

Friends of Ilkley Cemetery - The Friends normally meet weekly in the Cemetery, weather permitting. Their activities include simple gardening jobs to remove brambles and saplings from overgrown and hidden graves and litter picking. The Friends may be able to assist with tracing family graves, resolving problems in the Cemetery, and liaising with Bereavement Services. If you would like more information about the Friends activities and how to get involved then email: cemetery@civicsociety.ilkley.org for details.

Ilkley Cemetery was opened in 1878 and included two chapels, the South chapel for Conformists and the North chapel for Non-Conformists. The chapels are Grade II listed buildings and after becoming obsolete and left empty for many years they were restored and converted to business premises in 2009 by Bradford Preservation Trust.

Commonwealth War Graves (CWGC) - There are currently 46 CWGC graves in Ilkley Cemetery and further details can be found on the Commission's website www.cwgc.org CWGC staff visit the Cemetery periodically to clean, maintain and repair these graves.

A selection of graves around the Cemetery of local interest:

Thomas Harold Broadbent Maufe (Area A) - 6 May 1898 – 28 March 1942

Thomas Maufe was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 4 June 1917 in France whilst serving as a Second Lieutenant in the 124th Siege Battery. Sadly, he was killed in an accident in 1942 whilst serving in the Home Guard in Ilkley when a trench mortar misfired during training.

John Shuttleworth (Area C) – 1 December 1832 – 30 October 1909

John Shuttleworth and family established a gift selling business on Brook Street, Ilkley in 1851 selling fancy goods, guides and postcards of the local area. A collection of thirty volumes of John Shuttleworth's photographs of Ilkley dating back to the late 1800s are kept at Ilkley Library. In 1861 John Shuttleworth became the founder and proprietor of the *Ilkley Gazette* newspaper which continues to be published weekly to this day.

William Wycliffe Spooner (Area C) – 29 March 1882 – 17 September 1967

William Spooner founded the Spooner Dryer and Engineering Company in 1932 and sought to revolutionise the techniques of industrial drying equipment by increasing its speed and efficiency and later expanding the application and techniques to other sectors including the textile, paper and food industries. As his business grew, he bought the old Brewery Company on Brewery Road in Ilkley in 1951 as the new

site for his parent company and the adjoining old corn mill which was converted into a drawing office block. In 1959, the group became a public company under the name "Spooner Industries Ltd". Spooner retired as chairman in 1962, but remained as life president, actively involved until his death in 1967.



Daphne Adrianna Steele (Area D) - 16 October 1929 – 23 July 2004

Daphne Steele emigrated from Guyana to the UK in 1951 and trained as a nurse. In 1964 she was appointed as the head matron of St Winifred's maternity home on Wells Road, Ilkley – becoming the first matron of African heritage in the National Health Service. When St Winifred's closed in 1971, Daphne went on to train as a health visitor at Leeds University and continued to work in Ilkley and surrounding area until her retirement. A Blue Plaque was unveiled in honour of Daphne Steele at the former maternity home in February 2024.

Memorial Avenue (Area E) - Some of the gravestones that were removed from the graveyard at All Saints Church in the centre of Ilkley back in 1968 were eventually laid out in a Memorial Avenue in 2011 in Area E of Ilkley Cemetery next to the Ashlands Road entrance. An information board close to the Memorial Avenue provides more information and details of the headstones and crosses included.

The Middelton Family (Area F) – the Middelton's, who for centuries had been the Lords of the Manor of Ilkley, fell on hard times and in 1867 the first of a series of land sales took place and continued into the 1870s and 1880s. By 1898 Charles Marmaduke Middelton was forced to sell Myddelton Lodge and moved out of Ilkley soon afterwards. He died in 1904 and his body was returned to be interred in Ilkley Cemetery. An application was made to the Home Office for the bodies of his predecessors, who had been buried adjacent to the chapel at Myddelton Lodge, to be exhumed and reinterred at Ilkley Cemetery. In February 1906 the bodies, including those of Anna Middelton (died 1837), William Middelton (died 1847) and William Middelton (died 1885), were moved to Ilkley Cemetery.

The gravestone for Helen Middelton, the wife of Charles Marmaduke Middelton, who died in 1888 can also be found in Ilkley Cemetery. She was originally buried in the graveyard of All Saints Church as she was not a Catholic. Her gravestone was removed from there in 1968 and can now be found in the Memorial Avenue (Area E).



Bereavement Services - Ilkley Cemetery is owned and managed by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. Information and advice regarding the Council's Bereavement Services can be found via the website at following link: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/deaths/bereavement-burials-and-cremations/>

Or contact: Shay Grange Crematorium, Long Lane, Bradford, BD9 6ST. Tel no: 01274 433900. Email: bereavement.services@bradford.gov.uk

Locating Family Graves - for those seeking to locate family graves the Cemeteries and Crematorium Registers for Ilkley Cemetery are held at Shay Grange. These can also be viewed online at the Local Studies section of Bradford Central Library and Keighley Library.

Water Taps – are available at the North Chapel and close to the Beanlands Parade Entrance. Please return the water containers to the taps after use.

Rubbish – please Pick it up and Bag it and Bin it in the bins provided.

Dogs – please keep dogs on leads and under control at all times whilst in the Cemetery.

A Brief Guide to Ilkley Cemetery

Produced by Friends of Ilkley Cemetery
part of Ilkley Civic Society



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