

A Walk around Luddenden Dean

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The history of the valley and the stories of the people who have lived, worked and worshipped here are a fragment of the story of the Industrial Revolution which transformed the whole world. Fortunately, although some of the first seeds of this revolution were sown here, they bore fruit elsewhere and so the valley has been spared the mutilation inflicted by industrialisation. The object of this booklet is to describe a little of the history of Luddenden Dean in the hope that it will enhance the enjoyment of those who walk around it.

FOREWORD

Since coming to live in the Luddenden Valley 20 years ago I have always been interested in its history and I have collected relevant press cuttings and articles when these became available to me. The spur to write the booklet came when we were thinking of ways to raise money towards the expenses of our son and his two school friends who are going on the British Schools Exploring Society's expedition to Alaska in Summer 1985.

I walked round the valley on a few occasions taking photographs and talking to people who live here. My father did some pen and ink sketches from the photographs and we put the booklet together using his sketches and the commentary I had derived from a little research and from conversations I have had. The amount of material made available to me and the memories recounted to me could fill a book, let alone a booklet. There are still many more sources of information I could research and perhaps, when I have time, I will.

For this particular exercise I have been restricted by time as to what I could include, but I hope there is sufficient information to interest all who buy the booklet. The proceeds from the sale of the booklet are entirely for the expedition expenses of three Halifax boys who are members of the British Schools Exploring Society 1985 Expedition to Alaska.

I would like to thank all those who have helped us to put the information together to promote the booklet and to Portway Press, Halifax, for their generous donation of the printing services.1985

The walk details

Distance 6 km or 4 miles

Time about 2 to 2½ hours (including refreshment and view stops)

Paths mainly on roads, lanes and good footpaths

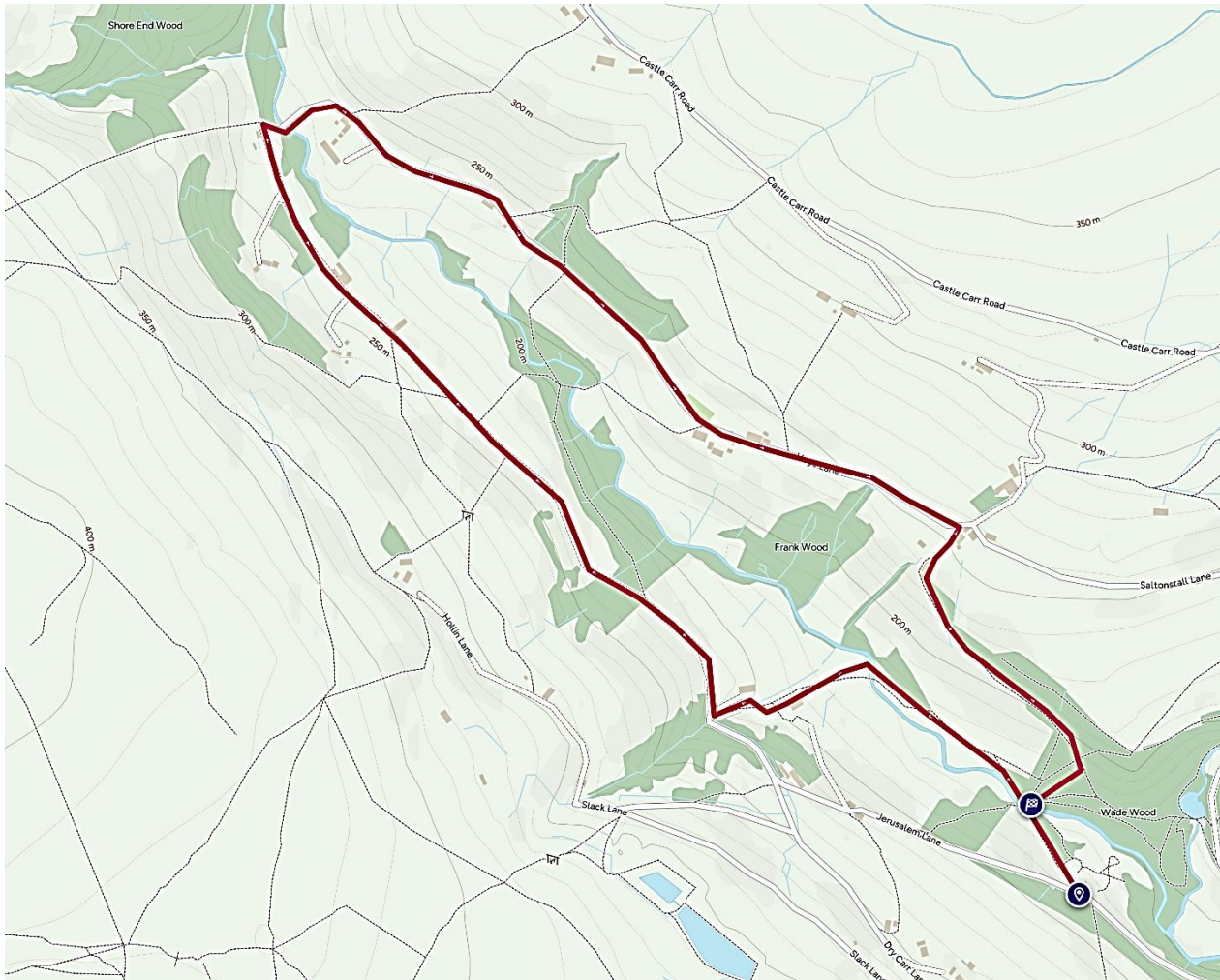
Strenuousness there's two shortish ascents and descents

Facilities Cat 'ith Well pub – short detour (check opening times).

Starting Point car park at Jerusalem Farm

(O.S. Grid reference 04159 28368)

574 Bus from Halifax via Luddendenfoot to Booth, 15 min walk to Jerusalem Farm



A convenient starting point for the walk is Jerusalem Farm since it is the only public car park in the valley, although it is only a very small one. Jerusalem Farm was originally two cottages called Hazel Grove. It now belongs to Calderdale Council and a Community Land Trust, but at one time it was the property of the Midgley family of Booth.

The Midgleys are part of the history of Luddenden Dean and the surrounding area. Booth Farm, just down the road from here, has been in the possession of the Midgley family for over 300 years. The earliest mention of them is in the Wakefield Court Rolls of 1274 and they have owned many of the older properties in the valley.



Jerusalem Farm

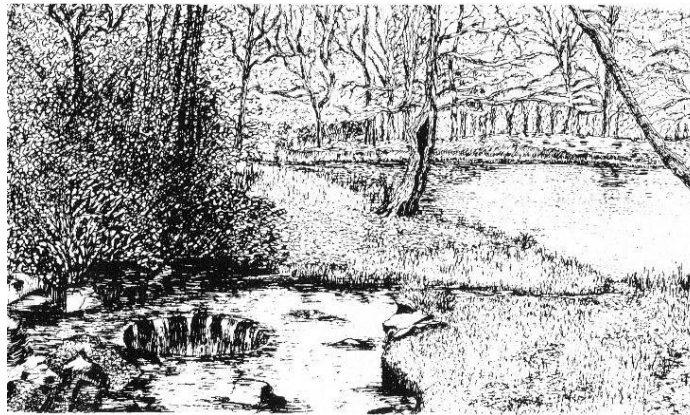
1. **From the Jerusalem Farm car park, walk down the track to Wade Bridge which is an old, stone arch bridge path over the stream. Take the 'Calderdale Way' waymarked path leading diagonally right up into Wade Wood.**

The wood is named after the Wade family who came from Warley. It has many fine old beech trees along with sycamore, birch, oak and holly. There are numerous grey squirrels if you are quick enough to spot them.

2. **When you reach the path on your left waymarked 'Calderdale Way' leading diagonally uphill, you can take an interesting, short diversion from the route by going straight ahead up to an old mill dam (now part empty), where there is a fine bench to sit and watch the wagtails. Then re-trace your steps to the Calderdale Way sign**

This is just one of the many dams made about 180 years ago by the mill owners of Wainstalls and Luddenden to control the water to power their mills. Water is impounded at Cold Edge Dams on Warley Moor above Wainstalls and at one time served several mills, before descending as the Caty Well Brook to Jowler Mill which is just above the dam. Below Jowler Mill the water from the Caty Well Brook joins the Ludd and once powered a spindle mill at Holme House Bridge. Lower down paper was manufactured using water power at Dean House Mills. Below that, Peel House Mills and Oates Royd Mills all benefited from the power of the water.

Jowler Mill functioned as a textile mill until about 1970s and must have one of the most beautiful settings of any early industrial building. To see it you have to follow the track on the left side of the dam. At the head of the dam where the stream enters there is a large, circular stone hole down which water discharges. This acts as the overflow and conveys the excess Water from the dam into a stone culvert running under the dam and out on the other side. It is now overgrown and difficult to see.



The Dam at Jowler

- 3. At the Calderdale Way sign take the path up through the wood with loads of holly trees. The route then becomes a walled track with another bench with a fine view of Luddenden Dean.**

People can still remember cattle being driven from Luddendenfoot Railway Station up to Booth, along Jerusalem Lane, over the Wade Bridge and up this track to farms higher up the valley. Pause at the bench and you will get a great view of the valley. Nearest to you on the opposite side is Hawksclough. There is a record of a house on this site in 1582, but the building which is visible now is a much later one built by the Murgatroyd family.

The track from Hawksclough leads down to the right to Lower Mytholm, with Upper Mytholm behind. Follow the clough or wooded ravine up to the left to Clough Cottage, just on the edge of the moor. The track from Clough Cottage continues up the valley to Hollin Top and then on to Ferney Lee. Hollin Top has lain derelict for a long time, but has now been re-built and is occupied again. Ferney Lee was last occupied in the 1950's, but at the time of writing is in the course of reconstruction.

Above Hollin Top, almost on the moor itself, is Pasture which is derelict. Pasture, Hollin Top and Upper Mytholm have date stones on the barn doors showing that they were built one after another in the late 18th century and they were sited on the same supply of spring water which originates above Pasture.

In the census return of 1851, names and occupations of the people in these houses illustrate the background to the development of the valley.

- Hawksclough - William and Mary Ingham and 3 children Farmer and Wool comber
- Lower Mytholm - John and Martha Dewhirst and 4 children Farmer and Wool comber
- Upper Mytholm - Sarah Baldwin and 3 brothers Wool comber
- Clough Cottage - Thomas and Jane Crossley and 3 children Farmer and Wood turner
- Hollin Top - Jonas and Jane Stirk and 3 children Farmer and Wool comber
- Ferney Lee - John and Betty Shackleton and 3 sons Farmer and Handloom weavers
- Pasture - James and Ann Ratcliffe and 8 children whose ages range from 1 to 19 Farmer and Handloom weaver. The children are all described as Wool combers

Nearly all the farms in the valley were small and the living from them was meagre and so most households created a second source of income by weaving cloth or combing wool. These cottage industries gradually declined as cloth manufacture became mechanised in the new mills that were constructed at Oates Royd, lower down the valley.

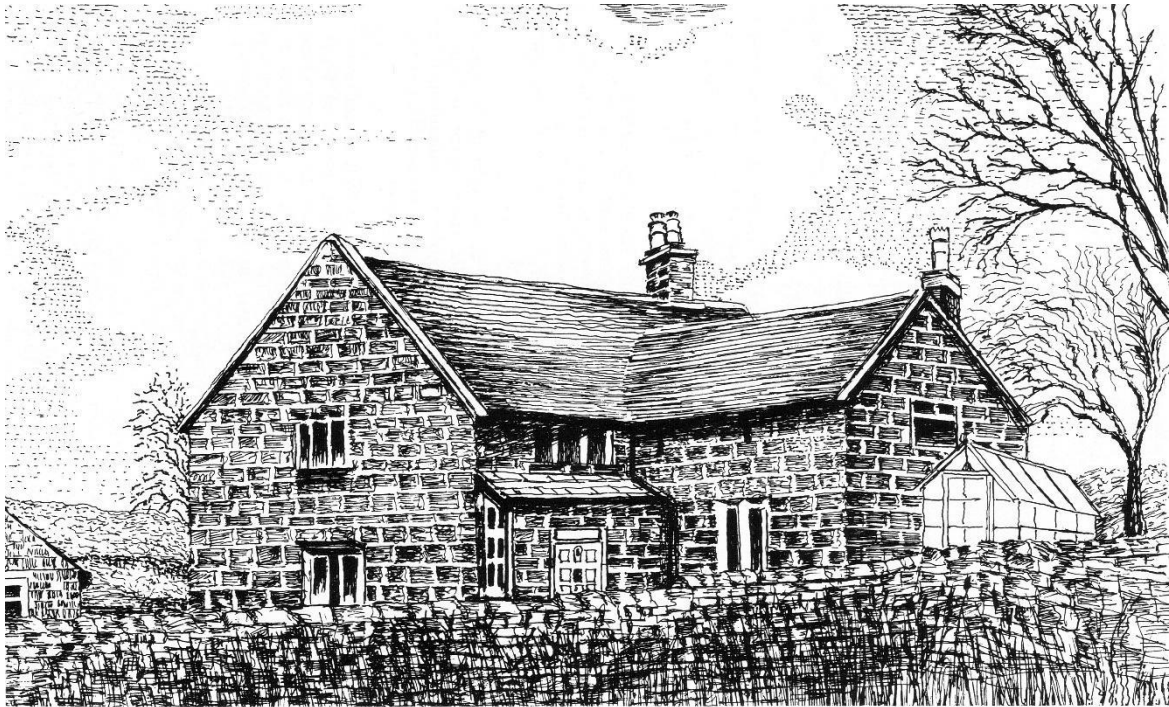
4. The track continues up to the Hullett, although its original name 'Owlet Hill' is more attractive, go through the gate and walk up the tarmac drive to Heys Lane.

Two choices here

- Turn right if you want a little refreshment and a look at the ancient hamlet of Saltonstall, walk along the road to the Cat 'ith Well pub at Lower Saltonstall which is about half a mile away.
- If not, go to **point 5**

The group of buildings at the junction of Heys Lane and Saltonstall Road is called Upper Saltonstall and the history of this area is well recorded as far back as 700 years ago.

A survey made in the reign of Edward II in 1310 records that at Saltonstall there was a 'vaccary', or cattle farm belonging to the Earls of Warren and Surrey. The name 'Stall' denotes cattle farm and is found in other local place names (Heptonstall, Wainstalls).



Upper Saltonstall

The land was divided into six parts and farmed by Earl Warren's retainers, all of whom took the name Saltonstall and in time the Saltonstalls became a very notable family. Gilbert Saltonstall was one of the Merchant Venturers of the East India Company in the first voyage of 1599, Sir Richard Saltonstall was Lord Mayor of London in 1597. A nephew of the Lord Mayor went to America with the Pilgrim Fathers and was one of the founders of Massachusetts. A descendant of his became Senator for Massachusetts in the 1960's and there is a Saltonstall Lake in Connecticut named after the American branch of the family.

Richard Saltonstall built a house called the Old Hall at Upper Saltonstall in about 1540 and later in Elizabethan times it was used by Roman Catholics as a meeting place when it was known as "Th'owd Church".

Adjoining the Old Hall was the Great House built by Gilbert Deane in 1637, but both of these are now in ruins. Saltonstall also had the infamous as well as the famous. At the time of the Cragg Vale Coiners in the second half of the 18th century, two men from Saltonstall were described on a "Wanted" notice. They were said to have instructed men how to clip edges of gold coins and make new ones from the clippings.

The road from Upper Saltonstall to Lower Saltonstall curves to the left around the hillside such that there are magnificent views down the valley. Pause at the gate on the right hand side, just beyond Upper Saltonstall and look south. In the near distance is the village of Booth set on the hillside which rises up to Crow Hill on Midgley Moor.

In the middle distance you can see the distinctive spire of St Peter's Church in Sowerby and beyond that in the far distance the radio masts of Pole Moor can be seen on the horizon. Sometimes it is possible to see vehicles on the M62, the Trans-Pennine Motorway, running across the moorland at Scammonden nearby.

The Cat 'ith Well is situated alongside the Caty Well Brook which runs down to Jowler Mill and meets the Luddenden Brook at Wade Wood. Behind the Caty is the Caty Brigg, an old stone arch bridge over the brook and high on the hillside are some rocks which are traditionally painted white each May Day, the reason for which is unknown although the practice has gone on since early this century. When you are enjoying your drink in the Caty have a look for the picture of John Preston who was a character who lived in the valley 100 years ago and is mentioned later in the booklet.

5. At the top of Hullett Drive turn left walking down the hill along Heys Lane to a cluster of houses called Throstle Bower (with another bench with fine views).

Once clear of the trees and bushes bordering the left-hand side of the road, look across to the opposite side of the valley. Near to the moor edge and directly in line with Lower Mytholm there is a dark, horizontal line and a large pile of stones. This is the site of two reservoirs which are part of a complex system of water gathering and distribution built by the Murgatroyds for their mill at Oates Royd in Luddenden. Only one dam is full since the other one collapsed soon after construction and has never held water since.



Looking down Heys Lane to Throstle Bower

There is a story concerning this water supply which illustrates the attitudes of these early mill owners. The Murgatroyds wanted to gather water from a section of the moor above Clough Cottage and run it into their reservoir. To do this they constructed an iron pipe across a piece of land which did not belong to them. The landowner let them build the conduit and then set to

and smashed it. Not to be outdone, the Murgatroyds constructed a pipeline down the hill within land which they owned to just above Upper Mytholm, ran it along to Hawksclough and then up to the reservoir. Since the catchment was higher than the outfall, water flowed into the reservoir. This pipe can be seen discharging into the reservoir to this day.

Throstle Bower Farm was built in about 1850 by Thomas Lister. The ruined building at the end of Throstle Bower cottages is the remains of Luddenden Dean Sunday School built in 1878 and pulled apart in the 1970's.

6. A little further down the road, on the right, is a small graveyard and it is here where Luddenden Dean Chapel used to stand until it was burnt down in 1954. There is a sheltered bench in the graveyard.

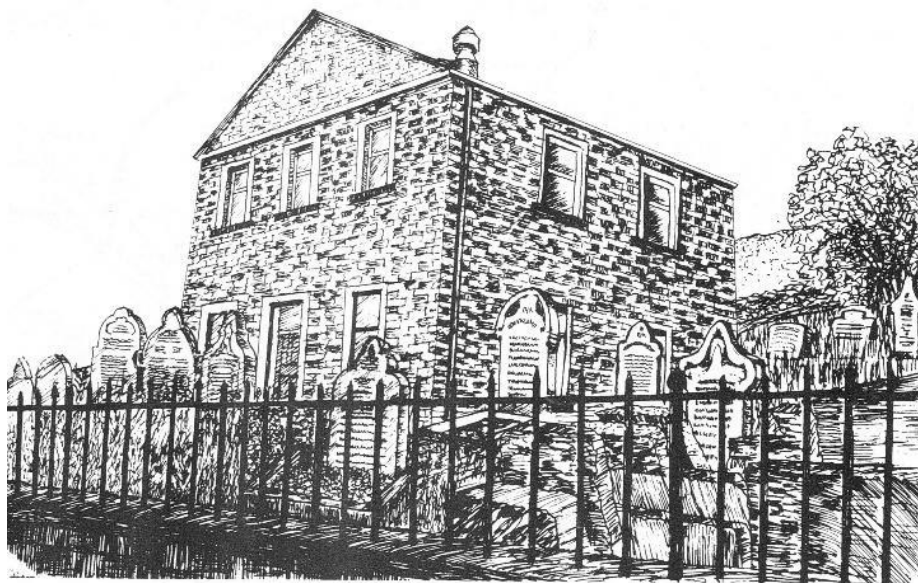
During the latter part of the 18th century the preachings of John Wesley and George Whitfield made a great impression upon the hardy, independent people of the Luddenden Valley and surrounding area. A chapel was built in Luddenden in 1811 and another in Mount Tabor in 1820, but the people of Luddenden Dean wanted a meeting place nearer. In 1820 they started to meet at Head House (a small farm occupied by Thomas and John Sutcliffe) in what was to be Castle Carr estate. They also met at Castle Carr Farm for preaching services conducted by friends from Luddenden.

Head House was too small for the growing congregation and so the meeting place was changed to Catherine House Farm. Anniversary services were held in the barn here for seven years. Catherine House can be seen on the opposite side of the valley and is noted on the sketch map.

Prayer meetings were also held in an old, stone shack called Hutton situated opposite Catherine House, near Upper Heys Wood. This has been a ruin for over 80 years. Apparently, the founders of Booth Congregational Church also met here in 1760. In 1828, sufficient money had been raised by subscription and so the chapel was built at a cost of £459.

Luddenden Dean Chapel had a very strong following for many years and in 1878 the Sunday School was built nearby. The anniversaries held at Luddenden Dean became an annual pilgrimage for people far and wide who were associated with the chapel. Some still remember the local farmers wearing their top hats, drawing up in a pony and trap outside the chapel.

The chapel burned down in 1954 and so services were transferred to the Sunday School. The congregations declined and it was only on anniversary day that people came flocking back. The trustees sold the building and it is tragic that it was pulled apart and left in its present state.



Luddenden Dean Chapel, burnt down in 1954

Two notable characters who were preachers at the chapel in its early years were Thomas Greenwood who was also called "Tommy O' th' Heys" and Thomas Midgley. Thomas Greenwood was also a farmer and would sometimes deliver his fiery sermons wearing his working clothes and clogs. At one time when he was treasurer, he produced an old teapot at the annual audit from which he poured money. His treasurer's report was "Aw've put all in theer 'at aw've drawn and ta'en all a't 'at aw've paid".

Thomas Midgley preached from 1834 to 1897 in Luddenden Dean and the nearby Methodist circuits of Huddersfield, Halifax, Keighley, Shipley, Bingley and Howarth. He was honoured to speak at the City Road Chapel, London on two occasions and was informally dubbed the Bishop of Luddenden Dean.



Gravestone in Luddenden Dean graveyard

In the graveyard there is one tombstone at the front which is worth a close inspection. It records the deaths of seven children, orphans, who worked at Calverts Mill in Wainstalls. Between 1890 and 1903, 72 girls aged between 11 and 12 were imported into the district from Kirkdale Industrial School, Liverpool, in order to work part-time at the mill. In the school register the mill owner's name is given as their "guardian".

7. Walk beyond the chapel graveyard, passing Heys Wood on your right.

In the field on the left a new house is being built. At one time a farm called Nunnery stood on the site. The reason for the name is not known, but it is doubtful whether it had anything to do with a convent. There is another fine bench view here.

The next group of buildings after Nunnery is collectively known as The Lowe. About 30 years ago there was a Youth Hostel at the Lowe.

8. Continue beyond The Lowe and the road swings to the left, dropping down to the stone arch bridge over Luddenden Brook. Climb up the track from the bridge and turn left along Catherine House Lane, going under the arch of the lodge of Castle Carr.

Castle Carr estate is now a sheep farm and there is no public access. It should be remembered that all the farmland in the valley is private and unless there is a public footpath or bridleway across the land walkers should not trespass. They could quite unwittingly cause damage to the farmers' livelihood.

A hundred years ago Castle Carr was a magnificent country estate with a mock Tudor castle overlooking lakes and ornamental fountains. Joseph Priestley Edwards of Fixby Hall, Huddersfield, saw the potential of this beautiful, remote part of Luddenden Dean and he started to buy parcels of land and farms in 1852 which eventually became the Castle Carr Estate. He engaged Mr. Thomas Risling and later Mr. John Hogg, who was architect of Crossley & Porter School, to design a Tudor Castle. It was built by masons who lived in Warley and Midgley and they worked under the direction of a Mr. William Pickles of Midgley. His head gardener at Fixby Hall, Mr. Ponto, designed the extensive gardens. The castle took 12 years to build and it was constructed on a grand scale. The entrance from the carriage drive passed under a fine Norman arch with portcullis enclosed by a pair of massive, studded oak doors.

There was a grand banqueting hall, 56 ft x 28 ft, a picture gallery, 50 ft X 14 ft, a grand hall, 40 ft x 40 ft and 60 ft high, with an elaborate stone

staircase. There was a billiard room, 33 ft x 21 ft, bedrooms, dressing rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, game larders, wine cellars and even a hydraulic lift for taking coals to the upper rooms.

At the centre of the castle complex there was an open, paved courtyard, 130 ft x 80 ft, with a massive stone basin in the centre, complete with a fountain supported by four Talbot Hounds.

Gas was manufactured at a special gas works adjoining the bottom lodge and stored in a gasometer just a little further up the drive before being piped up to the castle.

The parkland and shooting moorland. covered nearly 3,000 acres, with plantations of larch, scotch fir, beech and huge displays of choice rhododendrons. Two lakes of ornamental water lay just below the castle surrounded by elaborate, carved stonework and with fountains which played over 100 ft high. A long driveway led from the reservoirs just above the Castle to the Upper Lodge and the road to Wainstalls.

These ornamental lakes and fountains were constructed by virtue of the settlement of a legal transaction between Joseph Priestley Edwards and Halifax Corporation. The Corporation had legal powers to construct a reservoir just below Castle Carr and this would have provided a magnificent lake for J. P. Edward's baronial castle.

After engineering boreholes had been drilled it was concluded that it could not be built on that site. Edwards came to an agreement with the Corporation that they could have some extra land to build the reservoir higher up and that the regulation basins were to be elaborately constructed ornamental lakes and fountains.

Edwards did not live to see the completion of his dream of a baronial castle in Luddenden Dean. He was killed in the Abergele train disaster of 1868 and his son, Lea Priestley Edwards, finished his father's work.

This annexing of the upper part of Luddenden Dean by the Edwards family must have caused a lot of ill feeling since it had been used as a right of way from time immemorial. With the creation of the Castle Carr Estate, it was effectively closed to the public.

Lea Priestley Edwards lived at the Castle from 1873 to 1876 and then sold the estate to Joseph Laycock who held it for 16 years. In 1882, William Leppington bought it from Laycock, but sold it again in 1895 to John Murgatroyd of Broad Fold. It was owned by the Murgatroyds until 1949 when it was sold and demolished.

In less than 100 years after its creation this huge, stone building was reduced to rubble. The stone was sold and large tracts of timber were cut down and sold also. The remains of the estate is used for shooting.



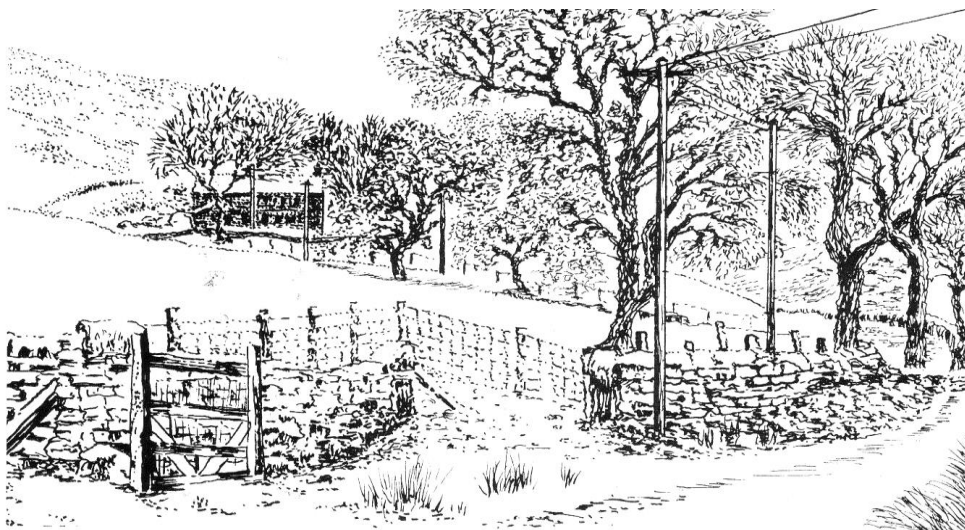
Castle Carr as it used to be

The estate is now a sheep farm and all that remains of the Edwards baronial castle is the gateway and portcullis, along with the stumps of this once fine structure. The ornamental lakes are still there, but the fountains no longer play, except for occasional charity fund raising events.

In the days of the Murgatroyd family the estate was opened to the public at Whitsuntide and huge crowds of people would walk from Wainstalls, or Booth, to see the fountains play. It is a sad reflection on the way we conduct our affairs that two fine buildings — Luddenden Dean Sunday School and Castle Carr — which were so much a part of Luddenden Dean - were destroyed in this way.

Until fairly recently the Bottom Lodge stood empty, but it has now been converted back into a house. The well cultivated vegetable patch, duck pond and collection of livestock shows how the owner enjoys his own secluded castle. Please take care to respect his privacy.

9. Continue ahead on the track passing three old dwellings.



Arrowbutt Lee

The first house on the right is Arrowbutt Lee. A dwelling has stood on this spot for hundreds of years. The name 'Arrowbutt' suggests that it was an area where local bowmen practised their shooting. An act of 1543 required all men under 60 years of age to possess bow and arrows to practice at the Butts which were maintained at public expense. Other local "practice areas" are Kell Butts, Wainstalls and Butts Green above Luddenden.

A little further along the track leading from the lodge there is a driveway on the right to a small building called Goose Nest.

This, too, has been brought back into use as a dwelling fairly recently. At one time this building had a beer licence and was kept by a man called "Daniel o', Tommy o', th', Heys". It must have been a stop-over for pack horses making their way over the moors from Oxenhope to Halifax. A track can still be made out over the moor at Goose Green above. From here it went down to Catherine House and across the brook at New Bridge in Spa Wood. The track can be made out in the fields on the opposite side running diagonally to Throstle Bower. The pack horse route then progressed to Saltonstall and went into Halifax through Mount Tabor.

The next farm on the left is Catherine House. It is here that Luddenden Dean Chapel congregation met for seven years before the chapel was built on the opposite side of the valley.

10. **Continue on the track from Catherine House and three fields further along, on the left, is a yellow top post marking a footpath which leads down the wall to a squeeze stile. After squeezing through, turn right along the wall and then at a junction head left downhill to the bridge and to what is known as Luddenden Dean Spa. A fine spot for a snack or lunch.**



New Bridge, Luddenden Dean Spa

Nearly 100 years ago this was a well-known meeting place and each first Sunday in May, people would gather from as far away as Crimsworth and Pecket Well to listen to the annual sermon, delivered in the open air, by a character called John Preston. John Preston probably came from Stanbury, near Howarth, and lived more than 30 years in Luddenden Dean, seldom sleeping in a bed.

He generally "lodged" at Hutton, the old stone shanty near Upper Heys Wood and sometimes at Goose Nest. He was a small, mild man who did not have a fixed occupation and "took no thought for the morrow". Preston would allow his congregation to assemble and then lead off the hymn singing and prayers.

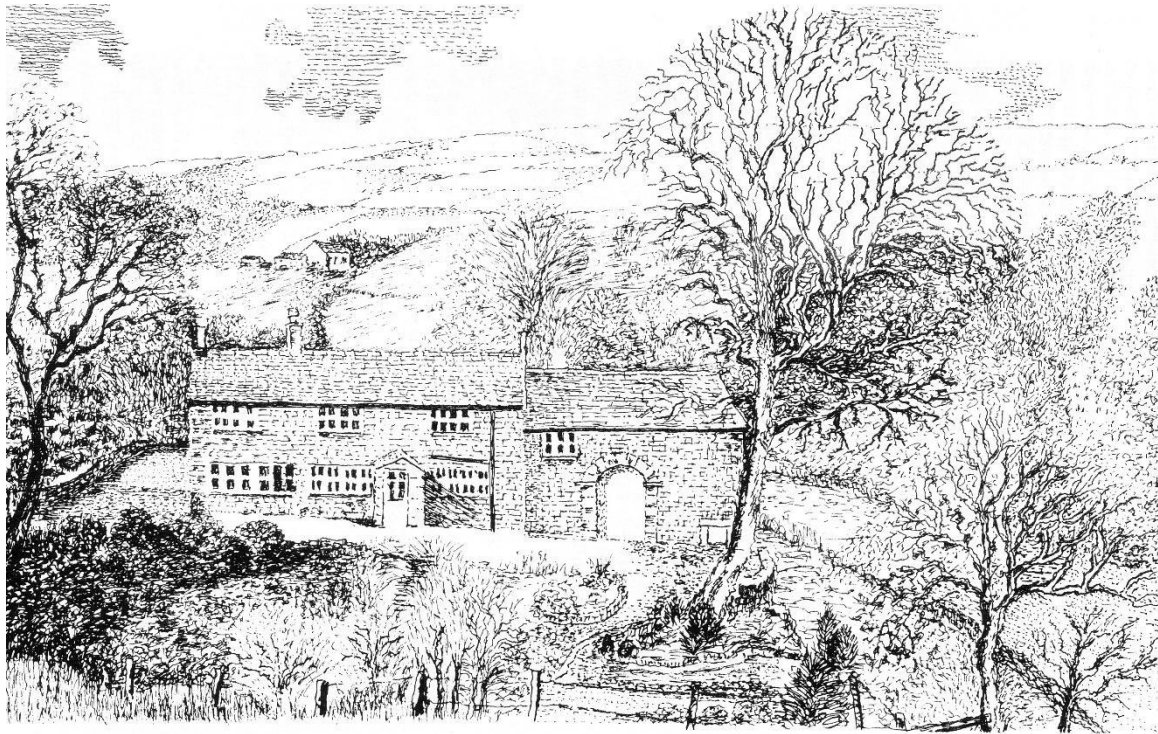
His sermon would last for up to half an hour and though the source of his preaching was the Bible, he would also make comment on local affairs and the weather. Several "helpers" would assist in taking the collection which one year was swelled appreciably owing to the Oates Royd Brass Band coming along with several hundred followers. The collection was used to 'wet the whistles' of Preston and his helpers at the Cat 'ith Well.

As a token of appreciation to Preston's early patronage, there is a photograph of him hanging in the Cat 'ith Well to this day. He died from exposure and was buried at Luddenden Dean Chapel where there is a gravestone inscribed, "J.P.". On his funeral card there was the following verse:

"Now time with me has run its course
A rough one I can tell
But now I leave you all behind
And bid you all farewell".

New Bridge is a stone arched packhorse bridge over the brook and near to an old fording place.

- 11. Retrace your steps to the junction and turn up left to continue following the wall on a narrow uneven path.. There is a small stream crossing and just after you bear right uphill through the beech trees to the wall corner. When you see the bridleway and a metal gate on your left, look over the wall and there is a stone stile. From the gateway turn left on to the bridleway.**



Upper Mytholm

Catherine House Lane has now become Wood Lane, look back at the magnificent beech trees as you walk down towards Upper Mytholm which is the next house on the route.

Look across the valley along this stretch, following the early part of the walk from the Hullett. Above the Hullett is Upper Saltonstall, higher still is Lower Green Edge and finally at the top and to the left is Upper Green Edge. It is here that a branch of the Murgatroyd family started in the 18th century and the fortunes of that family illustrate how rapidly the Industrial Revolution developed in this area.

John Murgatroyd was one of the most successful weaver farmers. He and his family earned their living weaving cloth and farming at Upper Green Edge. Like many of the other farms in the Luddenden Dean, there was insufficient good land for each farm to be self-sufficient and so the farmers wove cloth to supplement their income.

Upper Green Edge is typical of these farms, having a long row of mullioned windows on the upper floor to allow as much light as possible to enter for the weaving activities. Alongside is a large barn to house the cattle and to store hay.

John Murgatroyd's son, another John, left Upper Green Edge in 1835 when he married and he set up in business on his own account at Paris Gates, Luddenden Dean. John senior stayed at Upper Green Edge weaving cloth and he rented a room at Halifax Piece Hall.

John junior bought the Oates Royd estate and built the first Oates Royd Mill in 1847. He also moved into the house called Oates Royd and added a new

Victorian front. Business prospered and he added two more sections to the mill in 1856 and 1865. The single storey weaving shed was added in about 1885.

The influence of the Murgatroyds and the employment created at Oates Royd Mill had a profound effect on the lives of all who lived in Luddenden Dean. Within less than 100 years the Murgatroyd family had risen from weavers and farmers at Upper Green Edge to be the owners of the huge Oates Royd Mills at Luddenden. They lived in a mansion at Broad Fold, Booth, and were owners of the Castle Carr Estate and many farms in the Upper Valley. With the decline of the Textile Industry, most of these properties have passed back into separate ownership and the mills stand empty.

- 12. As you pass the track down to Upper Mytholm, you take the narrow footpath bearing off to the left. Follow the path above the stream on your left to a house on your right which is Lower Mytholm. You go through stiles and gates down to the Luddenden Brook where you cross a bridge and continue ahead.**

Mytholm means "meeting of the waters" and so Upper and Lower Mytholm are above and below the meeting of the stream with Luddenden Brook.

Upper Mytholm was originally a farm with a cottage attached and has the typical mullioned weavers windows like so many in the valley.

The old timber beams which were previously the crossing at this point was known locally as "Bilton Pier" named after the man who originally bridged the brook at this point.

- 13. Don't be seduced by the grassy Riverside Path, take the path going up to the left which runs above the river. Where the path forks, bear right down to a wide gate into Jerusalem farm and you will arrive at Wade bridge, below the car park.**



Wade Bridge