



Keighley Local Studies Library

Official and Administrative Records for Keighley

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www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries



Keighley's Local Government

Keighley Township initially consisted of a **Select Vestry of Parish Officers** who managed the Churchwardens, overseers of the poor, surveyors of highways, constables and collectors of Taxes.

By the 1820s this arrangement was inadequate and in 1824, by Act of Parliament, **Keighley Improvement Commissioners** were appointed for lighting, paving, cleansing, regulating and generally improving the town and from 1816, **Keighley Water Works Company** supplied water to many parts of it. A gas works was built in 1825 to supply street lamps, 93 were lit in November 1825. Gas was also sold to mills and individuals.

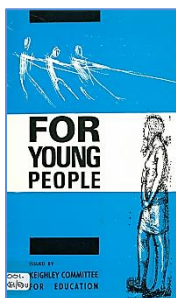
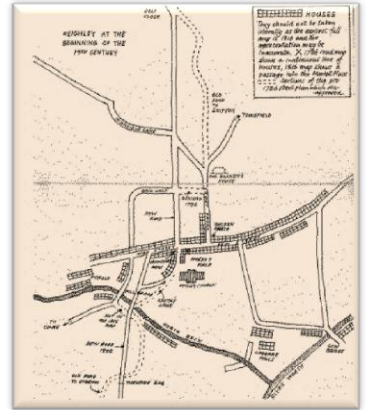
The Local Board of Health, constituted in 1855, replaced the Water Works Company and the Improvement Commissioners and supplied the town with sewers, pavements, pure water and a gas works. *See the Local Board of Health Plan for 1870 in the library.*

The Poor Law Union for Keighley was established in 1836 to administer to the poor instead of the Parish Overseers. Keighley Union was governed by a Board of Guardians answerable to the central Poor Law Commission. Keighley Library holds the records for the Keighley Union and also for the North Bierley Union, covering the Bradford area of administration.

Keighley town became a Borough under a Town Council in 1882. It came under Bradford MDC in 1974.

Archive holdings

Keighley Library holds Township records from the 17th century, Local Board minutes 1855-1882, Borough Council minutes 1882-1974 and many other related records including the minutes of individual committees, c1855-1949. A full listing of these is available at the counter. The minutes for the Town Council from c1910 are available on open access in bound volumes, as are the accounts. Individual committee minutes are kept in the archive. Keighley Library also holds Keighley Rural District Council records and some Urban District Council records for Haworth, Oakworth, Oxenhope.



Education records

Council education records include reports of Keighley Technical Institute (incorporating the School of Science and Art and Keighley Trade and Grammar School) 1874-1944, reports, news cutting books, and papers re educational endowments 1900-1977.

Population and health

Population in the local rural area gravitated towards the centre of Keighley following enclosure and competition from growing mill based textile manufacture. The poorer areas such as Pinfold and Upper Green suffered from inadequate sanitation, water supply and sewerage by the 1840s. The North Beck was also badly polluted, with related diseases on the increase. Mill towns especially experienced great population growth at this time and Keighley's Medical Officer of Health, **Dr John Milligan's** concern for the town's health is revealed in his lecture at the Mechanics' Institute on *Poverty as a Source of Disease* (1847), as well as his report on the United Sanitary Districts of the Keighley Union (1874) available in the Archive.

Other records include Keighley Burial Board minutes 1888-1898, Keighley Commissioners' minutes 1824-1857, Keighley Public Baths and Washhouses commissioners' minutes 1866-1899.

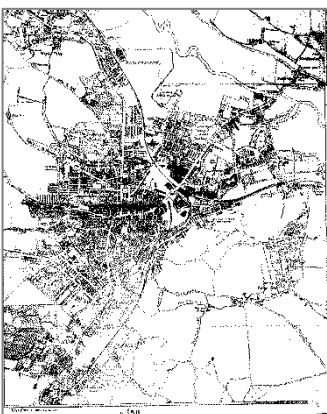
Rate Books in Keighley and the Local Area

Keighley Library has a varied collection for the Keighley, Haworth, Oakworth and Oxenhope, Stanbury, Sutton, Steeton, Morton areas from the 19thC to the 20thC. See also county record offices. Bradford's rate books are held at Bradford Archives (see printed catalogue).

Up to 1866, Oxenhope and Stanbury are included in the Haworth Township. The rate book collection comprises a large unlisted donation from the Town Hall (c2003) and the archive of Keighley Township rate books BK1/15/1-60 (c1828-1868).

- **Rate Books** include names of people who paid a poor rate to the parish to help keep the poor.
- Show: names of ratepayers and amount paid. Later ones give names of owners, occupiers, property descriptions and size.
- Before 1834 see the rate books kept by overseers. After 1834 see Board of Parish Guardians' collections. After 1925 see the rate books of district councils.

No.	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property	Value as assessed in 1842	Estimated Value			Rateable Value of Property	Rateable Value of Agricultural Land
					£	s	d		
1	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
2	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
3	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
4	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
5	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
6	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
7	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
8	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
9	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	
10	Mr. H. H. H. H.	Mr. H. H. H. H.	House	10	10	0	10	10	

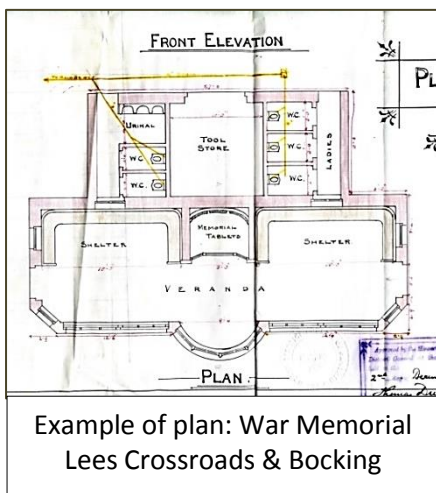


Plans: early urbanisation

During the early 19thc, many larger villages such as Keighley witnessed massive growth in population due to textile

and machine making industries. Local town plans reflect this. Building suburbs dates from the 1840s and was largely undertaken by private companies. Councils began to be involved in building houses and enforcing standards following the 1875 Public Health Act.





Example of plan: War Memorial
Lees Crossroads & Bocking

This Act introduced sanitation regulations, more byelaws on layout, street size and this in turn impacted on house building. Housing Acts and government reports followed in the late 19thc to early 20thC. At this time many slums were cleared and council housing and estates began to be built.

Building Plans Keighley holds building plans of the area between 1871-1974. Any plans after 1974 for the area are held at Bradford Archives. For plans before 1871, try the Registry of Deeds, Wakefield District Archives.

The building plan collection also includes local areas such as Haworth, Oakworth and Oxenhope and Keighley Rural District such as Morton, Riddlesden, Steeton.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Assessment Reports

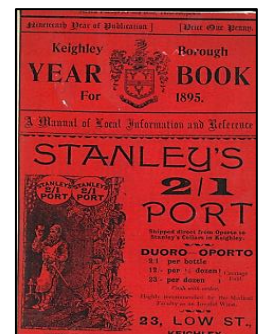
If your property is a listed building it will have a full architectural description in the Buildings' list for this area. Ask at the counter for details or access information at www.bradford.gov.uk which gives full details free of charge.

Recent Conservation Area Assessments look at the building materials and architecture of an area, including houses, and also trace the area's history.

These are on the open shelves or at: www.bradford.gov.uk

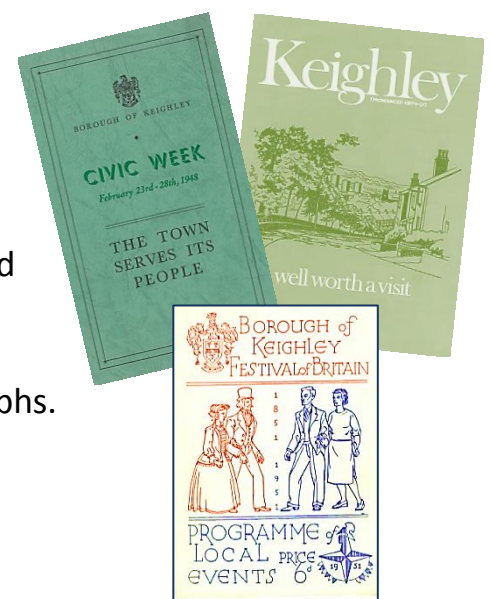
Council Year Books

Keighley Library holds a collection of Council Year Books from 1891-1958 that give details of serving councillors and committees. The Library also holds Keighley Borough Year Books, 1877-1917, and these give details of Keighley's political and social structure such as the Local Board of Health, its Committees and members, accounts, the Gas Works, waterworks, School Board, Keighley Union, police courts, hospitals, baths and wash houses.



Official Guides

Keighley has a collection of Official Guides, dating from 1910 to the 2000s. These are useful because they supplement trade directories but also give an outline of the town's political, social and business development including housing, major industries and local businesses and include illustrations, adverts and photographs.



Civic Occasions

Keighley Borough also produced brochures for special events held in the town such as the Festival of Britain and also guides to promote Keighley to visitors and prospective business investors. These give a snapshot of Keighley for local and family historians for those years of publication.