

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Protecting our environment for
future generations



We're back! With a new look and new content but the same commitment to life in the wonderful village of Luddenden. Welcome back to our existing readers, and hello to our new readers, from new Newsletter Editor Sarah.

Conservation Society

The Luddenden Conservation Society was founded in 1975, and was established to:

- Stimulate interest in Luddenden and the Luddenden Valley
- Promote high standards of planning and architecture
- Secure the preservation of features of historical interest
- Improve amenities

The Conservation Society is open to all who support these objectives. Membership is free and there are regular open meetings to which all are welcome. We're particularly interested in hearing from members who have expertise or interest in flood prevention, energy generation, local history and the natural and built environment. Of course when one usually thinks of a Conservation Society the first thing that may come to mind is a look to the past – however we are keen to focus on the future too: what can we do to ensure the village remains a wonderful place to live in years to come?

You can get in touch with the Conservation Society using the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Christmas in Luddenden

As we approach what we all hope is a more “normal” Christmas than 2020, we have reviewed our archives to understand more about Christmas in Luddenden over the years.

A review of previous Conservation Society newsletters shows the continued popularity and success of the Christmas Treasure Hunt and Walk – though it has to be said, hospitable weather seems to have been the exception rather than the norm. (I must confess that the most recent newsletter also answered a long-standing question for me which was what on earth happened to my son's coat after the 2019 Treasure Hunt....I presume it may still be in the Lord Nelson somewhere waiting to be reunited with its owner, who has definitely grown out of it by now!)

There is no Christmas Walk this year, but we hope to have it back next year.

It's also heartwarming to read about the annual Christmas Tree unveiling along with visits from Santa and beautiful carols from Midgley School choir (who unfortunately were unable to join us this year because of sickness).

Reading the wonderful collations of villagers' memories in Rodney Collinge's "Down Memory Lane" book, consistent themes are clear when it comes to Christmas.

Iain Cameron mentions Sunday School singing and Nativity Plays at the Ebenezer Chapel at the bottom of Halifax Lane. Carole Lumb, latterly Headmistress at Luddenden Junior School also writes of school tradition: "Before we began our Christingle custom, we performed our nativity plays in church. We had the angels visit the shepherds from the beautiful, round pulpit. The angel sat out of sight, and at the appropriate time would stand up on a box to speak. The day after one performance, one of our younger children wrote "the best bit was when the angel came up out of the old washer."" It's wonderful to reflect that schools still use our village church for Nativity Plays and Carol Services today.

Jack Stafford says "Christmas in 1950s Luddenden was never anything less than magical for the under tens. The school started winding down about midway through December. School lessons were relegated to little more than counting the links for making the paper chains which decorated the classrooms, drawing Christmas trees with Father Christmas trying to negotiate his way down a chimney.....Father Christmas touched down in Halifax in early December...in the hardware department basement of the Halifax Co-operative Society on Commercial Street.....I was more interested that Father Christmas should be quite sure I got my train set." Whilst the location of Father Christmas might have changed, the visits and wishes remain the same for children today! Geoffrey Hirst who ran Luddenden Post Office and shop mentions children having jobs delivering papers, and benefitting from generous Christmas tips....if they wished to give the job up, they wisely waited until New Year.

Dates for the Diary

Future Conservation Society meetings are planned for the last Thursday of January, March, May, July and September, with September also being the AGM. We plan to invite speakers of interest to meetings and we'd welcome new members. More information on speakers shortly.

We work closely with the Luddenden in Bloom Group who will continue to hold regular Working Parties during 2022: these will be publicised on the website, via email and also on the "Luddenden - A Village in the Pennines" Facebook group. We'll also be in touch in the New Year with information about an improved website (coming soon).

It only remains to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Website: www.luddenden.com/

Email: luddendenvillage@gmail.com

Officers for 2021/22

Chair: Nigel Peterson-White

Secretary: Catherine Elgar

Treasurer: Tony Hillyard

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Brown

Hon President: Rodney Collinge