

## The Building of Farnhill's Jubilee Tower for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887

Queen Victoria is Britain's longest reigning monarch and was Queen from 20 June 1837 to 22 January 1901. Her Golden Jubilee commemorating 50 years as sovereign was celebrated on 20 and 21 June 1887.

Local preparations for celebrating the Golden Jubilee were comparatively last minute in contrast to many later royal celebrations which were the result of months of meticulous planning and organisation. However, the legacy of 1887 is without doubt the most significant of all through the creation of Farnhill's Jubilee Pinnacle which has defined the local landscape ever since.



Here is how it came about 125 years ago, thanks to the concerted effort of the residents of Farnhill and Kildwick, along with details of an award winning map of Kildwick Parish, an enthusiastic new Vicar in Kildwick, and a full day of Jubilee celebrations rounded off with a beacon and rockets at the Pinnacle.

Newspaper reports in the months leading up to the Jubilee give the impression that every town and village across the country was pre-occupied with preparing their royal celebrations – everywhere that is except Farnhill and Kildwick. Perhaps the villagers were too busy preparing for Whitsunside or thought their needs would be catered for by jubilee events that were taking place elsewhere, such as Skipton or Saltaire. Maybe it needed an “off comed un” (a newcomer) to get things off the ground as will be seen later in this article.

### Grand Celebrations in Skipton

By May of that year plans in Skipton were coming together for a grand celebration that would take place over a number of days and included:

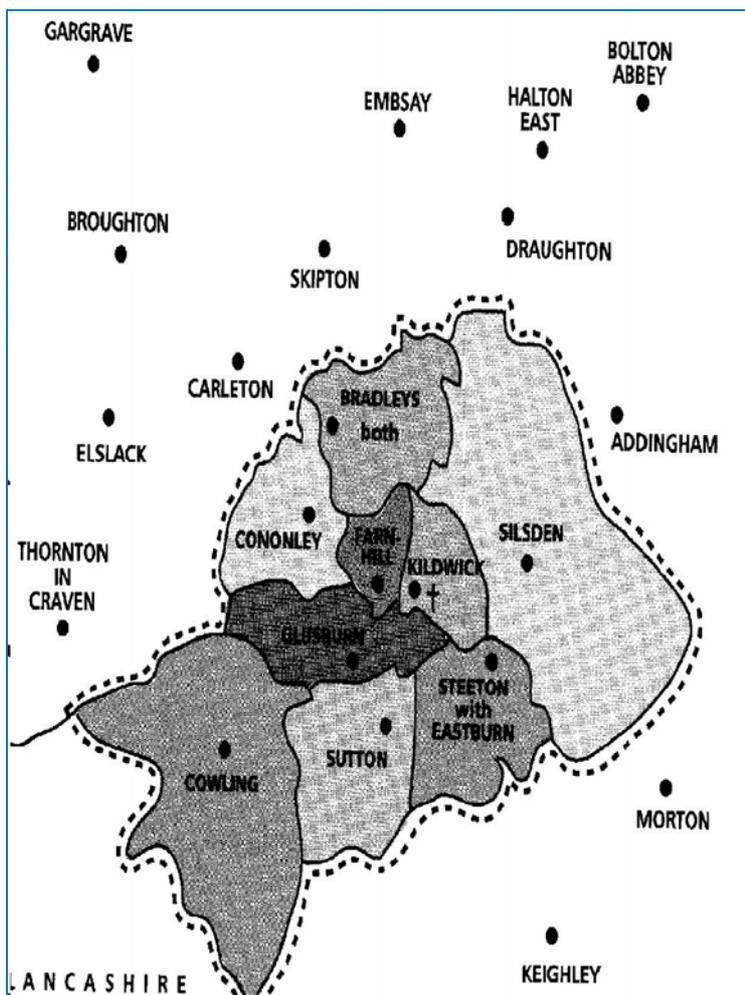
- The dedication of two new “jubilee” bells at Skipton Parish Church and the planting of trees in the church yard
- a Tradesmen’s Procession on June 21 with Carleton and Skipton brass bands and public singing of the National Anthem in front of the town hall.
- an ox roasting celebration in the dockyard
- a procession of Oddfellows, friendly societies and Sunday schools on June 22
- a trip out for “the inmates of Skipton Union Workhouse” funded by a generous donation of £5 from Skipton’s former M.P. Sir Mathew Wilson of Eshton Hall and owner of Kildwick Hall and estate.

## A Kildwick Exhibit in the Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition at Saltaire

On 6<sup>th</sup> May, Titus Salt Junr. played host to Queen Victoria's daughter Princess Beatrice and her husband Prince Henry of Battenburg who travelled from London to open the Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition at Saltaire. Displays included a Japanese Village, a working dairy and on top of the new exhibition building (now Shipley College) was placed an electrically - powered lighthouse that could be seen for miles around. The exhibition ran until the end of October and included a range of day time and evening entertainment including concerts, organ recitals, scotch pipers, clowns and a female contortionist. Animal lovers could attend the horse and dog shows or watch the start of the Saltaire to Brussels pigeon race.

Also in the exhibition was a map of Kildwick Parish entered by Mr Haswell, school master of Kildwick School, which from an article in the Craven Herald on 21 May 1887 would appear to be of remarkable size and detail:

*"Among the exhibits in the education section ... we notice a map of the Ancient Parish of Kildwick in Craven by Mr T H Haswell which was recently awarded the first prize at the Geographical Exhibition held at Bradford. At the exhibition the judges described it as "an*



*example of the best method of showing the relief of land on a flat surface". It takes in the district included within Bolton and Gargrave on the north, Laycock on the south, and from Addingham on the east side, to the confines of Lancashire on the west." The hills are coloured to represent successive elevations at 100 feet. Special prominence is given to the river Aire and its feeders. The railway and canal are also represented in different colours. The map also shows the ancient boundary of the Parish, and also of the townships composing it on a scale of six inches to the mile. A special feature is the indication by means of purple colours of such historic remains as British barrows, Roman roads and camps which abound in this district. The various centres of population are also indicated by circles varying in size, and nothing seems wanting to make it of great value, not only to the school, but to anyone needing accurate local information of this most interesting district."*

Above: This map from Glusburn the Old Community by Alec Wood shows the area covered by Mr Haswell's map.

Any villagers who might wish to see the map and take in the delights of the exhibition could take advantage of the Midland Railway's "Cheap Special Train for Saltaire at Excursion Fares" which ran on June 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28 from Skipton stopping at Cononley at 2.08pm and Kildwick at 2.13 pm returning from Saltaire at 10.10pm. Admission to the exhibition was one shilling or half a crown on Wednesday. A season ticket could be purchased for one guinea, or half a guinea for children under 14.

## **A New Vicar to the Rescue ?**

By the end of May there were still no plans to have any jubilee celebrations in Kildwick or Farnhill. It is possible that villagers had been too preoccupied preparing for the Whitsuntide feast at the end of May which included a school tea and church service for local children followed by a procession to Farnhill Hall where Mr and Mrs Slingsby distributed oranges. Afterwards they played games and received toys in Mr Jonas Laycock's field before proceeding to the vicarage where they gave three cheers for vicars past and present. (The vicarage then is what is known today as the Old Vicarage, off Grange Road, at the top of Parson's Walk.)

During the following week the new Vicar of Kildwick, the Revd Archibald Douglas Cavendish Thompson, M.A. Clerk in Holy Orders, convened a meeting in the Parish Room on 2 June to discuss celebrating the Jubilee. The Craven Herald reported on 4<sup>th</sup> June how it was: *"unanimously resolved to have a public celebration of the Queen's Jubilee for the townships of Farnhill, Kildwick and Glusburn, and a representative committee ...was appointed to collect subscriptions and make the necessary arrangements."*

The Revd Thompson was so recently arrived that he had not yet been formally inducted and was keen to make a good impression on his parishioners as his first written address to them in the monthly Parish Record, as reported in the Craven Herald on 11 June, shows:

*"My Dear Kildwick friends....for this my first month I have but little to tell you...and that before another month has lapsed I hope to be instituted and inducted as 42<sup>nd</sup> Vicar of Kildwick....For myself I ask you to be patient with me. It seems hard to you to have to receive a stranger in the place of an old friend. It shall be my effort to make you cease to look on me as strange. I wish if you will let me, to be your friend as I shall be your parish priest"*.

The Revd Thompson then went on to say how he wished to continue the good work of his predecessor, the Revd Frederick Waters Greenstreet. No doubt this desire to be accepted and of service to his parishioners helped fuel his enthusiasm. It is possible that celebrations may still have gone ahead without his intervention, however he most certainly played a key part in their initiation and execution through being elected president of the Jubilee committee. Mr J.C.Horsfall, Esq. was appointed treasurer, and Messrs J.J Brigg, W.A. Brigg, A.H. Dawson, and T. H. Haswell honorary secretaries. Other members of the committee included Messrs Kemp, Wolfenden, Metcalfe, W Crossley, Tempest, Slingsby, Stephenson, H Mosley, C Hargreaves, John Hill, Sunderland, J W Greenwood, Rev Mr Bradley.

Over the next three weeks the combined effort of the committee and the ideas and hard work of the villagers from the three townships, resulted in what was a remarkable celebration given the short space of time in which it was organised, including the raising of £112 - 12s - 0.5d through subscriptions and guarantors to fund the events.

## **The Bulding of the Pinnacle**

Besides participating in the feast, the men and boys of Kildwick and Farnhill wanted to mark the occasion with a lasting reminder and decided to rebuild the cairn on Farnhill Crag which had been placed there by J.R.Tenant Esq. of Kildwick Hall around 1857 but had since fallen into disrepair. It is understood that two Kildwick men, John Barrett and schoolmaster Thomas Henry Haswell first came up with the idea to restore the cairn and this gained the popular support of the villagers as demonstrated by their great effort and team work over the next two weeks.

From mid June to the day of the Jubilee, Farnhill Moor was a hive of activity with a constant stream of people to-ing and fro-ing with building materials and attending various ceremonies at the Pinnacle site, culminating in the lighting of a beacon on 21 June.

From various newspaper reports it is possible to get a sense of the challenges and concerted effort involved in constructing the Pinnacle :

William Dawson and Albert Kitson are described as the chief artificers and Robert Green acted as clerk of works.

Mr Slingsby of Farnhill Hall and Mr Redman from High Farnhill provided their horses to convey lime and water.

Mr Ben Smith of Kildwick Grange also conveyed water by means of his donkey and milk cans.

Albert Kitson made the wooden box which was placed inside the cairn and contained various artefacts (described in more detail later).

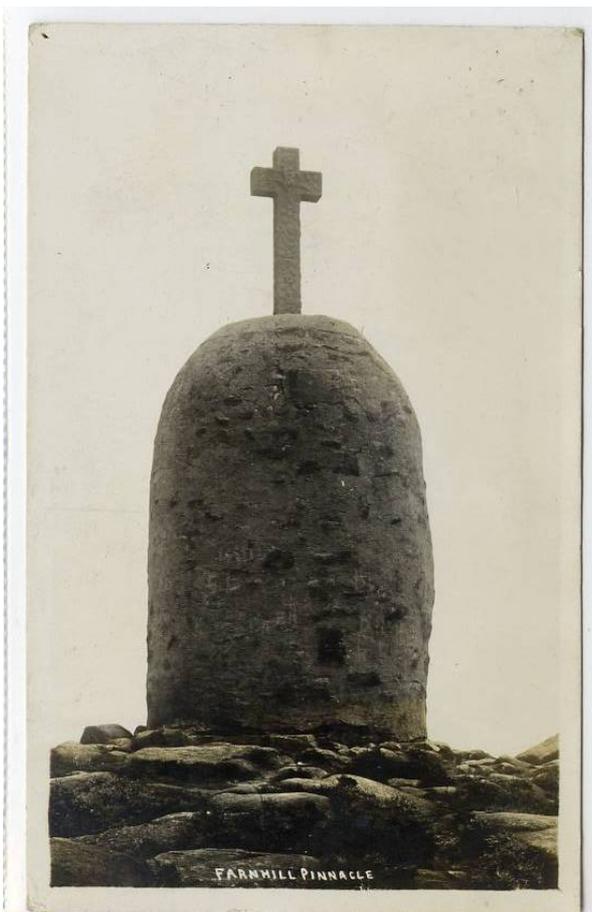
The stone cross on top of the cairn was given by Joe Berry with monumental mason John Barritt of Crosshills undertaking the masonry and carving.

A Kildwick stonemason, Robert Tillotson, inscribed the letters V.R.1837-87 on a large stone to the south east of the Pinnacle.

Others involved in building and labouring included: Ishmael Greenwood of Kildwick, John Holmes of Crag Top, Fred Tillotson (younger brother to the above Robert), and Harry Foster.

Details of those involved in building and guarding the bonfire are included in the Beacon section later in this article.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June the first foundation stone was laid by Messrs F.E. Slingsby of Farnhill Hall and W A Brigg of Kildwick Hall with three cheers for Her Majesty led by schoolmaster Thomas Henry Haswell. The following evening, the memorial stone bearing the inscription V R was laid by J Brigg Esq of Kildwick Hall who declared "*it should remain a monument of the loyalty and unity of the inhabitants of Kildwick and Farnhill for many years*". Another memorial stone was laid the next evening, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of June, by the Revd Thompson of Kildwick Church who addressed the assembly of labourers and onlookers.



Inside the Pinnacle was placed a box containing jubilee medals, local newspapers and a bottle with a parchment note inside it. According to Mr Greenwood, who helped build the Pinnacle, the signatures of all the men involved in its construction were included along with instructions that if the pinnacle were ever allowed to fall into ruin the box and its contents would be handed to the Vicar of Kildwick. It is understood the two newspapers were the "Craven Herald" and "the Pioneer" and Victorian coins to the value of a shilling and stamps to the same value were also placed in the box.

When completed, the Pinnacle stood 9 feet in diameter and over 12 feet high with a stone cross surmounting it. The carvings on the cross, of a rose, thistle and shamrock, are still visible today. Representing England (including Wales), Scotland and all of Ireland these were important national emblems of the time and Queen Victoria herself, on the evening of the 22 June attended a banquet at Buckingham Palace wearing "an elegant gown embroidered with silver roses, thistles and shamrocks".

### **Jubilee Day Celebrations – Tuesday 21 June 1887**

The day's proceedings got off to an early start with a salvo from the church and by six o'clock everyone was astir. There were numerous flags on display and the ladies of Kildwick had hung a red awning across the road near the church gates with various "patriotic devices" on the south side and on the north, the words "God Save the Queen".

The early service at 8am was well attended and was followed by a special service at 10am at which the new Vicar gave a short sermon. Afterwards the children of Kildwick and Farnhill were presented with a medal and assembled for the procession which was headed by Kildwick Brass Band.

The procession made its way to Crosshills and was joined by the children of Glusburn Parish. Around 600 children took part in total, many waving flags and at the front were some little boys in sailor costume with two union jacks and behind them were little girls carrying "floral devices". Members of local friendly societies and all the adults from the townships had been invited to join in too. By all accounts it was a very hot, sunny day and this, along with clouds of limestone dust kicked up by the procession made it very uncomfortable, especially for the small children.

From Crosshills the route continued to Glusburn returning through Crosshills by way of Wheatlands Lane, Back Lane (now Park Road) and then via Junction to Mr Wolfenden's field near the railway station. (This was the old station by the level crossing. It was relocated nearer to Crosshills in 1889.) In the field the Vicar of Kildwick addressed the crowd from a bandstand and called for three cheers for the Queen. The Revs Mr Hopkins and Mr Bradley also spoke briefly before the singing of the National Anthem and a hymn.

The children sat on the ground for tea while the adults were seated in a tent to enjoy a substantial meat tea. Prior to the day it had been proposed that the over sixties would be dined at the Junction and White Bear Inns but there was nothing in the newspaper reports afterwards to indicate whether this had happened or not. It was also proposed that the children's tea (for under 14s) would be buttered buns which by today's standards appears rather meagre, but was no doubt very welcome after the arduous procession. The catering was done by Heaton Mosley and it took over an hour and a half to feed everyone. Gas was provided free of charge by the Kildwick Parish Gas Company which was situated on the Kildwick side of the level crossing where a car showroom and light industrial units are based today. Mr J Bairstow had also made his waggon available for use on the day.

### **Sport and Entertainment**

Throughout the afternoon the Kildwick Brass Band under the leadership of Mr R Sugden played selections of music and "much dancing was indulged in". After tea, the children and adults joined in a range of sports including running races, tug of war, skipping for girls and an old men's race.

In the tug of war, after a long struggle, Mr Hargreaves' team of twelve from the south of the Aire (Glusburn, Crosshills and Junction) beat Mr Haswell's team of twelve from the north side of the Aire (Kildwick and Farnhill). The result was however reversed in the tug of war for youths of 18 when Mr Haswell's team were the victors.

The sports prizes were presented by Miss Brigg of Kildwick Hall in the absence of Mrs Thomson and were awarded as follows:

50 yards, under 8: Ed Hudson 1, Dan Ibbotson 2, C Waddington 3.

100 yards, under 12: V Waddington 1, F Garnett 2, S Baldwin 3.

100 yards, under 15: C Waddington 1, F Harrison 2, F Crossley 3.

100 yards open: S Dawson 1, Peter Smith 2, Fred Hudson 3.

Old Mens race: Robinson Berry 1, Hargreaves Green 2, Joseph Walmsley 3.

Three-legged race, under 12: Edgar Bradley and Ben Dawson 1, W Smith and T. Barrett 2.

Three-legged race, under 15: Clement Waddington and G. Sunderland 1, Fred Cronley and Ben Dawson 2.

Three-legged race, open: Ben and Sam Dawson 1, Richard Slack and James Henry Watson 2.

Consolation Race: Rbt Astle 1, W Riley 2.

Girls, Skipping for number: E Walmsley (818) 1, A Whiteoak (801) 2.

Skipping race: Mary Walmsley 1, Clara Lawson 2.

Skipping race, small girls: Mary Overend 1, Barabara Watson 2.

Flat race: M Walmsley 1, C Laycock 2, S J Whiteoak 3.

### **The Beacon**

The principal attraction of the evening was the lighting of the bonfire near the Pinnacle at 10pm. It had been constructed the previous evening by Robert Hargreaves, Robert Green, H Aked and T H Haswell who guarded it all night and through Tuesday. Much of the material for its construction was provided by Mr F E Slingsby of Farnhill Hall with contributions also from Mr Brigg of Kildwick Hall, Mr Dixon of Steeton and Mr G Smith of Curren Wood, (Lowfield, Keighley). Mr S Redman (High Farnhill) and Mr John Holmes (Crag Top) also provided assistance in cutting and carting the material.

The bonfire was described as "a splendid pile" and its flames rose rapidly, shooting several yards into the air, and could be seen over the entire area as far away as Settle in one direction and beyond Shipley in another. Rockets were also set off by Messrs Wolfenden, H Aked and J.J. Brigg. By next morning, a large patch of moor was ablaze but was put out with little trouble.

From an elevated point of the moor to the east of the Pinnacle it was possible to see 19 other fires in the area including those at Raven Stone (Sutton), the Gib (Cononley) and Earl Crag (Cowling) which was first lit around 8pm in broad daylight and where the enthusiasm continued through the evening with the ringing of the church bell, the sounding of mill buzzers at Ickornshaw and frequent cannon shots from Knott Hill. The Earl Crag beacon was again ablaze on Wednesday evening.

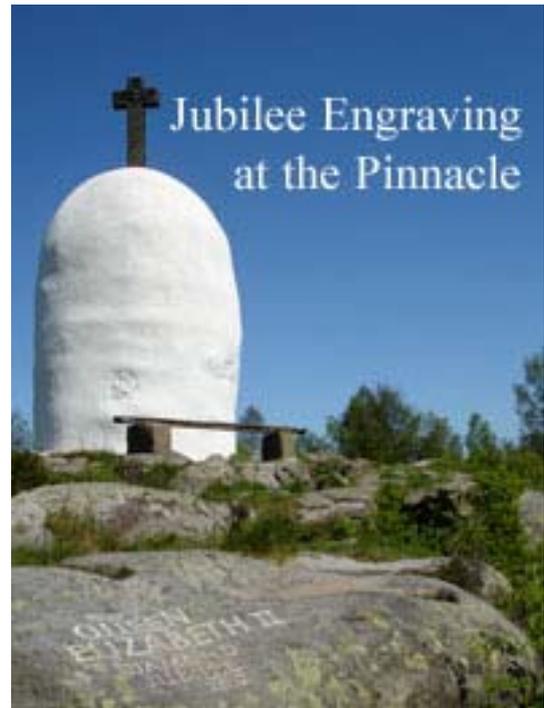
### **After the Celebrations**

At the final Jubilee committee meeting after the celebrations, a number of individuals including committee members and many villagers were thanked for their contributions. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Revd Thompson for the interest shown by him in the celebration of the Jubilee. He responded by speaking of the pleasure it had given him to meet and to work with so many friends. His "courteous and agreeable" disposition as chairman won him "golden favours" from the outset and ensured the "offcomed 'un" was well on his way to being part and parcel of the Parish.

It was understood that a full account was going to be written in the Parish minute books so that "*in the event of a future royal Jubilee the inhabitants may have for their guidance a faithful record of the manner in which this celebration was conducted in the year of Grace 1887..*" Whether this was done and what happened to Mr Haswell's award winning map of Kildwick Parish is not known, but one thing is for certain, Farnhill's Jubilee Pinnacle

remains as a “**monument to the loyalty and unity of the inhabitants of Kildwick and Farnhill**” as wished for by J Brigg Esq. 125 years ago.

*Right:* In commemoration of the current Queen’s Diamond Jubilee an engraving was commissioned by Farnhill Parish Council. The engraving was done by Shaun Bradley and says “1952 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012”.



*Postscript:* John Brigg Esq of Kildwick Hall was M.P for Keighley from 1895 to his death in 1911 and was knighted in 1909. The Revd Archibald Douglas Cavendish Thompson, M.A. Clerk in Holy Orders was instituted as Vicar for Kildwick in 1887 and continued in post until retiring in 1899, a year which placed great demands on his services administering to the sick and dying following the typhoid outbreak in Kildwick which lasted for a number of months, saw 51 parishioners infected and left 10 of them dead.

#### **Sources:**

Craven Herald articles from 1887 dated 7 May, 21 May p6, 28 May front page, 4 June p2 & p5, 11 June front page & p5, 18 June p6, 25 June p2 & p5, 2 July p3.

History of Kildwick Church, Rev E.W. Brereton M.A. 1909

Keighley News Article circa 1952/53

[www.milnerfield.com](http://www.milnerfield.com) (Jubilee ticket)

[www.saltairevillage.info](http://www.saltairevillage.info) (The Saltaire History Club Section)

[www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) (History of Jubilees – Queen Victoria)