

CRAVEN'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

GARGRAVE STATION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GARGRAVE STATION

Gargrave station lies 30 miles north west of Leeds. It was opened by the Little North Western Railway Company on 30th July 1849. The original main single-storey station building was built in the Little North Western 'mock-Tudor' style using timber and plaster.

A handsome stone waiting shelter which was built by the Midland Railway around 1870, when it took over from the Little North Western, still stands on platform 2 to provide protection for intending passengers.

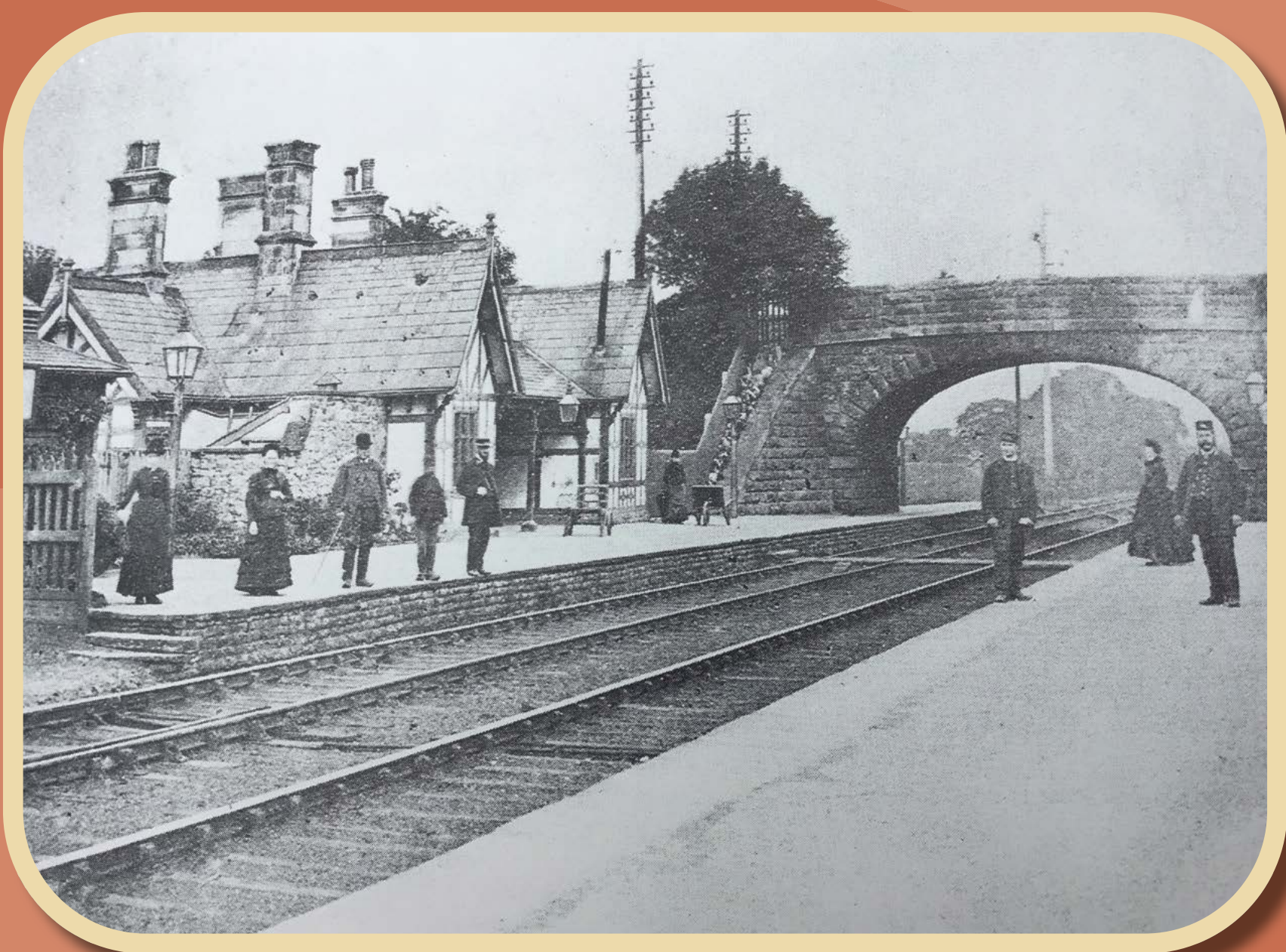
The stone platforms were very low and small portable wooden steps were maintained on each platform to help passengers to enter and exit the carriages. The main station building was reduced in size during the 1960s and British Railways added a brick sided shelter at the end of the surviving privately-owned building.

The Railway Clearing House station handbook for 1904 shows the station with facilities to deal with passenger traffic, goods, livestock, horse boxes and prize cattle. The reasonably-sized goods yard had a five-ton crane, cattle dock and goods shed.

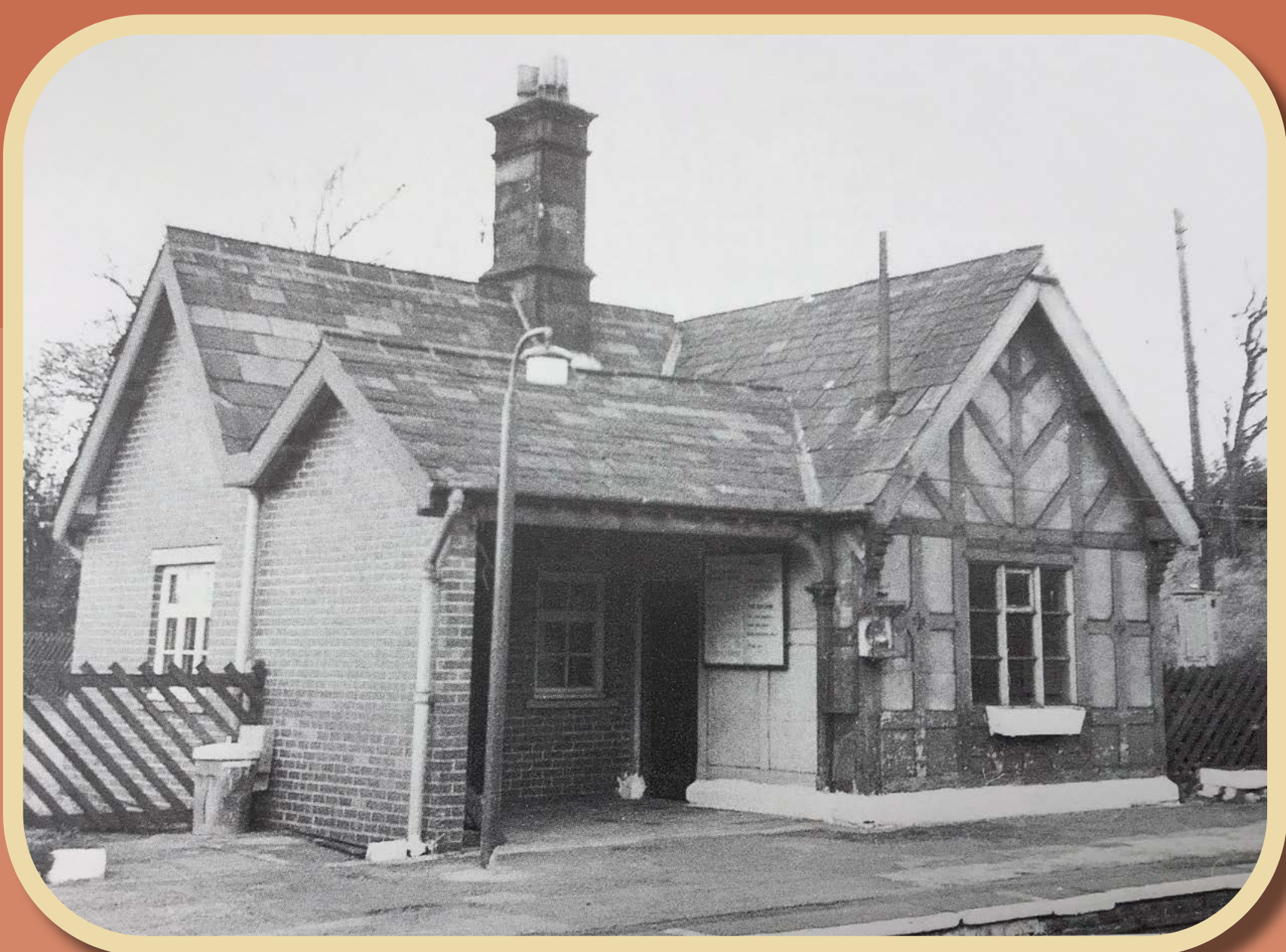
The signal box was situated at the end of the down platform across from cattle dock and goods shed. The 1904 directory shows a private siding at Gargrave, listed as Delaney's siding. This dealt with stone from a local quarry but had been removed by 1950. Apparently, Mr. Delaney went on to found the quarry at Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

In recent times, the main station building was sold into private ownership along with the goods yard. Car parking was also lost when the buildings were sold but, thanks to the Parish Council, a new car park has been provided for intending passengers near the station on the south side of the line.

Nearby, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal reaches its most northerly point and passes under the railway on its route west. The long-distance footpath known as the Pennine Way also passes close by.



Gargrave station circa 1890 looking towards Skipton. The familiar Little North Western Tudor style station building can be clearly seen. Photo: D. Bins Collection



Gargrave in the early 1960s. The station buildings were reduced in size by British railways at this time. Some of the original building was retained and the brick work shows the BR additional work. Photo: T. Butler



Gargrave Station 27th August 2019. The LNW Tudor style buildings now in private ownership are highlighted in the late morning sun. Photo: Brian Haworth



Photo: Keith Rose

