

History of the King's Hall and Winter Garden

In **November 1903** Ilkley Council advertised a competition with £100 prize to design a town hall, library and theatre. There were sixty entries. In May 1904 the winner was announced, William Bakewell of Leeds for his plan entitled 'Economy.' The estimated cost of Bakewell's design was £13,000. It was to be financed from £10,000 on a 30 year loan and £3,000 from American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. A further loan of £2600 was later agreed for furnishings.

The Town Hall was built mainly by **local contractors**:

Excavator & mason - George Smith, Hawthorn Cottage Ilkley

Ironfounder & Smith - Redpath & Brown & Co Ltd Adelphi St, Salford

Carpenter & joiner - Thomas Smith, Skipton Rd Ilkley

Slater, Plumber & Glazier R & T Nelson, Leeds Rd Ilkley

Plasterer & concreter - Oswald Lister, Grove, Tivoli Place

Painter George Hampshire, Leeds Rd Ilkley

It was a time of economic depression so the contracts stipulated that workers should be paid at not below the local rate. The mason was bound to buy the stone from the quarries on the moor.

Cllr. T J Jackson laid the **foundation stone in 1906** and he **opened the Town Hall on April 27 1908**.

On **May 6 1908** the

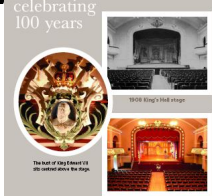
Council had their first meeting in the Council Chamber.

They had visited other local town halls and liked the recently rebuilt Batley council chamber so they had ordered furniture from Garing and Willow of Manchester.

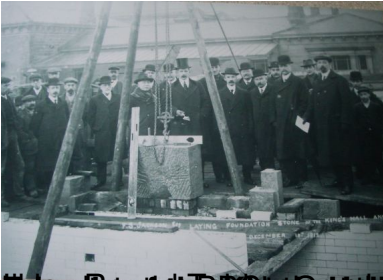


The Council starting with the meeting in 1874. From the left, British Consul General Sir...

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The original design of the Winter Garden was set up at the King's Hall from 1963,