

## THE LODGES OF HEADINGLEY



Ordnance Survey 1908

### Lodges on Otley Road

Originally the 'Otley road' bypassed Headingley altogether (the main route from Leeds to Otley went through Burley). However a new turnpike in the eighteenth century brought the road through Headingley – though a mile past the village it veered to the west towards Moor Grange. It was not until the beginning of Victoria's reign, with a revision of the turnpike, that Otley Road finally took its present route. The lodges along the Road witness the historic origins of Headingley and its later role as a suburb. They include lodges for the two oldest buildings in the area, Kirkstall Grange and Weetwood Hall, whose origins go back to monastic times; they includes lodges for the reservoir built for the emerging suburb; and lodges for two late Victorian villas. See Bradford, Chapter 6.

**26 Kirkstall Grange** is one of the oldest buildings around Headingley, built in 1626 by Benjamin Wade (though the site originated in the Middle Ages as New Grange, a farm of Kirkstall Abbey). The house was rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, then bought, extended and renamed Kirkstall Grange by William Beckett about the accession of Victoria (listed 1951, Grade II\*, 1256304), when he also built a **lodge** on Otley Road (now a private house, 151 Otley Road) (listed 1976, Grade II, 1375298). In 1913, the house became part of a Teacher Training College, and as simply The Grange is now in the Headingley Campus of Leeds Beckett University. See Hall, *passim*.



**Weetwood Reservoir** was constructed 1837-43 by Leeds Waterworks Company, following a cholera epidemic in Leeds in 1832. It was fed from Eccup Reservoir, via the Seven Arches aqueduct at Adel, and it filtered the water, which was supplied to Woodhouse Reservoir (01-02). The Company was taken over by Leeds Corporation in 1852, which extended the filter beds in the 1860s. The Reservoir was reconstructed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is now



Yorkshire Water's Headingley Water Treatment Works. See Hall, p40.

**27 The first lodge** for Weetwood Reservoir was built about 1840, and is now 176 Otley Road, but is derelict.

**28 The second lodge** for Weetwood Filter Beds was doubtless built when the Reservoir was extended in the 1860s, and is now private accommodation at 178 Otley Road.

**29 Spenfield** was built in 1875 by George Corson for banker James Walker Oxley (listed 1975, Grade II\*, 1375329). It was acquired by Leeds Corporation in 1948, and then by Yorkshire Water in 1974. Sold in 1997, it is now luxury apartments. The **lodge** is now 180 Otley Road (listed 1996, Grade II, 1375327). See Hall, pp94-7.



**30 Weetwood Mount** and its **lodge** are late Victorian buildings. The lodge is 246 Otley Road and the house is now Weetwood House, and converted to apartments. The grounds were developed for housing in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, as Weetwood House Court.



**Weetwood Hall** is the oldest building around Headingley, dating from 1625, for Daniel Foxcroft (though the site originated in the Middle Ages) (listed 1951, Grade II\*, 1375330). It has been extended in every century since. The Hall was bought by the University of Leeds in 1919, and used as a hall of residence. Since 1993, it has been a hotel, conference centre and pub (listed 1976, Grade II, 1375371), and is now the Weetwood Hall Estate. Originally access was from Weetwood Lane (by the drive now leading to Oxley Residences, see **30**), but is now from Otley Road. See Hall, *passim*.

**31 Weetwood Hall Lodge**, the west lodge for the Hall, was built on Otley Road in 1887 by WH Thorp for the printing magnate Alf Cooke (listed 1996, Grade II, 1375331). The building is the mirror image of the east lodge **32**, evidently built as a pair, and is now part of the Weetwood Hall Estate.



**32 Weetwood Park Lodge**, the east lodge for the Hall, was built on Weetwood Lane in 1887 (listed 1996, Grade II, 1255759) also by WH Thorp for Alf Cooke. It is the mirror image of its pair, the west lodge **31**, it is owned by the University of Leeds, and stands at the entrance to the University's Sports Park Weetwood.

For further information, visit the galleries on the [Otley Road](#), and see Eveleigh **Bradford**, *Headingley*, Northern Heritage, 2008, and David **Hall**, *Far Headingley, Weetwood & West Park*, FHVS, 2000

**Richard Tyler**, Headingley Development Trust, Summer 2021