

## A Headingley Alphabet Topographical Notes

**Queen's Wood** In 1858, Queen Victoria visited Leeds with great pomp to open the new Town Hall. William Beckett, banker and MP, hoped to host the queen at his home, Kirkstall Grange (now The Grange at the Beckett Park campus of Leeds Beckett University). As part of his preparations, Beckett made a long walk through the woods west of the house, leading to an archway [pictured] on a hill overlooking Kirkstall and the Aire valley. Unfortunately, the queen stayed elsewhere and never visited Kirkstall Grange nor saw the arch. Nevertheless, the walk to the Victoria Monument became known as the Queen's Walk, and the surrounding woods as Queen's Wood. And a century later, a new road laid below the hill was named Queenswood Drive.

**X-Roads** As a suburb, Headingley is centred on the Otley Road/North Lane cross-roads [pictured, in 1937]. But this cross-roads developed only as the suburb did. In fact, the Wood Lane arm became a street only in the later nineteenth century.

Originally, Headingley village was centred on the village green, at the junction of Headingley Lane and St Michael's Road, and was built around the triangle of (what is now) Otley Road, St Michael's Road and North Lane.

However, the village itself was sited on an older (off-set) cross-roads: Headingley Lane ran north-west from Leeds along the ridge of Headingley Hill, and the village grew in a dip in this ridge, which allowed easier access between the Aire valley to the west and the valley of Meanwood Beck to the east.