

ILKLEY INLAND SPA



Alex Cockshott Ilkley Civic Society / Ilkley Local History Hub

In the 1800s Ilkley became famous as an inland spa for its pure cold water, fresh air and beautiful landscape setting. A particular attraction was the opening in 1844 of what was to become the Ben Rhydding Hydro with its cold water treatments, healthy food, exercise regime and consultations with Dr McLeod .

Start by looking at the Blue Plaque **BP2** on the Manor House.

Walk in front of the Manor House, turn left and then take the path beside All Saints churchyard and round to the traffic lights at the A65 junction with Church St

All Saints, Anglo Saxon church, mentioned in the Norman Domesday Book, has a 15th century tower. The south east side, nearer the main road, was enlarged 1860-6 as Ilkley village grew.

At the junction was Wheatsheaf Hotel (where the flower beds are now). Looking across the A65 and down to the right you see The Black Hat which is a rebuild of the Rose and Crown coaching inn. At the junction, across New Brook Street, is The Dalesway, formerly from 1860s The Star and The Wharfedale and then rebuilt in 1905 as The Wharfedale Star. Across the junction is the Crescent Hotel **BP18** opened May 1861 with extensive stabling in the back yard.

Cross at traffic lights to walk up Brook St.

Now a broad street, under it is the stream culverted 1854. The houses on the east were turned into shops. After the land sales started in 1867 the farm and cottages on the west side were demolished for shops and banks.

Walk up to the zebra crossings, cross and continue onto Station Rd

BP12 Railway Station, opposite shops built in 1870.

Cross Station Rd zebra crossing then turn right, cross Wells Road and then left to walk up Wells Promenade

This once gated road was built at the end of 1860s. These buildings were both houses on Wells Promenade and shops on Wells Rd. Next comes Guardian Court, the site of 1870s Wesleyan Church, whose top boundary wall remains

After 100 yards turn left

On right Chapel House **BP 9**

Turn right , cross over to walk up Wells Road

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Note Wells Court, site of 1870 Royal Hotel and then West View: gentlemen's residences and lodging houses from the 1840s. Next is West View House 1860, an 1868 semi then The Rombalds **BP20**. At the top Moor Cottage is an old farmhouse.

Turn left to walk along Crossbeck Rd

South View, once a lodging house. Opposite is Wells Terrace [Hillside] **BP 16**. Then on the right a series of 1860s houses including Crossbeck House and Terrace. Below on the left are the grounds of Ilkley Hall built late 1820s for Joshua Dixon, a Wakefield lawyer. Further along on the right is the Troutbeck Hydro opened 1862 [jumping fish on the gable]. Then comes Craiglands Park, site of 1860s semis which were converted in the 1890s to the Moorlands Hydro.

Turn right up the drive to Craiglands, walk along path to reach Cowpasture Rd

Craiglands Hydro **BP 14** - the only surviving hydro hotel. It has a new spa.

Emerge on Cowpasture Road, turn right and then immediately turn right and walk up path to and through the gate at the top. Either walk up the steps to the rough path or right up sloping path which ends with some steps up to the Tarn. Walk round the Tarn [several times for Ilkley Spa air!]

Look up for The White Wells bathhouse - new baths 1790s by squire Middleton

At the information board at the end of the Tarn follow the downward path

To visit White Wells: by the bottom gate turn left up the steps & path. There is a drinking fountain behind White Wells. Flags fly when the small café & bathhouse museum are open. Pass White Wells and down to the 1829 Charity Bath-house. Continue down the gravel path which crosses a stream and then descends to Wells Rd. Turn right to walk down to Broderick Drive on the left.

Alternatively walk down to the end of the path by Hillside. Turn left by the cattle grid and walk up Wells Rd towards Wells House.

Turn to walk along Broderick Dr to the large stone Wells House BP 3

Walk down through /explore Darwin Gardens Millennium Green to carpark

This is site of West View Bandstand, constructed in 1904, removed in 1950s

Walk down Wells Rd

There is a pair of houses by the entrance to Wells House stables then a pair of large 1870s semis. Look at the hollow by the first semi, a former mill pond

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Cross Queens Rd The upper corn mill stood here.

Enter Mill Ghyll and walk down the path

In the middle of this was the lower corn mill which was demolished in 1873. The stone was used to edge the paths. William Middleton leased this narrow strip of land to the Local Board in 1873 at a rent of one shilling per annum,

At bottom of the Ghyll, the brook goes into a culvert. Just before the main road is a large stone bowl full of flowers. This was a water fountain built in 1875 by public subscription for £135.

Go down Brook St to traffic lights and cross A65 back to Manor House