

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was absolutely packed to hear local resident Victor Mitchell give an illustrated talk on his memories of Luddenden as a boy in the 1930s and 40s. For all those who missed it for one reason or another, he will give another similar talk at our Heritage Day in June (see later).

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

First of all, a thank you to all those people who objected to the creation of two small apartments from one larger one at Oats Royd mill, to increase the total of units there from 41 to 42. There were a total of 12 objectors altogether.

The first thing that we found out was that although the last date for objections was publicised as 26th February, the application came to the Planning Committee and was approved on Tuesday 23rd February. We immediately contacted the Calderdale Planning Department who had not realised this, and luckily, because the decision notices had not been issued, it was able to be heard again at the next Planning Committee meeting, last Tuesday 16th March.

Representatives from Conservation Society were present, and spoke to the committee very strongly against the plan, as did Councillor Peter Coles, our ward councillor. In spite of this, the committee voted overwhelmingly by 5 votes to 2 to accept the plan.

We did not feel, however, that we had come away totally empty-handed. The Oats Royd representative did say that he did not see there being any more of these applications after scathing remarks by Councillor Coles that yet another such application would be coming in as soon as this was accepted.

In addition, the planning officer also stated that “any further similar applications would have to be looked at very, very carefully indeed”, which seemed to be shorthand for saying that they would not be likely to grant any more. We also raised the topic of the error which had occurred over the early hearing.

The department described this as a “human error”, which we felt was then very much brushed under the table. We had asked for details of how they would ensure that this could not happen again, and we will continue to push this further to get an answer.

HERITAGE DAY

We have mentioned in previous newsletters that we intend to hold a heritage day in summer. First of all, the date has been changed, as Midgley are holding their Open Gardens weekend at the same time, and it will also be the 50th annual Mytholmroyd Gala.

The new date will now be June 26th. In the morning there will be an illustrated talk by Rodney Collinge on the History of Luddenden – A Pennine Village, followed by two different guided walks. Lunch will be available in the Methodist Church, and in the afternoon, Victor Mitchell will again give a slightly different talk on Luddenden in the 1930s and 40s, also followed by guided walks.

Throughout the day, our collection of large photographs of ‘Old Luddenden’ will be displayed in the place from which they were taken, and there will be a display of memorabilia in the Methodist Church. We are still inviting people to sponsor the large photographs.

We hope to purchase a further 12 to add to the existing 12, and 7 of these have already been sponsored. The cost is £40, and any firm or individual interested is invited to ring Trevor Oaten on 883417.

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

Officers: Rodney Collinge (President and Newsletter Editor, Phone 885141); Trevor Oaten (Chair Phone 883417), Steve Thompson (Vice Chair and Secretary); Tony Hillyard (Treasurer), Rod Atkinson (Planning Applications Officer), Patrick Gordon (Website Manager)

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LUDDENDEN GRAVEYARD

Following the last meeting, a visit was made by about 12 people to look at the old Chapel in the graveyard at the end of the road from the top entrance. It appears that Calderdale would be prepared to get rid of this. If anyone has any views on this, please bring them to the next meeting, when there will be a discussion on whether the place could be put to any community use.

BRIDGE CLUB

We have been told that a small, friendly Bridge Club is now meeting locally, and is seeking new playing members. They meet every Tuesday evening at a local licensed venue. Anyone interested should ring 01422 350336, and ask for further information from Elaine.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

We have also been asked to thank all those people who supported the Fairtrade shop and Coffee Morning during Fairtrade fortnight, which raised about £200. As usual, the shop will be open from 7pm until 8pm in the Methodist Church on March 25th, just before the next Conservation Society meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday March 25th**, in the **Methodist Church** at the junction of High Street and New Road at **8pm**.

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