



Hellifield Main Street in Victorian Days

The picture above by Ken Leak shows the Main Street in Hellifield around 1900 looking up towards the Institute (left) and the Butchers in the centre. The Institute and Schoolmasters house were erected in 1864 and served as the Elementary School between Monday and Friday and also hosted Church services and a Sunday School. This was prior to St Aidan's being constructed.

The cottages further along were known as Big House and Little House and the building currently occupied by the Hairdressers was in time used as a Tearoom, and in more recent years, many will remember Martins Bank being located there. The Butchers and the Village Stores and Shops faced the Temperance Hotel, next to which was located a small group of houses known as the Fold. One of the buildings encroached rather intrusively onto the main road. The houses were subsequently demolished to make way for the Auction Mark parking area. The sheep in the picture are being herded from the Auction Mart, which was opened in 1887 and would have been located at the rear of the buildings. The two storied wooden building comprised a shop and dwelling. Around this period it was occupied by a Mr Beattie, who

was the Manager of the Auction Mart. The shop sold a range of goods, including sweets, clothing and footwear. The building was demolished to create an improved entrance to the Auction Mart in the early 20th Century. The quaint looking building next door to Mr Beattie's abode existed well into the 20th Century and many will remember it as a Cobblers Shop in the 1960's. The whole of the right side of this picture - apart from the Temperance Arms - has disappeared following the closure of the Auction Mart and construction of new housing. However, the left hand side of the street is relatively unchanged.

Picture and Article by Ken Leak,
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