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Timeline of Wakefield 1930-1940

The 1930s

The decade was, until the outbreak of war, one of expansion and progress, but one should remember too, that it was a period when diseases like Tuberculosis were still rife and Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever could still prove fatal.

More building of housing estates

Increasing motor traffic

1931 Snapethorpe School, Lupset, opened to cater for children on the new Lupset estate.

1932 end of trams.

1933 new bridge opened.

1933 great Wakefield Pageant, 17-24 June.

1933 The English Martyrs Roman Catholic school, Dewsbury Road, opened, again to cater for children in the Lupset, and Flanshaw area.

1934 Slum clearance. Compulsory purchase order led to demolition of streets and yards off Providence Street, and Library Yard, Northgate.

1934 Wakefield Municipal Hospital, Snapethorpe, opened on 29 June by Sir E. Hilton-Young, Minister of Health. This replaced the old (1874) isolation hospital on Park Lodge Lane, and was for those suffering from notifiable diseases. It had separate pavilions to accommodate cases of tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc. It was provided through the generosity of J.B. Sykes and had 97 beds.

1935 9 November, Manygates Maternity Hospital opened. This was a local authority hospital and replaced the original Wakefield Maternity Hospital which had been on Blenheim Road and had opened in 1919.

1935 9 December, the Regal Cinema, Kirkgate opened.

1936 6 January, the Savoy Cinema, Horbury Road, opened. This was the last cinema to be built in Wakefield until the Cineworld Multiplex arrived.

1936 June, the municipal golf course at Lupset opened with Lupset Hall being used as the Club house.

1936 20 June, Wesley Hall Methodist Chapel, Horbury Road (built very much in the style of a cinema) opened to serve the Lupset and Thornes area.

1936 26 September, St George's Church, Lupset, consecrated (built to serve the growing community on the Lupset housing estate etc.)

1937 11 January, the Fish and Meat Market was opened by the Mayor, George Hemingway.

1937 Preparations for war began

1937 Wakefield celebrated the coronation of George VI in 12 May. There was a parade of decorated vehicles, a tableau in Clarence Park and a service in Wakefield Cathedral. Old folks were given a tea in the Drill Hall. At 10pm there was a firework display.

1937 Bishop Seaton launched an appeal for £3,000 to restore the Chantry Chapel. The appeal was relaunched in 1938 by the new Bishop, Bishop Hone.

1938 The municipal swimming baths in Sun Lane were opened by the mayor, Rowland White

1940 July, the new front (the third!) on Wakefield Chantry Chapel was consecrated.

1940 first bomb fell on Wakefield in December: a 1,000lb bomb fell in Chantry Road, Lupset, but did not explode. It left a crater 14ft by 8ft.

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