilkley Golf course as at present laid out was established this week by J.D. Henderson, the Ilkley professional. On Monday, he went round in 65 strokes, taking 30 strokes on the outward journey and 35 on the return. On only the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes were 5's registered.

## **September**

*4 September* Two German youths spending holidays on the rivers of England. On Saturday they arrived at Otley on their way to Goole.

*4 September* Air pageant at Yeadon watched by immense crowds, and a spectacular display of acrobatics was undertaken by Captain C.O. Barnard's clever air 'circus'. The National Flying Service has made an offer to hire the aerodrome.

*4 September* Ilkley Urban District Council agreed that electricity should be provided to Denton.

*11 September* An Ilkley hoarding on the main road into the town is allegedly blotting out rural scenery. The case was brought before the Otley bench. The case was dismissed as there had been no contravention of the by-law by the Otley and Ilkley Billposting Company.

*25 September* White Wells lit by floodlights which forms part of the illuminations which delegates to various conferences in Ilkley can witness.

*25 September* Oxford Group Movement – 200 members gathered at Ben Rhydding Golf Hotel from around the country. The Movement is a gathering of people for the deepening of spiritual life. All kinds of people attended.

Ilkley illuminations begin: pretty schemes in electric lights.

*25 September* A proposed collection in Ilkley – a shilling per person is suggested, which could help if only in a small way towards paying the Nation's overdraft.

*25 September* National Chamber of Trade's annual conference in King's Hall. The Bradford Chamber strongly protests against the extravagance in administering the affairs of municipalities, county and district councils.

## **October**

*2 October* Live bomb being used as a toy by three school children in Colbert Avenue. The children were trying to remove the pin from a rusty Mills bomb which they found in a wall in Little Lane near the Head Gardener's cottage.

*2 October* Chamber of Trade Conference – over 300 delegates consider the national crisis on tariffs and rising unemployment.

*2 October* Ilkley's war memorial is given a very beautiful effect by floodlighting – part of the illuminations prepared for the celebration of Michael Faraday's centenary.

*2 October* 'The 'grand old man of cricket' Mr William Lister dies aged 87 – probably the last link with the early days of Ilkley Cricket Club.

*9 October* Yorkshire Rotarians meet at Ilkley where world problems come under discussion, and there was a heartfelt plea for fellowship and personal service.

*9 October* A general election is to be held on 27 October 1931.

*16 October* Leslie Henson in 'The Sport of Kings'; Seymour Hicks 'The Love Habit' and Joe Brown 'Going Wild'.

*16 October* A group of collecting stations at Ilkley on Saturday raised £117 through voluntary contributions in aid of the National Treasury funds.

*16 October* Plain signs that motorists fail to see prohibiting the use of Ilkley Old Bridge to motors.

*16 October* General Election – Liberals have decided not to contest Pudsey and Otley, therefore it will be a straight fight between Conservative and Labour.

*30 October* National Candidate won with a three to one majority.

Charles Gibson (Con) 31,701; William Pickles (Lab) 10,013. Conservative majority: 21,688. Electorate: 52,157. Only 48 spoilt papers. A poll of slightly over 80%.

A great factor in Mr Gibson's success was the support of the Executive Committee of the Divisional Liberal Association.

*30 October* Ilkley Urban District Council opposed to Leeds Corporation running buses to Ilkley.

*30 October* A pair of swans and a pair of Muscovy ducks, the gift of the Southend Corporation, were 'launched' on the Ilkley Tarn on 29 October. It is possible that other waterfowl will be received during the winter from the Wakefield Corporation.

## **November**

*6 November* Council workers wages in Ilkley are to be reduced for all above the Joint Industrial Council scale . They are to be reduced by ½d an hour. Workmen whose wages are already on the scale will be unaffected. Other employees who do not come under the Joint Industrial Council rates and receiving more than £100 a year are to be reduced by 2½%.

*13 November* Ilkley Howitzers presented with a cup. Lieutenant Colonel G.A. Armitage presented the Battery Sergeant Major Dobson with the Honours Cup which he holds for one year as Battery Sergeant-Major of the most efficient battery at the annual camp held this year at Catterick.

*13 November* Ilkley's modern version of 'Mary's Little Lamb'. A sheep owned by Mr W. Mason, a farmer of Middleton near Ilkley, called 'Ramsay' follows his owner around his farmyard and fields. Ramsay's mother died when he was four days old, and he had a male 'foster mother' (Mr Mason). He followed Mr Mason into town and on one occasion at the recent election into the polling booth, where he had not much regard for the 'intelligence' of polling booth officials when they chased him out. He watches his master with dog-like devotion and when resting in the barn (his home) always recognises the footsteps of his approaching master.

*13 November* 'Poppy Day' appeal. £259 was raised (£258-11s-7d in 1930), and not a single person refused to buy a poppy. 'Rogs', the Airedale belonging to Mr H. Roe, the Hon. Secretary of the Ilkley Branch of the British Legion paid their annual visits to Ilkley Church of England Schools. Harnessed pannier-wise with two collecting boxes, he is a popular favourite with the young. As they pay their contributions into the boxes, the teachers carefully impress upon them that the poppies are worn in remembrance of the men who had fallen in the Great War.

*20 November* 220 ex-servicemen were on the parade on Remembrance Sunday in Ilkley. More people attended events than in 1930. People not only have paid tribute to the fallen and shared in the service of commemoration and re-dedication, but also indicated the firm conviction that every effort must be made to maintain and ensure the future peace of the world.

*27 November* Ilkley haulage contractor and bookmaker having a deficiency of £370 is declared bankrupt.

## **December**

*4 December* Mr Frazer, Headmaster of Ilkley Grammar School, says there is no relationship between the aptitude for business and the university matriculation examination. Afraid that the 'matriculation business' was becoming a fetish with the harassed employer who thought he had hit upon a labour saving device for sifting recruits. This was a mistake. Mr Frazer was speaking at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual

Dinner of the Old Olicanians Association. The first Annual Dinner was on 30 November 1901 when 20 Old Boys met for dinner at Lister's Arms Hotel. At the same hotel in 1931, over 100 attended!

*11 December* Mr Howard Priestman dies aged 66. He was a textile consultant in Bradford; a lecturer at Leeds University in 1913 and adviser to the War Office regarding Army clothing in 1914. Mountaineering in Norway was a great passion for him. He made annual visits to Norway since 1885 and was a great friend of Dr Nansen. He spoke Norse fluently and mapped & photographed the mountain ranges in Norway. Such material was held in high esteem and achieved the Gold Medal of the Norwegian Tourist Club. He was a Quaker and a member of Ilkley's League of Nations Union.

## **1932**

### ***January***

*1 January* Craiglands Hotel – despite the fall in value of the pound, the hotel has seen over 1,000 more visitors this year.

*1 January* New Years Eve 1931 – a frozen farewell; New Year 1932: a rapid thaw which followed the blizzards of 27 December 1931.

*8 January* Over £50 landed on Ilkley ratepayers as a result of someone putting a wrought iron 'bend' into a sewer at Middleton. It lodged and caused stoppage in the sewer. Thousands of gallons of water per day were leaking into the sewer and over £50 costs were incurred to remedy the problem.

*29 January* Ilkley British Legion in a good position despite difficult times. The Relief Committee said 197 payments at a cost of £92 and total disbursements including grants were 226 at a cost of £117-17s-6d. It has 224 paid-up members.

### ***February***

*5 February* The date, 2 February 1932 could be a turning point in world history with the Geneva Disarmament Conference being another step in the Versailles Treaty fulfilment starting. Yet at the same time Japanese planes are causing a litter of death and destruction on Shanghai.

*5 February* Ilkley man bound for the Arctic to take part in recording sea levels with the help of a new device, the 'Ecometer' used for taking sea bottom soundings (can undertake 60 accurate soundings in 70 seconds). On this, his second visit to the Arctic, he will be working around Bear Island.

*12 February* Ilkley gifts – a very generous response on the part of the Ilkley district to the appeal made by Mrs Lane Fox for the provision of clothing for miner's families in distressed areas of Yorkshire.

*19 February* New weaving shed at Low Mill, Addingham where many Ilkley people are employed – it provides work for 200 operatives. The new shed is for a new subsidiary company formed by Lister & Co. Ltd, Bradford and Gebruder Peltzer AC of Krefeld, Germany. 100 looms are coming from Germany and a dozen German weavers are also to come with the new looms and train the local workers. Artificial silk, chiffon and dress velvet to be manufactured. The oldest part of Low Mill dates from 1787 and a further portion was added in 1826. Low Mill was the first factory erected in connection with the firm of Lister & Co. whose Manningham Mills are amongst the most famous in the West Riding.

*26 February* Mr Harry Bland retires after nearly 4 years service at Ben Rhydding Station. It is unusual to be employed entirely at one station, and Mr Bland is the first railway servant to retire from Ben Rhydding Station.

*26 February* £137 loss on Ilkley Coronation Hospital's year. Fees reduced for private wards.

## **March**

*4 March* Old postcards of Ilkley comprising an interesting collection of lantern slides, the work of the late Mr J.W. Benson has been presented to Ilkley Museum by his daughter.

*4 March* Captain Harold B. Maufe VC, 'Hillside', Ilkley engaged to Miss Gwendoline Carr of 'Low Wood', Ben Rhydding.

*11 March* Mr W. Dobson, chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council starts the new water filtration plant at Panorama Reservoir on 7 March.

*18 March* Army Schemes in Wharfedale. 25 officers from the Catterick Camp made Ben Rhydding Golf Hotel their headquarters last week whilst carrying out tactical schemes in Wharfedale. Under Brigadier Foster commanding the 13 Infantry Brigade, the Infantry officers were accompanied by officers of other arms including tanks, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers.

*18 March* Ilkley's rates brought down to 11s9d in the pound. Nearly 4 shillings reduction in two years.

*24 March* Dr G.B. Hillman, MP for Wakefield and son of the late Rev. S.D. Hillman, Pastor of Ilkley Congregational Church died in London aged 64 on the 18 March. Early in the First World War he was the Medical Officer at Lady Wheeler's Auxiliary Military Hospital at Ledston Hall. In 1915 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps,



serving in the Malta Command where he attained the rank of Major in 1918. He was awarded a MBE.

*24 March* Mr Henry Brogden, Consul of Norway in Bradford has been made a Knight of 1<sup>st</sup> Class of the Order of St Olav. Brogden is a wool merchant in Bradford.

## ***April***

*1 April* New Cinema, Ilkley: Marlene Dietrich in 'Dishonoured' and Gary Cooper in 'I Take this Woman'.

*1 April* Major F.H. Fawkes of Farnley Hall, Otley is the New Sheriff of Yorkshire.

*1 April* Wharfedale farmer Joseph Swaine from Otley found dying from a head wound in the lavatories at Skipton Auction Market on 24 March. There were bank notes and cheques missing from him. Swaine was a bachelor aged 63. He travelled by bus to Skipton and stopped in Addingham to see Fred Deighton who has a small farm on the Cringles.

*8 April* Many German workers at Low Mill Addingham are housed in Ilkley, and every Thursday from 8pm to 10pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ilkley St Margaret's Rover Den at St Margaret's Hall is made available for recreation. Twenty Germans are desirous for English lessons.

Plea from Ilkley librarian for books in German on any topic, especially literature, to be loaned to the library.

*8 April* According to a newly published book on the Ilkley Howitzers there were 96 casualties from the Ilkley battery in the First World War. Another 25 left the battery to take up commissions. Memorial at Thiepval on the opposite front to where the batteries were stationed in 1916!

*15 April* Henry Croudson, organist at the New Cinema Ilkley, has been appointed organist at the New Paramount Cinema, Leeds. He has been in Ilkley since January 1931.

*15 April* Ilkley Holiday Home for Children at 'Highfield' near the Cow and Calf Rocks has over the past year again done fine work for the children. The 105 children from Leeds gained 254lbs and the 92 children who came from Bradford gained 237lbs. Although the 1931 summer had been a cold one, the health of the children had been better than usual.

*22 April* Disarmament condemned by an ex-Ilkley ex-serviceman who calls himself 'exile' in an article for the Gazette and does live overseas. Trade peace is necessary first and the tariff war is worse than the old sort.

*29 April* A broadcast talk by Dr C.H. Moody of Ripon entitled '800 Years of Britain's History – Fountains Abbey and Medieval Yorkshire' was aired on the radio at the request of the Travel and Industrial Development Association of Great Britain and Ireland to which Ilkley and Ben Rhydding Publicity Association is affiliated. Moody states regarding Ilkley: 'a charming little town, surrounded by health-giving moors and justly proud of its growing reputation as a spa and convenient centres for their tours.' The talk by Moody is to be released early in May from 300 stations in USA, Canada and Mexico, and also from South Africa, France and Germany.

## **May**

*13 May* W.H. Smith booksellers moves from temporary premises at 12 Wells Road to Edinburgh House, The Grove.

*13 May* Ledgard's Whitsuntide holidays to Scarborough (9/- return); the Dukeries (8/- return) and Buxton (10/- return).

*13 May* Four representatives of the Scandinavian Travel Bureau and Press visited Ilkley for two days to observe the Wharfedale Music Festival, a trip up Wharfe Valley and meals at the Ben Rhydding Golf Hotel.

*13 May* Denton School again captured the banner for small elementary school choirs at the Wharfedale Music Festival in Ilkley.

Notice boards are to be sited on main roads through Ilkley telling tourists etc about the features of interest of the town.

*20 May* Whitsuntide in Wharfedale – jolly crowds on Ilkley Moors finding the loveliness of spring.

Poor box broken open at Ilkley Parish Church. It still contained 8d but unsure how much cash was left in it in the first place.

*27 May* Wharfedale Scouts and Guides held their annual Empire Day service in King's Hall on 22 May with over 600 people taking part. The former District Commissioner for Scouts (Gordon M. May of Adel) took the salute. Mr Akers is one of the best known men in Ilkley and is very popular. He has just retired as the manager of the Midland Bank after 47 years in the banking service of which 32 have been spent in Ilkley. He is involved with the Tennis Club, the Wharfedale Music Festival, Ilkley Development Association and Ilkley Photographic Society. Golf is also a hobby of his.

*27 May* Captain R.S.P. Bates, who went to India in 1917 with commission in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 9<sup>th</sup> Jats, is very keen on bird life and has written a book on 'Bird Life in India' published by the Bombay Natural History Society. He is the youngest son of the late Dr W.R. Bates of Ilkley.

*27 May* Mr Fortescue Fox of London, speaking at the Mid Wales Spa Conference of the British Health Resorts Association, stated that British spas had not been specialised to the same extent as on the Continent, though there were many available whose waters had diuretic properties, and amongst these he mentioned those of Ilkley.

*27 May* Ilkley school attendances: 88% attendance record.

It is not higher than this percentage as mothers in Ilkley are very careful and when their children have colds they don't push them out to school, but take care of them. Why? As one lady on the Educational Sub-Committee remarked: 'In a place like Ilkley, parents are on a higher level'.

*27 May* A sports club has been formed for the village of Denton.

## **June**

*10 June* Film at the Grove Picture House: Greta Garbo in 'The Rise of Helga'. At the New Cinema: Leslie Howard in 'Daughter of Luxury'.

*10 June* Captain T. Harold B. Maufe V.C. married Miss Gwendoline Carr of Ben Rhydding at St Margaret's Church exactly 15 years after winning the Victoria Cross. The honeymoon is in Scotland and they will live at North Hall, Middleton.

*17 June* West Yorkshire Ramblers Federation meets at the Cow and Calf. A crowd of 5,000 attended a rally. They demonstrated their satisfaction with the 'Rights of Way Bill' in Parliament and urged the promotion of the 'Access to Mountains Bill'.

*24 June* International Society of the University of Leeds meets in Ilkley. The eighth such event will attract many guests including the Chinese Consul General. Mr M.A. Jinnah to speak on 'India of the Present Day' (he was later to play a key role in the 1947 Partition of India issue) and Herr Walther Wellman on 'Germany: Her Political Development post-1918 and the Outlook on the Probable Future'.

## **July**

*8 July* Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead of Brunswick Chapel, Leeds preached a sermon on 'The Guarded Universe' at Ben Rhydding Wesleyan Church on Sunday.

*15 July* Thrilling rescue from the River Wharfe. An Ilkley boy is saved after he had gone under for the third time while trying to support himself in an inflated tyre in mid-river. He was eight-year old Trevor Anderton and his rescuer was Mr. Mayhall from Horsforth.

*22 July* Mr John H. Tetley dies aged 91. For over 64 years he was a prolific preacher associated with the Methodist and Wesleyan churches in Leeds and Ilkley and indeed in many parts of the country.

29 July Proposed night gliding on Beamsley Beacon.

A Wharfedale Howitzer's view of Thiepval in 1916 in the week that the Prince of Wales unveiled a memorial to the missing at Thiepval on 1 August.

## **August**

12 August Ilkley Churches meeting to decide on a special fund for helping the unemployed – to seek to devise some scheme which would help to relieve local distress during the coming winter.

12 August Mr Robert Wild dies aged 81 – one of the earliest surviving employees of the old Ilkley Gas Company.

Ilkley Howitzers (276<sup>th</sup> battery of 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army) leave for a week's camp at Hornsea.

19 August The Kattamarans, 'the clever team' of Indian cricket tourists, visited Ilkley this week and played the Craven Gentlemen.

19 August Lady Oddy (Dame Marion), wife of the late Sir James Oddy and formerly of The Hall, Ilkley, dies. Sir James was the M.P. for Pudsey 1908-1910.

## **September**

2 September Military voters. In dealing with a list of 'absent voters', there appeared to be a certain amount of difficulty in Ilkley connection with the names of naval and military voters. Perhaps the War Office could supply a list of names of men who claimed a vote in the Division. Ilkley received no intimation when a naval or military voter ceased to be in the service.

16 September Mr William Ross died in Ben Rhydding. He was one of the pioneers of cycling and motor manufacturing in Bradford. He opened the first Bradford garage in 1908 and in 1925 his sons established the Riverside Garage in Ilkley as Ross Bros Ltd.

23 September Illumination of the principal streets and gardens of Ilkley for the second year carried out by Ilkley Urban District Council's Electricity Department. War Memorial, Mill Ghyll & Spence's Garden all lit; also Canker Well and the trees in Brook Street and on The Grove. Locals have filled the streets to a much later hour than in former Ilkley feasts.

23 September Lewis' new store opened by the Lord Major of Leeds and 120,000 people were present on the opening day (17 September). It cost £¾ million - a gesture of faith in the future of Yorkshire.

*23 September* Gliding record for Ilkley. In a flight lasting 45 minutes, Mr H.S. Crabtree launched from Beamsley Beacon, climbed steadily to a height of 250 feet above the cairn, and after flying for some time above the hill top, turned down the valley and by way of Addingham Mill he flew to Ilkley making a landing at Crum Wheel.

*30 September* 265 men and women registered as unemployed in the Ilkley and Addingham area.

*30 September* Ilkley postman Mr C. Mellor of Leicester Crescent retires after 45 years service at Nesfield and Langbar travelling over 226,640 miles. His rounds were between 12 and 18 miles a day. For 20 years before the War he was a regular playing member of Ilkley Moor Golf Club. Residents on his round later gave him a cheque in appreciation of his duties.

*30 September* Professor F.W. Eurich retires from his post of Professor of Forensic Medicine at Leeds University since 1908. He lived at Lanshawe Cottage in Ilkley. He has written widely on matters of neurological and bacteriological interest and he will continue his work at hospitals in Bradford and Ilkley.

## **October**

*7 October* Methodist Union celebrated in Ilkley – linking Wesleyan, Primitive and United Methodist Churches together.

*7 October* The North Eastern Regional Conference of the National Savings Movement is held in Ilkley on the same week that the Government announced the Conversion of 5% War Loan. This will result in a great saving of interest to the State.

*7 October* Ilkley Urban District Council's £6,000 sewage scheme for Middleton and private street works to be started again. Sadly, wilful damage to public property reported.

*7 October* Mr W. Graham celebrates 25 years as Ilkley's Chief Librarian.

*14 October* Ilkley man is fined 10s for street betting in Ilkley.

*14 October* Mr N.L. Frazer is retiring on account of his age in April 1933. He has been the Headmaster at Ilkley Grammar School since 1916.

*21 October* To help with the rising unemployment, the Council is to give 20 unemployed rent-free allotments for a year after which they will pay the ordinary charge. In the year they are free, five shillings had to be contributed to the cost of seeds and tools.

## **November**

*4 November* Ilkley Women Conservatives hear Miss Deakin of Conservative Central Office say 'give peace in our time'.

*4 November* Controversy over the hiring out at Ilkley Urban District Council's Highways Department: selling small quantities of road material for private road making and hiring out the footpath roller for similar work. The view was that this issue should be treated as a matter of policy rather than law.

*11 November* Ilkley's unemployed was 204 in July; 233 in August and 236 in September.

*11 November* Remembrance Day at Ilkley. One of the services was held in the unemployed rest room.

The message brought home in Ilkley's school services was that in the War people died for freedom, justice and their country's good – very high ideals. War is futile and destructive; peace is full of vigour and purpose, the essential condition of human progress. Peace is not secure as fear, suspicion, selfishness and misunderstanding lead men and nations astray.

*18 November* £270 for 'Poppy Appeal' is raised from Ilkley District League of Nations. The immediate task is 'to disarm the world before the world is destroyed' – the local branch of the League of Nations Union is told.

*18 November* The Ilkley Unemployed have formed a football club.

*25 November* Ben Rhydding Station Manager, John Richardson, retires after 34 years service.

*25 November* Every public spirited man should find the unemployed work for at least one day, undertaking public duties – repairs, cleaning up, painting etc.

## **December**

*2 December* Plea for good citizenship is made at the Old Olicanians Annual Dinner.

*2 December* Sculptured stones on Rombalds Moor. Mr Wade Hustwick (Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society) suggested the rings and cups were symbolic of the 'home of spirit of early Briton after his death'. Perhaps also the holes were used in sacred fire worship – kindling a fire in the hole.

*9 December* Men could be taught to repair their own boots, suggested the Council to help in the unemployment crisis.

*16 December* Duncan McKinlay, a noted art teacher in Glasgow, dies in Ilkley at 88 years of age.

*16 December* Clevedon House School Christmas Party – presented a series of scenes to which the audience were invited to supply a title, the titles being also those of well-known books.

*23 December* A fair response to odd jobs appeal in the Ilkley area for the unemployed.

*30 December* Working sheep dogs and owners took part in an excellent exhibition at Ilkley on Boxing Day.

*30 December* Mr W.B. Hillis appointed to succeed Mr N.L. Frazer as Ilkley Grammar School Headmaster in April 1933.

*30 December* 70<sup>th</sup> West Riding Field Brigade Royal Artillery, Territorial Army held in the town. 225 people attended what was one of the most popular and fashionable functions in Wharfedale held in the Winter Gardens.

## **1933**

### ***January***

*6 January* Man charged with stealing from a collection box for the blind – total taken was 7s3d.

*6 January* Christmas party organised for children of the unemployed in Ilkley by the Social Centre of the Unemployed in the town.

*6 January* Altered bus times and higher fares in the Wharfedale area. Higher fares implemented to bring them in line with those operating in other districts.

*13 January* Lady Watson, the wife of the former local MP, stated that 'cookery ought to be raised to an art and our universities ought to have Chairs in Domestic Science and chiefly cooking.

*20 January* Keen frost but light snow and high hopes of skating on the Tarn.

Ivor Novello starring in 'The Desert Song' at the New Cinema and Greta Garbo in 'As You Desire Me' at Grove Pictures.

*27 January* Moorland hermit, a recluse who lived near Dick Hudson's dies in Keighley. He was John Ball, better known as Johnny Baker, one of the most remarkable and picturesque figures in the North of England.

He lived in a one-roomed stone house for 23 years near 'Dick Hudson's' pub. He was known as the hermit of Ilkley Moor with long hair and a beard. He came north

from Tiverton in Somerset over 70 years ago, and never lost his Somerset accent. He worked on the railways as a ganger, and on reservoirs in many places. Whilst a navy in Bingley, he ran a navy's canteen and was fined £20 for 'shebeening'. The next day he was caught again and was fined £40 which he paid in sovereigns.

At one time he was a groom and gardener to Judge Newell at Eldwick. For some years he lodged at Dick Hudson's where he fried hundreds of hams and thousands of eggs. Indeed he was known as a killer of pigs and curer of hams. Some months ago he was removed to hospital as a result of the interest a kindly police officer took in him. He died there from a seizure.

## **February**

*10 February* Ilkley Parish Church - members, in realising the seriousness and intensity of the unemployment problem, have asked fellow worshippers to make weekly contributions to enable work to be found for two or three men in carrying out improvements in the churchyard. The cost was not from church funds but was a definite means of providing extra work.

*17 February* Ilkley resident, a keen yachtsman and yacht collector, has purchased a brigantine with a history. Mr F.S. Jackson of 'One Oak', Ilkley has purchased the boat 'The Lady of Avenel' built in Falmouth in 1874. The boat has taken cargoes to and from Labrador and Brazil, been twice to the Arctic and twice around Cape Horn.

*24 February* A welcome improvement in finances for Ilkley Coronation Hospital. Income over the past year £1929 and total expenditure £1716 leaving a surplus of £213. Over 6,000 patients treated in 28 years.

*24 February* 242 out of work in Ilkley, made up of joiners, bricklayers, builder's labourers, masons, plasterers, painters, plumbers, electricians, cabinet makers, travellers, fitters, gardeners, general engineers, whitesmiths, motor mechanics, carters, errand boys, bookkeepers, hotel workers, general labourers, clerks, office boys, car washers, motor drivers, shop assistants and salesmen, textile workers, tailors and bakehouse assistants.

## **March**

*3 March* Worst snow storm of the century. In Wharfedale, there were drifts ten feet deep, and road transport was suspended and telephone wires wrecked. The blizzards lasted for two days from 5pm on 24 February to the evening of 26 February. The worst previous snowfall was in March 1886.

A man collapsed and died while shovelling snow in Regent Road, Ilkley.



In many parts of Ilkley district, three horses were harnessed to the snow ploughs to clear a track along the roads.

Cost of clearing snow was £400, in other words, over a penny on the rates.

*10 March* Permanent extension of licensing hours in Wharfedale increased from 10pm to 10.30pm. Opposed by Temperance groups and the churches.

*10 March* Dr A.W.F. Blunt, the Bishop of Bradford, took a confirmation service for 18 candidates (4 girls and 14 boys) at Ben Rhydding Parish Church.

*10 March* Canon Irton Smith, Vicar of St Margaret's Ilkley from 1890 to 1908, dies in Tunbridge Wells.

*17 March* Professor S. Brodetsky of Leeds University, gives a talk at Riddings Road Lecture Hall on 'The Present Political Crisis in Europe'.

*17 March* Sale of the late Colonel W.S. Dawson's estate at Otley (Ashfield House) also included Langbar and Middleton Moors, with farms near Ilkley.

*24 March* Dr S.D. Stirk of Addingham, an Old Boy of Ilkley Grammar School, has been awarded a D Phil in History at the University of Breslau in Germany where he is now English Lektor. He is very interested in local history, especially of St Peter's Church in Addingham.

*24 March* Judge Woodcock's advice to young couples – marry young, keep out of debt and have the need for God. Don't get into debt for luxuries such as gramophones and wireless sets.

## **April**

*7 April* The Bishop of Bradford held a confirmation service at Ilkley Parish Church on 1 April 1933 for 23 candidates (20 females and 3 males). One had to avoid temptation and self-complacency.

*7 April* Concern in two letters to the Ilkley Gazette editor about the smell of sewage and gas which is known to be 'notorious' in Ilkley. They can be cured by modern methods.

*7 April* English Sheep Dog Trials to be held in Ilkley at Denton Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1933. It is the first occasion that these famous trials have been held in the area.

*13 April* Wharfedale Rural Council – the rate for the new half year is again to be 4s6d in the pound.

*21 April* Richard Ellis Beanlands of Ilkley flies himself to the Isle of Man on Good Friday from Yeadon aerodrome for lunch. A rough landing in the wrong field. The island has no aerodrome but does have a landing field.

*21 April* Though not yet quite completed, Ilkley's new public garden on The Grove at the corner of Parish Ghyll Road was opened for the Easter holidays.

*28 April* Labour Party meeting in Ilkley hear an address from the County Alderman Lady Mabel Smith on 'fear, greed and competition' being at the heart of today's troubles.

## **May**

*5 May* Lightning havoc in Ilkley – many windows shattered in the Bridge Lane district, and huge stones flung 12 feet through iron railings.

*5 May* As a result of the housing problem in Ilkley, the Council is to consider erecting 7/- a week houses.

*5 May* A new committee is to be set up by a public meeting to sort out the issue of Ilkley and the Unemployed. A new Council of Social Welfare is to be formed. It was agreed that the problem of unemployment in the district should be separated from the formal activities of the Council.

*26 May* An Ilkley man is fined 6s and ordered to pay the costs for throwing orange peel on the highway at Kettlewell.

## **June**

*9 June* Wharfedale's record Whitsuntide. Records in sunshine, crowds, bathing, camping and everything!

*9 June* Ilkley Urban District Council agreed that it should be left to the private builder to erect more houses than Ilkley Urban District Council do, and charge a rental of about 7/- a week for the houses.

*23 June* Mr Archibald Percy Miles dies in Ben Rhydding aged 58. He had a long experience in book buying and ran James Miles and Sons, Leeds booksellers.

*23 June* Mr B.R. Gribbon of Ben Rhydding, a member of Chorley, Gribbon and Foggitt, architects of Leeds, has been elected a member of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

*30 June* A lecture by Miss R.A. Pennethorne, organising secretary of the Parent's National Educational Union at Winton School in Ben Rhydding on modern methods in education: namely let children think and study for themselves instead of having

lessons drilled into them. The Parent's National Educational Union was about the method by which they worked and the matter in which they gave.

Single reading was important – a child would read alone, followed by its own narration, illustration and dramatisation. At the end of each term, an examination would be set.

Education became a part of themselves.

## **July**

*14 July* As a result of a special Review Committee of the West Riding County Council, Ilkley may extend into Airedale and Washburndale – covering Burley, Menston, Askwith, Denton, Nesfield and Hawksworth. The Council in Ilkley agreed, but the Otley districts objected.

*14 July* G.H. Oddy, a former Bradford stuff merchant and an officer in Ilkley Volunteers dies. He had lived in Ilkley for 35 years. In the War, he joined Ilkley Volunteers – the 4<sup>th</sup> (Volunteer) Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He became a lieutenant and took a practical interest in the local organisation.

*14 July* Advertisements for selling Ilkley have appeared in Thos. Cook & Son's 'How to See Britain'. Four conferences have been held in Ilkley in the last two years, and Ilkley has been mentioned in broadcasts in the USA, South America and South Africa. Garden City Press have offered to produce more Ilkley Guide books but that offer has not been accepted by Ilkley and Ben Rhydding Publicity Association until further subscriptions come to hand.

*28 July* Judge Woodcock presented prayers at Ilkley Grammar School's speech day. He said that the boys need to bring to their lives courage and unselfishness. Selfishness only produces misery and unhappiness.

## **August**

*4 August* Proposed £5,000 bathing pool for Ilkley. It is believed that it will incur no cost on the rates. Ilkley Urban District Council are to seek a sanction from the Ministry of Health to borrow the money.

*11 August* Ilkley Grammar School pupil Mr J.L.C. Campbell leaves England for Northern Rhodesia to help set up a copper refining plant for the Rhokana mine.

*18 August* Denton Moors Glorious Twelfth grouse shooting. Miss Noeline Hill of Denton Park and her fiancée Mr. C.D. Aarvold, the Rugby Union International, were in Arthur Hill's party of nine guns which received a record bag for the opening day.

*18 August* Mr & Mrs Jasper Barnes celebrate their golden wedding today. They had a family of seven sons and two daughters of whom six sons and two daughters are still living today, along with ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

In the War two of their sons, Sergeant Edward Barnes and his brother Frank, served in the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars. No fewer than six of their sons; Albert, Joshua, Jasper, Edward, Frank and Noel; served in the War and their other son William was working in munitions. Their eldest daughter was Mrs Wade of Burley, whose husband was wounded in the War whilst with the 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes. Treasured possessions include two casket and pipes presented by Princess Mary, the Colonel in Chief of the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars, to their sons serving in that unit.

*25 August* Australian Rugby League tourists arrive in Ilkley at the start of their four-month tour. They will be based at Marlborough Hotel.

*25 August* The Queen passed through Wharfedale on 24 August from Harewood House on her way to Skipton to have lunch with Brigadier General Roger Tempest at Broughton Hall and then on to Browsholme Hall near Clitheroe.

## **September**

*8 September* Cost of Ilkley gasworks is now paid off. The last instalment on the original loan of £56,286 for the purchase of Ilkley Gas Works in 1893 has been paid. While the gas undertaking has been in the possession of Ilkley Council, £36,000 was paid to relief of the rates.

*15 September* Suggestions of a Carnival in Ilkley in 1934? Traders are asked to back the Council and close the shops at 12 noon on Feast Day.

*15 September* A large fire over three square miles of Rombald's Moor between Gaping Goose and Burley Woodhead.

*22 September* Bradford angler on the River Wharfe witnesses an otter take his fish and his fly with it on a river stretch by the Old Bridge in Ilkley.

*29 September* This week has witnessed gas lighting of Ilkley Parish Church, Old Bridge and White Wells, providing a magnificent spectacle for locals and visitors.

*29 September* Mr E. Roy Bird, MP for Skipton dies of pneumonia on a visit to Rhodesia and South Africa.

*29 September* Isaac Hirst celebrates 40 years as the organist at Ilkley Parish Church.

## **October**

*6 October* Past and present members of the Yorkshire County Cricket Team are at Ilkley Golf Club as guests of Mr A. Jenkinson of 'Iddesleigh', Ilkley.

*6 October* Advert: Mr Horace F. Castle, ARCA, London MRST, 'Lynthorpe', North Croft Grove, Ilkley – painting, drawing, design, lettering, poster and crafts.

*13 October* The Conservative candidate at Skipton by-election is G.W. Rickards of West Morton who represents Addingham on the West Riding County Council. Another local man, this time from Burley, is Mr R.C. Denby, a solicitor in Bradford.

*27 October* Ilkley Council finances in a very favourable position.

*27 October* Protests by Australian Rugby League tourists (after their fourth defeat) against touch judges – in 15 games the judges had gone on the field over 20 times against the Australians and only once for them to speak to the referee about the decisions in the games. The complaint was not viewed favourably by the English management!

## **November**

*3 November* A plan of the proposed bathing pool at Ilkley, the subject of a Ministry of Health inquiry, has been prepared by Ilkley Urban District Council's Surveyor. The total area of the pool is 1520 square yards, and the depth can be varied for waterpolo or racing, and diving boards will be erected. Entrances will be from the footpath on Denton Road .

*10 November* 'Buy British' a novel advertising campaign – an illuminated street parade with a van of 2,688 lights to visit Wharfedale and Airedale 'Buy Empire Goods British-made and Empire grown. Buy British'.

*10 November* Captain R.H.D. Bolton of Ilkley has been appointed one of the new Chief Inspectors in the Metropolitan Police.

*10 November* Mr G.W. Rickards wins the by-election with a majority of nearly 4,000 over Mr J.P. Davies, his Socialist challenger. 51,000 electorate. 82% poll. Liberals were third and the Communist fourth.

*17 November* Remembrance Services: Lieutenant Colonel D. Hastings took the salute. The only member of the Australian Rugby League Tourists to have served in the War. Henry Denny laid a wreath. He served in Palestine and Egypt with the Australian Light Horse Brigade.

*17 November* Lord Baden Powell visits Ilkley in his capacity as Chief Scout to visit Frank Whiteley CMG. Both men had taken part in the siege of Mafeking.

*24 November* Addingham man fined 15s for using obscene language in Church Street, Ilkley on a Sunday night just as the congregation was leaving the Parish Church.

*24 November* Debate at the Ilkley Branch of the League of Nations Union that Japan has not received her due need of justice from the League for incidents in Manchuria. The motion was defeated overwhelmingly with only 13 people voting in favour. Mr R.A. Crowther, Ilkley Young Conservatives proposed and Reverend Philip Lea, former Ilkley Parish Church curate and now in Bradford, opposed.

## ***December***

*22 December* Photograph of Ilkley Howitzer's Association Football team taken near La Louviere Chateau near Ypres in 1918: G. Eaton, J. Crowe, T. Dumbervan, J. Willis, N. Teale, Burrell, J. Kienan, D. Baxter, E. Williams, H. Silson, W. Pilkington, D. Gornall, J. Ruane, T. McGarn, W. Swales, T. Cocker and T. Binns.

*29 December* Death of Frank Whitley CMG on 27 December who lived at 'Oakville' in Ilkley. He was the Mayor of Mafeking during the famous siege in the Boer War when Lord Baden Powell as Colonel was carrying out military defence of the town. He had lived in Ilkley since 1903. He was on the Committee for Ilkley Hospital and the Convalescent Home. He was a Governor of Ilkley Grammar School and a Justice of the Peace (JP), and also President of Ilkley Cricket Club. He was commandant of the three military hospitals in Ilkley in the Great War.

## **1934**

### ***January***

*5 January 1934* Regarding Mr Frank Whiteley's funeral – Lord Baden Powell could not attend. However, among the mourners was Mr Andrew Byrne of Fagley in Bradford, a former police officer at Ilkley who, as a bombardier in the Royal Horse Artillery, was one of the few Yorkshiremen in the column which affected the relief of Mafeking in that dramatic manner which stirred the whole country.

*5 January* Death of Mrs H.P. Rabagliati after a long career in public service. She had just received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List, announced the week she died. She was the niece of John Bright, the politician and widow of the late Dr Andrew Rabagliati, the Bradford surgeon specialist. A staunch Conservative, she had a love of social service. She lived on the edge of Ilkley Moor at 'Whinbrae'.

In the War, she was the Chairman of the ladies Belgian Hospitality Centre and was in 1918 awarded the Medaille de la Reine Elizabeth by the King of the Belgians. She

was also the Vice President of the Women's Citizens Association formed near the end of the War in Ilkley.

*5 January* A holiday visitor to Ilkley was W.H. Milnes FRCO, son of Mr W.S. Milnes of Ashburn Place, and an old boy of Ilkley Grammar School. He is now an organist of Foundling Hospital at Redhill, Surrey, a post formerly held by the composer, Handel (who conducted his own Messiah at the hospital!).

*19 January* Military funeral in Ilkley for Battery Quartermaster Sergeant John McCrink who died on 12 January at his home. He was Battery Quartermaster Sergeant of the 276<sup>th</sup> (Ilkley) battery of the 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Artillery (T) aged 42. Son of Stephen McCrink of Addingham, he joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars at the age of 16 and went to France in 1914 when he was a Corporal. He became Full Sergeant in November 1914 and was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in the field. He took part in the retreat from Mons. He was never wounded, but on one occasion was gassed and buried when a shell exploded in his vicinity. He was one of the first British servicemen to enter Germany on the cessation of hostilities.

McCrink sent the first 'Active Service Postcard' to arrive in Ilkley.

He left the army with the rank of Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant and joined the 276<sup>th</sup> Battery (Ilkley Howitzers) and rose to the rank of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant. He commanded discipline and yet enjoyed respect and popularity. His superior officers had great confidence in his undoubted ability.

*26 January* A series of small modern houses for Ilkley (Shackleton's Houses) to be built at cost prices (£410 to £515) on Little Lane. Repayments from 9/- 9d weekly after a small deposit is paid. No road or legal charges.

## **February**

*2 February* Hitler Movement in Germany, a notable event in history, said Mr Philip Larcom, the Conservative Education Officer for Yorkshire speaking in the Blue Bird Cafe in Ilkley. Hitler's rise would rank in European history alongside the Renaissance and the French Revolution. Hitler would leave an indelible mark of his personality and his ideals for generations. He had brought a new idea that nations are not things of geographical boundaries but things of blood.

*2 February* Ilkley opposed the Wharfedale Amalgamation Scheme. The amalgamation of Ilkley, Burley and Otley Urban Districts with the major portion of the Wharfedale Rural area is the recommendation which the Special County Review Committee will place before West Riding County Council on 14 February. Ilkley is fairly satisfied with the draft proposals of June, but in several quarters there is

considerable opposition. The proposals are yet to come before the County Council and will also have to come before the Ministry of Health for final approval.

*23 February* Colonel H.T. Bates OBE, TD of Ilkley, son of the late Dr W.R. Bates has been appointed to succeed Colonel W. Lister, TD as Assistant Director of Medical Services of the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Division. Colonel Bates will be succeeded in turn in the commission of the 146<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps by Lieutenant Colonel J.T. Rusby MC.

*23 February* Ilkley Coronation Hospital's needs of funds as expenses were within £5 of income last year. Prospect of increasing demand on the hospital in the future.

*23 February* Alfred Fletcher returned unopposed to represent Ilkley district in the West Riding County Council elections this year.

### **March**

*9 March* County Council Election. Mr E. Waddilove (1,863 votes), the Conservative candidate was defeated by 106 votes by the Labour candidate Gilbert Jones (1,969 votes) in Yeadon.

*16 March* Ilkley's new motorised snow plough in action for the first time in the town.

*16 March* Ilkley's new rate to be 12/- in the £. County rate is 6d more, and the local rate 3d less.

*23 March* Ben Rhydding Sports Club. By a majority of 76 votes to 4, the Club carried the proposal that the Club be open on Sundays.

At Grove Pictures, Ilkley: Noel Coward's 'Bittersweet' and Spencer Tracy.

### **April**

*6 April* Ilkley Council and Middleton Woods – why were plots of woodland sold?

Ilkley Urban District Council respond to criticism regarding plots by Lionel Crescent. The Council originally offered five plots of this land for sale at £150 per plot. Three of these plots had been sold with the consent of the Ministry of Health.

The Council Chairman said that altogether there were 87 acres of woodland in addition to playing fields. When the other two plots were sold, they would have received a total of £750. Additionally, the Council would be saving the cost of £850 in making up the roadway and there would still be 82 acres of woodland left. The woods and playing fields were purchased for £11,000.



*6 April* Mr F.F. Steinthal dies aged 80 in Sussex. He formerly lived at Mount Stead in a house where the Petrie's now live. He was involved in the wool trade and was succeeded by his youngest son Major P.C. Petrie into the business. The sons took the mother's name of Petrie during the War. He set up the Guild of Help in Ilkley to help people through all kinds of difficulties, of which financial difficulties were just but a part.

In the War, the duties passed to the Soldiers, Sailors and Families Association and since then has been carried on by the Ilkley Council of Social Welfare.

*6 April* Ilkley Urban District Council is to pay more attention to looking after Hebers Ghyll than they have been able to for some time.

*20 April* St Margaret's Church – altar rails to be dedicated by Bishop Frodsham on 22 April in memory of Canon Irton Smith. The work is designed by F.L. Charlton FRIBA and has been carried out in English oak by Mr Robert Thompson of Kilburn near Thirsk.

*20 April* Arthur Edward Robert Gilligan, a 39 year old journalist (educated in Dulwich and at Cambridge University) of Bognor, Sussex marries Katherine Margaret Fox, youngest daughter of Mrs Fox of Woodlands Rise, Ilkley. Gilligan is the England and Sussex cricketer. He captained England in the 1924/25 tour of Australia. The couple are to live in Worthing.

*27 April* Arnold Cooke, a native of Ben Rhydding, came third out of 223 aspirants in Daily Telegraph's competition for writers of an overture for a full orchestra. Currently he is Professor of Composition and Harmony at the Royal Manchester College of Music.

## **May**

*4 May* Ilkley Council sells more land in Middleton Woods. Two remaining plots to go.

*11 May* Rombald's Moor. The moor is private property (so says Messrs Dibb, Lupton and Co of Leeds, solicitors for the owners of the Moors). The Moor is private property, purchased only recently by the present owner for a substantial sum of money. The public's rights (if any) are limited to rights of air and exercise only, subject to whatever restrictions and limitations the Minister may consider it proper to order. An appeal to the public's sense of fair play to keep to the roads and paths across the moor whilst the nesting season continues and until the Minister has made an order defining respective rights to all parties.

*18 May* An Article about "Cycling 50 Years Ago in Wharfedale" – comment in Ilkley Free Press about tricycles becoming more popular than the old-fashioned 'bone shaker'.

## **June**

*1 June* New swimming bath opens at Ghyll Royd School on 25 May. Very few schools had one so big 76 ft long, 16 ft wide and varies in depth from 5ft 6ins to 2ft 6 ins. It was opened by the Headmaster of Sedbergh School.

*8 June* Bishop of Bradford (Dr A.W.F. Blunt) – strong criticism of Sunday School work. Some had no Sunday Schools, some schools had no Bible and with hymn books in disgraceful condition and schools with no pictures or other apparatus.

*8 June* Ilkley Preservation League deputation – fight against the amalgamation by every means of opposition. Ilkley has to remain a separate entity. Three sub-committees formed: i) to oppose proposals for amalgamation; ii) to examine the whole question of provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932; and iii) Natural Amenities – preservation of woods and moors and countryside.

*15 June* Ramblers Urge their Rights on Rombald's Moor. 'The most famous moor in England'. Ilkley needs to follow Burley's example of rights for ramblers on the Burley section of Ilkley Moor. This was the message of the Ramblers Rally at the Cow & Calf Rocks addressed by Dr C.E.M. Joad the well known writer and Alfred Brown, a writer on rambling who resides in Burley. A plan was needed to re-open paths throughout Wharfedale – paths and tracks need surveying.

*15 June* Many tributes to Delius on his death. He always hoped to return to Yorkshire. He would have liked his wife to see the beauties of Wharfedale, but it was not to be. One feels that all Delius' music is evolved out of a past that was never fully realised at the time. As a child, he spent some weeks in Ilkley every summer. Frederick and his brother Max had escaped to Ilkley and walked over the moor to the town where they were spotted by a family friend who telegraphed the worried parents and put them on the Bradford train. He had an intense love of the beauties of nature which he encapsulated in his music, especially the emotion that Nature wakes in the sensitive soul.

## **July**

*13 July* Mr Mallalieu (Liberal, Colne Valley) asked the Minister of Agriculture (Walter Elliott) in the House of Commons about access to Rombald's Moor in April, May, August and September (when an application is made to prevent access), and would the Minister give full consideration to the fact that the Moor is subject to statutory right of public to access for air and recreation. The Minister said as yet no representations of protest had been received.

*27 July* Ilkley Grammar School speech day. Professor of English at Leeds University, E.P. Wilson gave an unusually interesting address. He stressed the value of education as a preparation for what he called the 'art of living', an art which he

said was much more difficult today than it was 100 or 200 years ago. R.G. Rust, an Old Boy, attended a League of Nations summer school in Geneva.

*27 July* Rombald's Moor rights – a public inquiry is to be held into the question of rights of the public on the Burley position of Rombald's Moor.

Ilkley Preservation Committee is also considering the same issue, but a majority felt it was not under their remit.

## **August**

*3 August* Ilkley's bathing pool under construction near the playing pitch of the former 'B' team ground of Ilkley RUFC to the north of Denton Road.

*10 August* Grove Pictures – the four Marx brothers in 'Duck Soup'.

*17 August* Rombald's Moor rights. For ramblers attending the public enquiry, a fighting fund is opened.

*24 August* A number of people escape in their night attire from Ilkley New Bridge Cafe which caught fire on 18 August.

*24 August* Public Rights Inquiry to be held on 19 September 1934 in Burley Lecture Hall.

*31 August* A proposal was put forward to revive the old Ilkley Swimming Club, which over 30 years ago produced one of the best water polo teams in the County.

*31 August* Queen's visit to Harewood last week and especially her visit to Parcevall Hall near Appletreewick on 25 August, the home of Sir William Milner, Bart, aroused great interest in the valley. Her Majesty motored to Parcevall Hall by way of Otley, Ilkley, Addingham and Skipton. She returned by the way of Bolton Abbey, Ilkley and Otley. Hundreds of people lined the main thoroughfare at Ilkley for half an hour before Her Majesty passed through. Police were stationed at all branch roads and every car was carefully scanned as it passed by. Eventually, the Queen's car passed by at 11.40am and was greeted with cheers by the waiting people. Her Majesty acknowledged her reception with a smile and a wave of the hand.

*31 August* Lightning struck the house of Robert Thornton, dentist at the corner of The Grove and Bolton Bridge Road, causing considerable damage.

*31 August* National English Sheep Dog Trials again held at Denton Park.

## **September**

*7 September* 'When work is done, beer is best' – advert. Over a pint of beer on an evening, the average man puts away the cares of the day, restores his toil-spent energy and revives his flagging spirit. Having your talk out in your inn, then you're actually making good a hard day's wear and tear.

*7 September* Rev. Goodwin Britton, Ilkley Methodist Circuit minister, arrives in Ilkley.

*7 September* Mr Arthur Wood, reader-reporter on the staff at the Wharfedale Observer and Ilkley Gazette completes today 50 years in service of the publishers of these journals.

Ilkley War Memorial and its gardens illuminated – a particularly attractive feature in Ilkley this year.

*21 September* Ronnie Green of the Gazette and Samuel Tipping of London, Scottish & Imperial Airways, flew from Leeds to London and Paris and back in 8 hours – with 40 minutes on stays in London and 35 minutes at Le Bourget.

*21 September* Rambling rights on Rombald's Moor. After two days enquiry at Burley, the owner states he has no intention to close the paths. It was pointed out that Ilkley Moor was closed at certain times for grouse shooting.

*28 September* Wharfedale Rural Council 6d increase in the rate for the new half year.

*28 September* Dr T. Campbell, medical superintendent at Middleton Sanatorium dies. He is described as one who lived to reduce suffering.

*28 September* Amalgamation plebiscite. Ilkley is asked to vote on whether Ilkley and Otley should be combined. The measure proposed was opposed by Ilkley Urban District Council.

## **October**

*12 October* Crum Wheel suspension bridge across the Wharfe. Public meeting over Ilkley/Otley/Wharfedale amalgamation brings out a unanimous 'no'. One had to 'forbid the banns' of 'an 'unwise marriage'.

*19 October* French onion and vegetable salesman involved in a crash in Ben Rhydding at the Wheatley Lane/Leeds Road junction appears before magistrate court. Interpreters were involved but the case was dismissed with costs.

*26 October* T.W. Crawshaw completes 50 years service as chorister at Ilkley Parish Church.

Ilkley raised £37 for the Gresford Colliery disaster relief fund. Hundreds died in the pit tragedy near Wrexham in Wales.

## **November**

*9 November* Ilkley Council meeting – proposal to build small houses for old folk is rejected. Water chutes and a cafe are to be provided at the bathing pool.

*16 November* A stag antler found in Middleton Woods and placed in Ilkley Museum. It was discovered while Crum Wheel suspension bridge was being built – probably been used in Roman times as a pick. It was found near the entrance to Middleton Woods.

*30 November* Edwin Walker, resident of the Royal Hotel, celebrates his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **December**

*7 December* Ilkley/Otley plebiscite result: 3,747 electors voted 'no', 67 voted 'yes' and there were 17 spoilt papers. 858 people failed to return their papers. In plebiscite, 81.7% returned papers and of these 97.8% voted 'No'.

*14 December* New Ilkley hostel opens: Oswald House in Parish Ghyll Road. It is the new Ilkley hostel of Leeds Unmarried Women's Benevolent Institution.

*28 December* Ilkley's Christmas gifts for poor people of Shildon, one of the small mining towns in the 'depressed area' of County Durham has proved to be enormously worthwhile. Rover Scouts and Toc H collected toys and clothing. Shildon sent a message of glad cooperation and hearty thanks.

*28 December* Despite dismal weather, it was a really happy Christmas with family parties and reunions.

*28 December* Many Ilkley residents will benefit from the first direct air-mail between England and Australia on 8 December. They will also benefit from the Flying Scotsman on 30 November running from London to Leeds – 188 miles in two hours and 31 minutes, an average of 73.8 miles per hour.

*28 December* Evidence that milk being sold at low rates in Wharfedale schools for consumption by school children was being taken home by the children and used by their parents, with the result that sales at normal prices had suffered.

## **1935**

### ***January***

*4 January* Yorkshire folk in New Zealand – they include Fred Renton, formerly of Ilkley.

*11 January* Socialist students attend The National University Labour Federation conference in Ilkley. The Rt Hon Arthur Greenwood gave the Presidential address. Discussions on foreign policy, India problems and Leeds slum clearance.

*18 January* One of Ilkley's oldest residents dies age 91. Mr Thomas Pickard, who was one of the last who attended the Old Grammar School on Skipton Road, was a farmer and tanner.

*25 January* Public Rights on Rombald's Moor – limitations and conditions defined. A Ministry of Agriculture Order, namely 'the land is a manorial waste or common which is situated within an urban district'. Rights and access of the public are dependent on legal issues.

*25 January* Salvation Army – new Hall in North Parade opened by Ilkley Urban District Council Chairman.

Alfred Smith, founder of W.A. Smith (Leeds) Ltd, printers and lithographers drowned himself in The Strid.

*25 January* 60 mph gale force winds in Ilkley.

### ***February***

*1 February* Renewed activity by the police trying to solve the murder of Mrs Learoyd in 1929 after a woman reported from another Yorkshire town 'that a male lodger came back at 9am on the Sunday morning in August 1929, having said he would be back in by 10pm Saturday, with scratches on his face and saying that he had fallen into a shrubbery.

*1 February* Reverend Leslie Weatherhead spoke in King's Hall on the need for a programme for peace, saying that 'Christian youth in Great Britain and Europe had a passionate eagerness for peace'. In connection with the League of Nations Union, his talk was promoted by local Methodist Churches.

*1 February* Amalgamation and West Riding County Council's desire to revise urban and rural areas within the area they administer.

The administrative area of the Riding is divided into 147 separate local government entities (11 municipal boroughs, 108 urban districts and 28 rural districts). The net

effect of the proposals is to reduce the county districts from 147 to 77 (11 municipal boroughs, 48 urban districts and 18 rural districts). Wharfedale Urban District as proposed would include Ilkley, Otley, Burley and outlying areas. Rateable value £253; population (1931 census) 31,274 and total acreage 49,081.

*8 February* Albert Modley, the local comedian, agrees to have the interior of his mouth inspected apparently seeking the source of the jokes with which he keeps his audiences in roars of laughter.

*8 February* Peltzer-Lister Velvet Co. Ltd of Wharfedale Mills, Addingham celebrates its third birthday. 150 people work on 100 velvet weaving looms. Mainly the workpeople come from Ilkley, Addingham with others from Skipton, Keighley and Burley. Undyed pieces go to Manningham to be dyed and then returned to Wharfedale Mill for finishing.

Most of Wharfedale Mills products serve the home trade and goes direct to wholesalers in London. They are often on overtime from April to December.

*8 February* The last convoy before winter goes from Ilkley to Shildon carrying clothing and toys. This means that 800 children could be entertained in a cinema and each child provided with a substantial bag of food.

*22 February* Flooding – people rescued by punt from marooned buses near Manor Park. Water pouring over Ben Rhydding Bridge.

*22 February* Mary Millington aged 91, who lived in the town for 63 years, dies. She had a remarkably active life.

## ***March***

*1 March* Work in hand building new vertical retorts at Ilkley Gas Works.

*1 March* Ben Rhydding Sports Club – now tenants of Ilkley Council and the playing field sold for £1,200.

*8 March* A poem 'The King – God Bless Him' commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties accession to the throne and written by Tom Robinson of South Hawksworth Street has been accepted by the King.

*15 March* Mrs Clifford Kitson, well known Ilkley golfer, is Captain of Yorkshire ladies for the third year in succession. Her mother, Mrs Harland, is known as the 'Mother of Yorkshire Golf'.

*15 March* Ilkley's rates increased from 12/- to 12/-11d, the big jump being due to the county council's extra demands. £47,500 is to be paid to the county. Ilkley Council's own call is less than last year.

*15 March* Unemployment in Ilkley: 233 in February (176 men, 3 boys, 52 women and 2 girls).

*22 March* Dr A.W.F. Blunt speaks about 'An Exciting Moral Code', namely Christian humility.

*29 March* Ilkley's oldest resident, Miss Susannah Jackson, celebrates her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday at her home in St James' Road.

## **April**

*5 April* West Riding County Council expenditure criticised by Ilkley Council. 'Theirs But to Obey and Pay'. The rate laid at 12/-11d in the pound. Suggested bus centre for Ilkley.

*18 April* Daughter born for T.H.B. Maufe VC on 16 April.

Ilkley will celebrate the Silver Jubilee with carnival sports, teas, gifts and a beacon fire.

## **May**

*3 May* Ilkley Council – opposition to the proposed Hebers Ghyll bus service, and more arguments about a central bus station.

*10 May* Ilkley's open air bathing pool was officially opened on 4 May.

*10 May* Glorious weather favours the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Ilkley was crowded on the day of the carnival; an impressive united thanksgiving service at the Parish Church and lighting of the beacon fire on Beamsley Beacon – the signal was given by a novel chain of rockets from the Ilkley Tarn to the Beacon itself.

*17 May* Otley Show record entry, fine weather and a big crowd. 4,132 entries (a record) and a near record crowd too.

*17 May* Friendship – spaniel, cat and rabbit at the home of Mrs Young, Craig End Lodge, Ilkley.

## **June**

*7 June* Wharfedale and Craven branch of the South African War Veterans Association addressed by Lieutenant Lasceles CBE in Ilkley. There are 27 members in total in the branch.

Although one can talk about the Great War, for sentiment and meaning the South African War was probably the greater one. 'The only stable force in the world today



is this queer agglomeration of peoples called the British Empire. In this world of dictatorships and rabid nationalism, there was nothing more worth keeping alive than this good clean British idea of every fellow having a say on how it was to be governed and in maintaining the principles of liberty, equality and justice upon which the Empire was founded’.

*14 June* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Textile Institute – a conference at Wells House Hotel. The present outlook for the industry is good with a noticeable recovery from the trade’s depression.

*14 June* 10 officers and 60 men of the 49<sup>th</sup> Division of the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) spend the night under canvas in Ilkley.

## **July**

*5 July* Exchange of benefices – Vicar of Ben Rhydding for 21 years Reverend W. Mulholland is to be Vicar of White Ladies, Aston and Reverend A.P. Turnbull, vicar from Spetchley in the Diocese of Worcester comes to Ilkley.

*12 July* ‘One of the reasons why Ilkley township has good health is that no house unfit for habitation exists’ so says Dr Bates, Ilkley Medical Officer of Health.

*12 July* New proposal by Wharfedale Rural District Council to include a formation of two urban districts (Ilkley Urban District) and a rural district.

*12 July* Advertising in Ilkley – 15,000 copies of ‘Ilkla Moor baht ‘at’ have been distributed in seven years. Ilkley rides on the back of a song known all over the world.

*19 July* Wharfedale Rural District Council – vigorous criticism of proposals to add parts of Arthington and Bramhope to Leeds.

Cow stops train on the Leeds to Ilkley line and coaxed into a field – only a few weeks after an escaping cow tramped into a person’s bedroom in Otley.

Canon Hamer retires from Ilkley living after nearly 55 years in total in the ministry.

*26 July* Isaac Hirst celebrates 50 years as a church organist including many years in Ilkley.

## **August**

*2 August* Boys from Ilkley Grammar School present a pageant on the ‘Dissolution of Bolton Priory’. ‘The book’ is the work of Mr C.P. Lovelock and Mr A. Bartle, an Ilkley Grammar School master.

*2 August* Due to ill health, Captain T.H.B. Maufe VC has had to resign his commission. He has been on the 'Reserve of Officers' list since 1918.

*2 August* Houses for aged people in Ilkley are to be considered as a permanent Jubilee memorial.

*2 August* 276<sup>th</sup> (Ilkley) Battery of the 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade RA, TA, set off for two weeks training at Redesdale, Northumberland.

*9 August* Ilkley man drowned in the Wharfe. George Milburn, a gardener, left a postcard in his pocket to say 'I dread the workhouse'. He had been in New Hall Infirmary for about two weeks. His relatives, however, said that he had no need to go for he was not destitute and had good rooms.

*9 August* Remarkable cricket match at Ilkley. Eighteen Ilkley veterans took part and their ages totalled over 1,200 years.

*16 August* 'The Kattamarans', the noted Indian cricket team entertained in Ilkley by 'The Craven Gentlemen'.

*16 August* Ilkley camps organised by Toc H and Crusaders Service for Leeds street slum lads to visit the countryside around Ilkley.

*16 August* Queen Mary is due in Harewood on 20 August to visit Princess Royal and Lord Harewood prior to joining the King at Balmoral in Scotland.

*23 August* Major Edward Lascelles, brother of the Earl of Harewood, dies aged 48.

J. Brumfitt, Ilkley cricketer plays for Yorkshire Colts versus Northumberland at Redcar and makes 37 and 1 in two innings.

*30 August* Record sum of £115 taken at Ilkley bathing pool on 25 August.

*30 August* John Hornshaw, pupil at Wells School in Ilkley, saves two men from the sea at Scarborough.

## **September**

*6 September* New Vicar of Ilkley is appointed. Reverend J.G. Garland replaces Canon C.J. Hamer.

*6 September* General Evangeline Booth, the Salvation Army chief, passes through Wharfedale.

*6 September* Reverend W. Mulholland leaves after 21 years service in Ben Rhydding.

*13 September* New Cinema, Ilkley: Douglas Fairbanks stars in 'Mimi'.

*13 September* No improvement in Ilkley's water supply and competition is still too high.

Death of Ilkley's oldest resident in his 96<sup>th</sup> year. Mr Edwin Walker who was a director of a woollen/ worsted manufacturers in Huddersfield dies in his 96<sup>th</sup> year.

*20 September* Reverend A.P. Turnbull is installed as Vicar of Ben Rhydding.

Dr Russell Maltby, warden of Wesley Deaconess College, gave a grave warning about the threat of war by saying 'no security without security for all'.

*20 September* Lucy Cox, Labour candidate for Pudsey and Otley, said imperialism and peace cannot go hand in hand. Throughout the world, a new militarism, a new belief in efficiency of armaments, and war was the only means of production.

*27 September* Addingham's New Bridge will be completed within a month. It is to replace the old one washed away in the heavy Spring floods.

*27 September* Mr Thomas Wall, Chief Clerk at Ilkley Railway Goods Office, retires after 47 years continuous service at Ilkley.

## **October**

*4 October* Ilkley Urban District Council – homes for aged people approved in principle, plus problems over the smell from allotment piggeries.

*4 October* Ilkley Bathing Pool: £2,400 taken in the first season with over 110,000 bathers and spectators.

*4 October* Ilkley public library has contributed a great service to the town with over two million volumes issued in 27 years.

*11 October* Grove Picture House: Ronald Colman in 'Clive of India'.

*11 October* At a meeting in Ilkley, Yorkshire Liberals discuss the crisis in Abyssinia. The government is criticised and there is a liberal plea for a five-year pact of non-aggression.

*11 October* Photograph with caption: 'a zotofoam bath can now be enjoyed under the most attractive conditions at Elizabeth's ladies and children's hairdresser on The Grove.'

*11 October* Ilkley resident unsuccessfully asks Skyrack assessment appeals committee for a reduction because his house was built on a hillside overlooking the

town and had an extensive view of the gasworks. The occupant was told that 95% of Ilkley houses can see the gasworks; and when the house was built, the owner knew the gasworks was there.

*25 October* New headquarters for Ben Rhydding's Scouts is opened.

Ilkley Preservation League calls for the town being preserved as an unspoilt heritage. The town and its district had a beautiful setting and many spots of natural loveliness.

*25 October* The General Election on 14 November 1935: candidates for Pudsey and Otley Division are Mr C.G. Gibson (Con); Mr J.C. Smuts (Lib) (a distant relative of General Smuts) and Miss Lucy Cox (Lab).

## **November**

*1 November* Damaged by a gale – a famous signpost at White Wells making the points of the compass is blown down in recent gales.

*1 November* During October, over 7½ inches of rain fell in Ilkley.

*8 November* All three candidates in the General Election found that the league and peace policy dominated discussions. Miss Cox was the first woman candidate for any party in the Pudsey and Otley Division.

Worry over staff salary increases by Ilkley Council – over £500 added in three years.

*15 November* General Election result. Over 11,000 majority for the Conservatives on a 76% poll. Gibson (Nat Con) 22,107; Smuts (Lib) 10,682; Cox (Lab) 9,977. The victory for Gibson far exceeded the most sanguine expectations even of his own supporters.

*22 November* On a visit to a remote monastery in Greece, Rose Marie Hodgson tells how visitors dined, drank and sat with monks until 3am, and sang in Greek, German, Russian, Latin and English: the monks loved 'On Ilkla' Moor baht 'at' being included in the English rendition!

*22 November* Ilkley's new gas retort house opened on 21 November – it cost £15,000 for the installation of six vertical retorts.

*29 November* Ilkley jeweller awarded £20 and judgement with costs as a result of slander by another jeweller who alleged the former was bankrupt and had to close down.

*6 November* Reverend J.G. Garland inducted as the new vicar of Ilkley.

*13 November* Yearly cleaning of Panorama Reservoir takes place – three weeks to empty and three weeks to refill during which the walls are repaired and pointed. While the work is done, the water supply is taken direct from the spring mains.

## ***December***

*20 December* 40 Germans gathered from a wide area of Yorkshire at the Royal Hall to celebrate the Advent Festival in a German manner.

*20 December* As a result of a keen frost and skating on Ilkley Tarn, the Tarn will remain illuminated whilst the ice continues.

*27 December* The 'Buy British Van' visits Ilkley is to show off its operations on 28 December. Its parade is for the promotion of patriotic purchase.

*27 December* Mr Edward Brantwood Maufe, the famed Ilkley architect has completed designs for the enlargement of St John's College, Oxford.

## **1936**

### ***January***

*10 January* Ilkley Urban District Council to purchase land between the Old and New Bridges for £4,200. The Council also agreed to make a pipeline direct from March Ghyll reservoir to enable them to obtain 50,000 gallons of water per day for the benefit of Ilkley people.

*10 January* Bombing squadron due to arrive at Yeadon Airport. No. 609 Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force: 27 officers and 160 mechanics and staff.

*10 January* Harrogate and Wharfedale beekeepers have harvested over 3 tons of honey – a very successful season.

*17 January* Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society present 'Rio Rita' whose production is acknowledged to be the finest that has ever been sent to the country.

*17 January* Arthington man E.R. Sheepshanks has been in Abyssinia and bringing an eye-witness account of the Italo-Abyssinian War. He works for Reuters. He has contracted dysentery and come home on 3 months leave and has been visiting Ilkley.

*24 January* Ilkley Gazette edged in black lines on the announcement of the death of George V on 20 January.

Proclamation of Edward VIII to be made outside the Town Hall on 25 January.

A divine service at Ilkley Parish Church in connection with the death of George V.

*24 January* Sir James Hill dies aged 86. He was the director of a Bradford firm of wool merchants and top makers, and a former MP for Central Bradford.

*24 January* George V had visited Wharfedale many times, mainly to shoot on Bolton Abbey Moors.

Flags flew at half mast and many social events were postponed (dances, whist and bridge drives).

*31 January* All the Ilkley churches paid their own tributes to the late King. Local memorial services were held in most townships in Wharfedale.

*31 January* Ilkley Reservation League discusses Hebers Ghyll needs and improvements on the path to the Swastika Stone.

## ***February***

*7 February* Isaac Hirst, organist at the Parish Church, celebrates 50 years as a church organist.

*7 February* Shelters at both the Tarn and the Paddling Pool are re-thatched with heather.

*7 February* Vernon Bartlett, a radio expert on foreign affairs, addresses the local League of Nations Union on 'The March of Events: Germany hated inferiority. Old style nationalism/imperialism dead'.

*7 February* Ilkley Urban District Council reports that Ilkley has real problems in conserving its water supply and preventing it running to waste.

*7 February* Major Fawkes aged 65 dies in the saddle of his horse while hunting with hounds at Beckwithshaw near Harrogate. A heart attack caused by the excitement of the chase.

*21 February* Ilkley actress Winifred Walker wins £450 damages after a car accident in Wales. She has been left with a facial scar.

An Ilkley man in a car crash in Hertfordshire with a car driven by Lady Isobel Manners, Duke of Rutland's younger daughter. Both parties were slightly injured.

*28 February* Herbert Royle, well known Nesfield artist, has a painting purchased by a gallery in Stretford called 'Frosty Morning in Wharfedale' and Preston Gallery has purchased 'Hay harvesting in Wharfedale'.

*28 February* Ilkley Grammar School – 24 boys spent a day at the British Industries Fair at Olympia.

### **March**

*13 March* Within a building known as the Old Reservoir on the edge of the Moors near Wells House Hotel there has been erected a new water filtration plant which was officially inspected by members of the Ilkley Urban District Council on 7 March.

*13 March* Castle Road is to be widened: West Riding County Council is to pay 25% of the £3,100 cost.

*13 March* Ilkley rates to be increased from 12/-11d to 13/-2d in the pound next year. This is an increase of 3d in the pound. Last year's rate were 12/- in the pound, so an increase of 1/-2d over the two years.

The new county (West Riding County Council) rate is 10/-6d which is 3d less than expected, perhaps due to a big cut in the highways estimates

*23 March* West Riding County Council refused Wharfedale Rural District Council's request that tolls should be scrapped on the Ben Rhydding toll bridge and the bridge purchased by West Riding County Council. The county declined the proposal.

*27 March* A new pair of swans from Southend-on-Sea were placed on The Tarn this week.

### **April**

*9 April* Granville Gibson, MP for Pudsey & Otley, is to be the Deputy President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

*9 April* The death of Mr Robert Phillips of Silver Well Cottage, the Ilkley Moor Ranger for 20 years, is announced. He was very well informed on all aspects of local history.

*17 April* Ilkley Ladies Hockey Club tour Holland. They played four matches winning three of them and drawing the other.

*17 April* An Act comes into force in May which will benefit many people in Ilkley and district, namely the extension of unemployment insurance to persons in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

*24 April* Percy Crossley retires after 25 years as the head of Ben Rhydding Council School, where the numbers of pupils has grown from 120 to 250.

*24 April* Addingham expresses its Parish Council's desire, in a letter to the Minister of Health, to be amalgamated with Ilkley Urban District Council. Above all, Ilkley was the natural geographical centre for Addingham, and Skipton Rural Council did nothing for Addingham.

## **May**

*8 May* The Wharfedale and Craven branch of the South African War Veterans Association receive new colours prior to a dedication ceremony in Ilkley Parish Church.

*8 May* Lucy Cox who stood for the Labour Party at the last General Election In Pudsey and Otley marries J.S. Middleton, General Secretary of the labour Party at Caxton Hall Register Office in London.

*15 May* Mrs Price, wife of Henry Price of Hollingwood, dies. She was instrumental in helping a number of charitable organisations in Ilkley and was very keen on child welfare.

*15 May* Ilkla Moor Baht 'At' is criticised as neither anthem or poetry. 'We have not yet produced a Yorkshire Burns. The song's associations are narrowly local and have no wide county significance' so said Mr C.J.F. Atkinson, Clerk to Otley Urban District Council.

*15 May* Bathing pool – has been made still more attractive with more dressing cubicles; also ornamental trees and a lovely lawn.

*22 May* Big fire at Warlbeck on 20 May. It started in the roof of the billiard room.

## **June**

*5 June* Cold Whitsuntide weather – crowds below average with macintoshes and raincoats much in evidence!

Land purchase loan sanctioned. Riverside field and Bridge House bought which means Ilkley now owns half its area. Water main to March Ghyll is almost completed.

*12 June* Regional surveyors pay a visit to Ilkley Bathing pool as part of a delegation of 70 members of the Yorkshire and North Western District of the Institution of Municipal & County Engineers. The delegation was very happy with what they saw.



*12 June* Mr Frederick Charlton awarded a Bronze Medal presented by the Royal Institute of British Architects to further the appreciation of good street architecture with the West Yorkshire area.

*12 June* Ilkley branch of the League of Nations Union appeals for more funds to continue the league's campaign to avoid war.

*19 June* Ilkley mourns the death of G.K. Chesterton who died in Beaconsfield on 14 June. A brilliant man of letters and debate, he was a well known figure in Ilkley. A close friend of the late Mr & Mrs Steinthal in Queens Drive and often visited them.

## **July**

*3 July* Ilkley Council is opposed to providing a campsite in the town. Camping used to be on Holmes Field but the land was recently purchased by the Council and they banned it. Arguments centred on whether it was better to control it or allow it sporadically to develop as now?

*3 July* 'The Hindenburg', the giant German airship, passed over the district on 30 June in the early afternoon, a few hours after leaving base at Friedrichshafen in Germany. Many children saw it as they went back to their lessons. Because of her huge size, she appeared to be flying lower than she actually was and the Swastika was clearly visible. She made very little noise.

*10 July* Advert: Wood's German tours by rail, motor coach or private car. Passports. Registered Marks. Send for free folder now. 164a Manningham Lane, Bradford.

*17 July* Bishop of Bradford, Dr A.W.F. Blunt told the Bradford Lay Readers Association meeting in Ilkley that Christians faced 'a race with paganism'. A large number of the rising generation are out of touch with Christianity.

*24 July* An Ilkley young man is in Spain despite the Civil War starting in that country. He and another student who hold the John Speak Foundation foreign language scholarships are on a lecture tour and currently in Madrid. Later the two were evacuated from Spain.

*31 July* Advert for Wells House Motel Medical Baths: Russian Vapour, oatmeal, pine, brine, sulphur, seaweed, compress, packs etc. 3/- per treatment including massage.

## **August**

*7 August* Ilkley female student in Spain since February returned to Ilkley on 4 August. She had gone to earn Spanish on a foundation scholarship awarded by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce. She saw buildings on fire and rivals in the Civil

War driving around in cars pointing guns and firing. She was evacuated to France and the port of Marseilles.

*14 August* Ilkley lady Miss Lilian Holdsworth goes to India to undertake teaching English in a mission school..

*14 August* 'Glorious Twelfth'. On Ilkley Moor, there weren't as many birds as in the past few seasons and a party of ten guns shot 118½ brace against 153½ on the opening day last year.

*14 August* The Head of Ghyll Royd School, Mr G.R. Frost is joining the Public School Boys Tour of Canada with five old Ghyll Royd boys and will be away for a month.

*21 August* Ilkley doctor Dr Veale suggests rubber fenders should be fitted to cars to try and diminish motor fatalities. With rubber at 7<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> per lb, the cost per car would not be great.

*28 August* Burley Urban Council tells Ilkley Council to mind its own business over Ilkley calling for attention to the bad state of repair of the length of moorland road at Burley Woodhead.

## **September**

*11 September* Miss Freda Hall is appointed organist of New Cinema Ilkley in succession to Mr Ernest Broadbent. She is a graduate of the Royal Academy and Trinity College of music in London.

*11 September* J.B. Priestley, author & playwright, at Wells House Hotel to give a concert in aid of Coronation Hospital. He was a solo pianist and accompanist.

*18 September* Stained-glass window placed in Denton Church as a memorial to the late Arthur J. Hill, formerly of Denton Park.

*18 September* Yorkshire County Cricket Club defeat the Craven Gentlemen in Ilkley.

*25 September* Complaint by Ilkley people that sheep damage gardens was discussed. More seats are to be provided, but it is too costly for the Council to provide a shepherd to control the sheep.

*25 September* The National Federation of Plumbers and Domestic Engineers (Employers) meet in Ilkley at Wells House Hotel.

## **October**

*2 October* Three Ilkley young men graduate at Leeds University with MB Ch.B, namely C.L. Davidson, R. Petticrew and J.P. Senior.

*13 October* Lady Trevelyan to address the Preservation League in Ilkley on the general aspect of work of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, with special reference to its value in such an area as Ilkley.

*23 October* Ilkley's new urban area population with Burley and Menston is nearly 16,000. The Ilkley area is 4,545 acres out of 8,461 acres in total. The population in Ilkley is 9,736 out of 15,834 in total and the rateable value is £101,027 out of a total of £142,028.

*23 October* Ilkley Junior Conservatives hear a talk on 'A Growing Japan' by Mr Philip Larcom, the Conservative Education Officer for Yorkshire.

*30 October* Ilkley Liberal Association hear from a former Liberal candidate about the 'grave situation' in Europe. Everyone is worried if the fascists win in Spain.

*30 October* Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs J. Miller are to leave Ilkley to live in North Devon. Lieutenant Colonel Miller was in the Great War in the 6<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment (Bradford Rifles) and was Captain when war broke out. In 1916, he was in the Regular Commission of the Welsh Regiment and then in the Machine Gun Corps where he rose to Lieutenant Colonel rank. He was awarded both the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross.

## **November**

*6 November* Coronation Festivities are being discussed for Edward VIII and also how to plan for a permanent memorial of the Coronation.

*6 November* Ilkley leads the Coronation ceremonies with children planting trees on the Holmes Field on the Wharfe River bank.

*13 November* £281 raised in the 'Poppy Day' appeal.

*20 November* Air Ministry given notice to quit Yeadon municipal aerodrome.

## **December**

*4 December* Road Traffic Dangers. Belisha Beacons recommended on the main road – five beacons in Leeds Road and Church Street, but the most urgent danger point was the railway bridge across Wheatley Lane near Ben Rhydding Station.

*13 December* Ilkley reacts quietly to the abdication of Edward VIII. The Vicar of Ilkley, Reverend J.C.Garland, had sympathy with the King but Edward had come to the right and proper decision. The Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council Geoffrey Veale said the choice before the King was the most difficult that could confront any man. Whatever his decision, it would have involved a heavy sacrifice. The people would not have wanted him to stay on if his heart was not in the work.

*18 December* Jolly reunion in Ilkley for the 11<sup>th</sup> West Riding (Howitzer) Battery Club at their 18<sup>th</sup> annual dinner. Both Colonel Hugh Duncan and Major P.C. Petrie were there, the former having commanded the Ilkley battery for three months at Nieupoort during Petrie's illness. Both men in their speeches said there was a need for the country to wake up and show that it was not down and out. Petrie did not think that Germany was aggressive in the least, nor that there was any German who wanted war but they were scared stiff of anybody attacking them.

*18 December* Wharfedale's biggest flood for over 50 years on 14 December. Floods rose higher by 13 or 14 inches than those of nearly two years ago, and the water was actually 5 inches above the mark at Ilkley Old Bridge which indicated the height of the 1866 flood. The flood reached its height at 5pm and began to subside at 5.30pm.

Great lakes appeared in the Wharfe Valley. The Peltzer-Lister Velvet Mill at Addingham was forced to shut due to floods. There was a long traffic jam on the moor road to Burley Woodhead as all the lower routes were closed.

Parents were warned by the late arrival home of school children.

*18 December* Proclamation of King George VII read at the Town Hall on 16 December.

## 1937

### *January*

*1 January* Ilkley welcomed in the New Year with gay greetings at hydros and hotels. Just a few children, but not many kept up the old Yorkshire custom of 'mumming' and seeking to sweep out the old year, but that is a custom more observed in Airedale than Wharfedale.

*8 January* Ilkley Council issues invitations to the Australian Rugby League team in 1937 and the International Sheep Dog Trials in 1938. The Australians visited in 1929 and 1933, and the Sheep Dog Society were in Denton Park in 1933 and 1934. Money was to be spent on advertising the District area £250.

*8 January* Son of a former Ilkley man is murdered by smugglers. Thomas Gordon Paget, a Bristol officer in the Chinese customs at Kwangchow on the Canton coast was the son of Arthur Rycroft Paget who resided for several years at No. 10 Trafalgar Road, Ilkley and now lives in Hampshire. Thomas Paget was only 38 but had spent over 17 years in China. In the Great War, he had served on a submarine in Chinese waters and before that he had been on HMS Amethyst engaged in South American waters chasing a German raider and also saw action in the Dardanelles.

*15 January* Old boy of Ilkley Grammar School and President of the Historical Association, Professor Hearnshaw said at the annual Historical Association dinner in Hull that certain historical films present a perversion of the spirit and the general tone of history. In many films one saw things that were entirely indefensible, and if errors and travesties were exposed, experienced film makers would be more careful in the way in which they produced history. Only in the USA, France and Great Britain did history teachers have freedom. Propaganda had to be kept out of the teaching of history.

*22 January* The Air Ministry made a financial offer for the partial use of the Yeadon aerodrome by No. 609 West Riding Bomber Squadron Auxiliary Air Force. The Auxiliary Air Force is being strengthened but the erection of permanent buildings for No. 609 Squadron is held up until the Air Ministry and the two municipalities reach agreement.

*29 January* Albert Modley has much success as an Ilkley comedian (and the son of a famous comedian) with a new revue called 'On with the Modley' premiering at Barnsley's Theatre Royal.

*29 January* Dr A.H. Marshall, son of the minister at Leeds Road Methodist Church has been awarded his PhD for his work in local government, and also has a textbook published on the topic. He is now the Deputy City Treasurer of Coventry.

## **February**

*5 February* Two occupants of a light bomber had a narrow escape when their plane landed at Riffa near Pool at 12 noon on 2 February. They lost their way in fog from Winchester to Dishforth.

*5 February* Henry Philip Price of Prices Tailors Ltd is knighted. He started in the business 30 years ago. He has 300 shops in England and large factories in Leeds. He lives in 'Hollingwood' in Ilkley. He made many munificent gifts including trees on the river bank at Holmes Field.

*5 February* To mark the Coronation Year, Arthur Hentzen of Gilstead, Middleton has made a gift of woodlands marked on the ordinance map as Cobby Wood and Stubham Wood. The woodlands lie north of what was formerly known as Lionel Crescent and is now Curly Hill. Open spaces are to be provided and Hentzen is providing an extra £500 for entrances and footpaths. After other woodland bought a few years ago, the public now possess a greater part of what is known by the general name of Middleton Woods.

Mr & Mrs F Sugden gifted £2,000 for the provision of low rental homes at the corner of Bridge Lane and the main road.

*12 February* Ilkley Urban District Council and Ilkley and Ben Rhydding Publicity Association are collaborating on preparing publicity work.

*19 February* Local MP Granville Gibson has just returned from a world tour promoting British trade. New Zealand are keen to do business but Australia is a closed market and Canada was selfish to its trade with Britain.

*19 February* A new company registered on 17 February under the style of W.E. Bowes (Yorkshire) Limited is to carry on the business of insurance brokers, estate agents and business consultants at Otley and Ilkley. One of the family, namely Bill was the famous Yorkshire and England cricketer.

*26 February* Members of the family of Mrs Ellum of West View Ilkley who were such notable prize winners at Ilkley & District Sunday Schools Arts, Crafts and Music Festival. Marjorie, Joan, Wendy, Freda and Betty Ellum won 21 firsts, 6 seconds and 9 honours certificates between them.

## **March**

*12 March* Coronation Appeal meeting of the town on 23 March is to plead for a new Coronation Hospital.

*12 March* Ilkley Amateurs Production enthusiastically received at the Kings Hall. It was 'The Student Prince'. Two MPs were on the stage, and Mrs Arthur Hill of Denton Park, the new President of the Society was present.

New Cinema, Ilkley: Will Hay, the actor, in 'Windbag the Sailor' and Douglas Fairbanks in 'Accused'.

*19 March* Vyvyan Adams MP West Leeds addresses a public meeting of the League of Nations Union on 'The Right Use of Force'

*19 March* Mr Earnshaw completes 56 years as a Church organist, including 38 years at Ilkley Congregational Church.

*19 March* Miss Daphne Groves of Ben Rhydding is awarded the RSPCA Bronze Medal for wading into the Tarn to rescue a dog from drowning. Her action was all the more notable, as she had just recovered from an attack of influenza. Her example in seeking to help a dumb animal in difficulties is one which other Guides could emulate.

*25 March* Mr Ernest Waddilove resigns from the chairmanship of Bradford (Park Avenue) Football Club – in perhaps controversial circumstances.

*25 March* New Coronation Hospital appeal launched for a sum of at least £30,000 to replace the 16-bed one in Springs Lane opened in 1905 to mark Edward VII's coronation.

## **April**

*2 April* Ilkley Chess Club with a total of 6½ points to Keighley's 2½ has won the Clough Shield in the Bradford and District League. This is the Club's first competitive success in 51 seasons.

*9 April* Ilkley Parish Church doors unveiled in memory of George V.

Mr Ernest Waddilove is elected Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council for 1937-8. He gave many generous gifts to the people of Ilkley at the time of the Jubilee of George V. For this year's congregation, he proposes to give souvenirs to old people, school children and babies, and the supply of a flag pole and flag to each of Ilkley's elementary schools.

*9 April* An additional attraction has been added to the Tarn at Ilkley. The swans have got involved in the business of 'housekeeping' and are building a nest.

*9 April* Ilkley Cycling Club – a very successful opening year. It started in 1936. Apart from standard runs, competitive events have occurred. A programme of cycling races is planned for Coronation Day in May. There are two sections of the Club: 'A'

section able to journey further afield, and 'B' section which carry out runs of moderate length and speed.

*16 April* Two old elm trees, which had grown together, have been revealed during clearing behind the Bridge House.

*16 April* Oaklands School fire – the outbreak was quickly extinguished.

*23 April* Philip Larcom (Yorkshire Conservative Education Officer) addresses the Junior Conservatives in Ilkley on 'Why War today is unlikely'. Who is going to fight who, and what is it all going to be about? A response could be that Germany is going to fight someone, but then would Germany fight by herself or with the aid of some ally?

*30 April* Ilkley Urban District Council announces the official opening of the Woodlands presented by Arthur Hentzen will be on 6 May. On the next day, the Ilkley Urban District Council Chairman will unveil the plaques to commemorate the Tree Planting Ceremony which took place in autumn 1936.

*30 April* Mr Arthur E. Pickett becomes organist and Mr Gordon Crawshaw choirmaster after the resignation of Mr Isaac Hirst.

## **May**

*7 May* Events planned for Coronation Day weekend – Woodlands opening; unveiling of tree plaques; special Church services; children's parties; presentation at the Employment Exchange of 5/- to each man and woman on the unemployment list; dances; films; judging of Carnival classes; various sports; community singing; old folks tea party and a Coronation party for mothers and babies..

*7 May* Brown Muff advert: Charlton Couch Hammock £9-17s-6d.

*14 May* Knighthood for Granville Gibson MP for political and public services.

*14 May* Ernest Waddilove's coronation gifts at Ilkley Grammar School at the ceremony on 11 May. Every student got a small book of the Kings and Queens of Britain.

*14 May* Rain spoilt the Coronation Day. The Carnival procession was judged indoors; the united service at the Parish Church and outdoor sports events were postponed.

*21 May* Joan Ellum of Ilkley chosen from more than 100 candidates to play the part of Lydia in the production of the film 'South Riding' with Mr Victor Saville, the Director.



*28 May* Ilkley Tarn – although the swans failed to rear a family, the Muscovy ducks raised eight chicks with help from the Council – initially eggs were taken to the depot before being placed in the Tarn again.

## **June**

*11 June* Miss Susannah Jackson, Ilkley's oldest resident, dies aged 99. She has only lived in Ilkley (with her niece) for the last 11 years.

*18 June* Former Ilkley man is elected MP for Buckingham. Major J.P. Whiteley (Conservative) had a majority of 5,099 over his Labour Party rival. He was educated at Ghyll Royd School and Shrewsbury. His father, the late Frank Whiteley, was Mayor of Mafeking in the Boer War.

*25 June* Dr Eurich, Ilkley specialist and curer of anthrax, announces he is to retire.

*25 June* A water diviner is sent to the Strid to check on the whereabouts of a missing Ilkley man.

## **July**

*2 July* Mr Charles Botterill is appointed drummer in Henry Hall's band. An old boy of Ilkley Grammar School, he was a violinist on RMS Carmania, sailing London to New York, and also voyaged to Bombay, West Indies, the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic.

*2 July* Ilkley Council Social Welfare is doing sterling work in Ilkley, but has made an appeal for clothing. There were those who were lonely, hungry and without food.

*16 July* George Mott, a prominent Ilkley Urban District Council member, dies in the Constitutional Club. In the First World War, he was in the Artist's Rifles, he gained his commission in Aldershot and gazetted to Forward Rail Heads as Rail Head Supply Officer. He served in France, Flanders, Cumbria, Somme, Aisne, Chemin des Dames and the Marne. He represented Ilkley Urban District Council's South Ward for 13 years.

*16 July* An appeal for £200 for Ilkley Parish Church roof repairs.

*30 July* Running the blockade in the Civil War ravaged Spain. Douglas Hoyle, a wireless operator from Middleton, was involved in the adventurous running of the blockade off the North Spain coast. When his ship SS 'Stanhill' was threatened by the youngest Spanish battle cruiser, 'Almirante Cerverva,' and ordered to stop or be fired on, Hoyle radioed the Royal Navy for help. HMS 'Balerias' was in the vicinity with the battleship 'Royal Oak' and shot out of the mist at 40 knots towards the

insurgent cruiser and the 'Stanhill' proceeded without interruption .Hoyle has lived in Ilkley since 1928 and worked for a wireless business in the town.

*30 July* Ilkley Gunners are in training on Salisbury Plain (276<sup>th</sup> Ilkley Howitzer Battery).

*30 July* Ilkley 50 years ago in 1887 – much progress has been made since then.

## **August**

*6 August* Grove Picture House. Charles Laughton in 'Rembrandt'.

*6 August* A new model youth hostel at Malham designed by an Ilkley architect John Dower.

*13 August* Re-arrangement of the local government area of Ilkley to include Burley and Menston has introduced an anomaly, namely that the new Urban District does not lie entirely within any one Parliamentary Division.

*20 August* Ilkley Parish Church wedding on 16 August of Mr Johannes Karl Laumen of Krefeld, Germany and Miss Lilian Nora Waters of 12 Ash Grove, Ilkley. The bridegroom was employed by Messrs Peltzer, Lister and Co. Ltd, Addingham. The bride was attended by Miss Thelma Myers (cousin) and Miss Molly Thackray and two small children, Miss Kathleen Waters (sister) and Miss Joyce Wilson. Mr Franz Laumen, brother of the groom, was the best man and groomsmen were Messrs Bernard and Geoffrey Waters, brothers of the bride and Walter Holmes, cousin of the bride. The reception was at the Blue Bird Cafe.

*20 August* Generally a good report on Ilkley's health, but there were cases of overcrowding.

*27 August* Members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ilkley Grammar School Scouts assisted in the rescue of the motor car belonging to Mr S. Tipping of Ilkley, after being surrounded by the tide on sands near Porthmadoc, North Wales.

Ilkley bride and groom Mr & Mrs Kenneth Whitehead are hurt in a honeymoon car crash in France in which two French motorcyclists were killed.

## **September**

*3 September* Australian Rugby League tourists are to arrive in Ilkley on 18 September.

*10 September* The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Ilkley Flower Show saw a record number of entries and good quality vegetables and flowers despite adverse weather conditions.

*10 September* Major Horton-Fawkes takes over from Rev. W.H. Fawkes as the new squire of Farnley Hall. He aimed to maintain the estate as long and as far as possible in its present form and acreage. He also wished to maintain the property in at least its present condition, with every effort to improve it.

## **October**

*8 October* Cheaper electricity for Ilkley – estimated to equal a reduction of £1,200 a year.

*8 October* Ilkley Youth Group meeting in the Blue Bird Cafe pass a resolution of indignation at the invasion of China by Japan, with all the horrors of war which this involves.

*15 October* Advert: The Yorkshire Regiment. 'Vacancies exist in the West Yorkshire Regiment. Your County Mechanised Machine Gun Regiment. Come and see a mechanised detachment of this Regiment in its latest form at Ilkley on 19 October when all the information can be obtained. The band and drums will herald its arrival'.

Big demonstration march of 200 miles is being done by the mechanised column of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of west Yorkshire Regiment through the towns and dales of West Riding on Tuesday 19 October from Ripon to Ilkley, and on Wednesday 20 October from Ilkley to Otley.

*15 October* The headless body of Joseph Peel of Middleton is found near Ben Rhydding Station on 15 October.

*15 October* The King and Queen travel through parts of Wharfedale but not Ilkley for a two-night stay at Harewood House, however Ilkley children get a half day holiday to go to Menston, Otley or Pool to see the Royals.

*22 October* The King and Queen met the Australian Rugby League tourists at the First Test in Leeds which England won by five points to four.

*29 October* Ilkley's sound finances – over £346,000 brought to the amalgamated area, and there has been a steady growth of industrial undertakings.

## **November**

*12 November* The Left Book Club of Ilkley hears a talk by the son of the Chinese Ambassador to Great Britain, Mr Victor Kiakwei Tsien on the Chinese view of the current war with Japan.

*19 November* Thomas Crawshaw collapses whilst ringing bells at Ilkley Parish Church and later dies. He had been a chorister and was a leader of the bell ringers.

19 November Dr F.W. Eurich gains a great honour, the Textile Institute Medal, for his anthrax research.

## **December**

3 December A Ben Rhydding shorthand typist who alleged she was libelled by her employers in a letter to the bank where she was seeking other employment, accepted £250 and costs in settlement of action at Leeds Assizes.

17 December Lamp of Maintenance is given to the Ilkley branch of Toc H by George E. Priestman 'In memory of Kenneth Mallorie Priestman, Lieutenant 105<sup>th</sup> Royal Engineers, Mouquet Farm, Thiepval, 31 August 1916'. It was given by his parents.

17 December Lorry loads of gifts from Ilkley to Shildon, County Durham where conditions are steadily getting worse. After paying for food and rent, little is left for boots, clothing or bedding.

23 December The site for the new Ilkley Coronation Hospital is to be Ben Rhydding to the east of Moorhead View.

31 December Widespread interest aroused by the publication of the details of the proposed Liverpool-Preston-Leeds trunk road as it affects the Otley and Ilkley districts.

31 December The Christmas season in Ilkley saw record crowds entertained at hydros and happy fireside parties.

## **1938**

### **January**

14 January James David Smith dies in his 81<sup>st</sup> year at his home in Brewery Road on 8 January. He served 12 years as a trooper in the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars and took part in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir in Sudan. He was awarded the Tel-el-Kebir medal and clasp and the Khedives Bronze Star for 1882. Most of Smith's service was in Egypt.

14 January Mr E.R. Sheepshank's funeral – laid to rest in the family vault at Arthington. He was fatally injured by a shell at Tervel in Spain whilst carrying out duties as a special correspondent of Reuters and the Press Association. Spanish and Italian journalists sent tributes. He reported on the Abyssinian War and the Spanish Civil War. Reuter's Chairman said he was a beloved gentleman with an indefinable quality.

*21 January* Edward Holmes of 'Hallcroft', Addingham is elected President of the British Wool Federation.

*21 January* Lieutenant Colonel G.E. Suddards is promoted to command the 70<sup>th</sup> West Riding Field Brigade of the Royal Artillery. He spent his entire Territorial Army service in or commanding the 277<sup>th</sup> (Bradford) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, T.A.

## **February**

*4 February* Ilkley League of Nations Union calls for the boycott of Japanese goods.

*4 February* Chairman of Yorkshire's Joint Committee for Spanish Relief, responsible for the camp at Morton Banks, Keighley where there are 88 children, calls for sympathy for Basque refugee children. He has two Basque boys.

*4 February* Old dormitories at Ilkley Grammar School are converted into classrooms for the use of the Preparatory Department and Form 2, which formerly occupied the hut erected in the School playground in 1921.

*11 February* Meeting held in Blue Bird Cafe to make arrangements for the Peace Week which the local branch of the League of Nations Union is arranging in the Ilkley district in early May this year in connection with the International Peace Campaign. A women's rally and a youth rally would hopefully be held at the same time.

*11 February* Mr Albert Wood of 'Trentlyn', Parklands, Ilkley dies aged 64. He was a devoted Ben Rhydding Parish Church worker and a founder member of Ben Rhydding Sports Club.

*11 February* Ilkley's big protest against the Trunk Road scheme which would destroy the character of a valley of natural beauty; an embankment built to avoid flooding would be costly and a large proportion of valuable playing fields would be sacrificed.

*18 February* Ilkley sister at the Coronation Hospital for two years has accepted an appointment at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town.

*25 February* Mr Edgar Behrens, elected the President of Bradford Chamber of Commerce, lives at Norwood House in Ilkley. In the Great War, he held an Army commission for 4 years and became Staff Captain at the War Office. He was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the OBE (Military Division).

## **March**

*4 March* Alarm expressed by the Ilkley branch of the League of Nations Union at the resignation of Anthony Eden from his post as Foreign Secretary.

*4 March* Council's new superannuation scheme adds two pence in the pound to the rates. Sunday golf to be permitted on the Moor course.

*4 March* Fewston woman Mrs Margaret Peel found murdered on 2 March in the living room of her cottage shop. The biggest police man hunt in Yorkshire since the Ilkley murder of Miss Learoyd in 1929. She died from head injuries caused by a sharp weapon. She has a daughter Margaret and her husband Jesse Reed worked at the waterworks locally.

*11 March* Ben Rhydding Scout Group present a rollicking scout show with full dancing, chorus and augmented orchestra called 'The Babes in Middleton Woods'.

*11 March* A new bridge built on the Moors replacing an old wooden bridge which formerly carried the footpath leading off Keighley Gate at the top of Weary Hill towards Hebers Ghyll along the line of the Ilkley Golf Course. This is one of the first such bridges to replace old wooden bridges. The first one was adjacent to the children's paddling pool. It is made of gritstone abutments with reinforced concrete archway faced on either side with local gritstone to combine with the surrounding millstone grit outcrop on the moors.

*11 March* Albert Innes dies aged 59. He was a well known Ilkley electrician.

*11 March* Harold Ramsden dies aged 64. He spent a lifetime in the wool trade and during the Great War took an active part in the work of wool control. He was in charge of the English Skin Wool Department under the direction of Lord Barnby, and his duties consisted in allocating wools for storage and distribution of them for government contracts.

*11 March* Fewston murder. Jesse Peel, a labourer employed on Washburn Valley waterworks is charged with the wilful murder of his wife. He made an alleged statement to police: 'I say No! and will stick it to the last'. He was arrested one week after the murder. There have been huge traffic jams around Fewston to see the village and scenes associated with the tragedy.

*18 March* Ilkley Urban District Council ARA Precautions Organisation. Volunteers of both sexes called to be auxiliary firemen, first aid parties, first aid posts, auxiliary ambulance drivers and dispatch riders. A certain number of vehicles are required for use in an emergency – vans, light and heavy lorries etc. Bridge House is to be an Air Raid centre.

*18 March* Ilkley rates increased. Advance of 10d owing to county demands. Top rate is 15s6d in the pound.

*18 March* Notable native of Ilkley. A wonderful old lady died in Newport Road, Cardiff, Mrs Florence Dibb aged 91, youngest daughter of Mr John Darlington of

'Netherwood', Ilkley. Two of her three sisters also reached their 90's. She proved in a genealogical table, and other documents which proved her descent, a direct line through the Dutton family from Rollo, first Duke of Normandy who lived in 846.

*18 March* Fewston murder – Peel is again charged.

*25 March* Egg Day Collection advert: 1<sup>st</sup> April 9am – 5pm. Eggs needed for West Riding Voluntary Hospitals.

*25 March* Ilkley man Able Seaman Allan Baker, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Barker of Mornington Road, washed overboard from HMS 'Revenge' on 23 March. His body was not recovered. His previous ship was the 'Queen Elizabeth' and he was with this ship when the King reviewed the fleet in 1937.

*25 March* Inquiry in Skipton into the proposed trunk road through Ilkley. Ilkley urban District Council and the Preservation League are firmly opposed to the site. 3,000 signatures have been handed in, in opposition, plus a petition signed by 25 well-known artists. The route would ruin sport in the town as well as devastate tourism and spoil the innate beauty of the town and surrounding.

## ***April***

*8 April* Fewston murder. The theory is that the weapon was a tyre lever found by an electric magnet in the reservoir lagoon. Evidence of human blood has been found on clothing and police evidence of finds in the village shop. Peel's alleged statement to these latest issue: 'I have nothing on my conscience'. Peel's defence emphasise the absence of a motive. As Peel is sent for trial he says 'I am absolutely innocent'.

*8 April* Ilkley Urban District Council announce £5,629 scheme for a Burley Woodhead road.

*14 April* Foundation stone unveiled for the new home for District Nurses of Ilkley.

*14 April* Ilkley District Education Sub Committee banned Peace Week visiting speakers in schools in the area, as some councillors described such lectures as propaganda.

*22 April* Cold winds and bright sunshine characterised Eastertide.

*22 April* Vice Chairman of Ilkley Urban District Council A.H. Driver breaks his jaw in a motor accident on the A1 Great North Road near Retford.

*22 April* Ilkley claim the strongest attack in the local cricket league.

*29 April* Edward Brantwood Maufe is elected an Associate of the Royal Academy. He is a distinguished ecclesiastical architect.

29 April Local MP Sir Granville Gibson is elected President of the Association of the British Chambers of Commerce.

## **May**

6 May Special Peace Week events at Ilkley and Lord Allen of Hurtwood to speak in the King's Hall on 'How to rebuild peace in Europe'. The aim is to emphasise the four points of the International Peace Campaign:

- i) Recognition of the sanctity of the Treaty Obligations;
- ii) Reduction and limitation of armaments by international agreement and suppression of profit by arms dealers;
- iii) Strengthening of the League of Nations for the preventing & stopping of war through collective security and mutual assistance.
- iv) Establishment within League of Nations framework of effective machinery for remedying international conditions which might lead to war.

6 May Women's work for peace: 'The World will Build Again'. Miss G.A. Hansell issues this plea in her speech.

13 May Great sadness in Ilkley on the death of the Duke of Devonshire on 6 May. He showed much interest in the people on his estate.

20 May Fewston murder. After four days trial, Jesse Peel is found not guilty of his wife's murder. His acquittal was greeted with applause. The jury was only absent for 42 minutes. This now leaves three undiscovered crimes in the area. One at Ilkley where Miss Learoyd was foully done to death; the case at Skipton where an Otley man attending the auction market was killed and now the Fewston murder.

27 May Dr Ronald J. Still, a Baptist medical missionary and the son of Reverend W. Still, the Pastor of Ilkley Baptist College, is in China under Japanese occupation and has bad experiences under bombing raids. The guerrilla war developed widely and with reprisals.

27 May Police are cleared by Sir Samuel Hoare, the Home Secretary, from using the 'third degree' methods in extorting while the accused was merely under suspicion.

27 May 'On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At' is sung on Ilkley Moor by a visiting Norwegian librarian. Fre Elsa Werring-Hansen from the Oslo library says the tune is well known in Norway. It is in all the tune books and is regarded as a typical English song long before holiday cruises look to Oslo to make the song even more popular.



## **June**

*3 June* Railway footbridge proposed for Ben Rhydding.

*10 June* New football club to be formed in the town is to be called Ilkley AFC to replace Ilkley British Legion.

*17 June* New Cinema, Ilkley: Shirley Temple in 'Heidi'.

*24 June* Ilkley man missing for over a year is now found working in a town in Essex.

*24 June* J. Brumfitt of Ilkley played for Yorkshire against Glamorgan at Hull. He scored 9 runs.

## **July**

*1 July* Centenary of the birth of Reverend T. Bowman Stephenson BA, DD, LL.D., founder of the National Children's Home and Orphanage in 1868. He entered the Wesleyan Ministry in 1860 and was superintendent of the Ilkley Circuit from 1900 to 1903 being at Ilkley Wesley Deaconess College 1903 to 1907, then a supernumerary. He died in July 1912. Some of his hymns are regularly sung in churches.

*8 July* Some Ilkley people take part in a weekend course in air raid precautions given at Bridge House by Mr J.A. Slater, Air Raid Precautions Officer. Use and fitting of respirators and respirator drill formed part of the course, as did entering a 'gas van' to try out practical aspects.

*8 July* Joan Ellison is now taking part in her second film 'Prison without Bars' being filmed at the Denham Studios.

*8 July* Eminent psychologists meet in Ilkley – members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, one of whose members, Dr John Rutherford Gilmour who was at Scalebor Park for 36 years, was elected President.

*8 July* Ilkley Cricket Team won the 'Waddilove Cup', beating Burley at Yeadon by 8 wickets.

Golf 'Ilkla Moor Cup' competition is won by N. Thorne of the Ilkley Moor Golf Club. The cup was presented by Sir Henry Price (the famous tailoring millionaire).

*15 July* Anti-gas training examinations held after a course under the auspices of Ilkley Urban District Council.

*29 July* Australian cricketers in Ilkley on 24 July: S.J. Cabe, L O'B Fleetwood-Smith, W.J. O'Reilly and A.L. Hassett photographed with the members of Ghyll Royd

School cricket team at the home of Mr and Mrs A.P. Burke of 'Hollycroft', Hebers Ghyll Drive. They had just won the Ashes at Headingley. W.M. Woodfull, W.A. Oldfield and a journalist Mr Tebbitt were later guests.

Mr Burke, an Aussie, was on the same boat as the Australian team with his wife who is English. He had been on a business trip to Australia and made acquaintances with the players.

*29 July* Ilkley man J.W. Haigh is found hanging by the cord of his dressing gown in a private ward at Coronation Hospital the day after being told that his left foot would have to be amputated. He was a former director of Leeds Rugby League Club.

*29 July* 276<sup>th</sup> (Ilkley) Battery of the 69<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade has been in camp this week at Bridlington.

## **August**

*5 August* Former organist at the New Cinema, Ilkley, Ernest Broadbent broadcast on National Programme on 6 August using the BBC theatre organ.

*12 August* A scheme is being put in hand for air raid warnings in Ilkley's Air Raid Precautions District.

*19 August* Mr Charles Schultz dies aged 77. Born in Copenhagen, he joined the Danish navy and later the Fishery Protection Service. He called regularly in Hull, married a local girl and has lived in Ilkley since 1901.

*26 August* Air Raid Precautions – in spite of stories to the contrary, the gas mask was causal to any and all emergencies and afforded adequate protection.

*26 August* The Left Book Club hold their Yorkshire Rally in Ilkley and call for democracy and peace.

*26 August* W. Simpson, son of Mr & Mrs J. Simpson of Brook Street, Ilkley who joined Southern Rhodesia Mounted Police 2½ years ago now have been appointed Assistant Inspector with the Crown Forces in Northern Rhodesia.

## **September**

*9 September* Ilkley is presented with the Naylor Jennings Cup as champions of Airedale and Wharfedale Senior Cricket League.

*9 September* Ivan Sharpe spoke to Ilkley Rotary Club about a recent holiday tour of Germany, and comments made about the seriousness of young people there and also that they were very race conscious.

*16 September* Value of Wireless Discussion Groups stressed at a conference in Ilkley attended by members of the BBC and the North East region of the League of Nations Union.

*23 September* Queen Mary travelled through Ilkley on her regular visits to Harewood. She passed through Ilkley at 11.40am on her trip up Wharfedale and returned at 5.40pm.

*30 September* Reverend E.B. Alban from Didsbury replaces Reverend A.P. Turnball as the Vicar of Ben Rhydding. Reverend Turnball is to be Vicar of Kettlewell.

*30 September* Many volunteers for Air Raid Precaution work and busy scenes at King's Hall and St Margaret's Hall. There had been a ready response to Ilkley Urban District Council's appeal.

*30 September* Peace Pact at Munich announced at 1.30am on 30 September. Ilkley Gazette editorial spoke of the British people not being rattled – they have kept their cool heads and brave hearts. They have resolutely faced up to the situation and have had a week of national sacrifice and preparation. Defence measures have been taken promptly and thoroughly, respirators have been distributed and public shelters provided. The country is well on the way to being prepared for any eventuality.

## **October**

*7 October/14 October* The local MP for Pudsey & Otley, Mr Granville Gibson, spoke of a commencement of a new era of peace as a result of Munich, and that it will be the League of Nations which will maintain the peace. He was against conscription.

*7 October* Worry over the delay in gas mask distribution voiced at Ilkley Urban District Council meeting. Joint Committees for Air Raid Precaution should be Statutory Committees – a message passed down from West Riding County Council and indeed all others across the country. Part of the delay was owing to the change in the Chief Warden's position, and meant that respirators were all assembled before issue commenced and there had been a breakdown in communication. West Riding County Council workmen in the Wharfedale area who volunteered for decontamination work in connection with Air Raid Precautions and turned out in full kit at Pool to undergo training.

*21 October* Ilkley Air Raid Precautions were complimented on their work. Through a misunderstanding, many Ilkley respirators had been sent to Otley.

## **November**

*4 November* New home for District Nurses near the top of Bridge lane is nearing completion.

*4 November* Dr H.T. Bates resigns from his post as Medical Officer of Health for Ilkley. He served for 16 years and goes due to the demands of private practice.

*11 November* Edward L. Gaunt, the well known Ilkley architect dies aged 62. During the War, he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in France and reached the rank of Captain.

*11 November* Roman coin is found on the building site to be occupied by Woolworths in Ilkley, namely a sestertius from the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. There were Roman dwellings south of the Fort in the latter stages of the Roman occupation and many discoveries have been made in streams coming down from the moors towards the Fort. For instance, a number of Roman glass beads found at 'Nether-ton', Parish Ghyll by E.C. Broadbent between 1928 and 1935.

*18 November* War widow letter. 'I should be interested to learn by whose instructions the public were prevented from entering the War Memorial grounds during the Armistice service last Sunday'.

*25 November* Ilkley Fire Brigade – their Auxiliary Firemen have volunteered for training under the Air Raid Precaution scheme in Ilkley. They are being taught hose control with the trailer pump.

## ***December***

*2 December* The Princess Royal was in Bradford to present the Girl Guide awards including the Guide Shield won by the Pathfinder Patrol of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ilkley Company.

*2 December* Ilkley Book Club provides a valuable service to Ilkley Library and subscription rates increased.

*2 December* Mr H.K. Campbell has won the championship of Ilkley Chess Club for the eighth time.

*9 December* Rover Den opened at Ben Rhydding Scout Hut on 3 December.

Car stolen in Horsforth on 2 December found on 3 December in the Wharfe between Ben Rhydding Toll Bridge and the Stepping Stones. No trace of the occupants.

*23 December* Meeting held at the Friends Meeting house on 19 December to consider what could be done locally on behalf of child refugees from Germany and Austria. Ilkley could take 20 to 25 children. Refugees considered to be non-Aryan Christians whose children were not full bona-fide Jewish children but those who might have, say a Jewish grandfather in their ancestry, but who otherwise were not Jews. It was decided to look into all these issues later and a small nominating committee was confirmed.

## 1939

### *January*

*6 January* Ilkley New Senior Council School to serve from Bolton Abbey to Burley.

*6 January* Further progress is being made with the project to receive in Ilkley child refugees from Germany. Council finance committee says that Ilkley should assume responsibility for ten boys, with a warden and his wife for one year.

*6 January* Ilkley Council and making up Little Lane: controversy.

Sir Granville Gibson MP to retire.

*6 January* Skyrack and First-Aid posts. A warden's class is in full swing in Ilkley.

Subject to sanction of the Ministry of Health, to whom this side of Air Raid Precautions (ARP) activities has been delegated, new premises for the purpose will be erected.

*13 January* Letter to the Editor of the Ilkley Gazette from the Council finance committee regarding refugees . Responsibility for the refugee boys could extend from three to five years and the expenditure could be £2,000 of which nearly half has been promised by the Council finance committee and their friends. They ask for generous support for the welfare of the homeless children.

Ilkley liaising with refugees' camp at Harwich. Empty houses might be used as a hostel. Even the Youth Hostel in Cowpasture Road may be used for temporary accommodation.

Ilkley is also liaising with the Committee for Refugees from Germany and Austria.

*13 January* Yorkshire Joint Committee for Spanish Relief report deplorable conditions in Spain in the matter of basic foods. Yorkshire intends to send four 'Goodwill Foodships' as a contribution to the desperate need of the Spanish people. Total sum of £20,000 is needed to fulfil the object aimed at, and in response to an initial appeal £8,000 was contributed.

*13 January* Evacuation of areas. Wharfedale is to be a reception zone. Ilkley is to be used for reception purposes, and shortly a survey of billeting accommodation will be made.

Unionist Association (Conservative) film shows in the district include a resume of events of the crisis in September 1938 leading up to Chamberlain's visit to Munich.

*13 January* Ilkley's two picture houses giving funds to refugees (Lord Baldwin's Refugee Fund).

*15 January* New Medical Officer for Health is from Ilkley – Doctor Williams.

*15 January* There are 900 refugees in camp at Harwich, and Ilkley has agreed to take 10 for a hostel at Mount Pleasant.

*20 January* Some little delay into bringing into Ilkley district non-Aryan child refugees from Germany. The priority is to get children out of Germany that are in danger of being put in concentration camps and this affects boys aged 15 to 16. There are no boys in Harwich aged 11 and 12 – these are the ages stipulated by the Ilkley committee. Ilkley is not well suited for providing a technical education needed for the boys aged 15 and 16. Education and maintenance should be provided for such boys until the age of 18 when they are to be emigrated to the Colonies.

Possibly a very suitable house which could be used as a permanent hostel has been found.

*20 January* Refugee children – places where they could be lodged, boarded and cared for. Payment will be made at the rate of 10s 6d a week where one child is taken and 8s 6d for each extra child when more than one is taken.

ARP notes – compiling a register for evacuation purposes. While it is no part of the warden's duty to participate in some parts of the area (including Ilkley) wardens have volunteered to help. Responsibility for compiling the register rests with the local authority.

*27 January* Agreement on child refugees. Ten boys aged 12 to 14 are to be evacuated directly from Germany (of Jewish descent Christian faith). A hostel has been secured in Mount Pleasant, and the boys are to be educated at Ilkley School. It is intended to appoint a warden and his wife who will speak both German and English.

*27 January* Wool – problem of wool coming into Britain in foreign ships and leaving our own out. Buyers should have a right to say under which flag their goods should sail. In the event of a crisis, traders need assurance that their goods would not be filched from them without a proper margin. If there was a war, the margin which the Government would pay might mean simply nothing in comparison with the amount they would save in lives and ships and money they would have to pay after a war had started.

*27 January* Question of fitting blinds at Menston Isolation Hospital for a 'black-out' in the event of an emergency was raised at the meeting of Wharfedale Joint Isolation Hospital Committee. Preparations made in peacetime for necessary precautions at short notice.

*27 January* ARP as Crisis 'Funk Hole'. Air Raid wardens have drifted away. Out of 176 names in Skyrack, only 50% of the volunteers have showed any active interest in the work. A lot who gave in names during the Munich crisis did so thinking they would avoid military service. To be fair, many volunteers have never been warned of meetings or classes. Men did not know where to go or what to do. During the Munich crisis, there was a host of willing workers, but since then there has been a gradual drifting away. In a voluntary service, the essential thing was to choose the right men and to have the right men as leaders.

## ***February***

*3 February* A boy on remand from a previous court appeared carrying a brown paper parcel. When asked what it contained, he said it was his gas mask and that he had been told at the remand home that he must carry it everywhere with him.

*3 February* Letter to the Gazette from Dorothea Bohlmann (Honorary Secretary Ilkley Committee for Refugees). She said that the Home Secretary announced in November 1938 that as a result of 11,000 German refugees settling in this country, 15,000 British workmen had been given employment. A large number who are only temporary guests, not workers, are waiting until emigration or the right to enter another country is possible. Even boys hoped to be entertained in Ilkley are to be given a training which will equip them for emigration.

*3 February* 'Applied National Service Work. How Men and Women Can Help in Ilkley Now'. Ilkley Rotary Club discusses various phases of service. Big response of women to ambulance call.

Ilkley Rotary Club considered all these measures at their meeting this week – 'exceptionally interesting'. Ambulance and nursing services, anti-gas courses and decontamination, the work of ARP and the Special Constabulary, the work of the rescue, repair and demolition squads, the distribution and care of gas masks and the object of the National Voluntary Register were discussed.

Reference was made to H.H. ('Bunny') Austin's book on 'Moral Rearmament'. He quoted Queen Wilhelmina as saying in a recent broadcast that the immediate task of moral rearmament called for a completely changed mentality to solve national problems and turn the fear of destruction to the will to construction. Only on a moral and spiritual basis could the work of rearmament and national service lead to permanent peace.

*3 February* Skyrack ARP: over 3,000 volunteers with 20 qualified instructors and nearly 30 classes of various types running. Good response of volunteers for ARP under the National Service Scheme.

*10 February* Parish Church bells – proposal to re-cast the peel. It is unsafe to ring in its present condition.

*10 February* National Service: more facilities described at the Rotary Meeting. Ilkley had a strong contingent of Special Constables who had or were taking training courses and would have very important duties in times of war, especially at short notice in the case of air raids. There are 78 in the Ilkley Special Constabulary under the command of Mr H. Tillotson, Margerison Road, Ben Rhydding.

Ilkley had a keen and enthusiastic body of men of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade Service and they continue to recruit so that they had adequate reserve for local needs and for any call upon some of them for duty elsewhere.

ARP warning signals to be tested in the Skyrack area on 15 February at 11am and 11.15am.

Reverend W.H. Hudspeth, a returned missionary from Shanghai, speaks in Ilkley giving harrowing details of the war at present being waged in China by Japan. At the start of this war, China had no planes or machine guns. In over 18 months in Shanghai and on every one of those days, over 500 people were starving. At one university after an air raid, 100 students and professors were found dead.

In the districts of Shanghai where his chief work lay, over 2,000 people were blown to pieces in 24 hours. At least 1,000 British people had their businesses in Shanghai and had lost everything.

A mere three shillings would keep a Chinese person living for a month.

*17 February* 'Ilkley refugees – do people care enough?': Reverend Lawn's appeal as Ilkley Methodist minister in a sermon. Some people in Ilkley did not want to see or hear about the evidence of war in China and Spain.

*17 February* Ilkley Refugees Committee: Captain Geldard mentioned the possibility of work on farms for boys who were already 15 or 16 years of age. Farmers were willing to take them for twelve months for their keep. As long as the conditions were right, there were placements for any number of boys.

Poem by June L. Moore: 'An Appeal for the Refugees'.

*17 February* Ilkley approval for secondary education for girls at Ilkley Grammar School. 23 girls are taking the County Minor Scholarship Exam.

*17 February* Local committee appointed in Ilkley to help foodships to go to the help of the starving in Spain. While it is mainly money that is needed, gifts of food and goods are also welcomed.

*24 February* The hostel on Mount Pleasant is ready for refugees.

*24 February* How the National Fitness Council can help local authorities, sports organisations and voluntary organisations, and how they can be helped in turn by



these bodies was explained by Mr J.B. Passmore, Secretary for the West Riding Committee for National Fitness, to Ilkley Council members on 21 February 1939. It was a means to a fuller life.

*24 February* Women in National Service. Mrs Ryder Runton delivers a speech at Ilkley Rotary Club: 'Women's Voluntary Services for Civilian Defence'.

One aim would be to try and prevent panic in the event of an air raid. Another aspect of their work was in evacuation and billeting. Training in advance would be needed for hospital and casualty services and for additional auxiliary staff for hospitals and first aid posts.

Ambulance drivers would be needed plus attendants and driving less were being arranged.

A further phase was the hospital supply services for which women would be enrolled who might be too old for other work, and could prepare bandages, swabs and other dressings.

Women are essentially peace lovers, but in order to preserve, they must conserve.

The Women's Voluntary Service was not a fighting force – it aimed at making people realise their responsibilities and prepare for eventualities. If there were intensive air attacks on civilian population, then Ilkley would become a place to which others would be brought.

Conditions of Service for ARP volunteers:

1. Natural born British subjects.
2. Complete prescribed course of training.
3. Volunteers required to undertake to present themselves for part time or whole time service.
4. Enrolment terminable on not less than one week's notice.
5. Volunteers act as required under the direction of the local authority.
6. Notify change of address to the local authority.
7. Paid emergency rates of pay
8. Compensation paid if volunteer is incapacitated.
9. Compensation paid on conditions laid out at the time.

## **March**

*3 March* Water charges to be 1s 4d in the pound. Increase for Ilkley Air Raid wardens to remain under the Council rather than the Home Office order for them to be placed under the control of the Chief Constable.

Talk on International Difficulties given to the Ilkley League of Nations Youth Group by Mr Emerson Rogers of Skipton.

*3 March* More details of Ilkley's New Hospital. It is to cost £40,000 to build and equip, and £5,500 a year to maintain.

*3 March* The addition of private wards and the additional costs of incorporating ARP protection in the building would bring the total cost of the building and equipping it to about £40,000.

In the event of war, hospitals in comparatively safe area are going to be of vital importance to the nation.

*10 March* Picture of refugee boys from Vienna with Mr H. Ferry, warden at the Ilkley hostel.

*10 March* Six refugee boys arrived in Ilkley and are having lessons at Loxleigh House in Cowpasture Road. They are non-orthodox Jews aged 14 to 16 from Vienna. All wished their parents to come to Ilkley.

Consideration is being given to the gas and bomb-proof shelters in all new school buildings and the provision of new schools is now being planned.

Mrs Corbett Ashby addressed a League of Nations Union meeting in Ilkley and issued a plea for more moral courage. Forces working for peace and democracy are needed to make the fullest use of the machinery of the League of Nations.

*10 March* 9<sup>th</sup> Dukes Wharfedale Men reunion in Bradford.

National Service Recruitment. Employers of labour to be approached. Consideration to be given to making a personal approach to prospective recruits rather than the holding of public meetings. 'It is hoped panels would foster an interest in those services which were national as those which were purely local' so was stated in a letter from Lord Harewood, President of the Yorkshire (West Riding) National Service Committee. So far, 299 men and 174 women had volunteered for ARP in Skyrack, other than the Auxiliary Fire Service.

*17 March* Contrasts and comparisons between Englishmen and Frenchmen were cleverly drawn by Mr E.L. Rolfe at the meeting of Ilkley Rotarians. 'If we could mix the two people well together in a large salad bowl with our qualities and theirs and then divide the mixture, both would derive benefits thereby'.

*17 March* Police and 'specials' – working together to reduce road accidents.

*24 March* Chinese refugees in China have received 2,050 gifts from Ilkley people led by Mrs Arnold Foster and Mrs Jowett from Ben Rhydding.

*24 March* Advert: 'National Service Means Peace. Women, have you enrolled yet? Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service; ARP Women Ambulance Drivers & Attendants and Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

*24 March* ARP District. The Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia has resulted in the large influx of volunteers for ARP (comparable to the Munich crisis in 1938). Training of women drivers for ARP has begun.

*24 March* In any emergency, one of the most important centres of any town is its post office through which telephonic and telegraphic communications are maintained. Training in the event of air raids is completed in local post offices and each post office will become a complete ARP unit. The post office at Ilkley will have its own wardens for fire fighting service and first aid station, and all telephone operators have volunteered to form a corps which will insure that in the event of air raids the phone service will carry on. Ilkley telephone operators were fitted with respirators yesterday: each mask is personal to that individual and not used by others.

*24 March* Rates up 16/–: a record.

*31 March* Civil Defence address by Mr J. A. Slater, Ilkley Urban District Council Sanitary Inspector. Anti-gas training is vital. Helping in maintaining public health is important in peace as in war.

*31 March* Advert: Men are wanted for territorial army and auxiliary fire services; women volunteers for nursing and first aid.

*31 March* Cynical letter about the 'Partition of Ilkley? Hitler and Mussolini' signed The Hermit, Cowper's Cross, Rombalds Moor.

Ilkley Committee on Spain has sent £200 to the headquarters in London to be used for buying food for Spanish children, plus medical supplies for people in Spain and refugee camps on the French/Spanish border.

*31 March* Army Demonstration Column which represents all arms of Service will visit Wharfedale in July whilst en route from Cardiff to Newcastle.

There will be 15 officers, 388 other ranks and 100 vehicles. The public will have an opportunity of seeing the latest types of vehicles, weapons, equipment, clothing and working devices used by the Army in the field.

Brigadier Nicklen (Salvation Army Brigadier) gave a talk at Ilkley Congregational Church about his work over 6½ years in Czechoslovakia.

## **April**

*6 April* Private billeting (in the event of War) in Wharfedale Rural District was mentioned at the West Riding local authority conference attended by 200 delegates. Ilkley did not yet know where the refugees were from. Hospitals in Bradford would be linked to ones in Middleton (Ilkley), Skipton and Keighley.

*6 April* Transport in War Time. A number of local tradesmen formed themselves into a group for organisation of road transport in times of national emergency when met.

*7 April* Fuel rationing would be done through Group Organisers. Considerations: same sub-district; need to think about the usual work the vehicles performed; and the type of vehicle.

Pudsey and Otley Division of the Labour Party terminated the candidature of Mr Wigglesworth in view of his sympathy with 'Sir Stafford Cripps popular front' movement.

*14 April* Housing for 9,500 evacuees - Women's Voluntary Service plans for Wharfedale. Billeting children and adults required many helpers.

Big crowds revel in glorious Easter weather. Sun bathing on the heather and grass. Moors and riverside thronged with visitors. Scenes were more like those of midsummer.

*14 April* First Aid Home Nursing – extra courses in Ilkley in view of the unsettled state of international affairs.

*21 April* Moral Rearmament is as necessary as ARP and takes away fear – this was discussed at a meeting at Stoney Lea.

*21 April* Ben Rhydding Hockey Club – possibility of a third team.

*21 April* Ilkley Territorials – battery's linked with those at Leeds Territorials.

*21 April* Mr G. Mennell is the new Chairman of Ilkley Council.

*21 April* Ilkley and ARP. Meeting of Senior Wardens. Complete distribution of respirators is soon to be achieved. Women assistants at various posts to go on an anti-gas course.

*21 April* Provision for Evacuees. Question of education of children if they are evacuated to Ilkley in the case of emergency. Probably 2,000 children would be involved and buildings to be used are currently being checked out.

Attendance returns: Ilkley is in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the area with a 87.64 attendance (average for division is 88.07).

*21 April* Refugees for Ilkley: more boys to be received at Loxleigh hostel which is occupied by non-orthodox Jews. Leeds Committee agreed to two more non-orthodox Jews. In another case, one of the arrivals will be a boy from Vienna whose mother has been applied for by a lady at Bolton Abbey and for whom 10/- a week will be paid. Another is a boy from Berlin, for whom a request was made by Mrs Eric Petrie.

The parents of one of the boys had written expressing their very grateful thanks to the committee and to the people of Ilkley for the service being rendered to children. It was also announced that four refugee men from Headquarters were placed in farms in Wharfedale and Skipton districts.

The Committee had refused a request for a man to be taken into the hostel as a refugee: they were aware that this was heart-rendingly controversial but had to administer the hostel according to the lines drawn up and with the money they had available.

*21 April* Advert: 'Correct Home Storage of Canned Foods: ARP of Vital Importance to Everyone'. What to buy and how to use them. The storage of a small reserve of food in every household during peacetime is recommended by responsible Authorities and means a large addition to national larder during an emergency.

*2 April* Ilkley Rugby Club – disappointing experiences. The final record was one of the poorest in post-war seasons. Conversely, the men's hockey section of Ben Rhydding Sports Club has enjoyed a most successful season.

Ilkley Moor Golf Club is being wound up.

*28 April* Civic Sunday Service in Ilkley: Reverend R.G. Lawn, the Superintendent Minister, reiterated the need 'to keep sympathies alive' in his sermon.

*28 April* The work of any system of government depended in last issue upon character and disposition who worked in it. Those working in the Council and in the church are carrying out different branches of the same task: the promotion of human benefit. It was a great trust and a great responsibility. A great privilege any town can have is that its leaders shall be men of vision, honourable in character, upright in heart, animated by a generous public spirit and carrying out their tasks and responsibilities in fear of God.

*28 April* Letter about animals and air raids. A RSPCA pamphlet deals with protection from gas and treatment of gassed and wounded dogs, cats and horses. Special apparatus is available from the RSPCA for grasping and extracting an animal buried in the debris of a bombed building. The RSPCA worked in Spain and Abyssinia during the wars there.

Girls at Ilkley Grammar School from 1 September 1939. Opening date not yet guaranteed. Adaptations at the school cost £660 to enable 50 girls to be admitted. Additional staff may be needed.

In the event of an emergency, Ilkley Grammar School might have to take evacuees from Bradford and Leeds – desirous to billet 300 secondary school boys from Leeds Modern School. There is perhaps a need for classrooms in hotels, hydros and other large buildings – Kings Hall and Annexe, Congregational Lecture Hall, Methodist Assembly Hall and St Margaret's Hall.

*28 April* A mixed response to the issue of Dales farmers being prepared to plough and in readiness for a time of emergency.

*28 April* Criticism by local MP Sir Granville Gibson of the Government's plans for dealing with property damaged in the War. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the damage would be valued and a final settling would be after the war. Sir Granville Gibson said that anything might happen between the time of the damage and the end of the War, and damage to premises might be so great that businesses would be crippled financially.

*28 April* Sir Bernard Lomas-Walker to be the prospective National Conservative candidate for Pudsey and Otley to succeed Sir Granville Gibson.

Sir Granville Gibson spoke on Foreign Affairs. Almost all people in this country hated the thought of war and loved peace. He had no doubt the same applied to ordinary people in Germany, but they had formed a government whereby one or two men plunged them into war. The United Kingdom, France, the United States, Poland etc giving each other strength and support could mean that Italy and Germany could not take the risk of war. They knew perfectly well in respect of Albania, Austria and Czechoslovakia that they were not taking a great risk but if they were now aggressive to Poland, Greece, Turkey or Roumania, there will be conflagration.

*28 April* R.T.A. Renton Q.C. appointed sun-controller of Skyrack Joint ARP Committee.

*28 April* Collective training demonstrations are now superseding the individual work and those taking part are able to obtain a more comprehensive idea of what will be necessary in an emergency.

Advert: 'ARP – canned fruits offer a two-fold advantage: delicious for present needs and essential for an emergency'.

## **May**

*5 May* J.C. Smuts the proposed Liberal candidate for Pudsey and Otley discussed foreign affairs. Smuts argued that it was necessary to have some form of compulsion

and conscription at the present time. Not only the Army and Navy, but also the pacific defence services were lacking volunteers to carry out the defence services.

Photo: ARP demonstration in 'tin hats' and protective oilskin clothing dealing with a bomb explosion casualty.

*5 May* Flying Officer R.A.G. Petrie of Mount Stead, Ben Rhydding killed in a flying accident at RAF Hawkinge near Folkestone. He was one of a flight of six, the accident occurred as the plane was preparing to land – it appeared to stall, dived to the ground and burst into flames. His parents Major and Mrs P.C. Petrie were in Roumania on a trade delegation when the tragedy struck (his father is the President of the Association of Exporting Merchants of Raw Materials and Yarns, Bradford). He followed his father to Loretto. His funeral was held at Bolton Abbey after cremation at Hawkinge.

*5 May* Ilkley Urban District Council said of the need for an Emergency War Committee to be given wide powers in the time of war to act on behalf of the Council in matters of civil defence.

*5 May* Ilkley and Otley troops of Gunners were amalgamated to form the Wharfedale Battery of 70<sup>th</sup> West Riding Field Regiment. Annual Camp will be from 6<sup>th</sup> to 21 August and will undertake joint manoeuvres with the regular army from 16 to 21 September 1939.

*5 May* ARP Sandbags – a nationwide demand for ARP sandbags is making it extremely difficult to obtain even the raw materials.

*12 May* Boy refugees in Ilkley and finding work on farms – seven adult trainees placed on farms by Captain Geldard and one Ilkley hostel boy placed on a farm at Hutton le Hole.

*15 May* Former Ilkley man Mr Godfrey Wilson descends through a pothole to try and rescue a man who died, before he could be brought to the surface.

*19 May* Girl Guides 'Trike Cart' – a one-wheeled vehicle very much like a stretcher on a wheel. It can be assembled and dismantled quickly, and is useful in crossing difficult terrain.

*26 May* Empire Day message at Ilkley Grammar School. Mr W.E. Dinsdale, Chair of Ilkley Grammar School core message was 'look for meaning, responsibility and duty. Look for opportunity to bear responsibility for others. Carry this through school life, business and professional life'.

*26 May* Refugees at Ilkley. An appeal for sympathy on behalf of non-orthodox Jewish refugees being looked after in Ilkley. Reduction on assessment on the hostel

in Mount Pleasant from £40 gross to £20 for one year. In Ilkley, a sum of £1,500 was raised for this work.

## **June**

*2 June* In spite of concern over War, Wharfedale had a Whitsuntide sunbath with record crowds thronging Ilkley Moor, and crowds soaking in the sunshine at the bathing pool. There was a very heavy demand on all forms of transport. Happiness overcame pessimism in spite of the European situation and many preparations for defence proceedings all around us.

*2 June* Miss Naomi Jacob, noted authoress, spoke on 'The Way to Peace' in Riddings Road Lecture Hall in an event organised by the Peace Pledge Union in which she 'denies that war is inevitable, that it is anything but a sin and it aims at creating those conditions which will make peace inevitable'.

*2 June* Military Training Act registration on 3 June at the Ministry of Labour office on Chantry Drive. Those affected are urgently requested that if they have an unemployment book to bring this or be prepared with correct letters and number, also birth certificate.

*2 June* Refugees from Austria. Five more young men in Loxleigh this week and one other detained in London owing to a motor crash. They are aged 19 to 21 and are from Vienna. They will be in Britain for three months and converse well in English. They will hopefully find jobs on farms.

*2 June* ARP – the training of volunteers is well advanced and it is proposed to inaugurate classes of instruction for the general public.

*9 June* New militiamen. An important and vital week in the country. History was made for the first time when young men were generally called upon to serve with the colours in peacetime – a singular exhibition of loyalty and self-sacrifice on the part of the youths, but also of anxiety and faithfulness by parents who feel interruption in careers is not without ill-effect. Qualifications and preferences of recruits will be taken into account.

*9 June* Try to avoid misfits as occurred in First World War training. Much depends on the character, ambition and ability of each individual recruit.

*9 June* 47 militiamen registered at Ilkley Employment Office to join National service, especially the RAF.

*9 June* Skyrack ARP Wardens play Otley Divisional Police at cricket.

Wharfedale Rural District Council said it needs to consider permanent evacuation and temporary or overnight evacuation.



*16 June* Northern Command Tattoo to take place on 1 July at which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers provide main pageantry and ceremonial.

*16 June* ARP Control Centre Exercise.

*23 June* Women's Voluntary Service Workers photo in Kings Hall – possible use in any evacuation.

*30 June* J.C. Smuts Liberal candidate stated that the Government had no vision and there were too many 'Yes Men' in the House of Commons.

*30 June* Cricket: Yorkshire Colts versus Staffordshire Colts in Ilkley (points on first innings to Staffordshire).

*30 June* Mr G. Hurst representing Ilkley at Skyrack. Volunteers: London Rally for National Service on 2 July 1939.

## **July**

*7 July* Dr Billington spoke of the mission work in Western China at a meeting held in aid of the Medical Missions Auxiliary of the Church Missionary Society. There were a large number of refugees in the Western China area due to the China/Japan war. There was a good partnership between church and local people and Chinese and foreigners.

*7 July* Accident on a motorcycle was caused by a man looking up at a 'rare sight' – an aeroplane!!

*7 July* View to taking Spanish refugees from families in Yorkshire to Mexico where they would be offered the opportunity of establishing their homes and beginning their lives afresh – an undertaking by the Yorkshire Council for Relief of Spanish Refugees. Some people though believed these people to be undesirable and should face justice back in Spain.

*14 July* Mr Scott spoke to the Ilkley Rotary Club about his holiday in Belgium. Ypres (a miniature Bruges) is completely rebuilt.

*14 July* Ilkley played a major role in the major blackout exercises in Wharfedale - over 400 people took part in the ARP exercises on 14 July. They had to deal with the effects of bomb explosions. Fire services cooperated in the exercise in Wharfedale and had 80 auxiliary men out in addition to 22 firemen.

*14 July* In various services of Air Raid Wardens, demolition, Decontamination and Rescue Squads, First Aid workers, Auxiliary Fire Services and Special Constables – a personnel of over 400 was engaged.

The exercises also included heavy explosive bombs in New Brook Street and Castle Road, two houses in Clifford Road were demolished by H.E.; Margerison Road was blocked and persistent gas bombs on The Crescent.

*21 July* Floods following a cloudburst. A sudden flood on 16 July and Ben Rhydding was particularly bad with flooded cellars and ruined gardens in Ben Rhydding Drive. Man hole covers were forced up and there was a landslide on the railway between Burley and Ilkley.

*21 July* Letter to the Editor: Concern over the number of Germans that are resident in Ilkley Urban District Council and Addingham.

*21 July* 400 people joined the moral rearmament crusade in Wharfedale. Moral rearmament is strength of a nation's resolve – conquering fear, ambition, greed, self-indulgence and hatred.

Ilkley Grammar School speech day – Lady Lomas Walker presents prizes and Sir Bernard speaks. 'Go out into the world, heads held high, looking the world in the face. Whatever the troubles and the dangers, there is something greater than the mere words of dictators, that there is something better than school days and that is the life you will lead. Above all, do your duty and in that way bring credit to the school.

*28 July* Concern expressed over the attitude of the ARP authorities to the British Legion. Legion members are affronted by the fact that the ARP are neglecting a wealth of experience.

## ***August***

*4 August* Electricity and gas to cost more due to coal price rise.

*4 August* Ilkley Vicar's son Mr Wellington marries (photo).

*4 August* Ilkley's request to be an ARP report centre – a plea put in by Ilkley Urban District Council. The Centre would be supervised by a suitably qualified volunteer with a necessary staff of assistants. Training period would be three months.

*11 August* War time plan for Mental Hospitals – casualty huts to be put in the grounds.

*11 August* More boy refugees to come to the Hostel in Mount Pleasant. New wardens are Mr and Mrs Grunwald who were appointed when they were still in Vienna. It had been difficult to secure them, but they are now in charge.

Nine boys under 16 years old are to arrive. All will go to the Church of England school except one who will go to Ilkley Grammar School.

Biplane makes a safe landing in Pool at the junction of Leathley Lane and Harrogate Road. Both plane and pilot were unharmed. Later the machine was towed back to Yeadon aerodrome.

*18 August* International Peace Campaign issued a questionnaire to all MPs and candidates in Yorkshire.

*25 August* National service in Ilkley. The position has been reviewed by the area panel committee and volunteers are still needed in many services.

*25 August* Activity in Wharfedale – warning regarding lights and ARP signals.

*25 August* Increase in international tension. ARP wardens are to make sure all are equipped with gas respirators in Ilkley. Possibilities of black-outs led to the painting of kerbstones white at principal street corners to assist the movement of vehicles.

Public are to familiarise themselves with the sound of the air raid siren:

General warning: 'fluctuating' or 'warbling'.

Raiders passed – a 'continuous' signal at a steady pitch.

If poison gas used, warnings to be given by hand rattles.

Car light bulbs not to exceed 7 watts, glass on all car lamps must be marked with two thicknesses of white tissue paper. Headlamps provided hood is fitted to ensure no light is visible above eye level at a distance greater than 25 feet.

*25 August* Women's work in emergency – feed child evacuees and maintain canteen services.

## **September**

*1 September* Adverts:

'ARP Blinds and Curtains. Curtain linings 8d per yard'.

'ARP: Have your Cellar or basement shelter propped and made safe. L.T.Learoyd, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley'.

'Cheap LMS Trips. Important Notice. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company announce all cheap Half Day and Evening Excursions advertised for Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1 September, 2 September and 3 September are cancelled'.

'Ilkley Flower Show. On account of evacuation, the show on Saturday has been transferred to Wells Road Assembly Hall'.

*1 September* British Red Cross. A detachment of British Red Cross is being formed in Ilkley. Will anyone who has not already offered their services for nursing, and hold

a Certificate for First Aid and Home Nursing or wish to join, communicate with Mrs Ford, The Pines, Ilkley.

*1 September* Evacuation from Danger Areas – nearly 4,000 to be received in Ilkley, Burley and Menston.

Whole urban district including Burley and Menston scheduled a 'safe' area.

Women's Voluntary Service leaders met in Council Chambers on 31 August after the broadcast announcement.

*1 September* Ilkley to receive 2,141 children and adults today.

Today (Friday) numbers expected are Ilkley 1,188. They will be received in the Kings Hall or The Annexe. First party to arrive in Ilkley at 10am. It would be useful if householders could be ready to receive the evacuees.

Evacuees on first day to be schoolchildren (with some teachers who will return to Leeds on the same day).

On the second day: children under school age and their mothers, and expectant mothers.

Each person on arrival to receive an 'iron ration' sufficient to last 48 hours – canned beef, sweetened and unsweetened milk, biscuits and chocolates.

An appeal for blankets.

*1 September* Billeting officers work is not easy – a call for patience, tact and discretion.

Women are busy in the Town Hall preparing the 48 hours emergency rations for the evacuees when they arrive today.

*1 September* Food in boxes and cartons and hundreds of paper carrier bags. Children in elementary schools all brought gas masks.

Kemble Players show in Kings Hall transferred to the Playhouse in Weston Road.

Ilkley Allotments and Horticultural Society annual flower and vegetable show will be removed to Wells Road Assembly Hall.

Ilkley Rail Station announcement – certain trains cancelled as the rolling stock is required for evacuation purposes.

*1 September* Air Raid Warden's Posts are at:

Crescent Hotel

West Yorkshire Garage  
Middleton Hotel Garage  
Town Hall, Ilkley  
British Legion Club, Ilkley  
Methodist Schoolroom  
Glen Rosa Garage  
'The Pines', Parish Ghyll Drive  
10 Bolling Road  
Ashville Wheatley Road  
Colbert Avenue Kiosk, Ilkley  
Ross's Garage, Ben Rhydding.  
'Beechwood', Grange Avenue  
Newcombe Grange, Curly Hill  
Denton Hall, Denton  
Nesfield Kiosk  
'Dundrennan', Rupert Road  
H.C. Cowbrough, Manor Farm, Askwith  
Crossbeck Road.

*1 September* Skyrack ARP duties – partial mobilisation of personnel last night. Sub-controller's duties: complete distribution of civilian respirators, sandbag distribution, public shelters to be made available as rapidly as possible, equip and staff first aid posts, control centre staffed day and night, 20% of ARP services personnel to be mobilised, 20% personnel to be mobilised to stand by at warden's posts.

In Wharfedale rural area, 5,500 evacuees were received today, and tomorrow reception centres will be set up in each of the chief villages.

*8 September* Advert: 'Brown Muffs Bradford ARP. In the public interest, Brown Muffs are ready with essential ARP requirements. A huge diversity of commodities that are one and all backed by Brown Muffs efficiency standards.

*8 September* Scholars, Mothers and Babies welcomed in Ilkley. Smooth working scheme run with great care. Local schools closed for some days until arrangements are made for teaching newcomers. This delay appeared as a holiday and Leeds children thorough exploration of district.

Boys from Leeds Modern School allocated new homes from Ilkley Grammar School. Numbers received in Ilkley Urban District Council's district were considerably smaller than those for which preparation had been made.

*8 September* At Ilkley, the numbers of mothers and babies on Friday were only about 60% of those which had been anticipated. Brudenell School – 48 teachers came in the party and most of these stayed in Ilkley. The boys were in groups of ten and each teacher was in contact with the boys.

On the Friday, Ilkley received 661 children and on Saturday 221 mothers and babies.

*8 September* Women's Voluntary Service run by Mrs Ryder Runton, Mrs Crosse, Mrs Behrens and Mrs Hampshire.

Wharfedale Rural District. On Friday over 300 children were brought into Wharfedale and Washburndale by bus from Leeds.

Photo of child evacuees.

*8 September* Owing to the largely increased population of Ilkley caused by the influx of evacuees, volunteers with nursing experience are welcomed to assist the district nurses.

Appeals for toys, books, play pens and a rocking horse.

Leeds Modern School – 250 to 300 boys under the charge of Dr Morton have lessons in the morning, and Ilkley Grammar School boys and girls have lessons in the afternoon.

Declaration of War - how the news was received in Wharfedale with quiet determination and no preliminary shouting as in 1914. The preparations which had been in hand to meet the possibilities which followed the betrayal at Munich in 1938 have been advanced with a thoroughness which precluded any need to 'popularise' the Forces in any way whatsoever.

*8 September* Weakened teams at Ilkley on the first weekend of the War.

*8 September* First meeting of Ilkley Urban District Council in the War.

The Chairman said that he found in the last few days abundant evidence in the district of a willingness to serve.

A Food Control Committee was set up and a Fuel Advisory Committee was appointed to assist the Food Controller Mr H. Schofield.

A Billeting Tribunal was appointed to hear appeals by householders against the conditions of the billeting schemes.

High tribute was paid to the Women's Voluntary Service for their evacuation work. Discussion concerning making up the difference between Army pay and civil pay for men who enlisted.

Ilkley Chamber of Trade – grocers to close on weekdays no later than 6pm and other traders not later than 7pm except on Saturdays when the time was fixed to 8pm.

*15 September* Fuel and Lighting Order 1939. In order to obtain supplies, coal, coke etc, consumers must register with a licensed merchant. As from 1 October, consumers of coal, coke, electricity and gas were only permitted to consume 75% of their consumption during the corresponding quarters of the year ended 30 June last – signed by H. Schofield, Local Fuel Overseer.

Advert: 'Dixon and Co. Service petrol supplies and blackout - may we solicit consideration of our Clients in as far as possible accepting delivery the following morning for all orders after lunch. This facilitates not covering the same ground so many times daily and finishing deliveries as Winter lighting restrictions become earlier'.

*15 September* Sir Granville Gibson MP witnessed the rescue of the crew of the British ship 'The Olive Grove' bound from Cuba to Britain with 5,000 tons of sugar sunk by a German submarine. He was returning from a five weeks business tour of the United States and Canada. The Americans were generally sympathetic to the cause of the Democracies but while they condemn Hitler's methods, they are determined not to be drawn into the War. However Sir Granville Gibson believed that even if the Neutrality Act is not amended, the Americans will contrive to help democracies. In Canada, there was unanimous and whole-hearted support for the stand against aggression.

*15 September* The Ministry of Information says that postal orders must be accepted as legal tender and may be used and must be accepted in the same way as coins and banknotes.

*15 September* Musings of a naturalist – an interesting observation. Swallows with young are still managing in the blackout. Swallows in barns are still managing to squeeze through cracks in barn doors as skylights have been screened as a result of ARP rules.

*15 September* First girls at Ilkley Grammar School – a photo. This is considered generally as a popular move.

*15 September* Appeal for volunteers to act as blood donors.

*15 September* Demand for houses increased in Ilkley due to evacuees.

Auxiliary Fire Brigade – 14 members of the regular Brigade and 107 from the Auxiliary Fire Service. Seven men are in permanent attendance to cope with emergency, nine are watchroom attendants engaged as telephonists and 26 are messengers. Equipment is five trailer pumps in addition to the engine, and a new engine will arrive late September as well as five more trailer pumps.

*15 September* Sir Henry Price of Hollingwood Ilkley, head of Price's (Tailors) Limited is one of the new members of an advisory panel of clothing manufacturers appointed by the Ministry of Supply to assist the Government in the production of clothing for the Army.

*22 September* Advert: 'Should you propose not running your car, Ross Bros will collect your car, thoroughly clean and grease the same and store in a heated garage until required. It saves the worry and cost of garage heating and general deterioration of the car. Cost is 5/- per week'.

*22 September* 'Protect your Investment in Property against War Risks. No insurance company will insure property against war risks, but a Mutual Friend to provide Compensation which would not otherwise be available has been formed by the Provincial Property Owners War Risks'.

*22 September* Photos – Wharfedale Howitzer 279<sup>th</sup> Field Battery (Royal Artillery). Battery Officers and NCOs and Ilkley Troop or Edward troop – united in one battery six months ago. Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G.E. Suddards of Ilkley.

Agriculture in War Time. Major Horton-Fawkes addresses tenants and states that agriculture is 'the fourth fighting service'. Tightening the belt is unpleasant and starvation means defeat.

Ilkley's new fire engine is named 'The George Mennell' and is one of the largest in Yorkshire.

*22 September* Mr W.H. Darby, Divisional Highway Surveyor, has been appointed by the County Council as Petrol Officer for ARP purposes in the Ilkley area.

Urgent request for children's cots.

*22 September* Stoker W.W. Stirk from Burley is a survivor from the aircraft carrier 'HMS Courageous'. He is 31 and his mother lives in Ilkley. He was rescued by a destroyer after 1½ hours in the sea. He was lucky as the stoke-hole where he would have been was torpedoed. He was just going on watch and his arrival was delayed due to him getting a drink of water on the mess deck.



*22 September* Schools and evacuees – carrying on with bigger numbers to teach. There were also requests for evening classes to be resumed.

*29 September* Miss Wilkinson announces that Beamsley tea cottage will be closed for the duration of the war.

Wartime Land Cultivation Committee – arranged a public lecture on ‘Grow Food for Yourself and Your Country’.

Ilkley Public Library, Lending Library and Reading Room are now open for their usual hours.

*29 September* In response to an appeal for Ilkley people to grow their own food, Mr A. Hentzen has offered the use of a field in front of his house comprising about three acres for use free for the cultivation of food during the period of the war.

Tractors and ploughs needed to plough out grassland.

Photos: Wharfedale Howitzer Battery HQ Staff.

*29 September* Letter to Ilkley Gazette – “Great benefits will result all round if Ilkley receives evacuees in a spirit of understanding and real unselfishness.”

Wharfedale Battery – Ilkley Women to help by knitting home comforts for soldiers.

*29 September* National Register being taken 29 September. The householder must record name, age and occupation along with other details of every person who spends tonight at this house or who joins the household on Saturday without having been included in the return for another address. It doesn’t include soldiers, sailors or airmen who are billeted in the house. Enumerators start on 30 September collecting schedules and issuing Identity Cards on the spot.

Despite the fact that there are no air raids, there is a constant need for alertness among the civilian population like that being maintained by the defence forces.

*29 September* War Budget – Chancellor of the Exchequer calls for ‘severe sacrifice’ in order to meet £2,000,000,000 outlay now facing the nation and places the rate of income tax at 7/- in the pound for the present financial year rising to 7s 6d, the highest since the tax was first introduced in 1798 !

New war loans to be issued in due course.

*29 September* ARP Practice. A series of practice exercises for ARP services in the Skyrack area are to be held on successive Sundays starting on 1 October. The first exercises are to be in Baildon and Pudsey.

Whenever exercises occur, the main object is to give drivers of vehicles and services they carry practice in moving about the area and rendering mutual support in districts which have suffered heavy damage.

*29 September* No return on newspaper sales after 16 October 1939. Newsagents will only be supplied with the actual number of copies needed. This is owing to the absolute necessity of conserving paper supplies.

Ben Rhydding Men's Hockey – an emergency club has been formed and will make a restart with one team for the present. There will be no subscriptions, instead a pay as you play scheme at 1s a game.

## **October**

*6 October* Greenline Taxis. In continuation of the present conditions, a proposed increase from 8d to 1/- per mile will, in our case, apply only to the first mile run; subsequent miles will remain at 8d.

This amounts to a flat increase of 4d only on each individual journey.

Photo – Ilkley First Aid Post at St Margaret's Hall.

*6 October* Ilkley Gazette letter from the lady who has taken in a Leeds Modern School pupil – there is not enough money to feed the boy adequately every day and week., therefore when does the School Canteen open?

*6 October* More evacuees for Ilkley: up to 59 but no date yet.

*6 October* Paper shortage. No shortage of newspapers that are ordered in advance, but as raw materials for making paper have to be imported, it is in the national interest that there should be a rigorous conservation of supplies.

*6 October* A lengthy meeting on Ilkley Urban District Council to discuss ARP in the Urban District. Although Ilkley was deemed a safe area, the number of paid ARP wardens exceeded 20.

In the Ilkley district there are quite a number of paid telephonists in connection with ARP and AFS services who are receiving £2 a week. Perhaps this needs to be reconsidered and offer jobs to the wives of some of the soldiers while they are away. As they are only getting 17s a week while their husbands are away, they would have been pleased to accept even half of the £2 per week.

*6 October* A considerable number of auxiliary firemen have been appointed to work twelve hours at a time, five on duty during the day and five at night, yet within 30 feet of them was a paid telephonist getting 2s a week. Of the wardens services, war establishment was 96 in Ilkley and the actual number was 198 in the town. There

were 10 whole time wardens in Ilkley, who were empowered to enrol 20% war establishment and so far had enrolled 11½%.

*6 October* First Aid parties – war establishment 23 in Ilkley. The number on the roll is exactly the same. The number employed the whole time is five or 22% while the percentage they were empowered to employ was fifty.

*6 October* First Aid Post's war establishment was 46 in Ilkley. The number enrolled was the same and two were employed the whole time, a percentage of four as against the 20% they were supposed to employ.

War establishment of the Rescue and Decontamination Squad was 24 in Ilkley.

*6 October* The number on the roll was the same and the whole time number was twelve giving 33% which was the percentage empowered to employ.

Out of the total establishment for ARP in the Ilkley Urban District, they had a war establishment of 400 including AFS. They could necessarily employ 70 men and 38 women, giving an account of £226 per week. They actually employed only 38 men and three women at a cost of £120 per week.

*6 October* Butter for Germany. The Ministry of Information has a story of supplies going to Germany in the early/mid and late thirties. At weekly intervals, a dozen parcels varying in weight from three to four pounds and about the size of a hat box have been despatched by Mr Arthur Hentzen, the principal of a large export wool firm, the contents described as Danish butter and paid for at a special rate and routed via Cologne. In the week before the War, no less than nine parcels were observed. Three were addressed to Goering, Goebbels and Dr Bergmann (Dr Bergmann occupies some official post in Germany) and the remainder to the wives of prominent Nazi party members.

The story was exaggerated as in the October 1938 period Mr Arthur Hentzen who lives at Gilstead in Middleton sent occasionally a pound of butter to his nephew in Germany at a time when they were short of butter and eggs. This nephew was also his stepson, for he was the son of Mrs Hentzen's first husband.

Mr Hentzen is a staunch patriot to Britain. He lived in Switzerland for some time but then settled in Bradford over 40 years ago and founded a wool merchanting firm in his name. He married Gertrude Hentzen of Remscheid, Germany in Leeds in early 1938. Mr Hentzen had lived in Ilkley since 1913 and at the time of the 1937 Coronation he presented to Ilkley extensive woods on the North side of the River Wharfe not far from his home along with £500 for making entrances and footpaths. These were generally known as Middleton Woods.

Mr Hentzen is the Bradford Consul for Latvia and an ex-President of the Bradford Consular Association. He did big trade with Germany but only what 90% of Bradford

wool men would have done in his position. Everyone knew Mr Hentzen as decidedly anti-Nazi.

*6 October* Ilkley again agrees to help again at Christmas time the people of Shildon, a town in the distressed area of the Durham mining district which Ilkley has helped in various ways for the past few years.

*6 October* Football match Ilkley versus Wharfedale Battery cancelled owing to the fact that the soldiers had recently been vaccinated and their Medical Officer would not allow them to play.

Wharfedale Rural Council: the national emergency causes a rate increase for the half year ending 31 March 1940 of 7s 3d in the pound, an increase of 3d. The Council expects to spend £800 in the national emergency. They have already spent £450 in emergency matters such as evacuation and the £800 just referred to is in addition to that. Appeal to teachers by West Riding Council – many are doing excellent work but some don't realise that the onus is on them while in Wharfedale as guests to put in a little extra work after school hours to see that the children in their care are happy. Don't forget that these children are children from the towns who are living in the country and so need a little more time spending with them by teachers from towns.

*6 October* Skyrack Area ARP. An enthusiastic parade of personnel. The exercise revealed a fairly widespread impression among first aid and reserve parties that they had to remain under cover during an air raid and only turn out for duty after the all clear was sounded. This was quite contrary to what they must do because victims could bleed to death before help arrives.

*6 October* Plans for compulsory civilian service.

*9 October* Ilkley First Aid post at St Margaret's Church.

*13 October* Dr Morton, Head of Leeds Grammar School based at Ilkley Grammar School and author of 'Madhouse in a Million' gave a talk to the Rotarians. By signing a Non Aggression Pact between Russia and Germany, Germany may have called in the barbarian which will give a knock-out blow to western civilisation, when many western countries were exhausted.

Talk on 'Youth and War' by Mr Emerson Rogers of Skipton to the members of Ilkley League of Nations Youth Group. He warned youth to be prepared to resist any attempts to restrain the liberty they held of expressing their views and to fight any attempt of a strong central Government to repress criticism which they did not approve. Nationalism as far as it limited itself to improving its own conditions of life was an admirable thing, but when it started imposing its own ideals on aliens who might prefer their own, then it became dangerous.

*13 October* Ross Bros Garage at Wharfe View Road requisitioned for communal feeding.

*13 October* Mr Hentzen's company robustly challenges the assertion regarding the butter for Germany row and says that the Ministry of Information has made a colossal blunder.

*13 October* A need for shorter credit in Ilkley as tradesmen are having difficulty in getting in money from wealthy people - such a view was put to a meeting of local ministers and laymen desirous of helping with local people's problems.

*20 October* Loxleigh Hostel in Mount Pleasant. Progress in the work for caring for refugee boys from Austria and Germany. Nine boys are in the hostel and sixteen boys and men are in training. There are a dozen domestic workers who were refugees working in Ilkley (girls) who perhaps could meet in a room at Loxleigh one evening a week.

*20 October* Elaborate ARP practice in Wharfedale covering Ilkley town suffered 'severely' in the 'raid'. In twenty minutes, there were eleven E (enemy) bombs at New Bridge (6 'casualties'); Leeds Road blocked at gas works (20 'casualties'); at Semon Home (25 'buried'); at The Crescent in the housing estate (14 'casualties') and Denton Hall (16 'casualties'). Incendiaries on Ben Rhydding shops causing fire (6 'casualties') and Wharfedale Lodge, Ben Rhydding Drive: house on fire (5 'casualties'). There was a gas bomb on Curly Hill and Middleton Avenue and at the junction of the Grove and Bolton Bridge Road with people contaminated by gas at each spot.

All the services were busy in Ilkley. Fire Brigade efficiency was noted by many observers.

*20 October* Minister of Health Mr Walter Elliot MP visits Ilkley. He was profoundly impressed by the evacuation schemes on the go in Ilkley.

Lieutenant Commander Douglas Dixon gave a strong talk on 'The Epic of Gallipoli' at Ghyll Royd School. He took part in operations there.

*20 October* At the County Scout meeting in Ilkley, attendees were told that scouting must continue and render every sort of service and play a part in the peace to follow.

*20 October* Hentzen 'butter' case raised in the Houses of Commons by Mr Leach (Labour MP for Central Bradford) and was told that the Government did not think that Hentzen had been unpatriotic (Sir Edward Grigg gave this reassurance).

*20 October* Work on a new hospital building in Ilkley deferred until 'happier times'.

Parish Church bells to ring on Sunday following the service of dedication for the re-hanging of eight bells.

Information on the 'Post Office under War Conditions' provided at the Rotary Club lunch meeting, a list of 'don'ts' on the telephone and a reminder that call up and signing up of the next stage of National Service would be on 21 October 1939.

*20 October* County Council meeting told that many ARP volunteers are still needed.

*27 October* Father in the photo of Rural Wharfedale Convoy Practice from Pool to Leeds and back.

Ilkley Plan well launched for parcels for troops and an appeal for funds to be issued soon.

*30 October* Leeds boys at Ilkley Grammar School.

## **November**

*3 November* Advert: 'National Rat Week 6-11 November. Special efforts should be made during the coming week to destroy rats and mice'.

Advert: 'Ross Bros – should you propose not running your car, Ross Bros will collect your car, thoroughly clean and grease the same and store in a heated garage until required. It saves the worry and cost of garage heating and general deterioration of the car. Cost is 5/- per week'.

Wartime land Cultivation Committee – a public lecture 'Grow Food for Yourself and Your Country'.

Adverts:

'Walmsley's Bacon. We have pleasure in advising of the safe arrival of a direct shipment of our Choicest Mild Cured Bacon, and shall be able to fulfil all our customer's normal requirements during the coming week'.

'Cheese: special offers. Choice of Australian cheeses at 11½d per pound'.

'Broadbents: Field Marshall Gamelin has remarked that in wartime there are always periods of endless waiting and monotony. The call from the Camps for literature and the appeals in the press to those at home to send books endorse this. For 18d you may choose from a thousand of the world's best books in the Everyman library'.

*3 November* Army Council – the wartime Charteris, Mason and Sayers ban issued four months ago has now carried into effect. It will deprive Scottish regiments of their jealously preserved right to wear the kilt, for the duration of the war. It is left to the

commanding officer whether the pipe major and at least five pipers should accompany the battalion abroad. Duty playing of pipes in full dress will be permitted but the time honoured custom of piping companies into action is also to be discontinued in the present war.

*3 November* Failing to screen lights – the warnings have now stopped as by now everybody knew about the regulations, so said the chairman of Otley Court.

An appeal put out for wool to knit for the Otley and Ilkley Batteries.

Letter regarding Christmas parcels for the troops – names are wanted of men normally resident in Ilkley (including Ben Rhydding, Middleton, Nesfield and Langbar) who are presently serving in HM Forces or the Mercantile Marine.

*3 November* It has been decided to open a wartime Information Bureau with the object of giving advice connected with wartime conditions concerning pensions, allowances, rent, food prices, Government regulations and matters connected with trade and industry.

Messages from Ilkley Churches to begin again with God. The Government wants National Service volunteers but there is another ‘national service’ and that is ‘to begin again with God, to put our trust in Him afresh and offer ourselves to Him. God will know what to do with us and is not this enough for our duty to give us a quiet mind above all pettiness and small grievances?’

*3 November* Communal feeding to start next week in Ross’s Garage in Wharfe View Road. It is initially for children evacuated from Leeds to Ilkley. The Women’s Royal Voluntary Service are controlling the 170 mainly female workers who have volunteered.

*3 November.*Wool Control set up in Ilkley. ‘Why?’ asked Conservative MP Wardlaw-Milne in a question in the House of Commons. Surely it should have been in London where wool brokers have 100 years experience behind them (warehouses, management and expert staff) to distribute the wool. Mr Burgin in replying said it was desirable that offices of various raw materials control should not be in London, therefore Ilkley was chosen as it was in the neighbourhood of the largest centres of the woollen industry with which the Wool Control needs to be in constant communication.

300 members of the British Wool Federation met in Bradford to discuss the operation of the Wool Control as it affects the wool merchants, top merchants, brokers and selling agents.

*3 November* As from 3 November, postal deliveries will be at 7am and 3pm in the town, and just one delivery in rural districts.

A letter of complaint saying that after two months of war, there was no properly equipped First Aid Post in Ilkley.

*3 November* Air raid: a 'stand by' signal received in error in Wharfedale.

*10 November* Lecture on how to make the best use of allotments.

*10 November* Films at New Cinema in Ilkley: 'Three Smart Girls Grow Up'; 'Man's Heritage' and 'Modern Miracle'.

*10 November* Advert: 'Do Another Bit of War Work – save your waste paper. Paper control Board has asked the Boy Scout Association to cooperate in the collection of waste paper'.

Advert: 'Vyvyan Adams MP will address a public meeting on 'The International Situation'.

*10 November* The Assistant Treasury Solicitor, on behalf of the Ministry of Information, accepts Mr Hentzen's explanation of his gifts of butter to Germany. 'The persons to whom the parcels of butter in question were sent (though probably all members of the Nazi Party) were friends and civil servants whom Mr Hentzen came into contact in the course of his business and that it was a coincidence that the names of some of the addressees were the same as those of some of the leaders of the Nazi Party'.

*10 November* Leeds Industrial Cooperative Society advert on how to register for rationing: 'It is now officially announced that rationing will be introduced in the near future and that everyone should register with a supplier immediately upon receipt of their Ration Book. Remember, the dividend will ease your domestic wartime budget problem. Supplies will be regulated in accordance with the number of people registered. The Society's vast Organisation will ensure a maximum variety of both rationed and unrationed foods of reliable quality'.

*10 November* British troops in France will soon be having cheaper beer. It has been arranged to brew beer of real British quality in French breweries and the troops will be able to have it in casks instead of in bottles sent from Britain.

A picture of Ilkley Communal Feeding Centre.

Letter to the Editor: inaccurate comments have been made regarding ARP salaries. There is no salary attached to the offices of Head Warden and Senior Warden. It is exceptional for anyone who holds either of these offices to receive any payment.

*10 November* Wool Control. In the Commons Mr W. Leach, MP for Central Bradford, asked the Minister of Supply if he was aware that the Head Office was a



sort of 'hide-out' in a little Wharfedale village thirteen miles from the nearest wool centre and would not do its business properly without inconveniencing everybody.

Mr Burgin (Minister of Supply) replied that if an air attack was anticipated, it would be a good idea to have the Control dispersed a little.

Mr Leach asked how many men of military age were employed at the Wool Control. The answer that came from Burgin was 36, or 20%, of male staff aged 18 to 41. Mr Leach asked if any attempt had been made to fill the Wool Control posts with competent persons displaced from the textile trade in consequence of the Control. Mr Burgin replied yes and then Mr Leach replied that wool trade dissatisfaction by reason of the facts that the services of the most competent leaders of the wool industry have almost always been declined. Mr Burgin was sorry that Mr Leach had gained this impression.

*10 November* Extension of the ploughing up grant to 31 March 1940 will be a welcome aid to the campaign for bringing 1,500,000 more acres under plough next harvest and will help Wharfedale farmers.

*17 November* Ilkley's Tribute of Remembrance. Ex-Servicemen march to a crowded Parish Church and a record response to the Poppy Day appeal – with a photo of the Parade.

*17 November* Major R.G. Tudor MC, 'Fieldhead', Rupert Road, Middleton appointed Leeds Recruiting Officer – with photo.

*17 November* Communal feeding – the good work in the town is serving over 200 dinners daily.

Ilkley Chamber of Trade – whilst rationing had not been introduced for the general public, some shopkeepers had now received only 40% of their ordinary supplies, and in future it is probable that shopkeeper's supplies will be based on the number of customers who had registered with them.

*17 November* An Ilkley man dragged 250 yards by a lorry trailer in Leeds Road and had his leg amputated died soon after in hospital. This was a tragedy caused by the blackout.

*24 November* Construction of a new trunk road around Addingham, Burley, Ilkley and Otley has been postponed due to the war.

First play performed which was written by Ilkley author Stephen Kennedy – called 'April Thunder' and produced by the Kemble Players.

*24 November* Air raid sirens in the country to be tested.

*24 November* Under Defence Regulations, an order will come in force on 1 December 1939 requiring vehicles standing in the road during the hours of darkness to have their left (or near) side against the side of the road.

*24 November* Ilkley and Addingham raised £364-11s-6d which was £51 in excess of the previous best for a Remembrance Sunday.

*1 December* Advert: 'The oldest two newspapers in Yorkshire, Yorkshire Post and The Leeds Mercury have joined forces and are now issued under the combined title 'Yorkshire post and Leeds Mercury' at the price of 1p. It will cater for a wider circle of readers and at times of stress, reliable news is important. It sets out with confidence a new path of public usefulness, seeking to provide a wider range of news and comment in a form best adapted to the needs of the war and at the same time to maintain that reputation for integrity of service which has always been a constant aim. The Military correspondent will contribute a penetrating analysis of the war position. Every phase of the war will be covered by its famous news service'.

## ***December***

*1 December* Ilkley British Legion – 90% of its members are on national service.

Suggested change of billets for evacuees and Wharfedale Rural Council opposition. Children evacuated into rural areas should be changed from their present billets to households where as yet there was no billeting, with the object of securing 'quality of sacrifice' by reception area residents.

Evacuees who return: Ilkley's good figures. Children who have mainly returned home are those classed as 'unaccompanied' or those sent out apart from their parents. At Ilkley, 734 were originally received and of these 227 have returned, leaving a total of 507 remaining or about 70%. A much greater percentage of mothers and children of pre-school age have returned. Only 15 of the original 73 mothers are left and 22 of the original 104 children of pre-school age. The number of evacuated teachers has decreased from 64 to 41. One of six blind persons has returned.

*1 December* For the first time since the outbreak of the war, the Ilkley Institute is to reopen next week.

Alan Jeffries of Bradford and District Motor Club was a member of the English team competing in the International Six Days Motorcycle Trial in Germany at the end of August. In an after dinner speech to Ilkley Motor Club, Mr Jeffries spoke of when he had visited a German flat whose owner was violently anti-Hitler while the interpreter was violently pro-Hitler. They had discussed which part of England Hitler could have. Jeffries was the only Yorkshire man in the party and the debate boiled down that Hitler could have the lot except Denton Moor, but all the visitors agreed it was unthinkable to hand over all of Yorkshire.

Eventually he got out at a moment's notice and the whole party drove across Austria and into Switzerland – all cars and bikes had British plates. Some villages they passed through had inhabitants who thought that Britain had invaded. The first wartime trial on Otley Chevin was nicknamed Adolf Hitler Memorial Trail – the prize was a 'Hitler Beer Jug' a trophy 'perched or borrowed' from a Munich beer cellar by Mr Jeffries. Other prizes were a Lord Haw Haw Gobstopperlet (a large children's lollipop) and the Goering Belt – a resemblance to a discarded suspender belt.

*8 December* Skyrack ARP services – a lecture by Captain J. Pullan on 'Decontamination'.

Advert for Defence Bonds: 'Lend to defend the right to be free'.

Talk to Ilkley Rotary Club by Dr Flehinger, formerly a Professor of Languages at Baden-Baden who got out of Germany thanks to the help of a friend in Ilkley Rotary Club.

*8 December* Registration day on 9 December for all men up to the age of 23 who by Royal Proclamation are summoned for military service.

Local signatories signed a petition after the Earl of Athlone's broadcast on 'The Call to Moral Rearmament'.

*15 December* Ross Bros advert: 'Invest in a new car – there has as yet been no increase in prices. Prices will increase when manufacturers have used up existing stocks of materials and new materials have then to be purchased.

*15 December* How the War has affected Ilkley Cricket Club. 15 playing members of Ilkley Cricket Club are serving in the forces, and a scheme for a new pavilion has been delayed for the 'war's duration'.

Advert for 'Knitting for the Navy': anyone making knitted garments and comforts for the Navy is asked not to send them direct to individual ships but to the depot for knitted garments for the Royal Navy in London.

Advert for Moiseley's shoe shop: 'At present a very large selection of slippers of all kinds, but replacement of stocks will be difficult.

*15 December* The Earl of Buckinghamshire is in Wharfedale. He was the Scout Commissioner and spoke at Ilkley Rotary Club: 'Everyone had a jolly time at Ilkley Grammar School camp fire'.

A man is charged with stealing three Rhode Island Red cockerels valued at 30s.

*22 December* War time affects the non-payment of rates.

*22 December* Ilkley Gift Book Club – the first of the new season's meetings with a talk by Mr C. Ramelson: 'The Truth about Russia'.

Bee-keeping in war time – an increased number of stocks. The local beekeepers association was one of the first to start lectures and meetings which the war had interrupted.

*29 December* Review and pictures of the year on pages 2 and 3.

Christmas 1939 – many men are home on leave from the forces. Gay parties at hotels and hydros, and celebrations in hospitals and institutions.