

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



40 years old!

As mentioned in our newsletter in May, the Conservation Society was formed 40 years ago on the 18th June 1975, and we have been taking a look at events that took place in Luddenden in each decade since then. In this newsletter, we will concentrate on the 1990s. At the beginning of the 1990s, the Conservation Society ceased to meet monthly due to the lack of interest, although a small number of activists continued to look at planning applications, and other important issues.

In 1993, both the village junior and infants schools closed down, and were replaced by a single new school built on the Kershaw estate. Also, round about this time, the general haberdashery and clothing store belonging to Mr. John Sayles closed down,

In 1995, however, the Society was revived and monthly meetings were recommenced after a number of big issues came to the fore. The most pressing was another application to build houses between Carr Field Drive and Dene View on the Kershaw estate. The Conservation Society again took the lead in opposing this, and managed through various means, and in spite of various applications and enquiries, to halt, delay and in general stop any development until finally our efforts led to the land being re-classified in such a way as to prevent any development taking place there for the foreseeable future.

In 1996, the Society first provided a Christmas tree and lights for the village, and this has continued ever since. A year later, the Society entered the Best Kept Village competition, and was told the entry was very promising for the future. When the Council ceased to use land along Luddenden Lane for a Highways Depot, the Society campaigned for a car park to be built rather than the land be sold off for housing. This culminated in being granted a 999 year lease if the Society could actually get a car park constructed. In 1999, to great dismay, the Post Office closed down after being run by the Hirst family for three generations, the loss of business through the school closure being the final straw. Although the Conservation Society held meetings to see whether a voluntary community shop could be set up (similar to the present Midgley Shop) there was no interest and the idea fell through.

On a personal level, in 1991, one of our members Mr. Brian Hill was awarded the M.B.E. for services to industry, and in 1997, another member Mr. Tony Heginbottom died. Tony had been a village stalwart in so many areas and his death was a huge loss to the village.

OPEN GARDENS DAY JUNE 27th.

The village Open Gardens event took place on Saturday, June 27th when fourteen gardens were open. The weather was quite superb, and almost 200 people came along, some from as far away as Blackpool or the north-east. A profit of £1000 was made by the Society for funds, and £800 for other charities. The Society is very grateful to all those people who took part in any way.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

There have been two new planning applications since the last newsletter. One is for the erection of a bungalow at Brook Dene, next to the car park, (15/00894/FUL) and the other is for conversion of out buildings to a cottage at Lower Holme House, Booth (00891/CON). As usual, any comments can be made to Calderdale Town Planning Department.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday 30 July, and will consist of a walk up the Luddenden Valley, led by Mr. Keith Rowe, to look at the natural history of the area. It will start from outside the Lord Nelson Inn at 7pm.

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

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