

# CRAVEN'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## GIGGLESWICK



Giggleswick station photographed in the early 1920s. Photo: John Bearpark Collection



A pristine Giggleswick station pictured in the early 1950s. Photo: John Robinson Collection



Giggleswick station pictured in the late 1950s. Photo: John Robinson Collection



Giggleswick station pictured on a sunny August afternoon 2019. The platform shelters had only been installed a for a few weeks providing much needed shelter for passengers at this exposed station. Photo: Brian Haworth

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF GIGGLESWICK STATION

Giggleswick railway station was opened by the Little North Western Railway Company in 1849. The station was originally named Settle being the first station to serve the village. Giggleswick village, famous for its public school, is located about 15 minutes walk from the station which stands in splendid isolation.

When the Settle-Carlisle route opened on 1st May 1876, the station name was changed to Settle Old station and the newly opened station on the Settle-Carlisle route was known as Settle New station.

Settle Old station was then renamed Giggleswick on 1st November 1877. It was a typical country-style station with very attractive station buildings and was pictured in the 1950s with well tended platform gardens, held in place with whitewashed stones.

The station boasted a goods yard, signal box and water tower. The 1904 Railway Clearing House Handbook of Railway Stations lists the station with facilities for goods, passengers, livestock, horse boxes and prize cattle.

By 1950 there was a private siding in the goods yard listed as Spencer Permanent Way Siding. This company worked Swindon quarries close to Skipton and ran several private 12-ton 7-plank goods wagons on the route.

Giggleswick station has recently seen new shelters installed to offer protection, particularly in the winter months, for intending passengers on what can be exposed platforms. Unusually, this station still has a barrow crossing to give passengers access to the westbound platform. There are, however, clear views in both directions to aid passengers. The station is close to the eastern end of one of the longest block-signalling sections in Britain.

A public house still operates adjacent to the station. Care must be taken when crossing the busy A65 Settle bypass which when built reduced the accessibility of the station for foot passengers.

The infant River Ribble meanders through the landscape to the east of the station and the water meadows surrounding its path have been designated as a nature reserve which is well worth a visit.

The Old English name for Giggleswick is 'Gikels Farm'.

