

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



40 years old!

As mentioned in our last newsletter in May, the Conservation Society was formed 40 years ago on the 18th June. A number of people have remarked that it was interesting to read of some of the things that were happening in Luddenden, and could we describe some of these in more detail than the brief outlines that were given in the April newsletter. In the last newsletter, we took a look at events that took place in the 1970s, and today we will look at the 1980s.

This decade saw many very important events take place and much Conservation Society activity—indeed it would be fair to say that it was the results of these campaigns that finally saw the Conservation Society accepted as an asset to the village.

In April 1982, it was announced that John Murgatroyd's mill at Oats Royd would close down, with the loss of 163 jobs. As the main employer in the valley for over 150 years, this was a devastating blow.

In 1983, Calderdale announced a plan to build toilets on the village green, where the car park now is. Conservation Society campaigned to prevent this, and eventually persuaded the council to build them along Luddenden Lane (next to the present car park).

In 1984, St. Mary's Church announced a plan to rebuild the rear of the Church to give the present room at the rear, toilets, a kitchen and the room upstairs, by walling off the rear of the Church.

In 1985, a further economic blow occurred when Lindley's nut and bolt factory (on the site of the present Bluebell Walk) closed down, this time with the loss of some 35 jobs. The Conservation Society also supported a suggestion by the West Yorkshire council that land behind Carr Field and Greave House Fields should be incorporated into green belt. This was turned down at an enquiry, and led to a fight which is still ongoing over the land. In November, we opposed the building of four houses with vehicular access down the top of the 'ginnel', below the present car park, and our argument before the Town Planning Committee was accepted and the plan turned down.

In 1986, the public garden on the Halifax side of the bridge across the road from the car park was declared by Calderdale surplus to requirements, and was advertised for sale, with an offer being made for it. Again, the Society opposed this very vigorously, and asked to address the appropriate committee to explain why the land was so crucial to the centre of the village. Our argument was accepted, and the land was withdrawn from sale. In the space of three years, therefore, the Society had prevented three applications which would have totally ruined the centre of the village had they gone ahead, and also shortly afterwards successfully prevented an extension to Broad Flaggs which would have extended across the ginnel.

In 1987, an application was made to build extensively on the land at Greave House Fields which was not incorporated into green belt in 1985. The application was turned down by Calderdale after much Society opposition and an appearance at the planning meeting. There was an appeal to this decision, however, and the Society again objected at the Public Enquiry that was held, which supported the Calderdale decision not to allow the application to be built there. The Society was greatly complimented by Calderdale town planners and our ward councillors on the case they had put forward.

In 1989, there was a huge fire at Oats Royd mill, and the east wing and part of the main building was totally destroyed.

OPEN GARDENS DAY JUNE 27th.

The village Open Gardens event will take place on Saturday, June 27th from 11am until 5pm. Fourteen gardens will be open, and as usual, there are gardens to suit all tastes. These range from small cottage gardens in two of Luddenden's historic cottages to much larger ones with the most wonderful views over the valley. Many of the gardens will be providing refreshments, ranging from a cup of tea and a cake to a full lunch, and there will be some plant sales. Tickets are £5 if bought in advance, and can be ordered by phoning 885141. On the day they are £6, and are obtainable from the car park on Luddenden Lane. Two free vehicles will also be running during the day which will take people up either side of the valley, drop them off, and then later take them on to their next garden. This event has had fabulous reviews and comments in the past and has been described by an RHS judge as one of the best village open gardens events he had been to that year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

There have been no new planning applications since the last newsletter, but the extension at 4 Bluebell Walk was permitted, as was the erection of a bungalow at Brook Dene.

LAST MEETING

Mr. Mike Crawford of Hebden Bridge gave a talk at the last meeting on the attitudes at the start of the first world war in Calderdale and also in Germany. Whilst it was not initially expected that the War would last very long, it soon became apparent that this was not the case, particularly when news of all the casualties and deaths became known. The death of the first Luddenden man took place at Mons within a few days of his arrival in France, and these will all be commemorated at the war memorial in the village on the centenary.

NEXT MEETING will take place at the **Lord Nelson, on Thursday 25th June at 7.30pm. All welcome**

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

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