



LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Luddenden Conservation Society since February. With the onset of the Covid-19 virus back at the beginning of March, the decision was taken to suspend newsletters for a month or two until the virus subsided - if only! I don't think anyone had any idea what we were in for, and even now the future seems much of an unknown. There are quite a number of things we wish to highlight, and although we will not be delivering this as formerly, we will try to get it to as many people as possible online or from neighbours.

PLANT TABLES

One of the most common activities throughout the year as we have become locked down has been gardening, and with not being able for many weeks to visit garden centres, the plant tables run by the Society have been 'discovered' by people who before knew nothing of them. We have sold over £2000 worth of plants at low prices for people in the neighbourhood. In the middle of July we found that we were selling one plant for £3, compared to £14 for the same thing at Riggs and another for £2.50 as opposed to £10 at Newbank! We would like to thank all those people who have produced plants for it, and hope that next year you will continue to use it just as much or even more. All the proceeds do of course go to buying the plants with which the Bloom Group so wonderfully brighten the village, but we were disappointed to find that a number of freshly planted bushes in the car park were quickly stolen. One last word on plant matters - the usual competition for the Ada Brooks shield for best house frontage was not held this year, but hopefully will be back again next year.

TELEPHONE BOX AND FOOD DONATION SPOT

The telephone box in the village has been repainted, but the plan to turn it into a mini-visitor centre has been put on hold for the time being, as it has been used as a place in which food may be left for distribution by the Mayor's Group and Church. The Society initially made a donation of £250 from our funds, and is ready to make another similar donation if this is needed. I'm sure that I speak on behalf of the village when we offer our thanks for all the work done by the above group, not just in providing food parcels, but to all those people who shopped for others who couldn't get out, delivered medicines and all the other ways in which help was provided.

'NORMAL' CONSERVATION SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Whilst we have not had any Conservation Society meetings, many of our normal activities have proceeded as usual. Planning applications have been made to Calderdale throughout this time, but no comments on any of them have been made by the Society. We were told by one of the people working on the riverside path to Brook Terrace and Booth that Calderdale intended to remove the lighting on the path. We felt that this was totally unacceptable, and wrote to the appropriate department of Calderdale to voice our strong objections to this if indeed it was under consideration, and pointed out that in the past one fatality had occurred by someone falling into the river where part of the wall was then missing. We felt that a lack of lighting could lead to this being repeated. We also contacted our Ward councillors over the matter.

The September meeting is normally our Annual General Meeting when we have a review of the year, and our officials are elected for the following year. This year, with no meeting taking place, the current officials were asked if they would be prepared to carry on for another year. The trustees of the Society thought that in the circumstances this was acceptable, and therefore the officials are again as shown at the bottom of this sheet.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Last year, the Conservation Society people who had organised the Santa Day and also the Christmas Walk were approaching what they thought was 'retirement day' from the job, as the Christmas Walk was the 26th and the Santa Day the 10th, so the Mayor's Group kindly agreed that they would take these activities over. However, with the local Covid-19 designation being Tier 2 (High), it looks questionable at present whether either of these will be able to take place. More information on these will be provided later. The Society are, however, hoping to provide a Christmas tree for the village as usual. The Bloom group are also planning to hold the annual Christmas door wreath competition as usual. The wreath must be made by the owner, and not a commercial one, so get planning now! We have no idea when normal Conservation Society meetings will be able to take place again, and will have to wait and see what will be allowed and when. We hope that all villagers will manage to steer clear of contracting the virus and that we will all play our part in overcoming it.

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