

Feb 1999

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Luddenden Conservation Society met as usual at the end of January at the Lord Nelson. The following items were reported.

1. Thanks were expressed to the people who had put up the Christmas lights in the village, and those who had allowed us to use their electricity. However, it was disappointing to report that all the lights in the village centre had gone out because of vandalism. Both stretches of lights by the bridge and those behind the war memorial had had lights broken and taken out to stop them working, and in future will have to be erected at a much greater height to prevent this.
2. The Christmas Treasure Hunt took place as usual, but the weather was very unkind. A good many people started out, but unfortunately, the heavens opened in the middle of it, and everybody got wet through. However, a profit of £60 was made on the event, and thanks are expressed to all concerned.
3. It was decided that we should go ahead with an entry for the Yorkshire in Bloom competition again, particularly after the successes of last year. Plans are already being made for this year's competition, and we are going to investigate the possibility of producing window boxes for sale at as reasonable a price as possible.
4. The society is in the middle of making applications for grants for the car park project - about £17 000 will have to be raised in total.
5. The society has been in touch with Calderdale regarding the land behind Carr Field on which a developer is wanting to build houses. The council is looking at the possibility of allowing access to the land over its own land at the end of Dene View on the Kershaw Estate. This would go straight past the entrance to both the Luddenden Dene Junior and Infants School and also Kershaw Dene Special School. The Society wanted, in conjunction with the schools, to construct a Wildlife Garden on the access. Any views on the matter should be made to the local ward councillors, J Brown, P Coles, or C Bampton-Smith at the Town Hall.
6. The Society is aware that these news sheets have been slightly less regular over the last two or three months. The main reason is the increase in family commitments of our previous editor, Steve Thompson, on the birth of his second child. We congratulate Steve on this and thank him for all his past work. It was felt at our last meeting that these news sheets would be ideal for anyone wishing to advertise in Luddenden, as they are delivered to the whole village, and that any revenue from this might go towards the Society funds. Anyone interested is invited to ring the editor on 882206 to discuss the matter.
7. The next meeting of the Society will be held as usual in the Lord Nelson at 7.45pm on Thursday, 25 February. Everyone is welcome.

May 1999

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

During the last month, a lot of work has been done by volunteers in cleaning up the village, and planting a lot of spring - flowering plants in readiness for the visit of the Yorkshire in Bloom assessors. The visit took place on 13th April, and although we do not yet know the results of this inspection, the people concerned made many complimentary remarks about the village, and the planting which had been done.

We have still not been informed about the result of any of the grant applications we have made for money to build a car park on the old Highways Depot, but hopefully, we should be receiving information about some of these before too long.

There have been many complaints by people about the amount of dog dirt around in many parts of the village. It is now illegal to allow dogs to foul the pavements and playing areas, and fines of up to £2000 can be given. We have been notified that the council dog wardens will be active within the area over the next few weeks, and that action will be taken against people allowing their dogs to stray, or against people seen allowing their dogs to foul pavements etc. Please, if you are walking your dog, take a plastic bag or scooper to remove any dog dirt they may leave behind.

The society has been contacted by a number of people regarding the bus shelter at the top of New Road, which has been taken down after it had been run into by a car. We have been told that there are no plans to replace this, so this matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the society, to see if action can be taken by the society to remedy this. The next meeting of the Luddenden Conservation Society is this coming Thursday at the Lord Nelson Inn at 7.45pm, and all are welcome.

June 19 99

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The last meeting of the Luddenden Conservation Society was addressed by Mr. George Drake, who has plans for the empty and derelict unoccupied buildings on the bottom side of the road at Oats Royd Mills. He used to be the Director of the Halifax Industrial Museum, and has a collection of steam and other mill engines, which he would like to house in the mills. He would intend to pay for this by limited opening of these to the public, using the theme of Energy, and including a section on the history of the mills and the Murgatroyd family. In partnership with him would be a lady who wished to open a clinic, using alternative energies. The plans were discussed at length, and the comments made that everyone would be glad to see the stopping of the further decline of the mills. We were, however, concerned that the 'limited opening' would not increase the traffic flow on roads in the area, which we already thought were at saturation point.

It was also pointed out by Mr. Drake that an offer appears to have been made for this section of the mill from another party, and that at the moment, the agents for the owners are not prepared to sell to him. It was thought that the Society should not become involved in supporting one scheme rather than any other, but would treat any scheme that comes before us in exactly the same way. Mr. Drake intends to put a planning application into Calderdale for his scheme, and said that before he does this, he will let the Society have details of his plans.

Complaints were received from one resident about the use of the cemetery as a general gathering ground by people using it in an undesirable way, and the police have been informed of this, and intend to keep an eye on the situation.

The next meeting of the society takes place this coming Thursday in the Lord Nelson at the usual time of 7.45pm. Two or three months ago, we asked that anyone who wished to advertise in this news sheet in return for sponsorship of it should contact us - today, we are carrying our first advert. We ourselves do not inspect the work of the advertisers, but Mr Gregory tells us he will provide the name and address of satisfied customers to people.

JOHN GREGORY

Building and Joinery Contractor

Kitchens Built in Cupboards Doors and Windows

Small Jobs / With Pleasure

EXTENSIONS CONVERSIONS REFURBISHMENTS

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Luddenden
Halifax HX2 6QH

Tel: 01422 886212

Aug 1999

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

(REGISTERED CHARITY, NUMBER 504387)
ESTABLISHED 1975

The Luddenden Conservation Society has not been totally inactive over the summer months. The village was judged at the beginning of June for the summer judging of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. On the results of this, the village came second, and fourth overall on the results of the two judgings. The Yorkshire in Bloom committee of the Society will be putting a circular around, but on behalf of the village, we should thank them for the vast amount of work which has been done, and echo the words of the judges that "the village is full of interest and a delight to walk around". Particularly commended were "the many floral displays in gardens, yards, frontages of old cottages and new housing". Obviously, the efforts of everybody in this respect have been appreciated and have made an impression on the judges, so a big well done to everybody who made an effort!

As far as the projected car park is concerned, we are having difficulty finding funding for this, as every awarding body that we have approached - from the National Lottery downwards has turned us down with the reason that car parking should be provided by the local authority. We are hoping that we can still find funding for this, and will keep everyone informed.

The next meeting of the Society, which is the annual general meeting, will be held this coming Thursday in the Lord Nelson Inn at 7.45pm. Many villagers will now know that Geoffrey and Joyce Hirst will be retiring from running the Post Office at the end of September, and that the shop will be closing down. Dorothy Muir, of the Village and Retail Services Association (ViRSA) is coming to talk to the meeting. She writes "ViRSA is an organisation founded to help village shops and post offices remain open. Throughout the country, villagers are running shops themselves on a voluntary basis, thus cutting costs and performing a worthwhile service to the community. Luddenden seems a possible village to do this, but we need the interest and support of people in the village. Come along to the meeting on Thursday to hear about the possibilities available."

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1999

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on Thursday 26th August, Rodney Collinge, the Society Chair, presented his report covering the year's activities:

- progress on the car park, with funding coming from soil and rubble tipping
- agreement with the council on the leasing of land adjacent to Dene View, although a request for access over it to adjacent land is still under discussion
- further improvements in Luddenden's position in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition
- Christmas lights again put up in the central areas.

Rodney concluded by thanking all those Society members and residents who had worked so hard in many ways to support the Society, including those who deliver these newsletters.

Peter Kelly, Treasurer, reported that the Society finances continue to be in a healthy state.

Two possible Millennium projects (creation of a bridleway and a photographic record of Luddenden at the end of the 20th Century) were discussed and these will be developed further over the next few meetings.

Luddenden Post Office and Shop

As you probably know, the Luddenden Post Office and Shop is shutting down on September 25th, when Geoffrey and Joyce Hirst retire. Mrs Dorothy Muir of the Village Retail Services Association (ViRSA), who lives in Millbank, explained how a number of villages have successfully set up "community" shops and Post Offices to meet village needs once a village shop has shut down. It was agreed to send out a questionnaire to find out what the needs are and what support there might be for a volunteer-run shop. Mrs Muir has also had discussions with a group of residents from Midgley, where the village shop may also be closing.

Please find time to fill in the attached questionnaire, ready for collection on Friday 17th. As an alternative, you can hand it in at the Post Office during the following week (or bring it with you to the next meeting!). A **Public Meeting** will be held in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 1st October to discuss the next steps. Please come along to show your support.

Next Meeting In view of the Public Meeting, a short meeting will be held at the Lord Nelson at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 30th September.

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

Officers: Rodney Collinge (Chair & Trustee), Rick Lihou (Vice-Chair), Sue Hoyle (Secretary & Trustee), Peter Kelly (Treasurer & Trustee), Dilys Marden (Planning Applications Secretary)

12. If the village shop was not open five and half days would you still use it as you do now?

Yes

☐

No

☐

13. If a community / volunteer village shop was established would you volunteer your services?

Yes

☐

No

☐

14. How many people are there in your household?

Children

.....

Adults

.....

Retired

.....

15. Are you interested in coming along to a public meeting to discuss ideas on operating a volunteer shop?

Yes

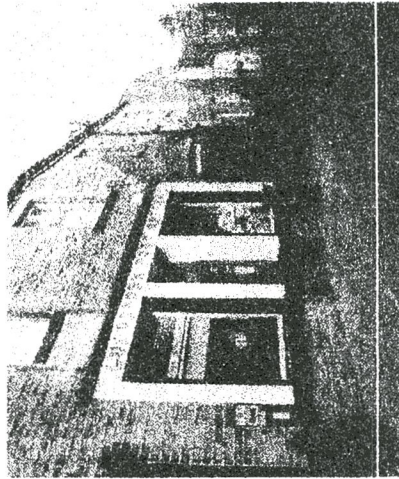
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No

☐

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO
COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

LUDDENDEN POST OFFICE AND SHOP



As you probably know the village Post Office and shop is closing on Saturday 25th September 1999 when Geoffrey and Joyce are retiring.

This shop has been an integral part of village life for many years and its closure follows the closure of the drapers and newsagents shops over the past ten years.

The Luddenden Conservation Society is looking at how these vital services could remain available in the village.

This questionnaire is the first step. We need to know your views on what might be provided and supported. It is entirely anonymous unless, of course, you would like to add your name at the end.

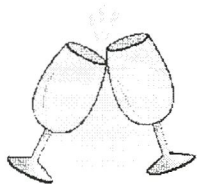
This questionnaire will be collected from you on Friday 17th September or alternatively could you please drop it into the Post Office.

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1999

Luddenden Post Office and Shop



We wish Geoffrey and Joyce Hirst all the best for their retirement. The Society contributed to a bench to mark the occasion, and we hope they will enjoy using it now they have more time to spend in the garden.

There was a good response to the questionnaire delivered with last month's newsletter. Two thirds of respondents felt that it was very / quite important that there be a Post Office & Shop in the village. Over half used the PO and Shop at least weekly; a third used the PO to collect pensions or other benefits / pay bills; and almost all used it for parcels and stamps. Around 1 in 10 used the PO / Shop daily.

A Public Meeting was held in the Methodist Church Hall on Friday 1st October to discuss how to keep these facilities in the village. Mr Sukhvinder Singh who runs Hare's on Kershaw Estate came along. He has applied to re-open the old newsagents opposite Bluebell walk as a Post Office / Grocery / Off-licence. The next step is a visit to the premises by the Post Office.

Oats Royd (Murgatroyd) Mill

Mr George Drake attended the monthly meeting and explained that he has applied for planning permission for a machinery museum and alternative medicine clinic. The plan includes rebuilding an electricity generating plant driven by a waterwheel from the mill dam. The Society was pleased to give the scheme its backing.

..... more overleaf

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1999

Bench and tree by the brook

Our thanks go to Calderdale Council for re-instating the bench and tree at the side of the path alongside the brook to High Street Court. Both had been uprooted by vandals.

Millennium Activities

We are hoping to organise a photographic record of all the buildings in the village (if possible with residents standing outside in typical clothes!), and have approached the Lottery for funding.

Seat at top of Old Lane

This seat was provided by the Society some years ago, but has now disappeared. We are speaking to the Council about replacing it.

Bus shelter at top of Old Lane

This bus shelter has not yet been replaced since it was demolished by a car. We encourage you to detach the slip at the bottom of this newsletter, fill in your name and address, sign it and send it to Metro who are responsible for maintaining the shelters.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Lord Nelson at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 28th October. All are welcome - please come along.

To: West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (Metro)
40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE

From: (Name)
..... (Address)

I/we wish to complain that the bus shelter at the top of Old Lane, Luddenden has not been replaced since it was destroyed by a car, and urge Metro to replace it before the winter weather arrives.

Signed:

LUDDENDEN POST OFFICE & SHOP – QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Part 1 - About the Post Office

1. Do you think it is important to have a Post Office in Luddenden?

Please circle how important it is to you and your family.

Not important - 1	2	3	4	5 - Very important
4	4	10	12	44

2. Do you or your family currently use the village Post Office?

Yes	70	No / No response	8
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3. Which Post Office services do you use?:

Pensions/DSS payments (child benefit etc.)	26
Postage stamps	70
TV licence stamps	15
Telephone stamps	12
Parcels	55
Postal Orders	12
Girobank/savings bank	10
Paying bills	35

4. How often do you use the Post Office?

Daily or Daily / Weekly	6
Weekly	37
Monthly or Occasionally	29

5. When do you most use the Post Office?

Mornings only	24
Mornings and Saturdays	2
Afternoons only	26
Afternoons and Saturdays	3
Mornings and Afternoons	5
Saturdays only	6
All three	4

6. If the Post Office was not open five and half days would you still use it as you do now?

Yes	66
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Part 2 - About the Village Shop

7. Do you think it is important to have a shop in Luddenden?

Please circle how important it is to you and your family.

Not important - 1	2	3	4	5 - Very important
5	9	9	8	41

8. Do you or your family currently use the village shop?

Yes	60	No / No response	18
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If you prefer to shop elsewhere, please explain why

One stop shop at supermarket where more choice and cheaper

Not open when return from work

9. Do you do your main shopping at the village shop?

Yes	3
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10. How often do you use the village shop?

Daily or Daily / Weekly	8
Weekly	35
Monthly or Occasionally	26

11. When do you most use the village shop?

Mornings only	16
Mornings and Saturdays	4
Afternoons only	28
Afternoons and Saturdays	2
Mornings and Afternoons	4
Saturdays only	7
All three	4

12. If the village shop was not open five and half days would you still use it as you do now?

Yes	56
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13. If a community / volunteer village shop was established would you volunteer your services?

Yes	11
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14. How many people are there in your household?

Children	73	Adults	117	Retired	25
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15. Are you interested in coming along to a public meeting to discuss ideas on operating a volunteer shop?

Yes	25
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LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Recently, a plan was submitted to Calderdale MBC to convert the bottom side (east side) of Oats Royd Mills (the former Murgatroyd's Mills) to 40 housing units. The plans have been drawn up by a firm called Woodhall Planning and Conservation, of Leeds, who specialise in converting buildings which are 'listed', and of historic interest. The property company is called Property Renaissance of Silsden.

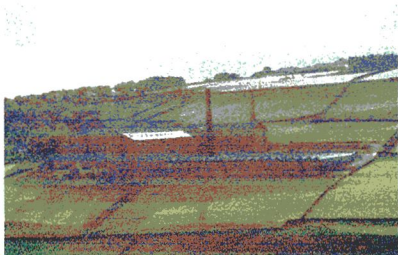
Obviously, a development of this size will greatly affect the area, particularly in terms of traffic generated and in a number of other ways. The Luddenden Conservation Society has organised a meeting in the Luddenden Methodist Church schoolroom, on Tuesday 9th November, at 8pm. Representatives of Property Renaissance have been invited to this meeting and have accepted, as they are keen to hear the views of people on the project. So that people will have some idea of the plans being submitted, they have agreed to produce this leaflet, which is being distributed by members of the Conservation Society in both Luddenden and Booth. At the meeting, they will explain their plans in more detail, and will be available to answer questions on it.

If you are interested in the plans, or have any views on the proposed development, please make an effort to come to this meeting on the 9th November. Afterwards, the Luddenden Conservation Society will send a letter to Calderdale, summing up the views of the meeting.

Oats Royd Mill Luddenden

THE PAST

A thriving, successful textile mill providing employment for the inhabitants of Luddenden and Booth, walking each day to and from Oats Royd on one of the many cobbled paths, vehicular traffic initially horsedrawn then leading to motorised commercial vehicles, small by comparison with modern day standards.



More recently part occupied by a packaging firm whose service and delivery vehicles – large articulated lorries – created problems along the narrow roads around Luddenden.

THE FACTS

The proposals of 40 residential units, all within the footprint of the original mill buildings, are calculated to be sufficient to provide for the costly restoration of Oats Royd Mill.

A new industrial user would generate the following traffic movements:

THE PRESENT



A derelict listed building, sad reminder of the past, attracting petty criminals, vandals and drug users. Unattractive to current day industrialists with their large service vehicles and locational requirements of close proximity to motorways and arterial routes.

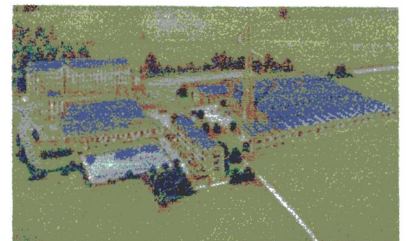
THE FUTURE

A conversion project which will sensitively repair and restore Oats Royd to its original grandeur, completely within its existing and

original buildings with no encroachment into the surrounding green fields.

At the same time, providing quality, innovative residential accommodation, particularly attractive to young, working couples who would enjoy being part of the history of Oats Royd, and worthwhile members of the Luddenden community.

Apart from service vehicles (already passing along the local road network to serve existing properties) traffic will be limited to private cars, totally accommodated within the site.



The proposed residential use of predominantly professional or local employment based occupiers would generate some additional movement at peak times, but few school run movements and minimal movement between 9am and 5pm.

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 1999

Luddenden Post Office and Shop

Mr. Sukhvinder Singh of Hare's has made progress with the Post Office in his plans to re-open the old newsagents opposite Bluebell Walk as a Post Office / Grocery / Off-licence. He is waiting for the Post Office to respond following their visits to the premises.

Oats Royd (Murgatroyd) Mill

There was a special meeting at the Methodist Church on Tuesday 9th November to discuss the Property Renaissance plans for the Mill. Mr. David Wilkinson and his colleagues showed plans and drawings of the proposed development. It contains 40 two-bedroomed apartments within the original listed building below the road, and retains the current roof profile.

Issues regarding traffic problems in the New Road and Booth were discussed, but the view of the meeting was that the scheme was acceptable and would improve the current dilapidated situation. Cllr Christine Bampton-Smith was present and will take the views to Cllrs Coles and Brown as input to the Calderdale Planning Committee.

George Drake and **Bridget Benson** will be attending the next meeting on **Thursday 25th November at 8.00pm** in the **Methodist Church School Room** to explain in more detail the scheme for the National Healing and Energy Centre (see overleaf for more information). If you are interested, please make an effort to come to the meeting.

Bus Shelter at Top of Old Lane

Metro has surveyed the site and ordered a placement bus shelter. It should be erected "before very long".

Boxing Day Walk

The **Luddenden Conservation Society Boxing Day Treasure Hunt Walk** will start from the Methodist Church at 11.00am on Tuesday 28th December. All welcome. Home-made refreshments available afterwards.

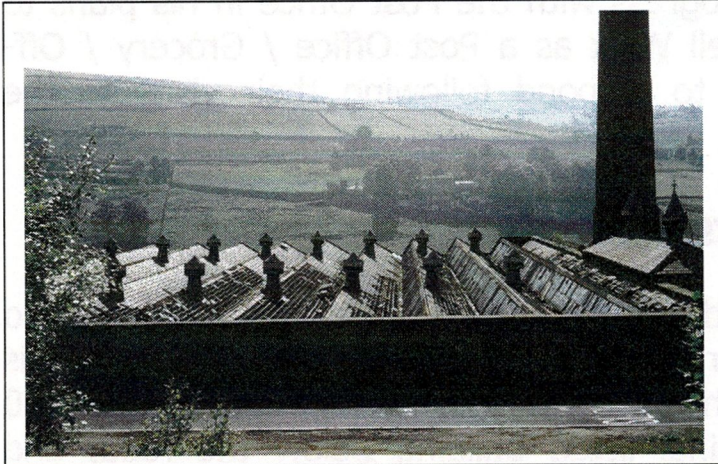
Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

Officers: Rodney Collinge (Chair and Trustee), Ric Lihou (Vice-Chair), Sue Hoyle (Secretary and Trustee).
Peter Kelly (Treasurer and Trustee), Dilys Marden (Planning Applications Secretary)

Healing and Energy Centre

Oats Royd Mill Luddenden

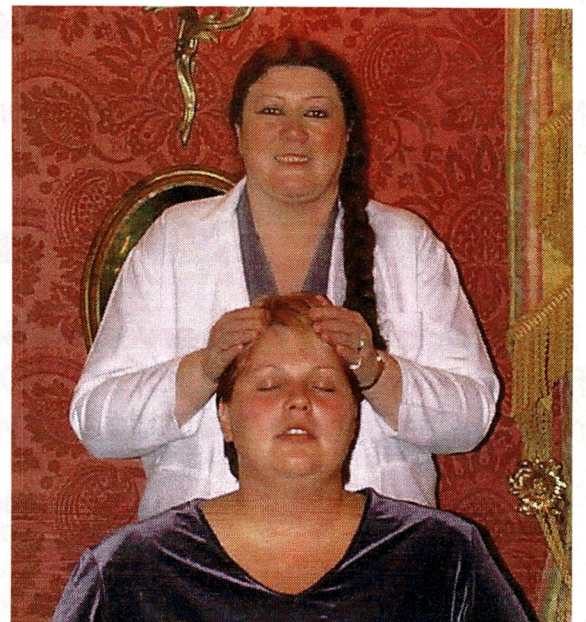


Luddenden Valley Oats Royd Mill is a Grade 2 listed building on a green belt. The Mill has approximately two acres of floor space.

The Aviena Healing and Energy Centre will offer itself as a sanctuary for all walks of life. It is in a beautiful green belt location offering tranquility and peace of mind. People will be able to relax and unwind in this safe haven with the added bonus of natural healing energies and herbal remedies.

The Aviena Healing Centre will accommodate the disabled, blind and impaired; offering sensory gardens, talking newspapers and specialised workshops within a safe and professional environment.

Advances in medical science and technology have over many decades led to a significantly extended life expectancy for both men and women. This in turn has created it's problems for the Health Service, constantly struggling with budgetary and manpower constraints. A natural therapy type treatment for many people would help alleviate many of the health and social issues through education and guidance, and by helping people to harness natural energies in a safe, caring and listening environment to improve their lives and the lives of people around them.



Right: The Future

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1999

Luddenden Post Office and Shop

Geoffrey & Joyce Hirst have written to the Society thanking us for the retirement gift of a garden bench and are looking forwards to "spending time on it reflecting on all the nice times they've had and the nice people who have come into the shop".

Mr Sukhvinder Singh of **Hare's** is still waiting to hear from the Post Office about his application to re-open the old Newsagents. They have made further visits to the premises.

Oats Royd (Murgatroyd) Mill

At the meeting at the Methodist Church on Thursday 25th November, Mr George Drake and Ms Bridget Benson explained in more detail their scheme for a machinery museum / energy centre and alternative medicine clinic. The development will all be within the original listed buildings below the road, and retain the current roof profile.

It was felt that this scheme would have less impact on traffic problems than the Property Renaissance scheme, but many residents questioned whether the scheme was financially viable. The view of the meeting was that the scheme was acceptable and would improve the current dilapidated situation. Cllr Christine Bampton-Smith was not able to be present, as she was at a Council meeting, but she will be briefed by the Society. It is hoped that the Society will be able to input directly to the Planning Committee when the two planning applications are discussed.

Rodney Collinge has copies of the plans and pictures of how the schemes will look.



LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

wishes all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium, and thanks all the volunteers who have contributed to the activities of the Society over the past year.

Boxing Day Walk

The Luddenden Conservation Society Boxing Day Treasure Hunt Walk will be on Tuesday 28th December at 11.00 starting from the Methodist Church. Home made refreshments will be available afterwards. All welcome.

Next meeting

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be in the Lord Nelson on the usual last Thursday of the month, at 7.45 pm on **Thursday 25th January 2000.**

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

Officers: Rodney Collinge (Chair & Trustee), Ric Lihou (Vice-Chair), Sue Hoyle (Secretary & Trustee), Peter Kelly (Treasurer & Trustee), Dilys Marsden (Planning Applications Secretary)