

Headline History – Keighley Library Archives

Topics for teachers' research.



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

These information sheets highlight records that we hold within Keighley Local Studies Library for teachers to research themselves and select for copying for use within lessons or to be retrieved by library staff for school class visits. Please give sufficient notice before your visit as the library is booked regularly for events.

Resources

- The Keighley Mechanics' Institute was founded in Keighley as early as 1825 by 4 working men (the very first founded only 4 years earlier in Edinburgh, 1821).
- Mechanics' Institute archive collection BK2 shows the classes available to men and women, the facilities, library catalogues and annual reports. Collection also shows the wider remit to extend the cultural/educational reach to the local public with conversaziones, lectures, readings and concerts – notices, invitations, posters and tickets. List of societies using the building, e.g. Keighley Photographic Society
- History file of the Institute with news cuttings compiled by Gina Birdsall, CSA, also article in Bradford Antiquary on its success in art/tech drawing at London's Kensington School of Art (Victoria & Albert Museum).
- Sir Swire Smith, archives BK325-6, BK453, of Fleece Mill's was Secretary to the Institute and also lectured in Europe on technical education based on educational successes at Keighley. He also advised government. Includes pamphlets of his lectures.
- Inspirational success and contact with the Scottish American industrialist Andrew Carnegie, leads to the establishment of Keighley Public Library, financed in part by Carnegie himself. The first library in England to receive this funding. BK447 archive.

Education For All!

Mechanics' Institutes

Keighley leads the way in the education of its working classes through one of the earliest MIs established in Britain.

The last Keighley Mechanics' Institute.



Keighley LS Customer Support Assistants, 2022