

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2008

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting was the second in which we have invited a guest speaker – in this case two. The speakers were brothers Michael and Graham Newton, who gave an illustrated talk on the **Natural History of the Luddenden Valley**. The room was packed, and we were shown some startling photographs of plants, insects trees and fungi up the valley. This was followed by them leading a guided walk up the valley the following Thursday, September 4th, in the evening. The walk went up the riverside path to Booth and on to Wade wood, with many of the aspects shown on film the previous Thursday being pointed out. The walk was greatly enjoyed by the 20 or so people who went, and we are very grateful to our speakers.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been no planning applications submitted to Calderdale for this area since the last newsletter. The Society was represented at the Public Enquiry into the refusal by Calderdale to grant planning permission for a fence up New Road opposite the entrance to Carr Field Drive and above the new dwelling at Snail Quarry, held on September 2nd, in the Town Hall at Halifax. The Society put forward the view that the fence would not improve the Luddenden Conservation Area, and in particular would close off those views of the countryside beyond that have always been deemed to be one of the main features of the Conservation Area.

The decision by the Inspector came through particularly quickly, and in this he agreed with the views of the Society, and ruled that the fence must come down, which has now been done. He stated that he had some sympathy with the applicant's view that some restraint to the perceived danger posed by the 10 metre drop was needed, but suggested that something which did not stand out as much would be much more preferable.

YORKSHIRE IN BLOOM

The results have been announced this week for the Yorkshire in Bloom competition, and we are very pleased to announce that there have been two local successes, despite the village itself not having been entered. Debbie Collinge at the Lord Nelson Inn has been awarded a Gold Medal for the outstanding garden she has created at the rear, and floral decorations around the pub. She was very narrowly beaten into second place in her class by the Three Horseshoes at Oulton, near Leeds. The garden is open to all customers, and there are areas where people can bring their own barbeque if they wish. Midgley School also gained a Silver Gilt medal for their school garden. A very well done to both these entries on doing so well!

GARDENING CLUB

The meeting to see if there was any interest in forming a gardening club that was mentioned in the last newsletter took place, and there was a lot of interest shown. It was decided to meet each month on the first Tuesday, and at the next meeting, the members will be sharing this year's successes and failures, looking at the problems caused by slugs and snails, and producing an unusual recipe for a dish using their own produce. The meeting will be on October 7th in the Methodist Church at the junction of High Street and New Road at 7.30pm.

FAIR TRADE SALE

Following on from the Fair Trade coffee mornings in the Methodist Church, a new venture is to start from the beginning of October. The Church will be open for the sale of the usual range of Fair Trade goods only on the first Thursday of each month, from 7pm until 8pm. Entry will be through the top door, nearest to New Road. The first of these will be on the 2nd October, and all are welcome. During the last year, almost £2500 worth of goods were sold through this outlet, with the proceeds going to the work of the Traidcraft organisation in providing aid in developing

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countries. Not only is this very worthwhile, the goods sold are of absolutely top class standard, and the Church is hoping to increase sales even further this year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be the Annual General Meeting, at which all the officers for the next year will be elected, and any suggestions can be made for activities during the next year. It will be held in the **Lord Nelson**, at **7.45pm on Thursday, September 25th. All are invited.**

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