

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



40 years old!

As mentioned in our last newsletter in April, 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 that newsletter. For the next five months, therefore, we shall look at the major events that took place in each decade up to the present, starting off today with the 70s. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, the first activity of the Society in the village was to organise a "job creation scheme" (one of the first in Calderdale, at a time of high unemployment). The churchyard at that time was a graveyard, as shown in the photograph. This photograph was taken in the 1920s, but there was little difference in 1975. All the gravestones, which were very uneven and overgrown were taken up, and the land grassed over.



Also in 1975, Granada TV did a programme titled 'Baht Meat Week' in which it was explained that due to world population increase, there would at some time in the future be a shortage of meat, and asking whether vegetarianism was the answer. The whole village was persuaded not to eat meat for a week, and see how they liked this. Granada provided as much vegetarian food as each family wanted, to be obtained at the post office. The top TV cooks of the day came to Luddenden to give instructions on producing tasty meals, and the week started and finished with a free Sunday dinner for everyone in the village, who went in procession to Kershaw House, then a top restaurant. The programme when transmitted was an hour in length, and was great publicity for the village.

In 1979, Luddenden again became the centre for national TV when the comedy series *In Loving Memory*, starring Thora Hird, and Christopher Beeny was filmed here. This was the first of five series of the comedy, and a great rapport was struck up between the star and some of the villagers, although relations did become strained with the hangers on who kept ordering people to stop their cars as filming was taking place, or not to make any noise, and generally throwing their weight around (which didn't work!).



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been no new planning applications submitted to Calderdale since the last newsletter.

WILDLIFE SIGNS

All the Luddenden Valley wildlife information boards produced by the Society have now been put in place. There is a large one in the car park, describing the five different sorts of habitat in the valley. Five smaller boards have then been put up in each of the five different habitats - village, river, open pasture, woodland and moorland

NEXT MEETING

As part of our World War 1 project, at the next meeting of the Society there will be a talk by Mr. Mike Crawford of Hebden Bridge on *Attitudes in both Calderdale and Germany at the Beginning of the First World War*. Mr. Crawford is a native of Luddenden, and for many years was Head of History at Calder High School. Mr. Crawford's talk has already been given at a number of places in the Calder Valley, and received excellent reviews in both the Hebden Bridge Times and the Halifax Courier, so is one not to be missed. It will be in the Lord Nelson on Thursday next, May 28th at 7.30pm.

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

Officers: Rodney Collinge (President and Newsletter Editor, Phone 885141); P Layfield (Chair, Phone 884275) John Vaul (Secretary); Tony Hillyard (Vice-Chair and Treasurer).

For more local and Society information, visit our website www.luddenden.com