

## 1919 peace celebrations

Although the fact is largely forgotten these days, November 11th 1918 didn't mark the end of WW1, and people at the time were well aware that this was the case the peace was a fragile one. Although there was some initial excitement when news of the Armistice coming into effect was received – with church bells rung and factory hooters sounded – it all dissipated very quickly.

It didn't suit either side for the fighting to resume but, nevertheless, peace didn't finally break out until the Versailles Treaty was signed on 28th June 1919. Only then did people consider celebrations.

On July 6th, a special service was held at St. Andrew's, attended by members of the County Council and Farnhill Parish Council. A "Te Deum" was sung (a piece of music traditionally performed following a military victory) and Kildwick and District Brass Band played the National Anthem.

The 19th was designated National Peace Day, with schools closed for a three-day holiday from the 18th. Celebrations for the local area were organised in Crosshills, with a bonfire lit close to Farnhill Pinnacle as it got dark.

The event started with a parade, accompanied by Kildwick Brass Band.



Children from Kildwick School were among the 800 who took part in a fancy-dress competition and sporting events on the Gala Field.

Their participation were recorded by the headmaster, Thomas Appleby, in the School Log Book.

July 19. The children took part in the Peace Festivities at Crosshills. A number of them attended in Fancy Dress & took two of the six prizes offered. A number also gained prizes for races, but the School Tug of War Team was defeated by Glenside School.

The full cost of the day's events was met by five (anonymous) local gentlemen. They also arranged for each school-child in the area to receive a souvenir medallion. Unfortunately the medallions were not received in time and it was decided to make the presentations later, at individual schools throughout the area.

The medallions were handed out at Kildwick School in September, when the identity of one of the local philanthropists became known.

"9. Mr W. A. Briggs (Chairman Farnhill Parish Council) came to school this morning at 9 am & presented Peace Commemoration Medals to the children. Rev. The Vicar (Rev C. E. V. Hodge) presided. A number of the parents also attended & the children sang three patriotic hymns (including "Kipling's Children's Song"). Hearty cheers were given to the donor of the medals & the children were given fifteen minutes extra play."







## Acknowledgements

Pauline Raw provided the photograph of Crosshills Peace Day parade. The 1919 medallion was loaned to the group by Helen Moran.

The Local History Group was allowed to scan the Kildwick School log book by kind permission of the school.

Contemporary news reports were obtained from Keighley and Skipton libraries.