

The Past,
the Present
and a plan
for the Future



Blackshaw 2010 Parish Plan

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Colden School

Blackshaw Head

It rains a lot and it's very cold.
It used to be colder so I'm told,
When the wind blows I curl up all my toes
But I love it up here, loads and loads.

(A young) Fay Garratt



Blackshaw Fete



Working together

The previous Blackshaw Parish Plan was published in July 2003 with the aim "to make Blackshaw an even better place to live and work". That is also the aspiration of this the second Blackshaw Parish Plan. The previous plan was recognition by the local community that if Blackshaw was to work as a community it was up to the members of that community to make it work.

In the last fifty years Blackshaw has gone through many changes. The closure of the mills and the general decline in local employment has had a dramatic impact on the local population with many residents leaving and eventually being replaced by "offcumden" commuters. A critical point was reached in 1979 when Blackshaw Head Methodist Church needed a new roof. This was the wake up call the Parish needed and led indirectly to the Parish Council having its first election in many years with 11 candidates for the 7 seats. Working together the community raised the funds to repair the Chapel roof and started the patient process of rebuilding the community.

Despite these efforts in 2002 the threatened closure of the last two pubs at Blackshaw Head and Kebcote was another crisis for the community. This led to the development of the 2003 Parish Plan and in 2007 another contested election to the Parish Council. Through the determined efforts of enough members of the community that plan has, by common consent, achieved most of its objectives.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a map to nurture the community and ensure that Blackshaw continues to

be a "better place to live and work". The activists who got involved in 1979 are 30 years older and the people who made the 2003 plan a success are not getting any younger. The 2010 plan will depend on new people wanting to get involved and a younger generation taking ownership of the future of the community.

The 2010 plan has been developed by the WayaHead Committee over the last two years through endless discussions, research and meetings. These were initially used to inform and develop the 2009 Blackshaw Parish Household survey which was sent to every household on the electoral register. The results of the survey were then fed back to the community through newsletters, the Hebden Bridge Times and discussions at Focus Groups, consultation events, the annual Blackshaw Fete and more meetings.

A key feature of the process has been the Blackshaw Googlegroup email system which was started in 2002 and now has over 130 members, reaching about a third of all the local households. This provides a quick form of information dissemination, feedback and debate. The system is so extensive that even those households not directly connected to the Googlegroup are likely to be kept informed by their neighbours through word of mouth.

This plan is a tribute to the hard work of the members of the WayaHead Committee under the Chair Phil Knowles and Dorothy Sutcliffe, Lucy Brill, Roger Munday, Sally Jones, Steve Hoyle, Tim Cole, and Tony Burger. Thanks also to Jan Melloy, Steve North, Debbie McCall, Fran Bayley, Maggie Boyle, and Peter Coles. Not forgetting Phil Ratcliffe, Principle Policy Planning Officer with Calderdale Council and of course Rural Action Yorkshire, whose generous grant made the whole process possible.

Lars Hansen
**Clerk to the WayaHead Committee
and Blackshaw Parish Council**





The new Delight

Blackshaw Parish

Blackshaw is a predominantly rural South Pennine Parish within the area of Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and is a part of the Calder Valley Parliamentary Constituency. The bulk of the Parish is part of the Calder Terrace moorland fringe and upland pasture framed by the moorland tops, Noah Dale, the wooded Colden and Jumble Hole Cloughs and crossed by the Pennine Way. The Parish stretches from the valley settlement of Charlestown on the busy A646 between Hebden Bridge and Todmorden to the high moorland plateau on the border with Lancashire at Hoof Stones Height (479 metres high). The upland settlement of Blackshaw Head sits on the ancient trans-Pennine "Long Causeway" 12 miles from Halifax and 7 miles from Burnley. On 1 December 2009 there were 399 people registered on the electoral roll for Blackshaw and 323 for Charlestown. It is estimated that there is a population of approximately 1,000 people.

The Parish has one Church, known as Blackshaw Head Methodist Church or Chapel, and two pubs The New Delight at Blackshaw Head and The Sportsman at Kebcote.

The area is served by two primary schools, Colden Junior and Infants and Hebden Royd, both of which are just outside the Parish Boundary.

There are no shops in the Parish but the nearby award winning "Mays" farm shop at Colden provides an excellent service not only delivering newspapers and magazines but also providing an invaluable delivery service to the elderly and housebound.



The Sportsman

Blackshaw Parish Council

Blackshaw Parish Council was created in 1894 out of the much larger and ancient Stansfield Township as part of a major national re-organisation of local administration.

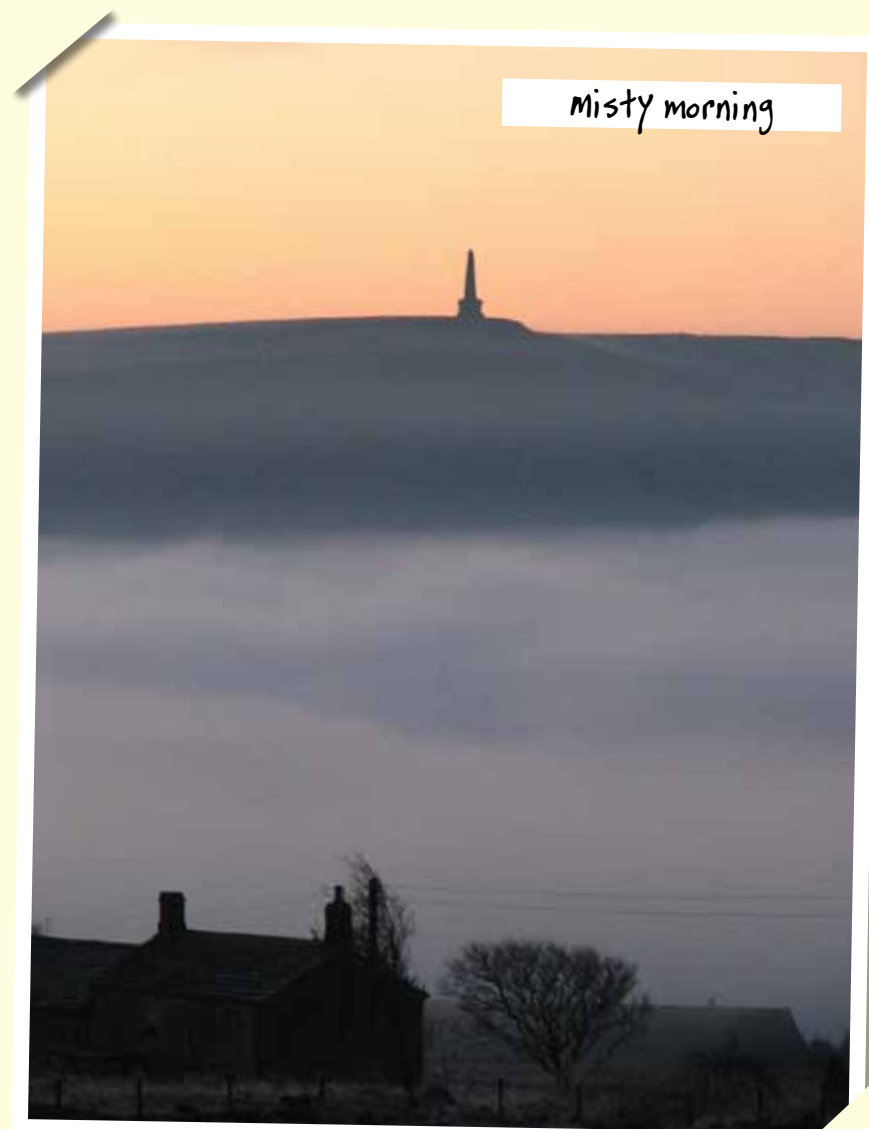
The Parish Council has 7 Councillors, who are elected every four years with the next election scheduled for May 2011. The Council normally meets in Blackshaw Head Methodist Church although meetings could be held in the nearby Hebden Bridge Town Hall, as part of an agreement with Calderdale Council dating back to 1974. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month except in May and December.

The May meeting is also the Annual Parish Council Meeting when the Chair for the year has to be elected. According to statute the Chair is still known as "Chairman". The May meeting is normally held on the second Monday of May because Parish Council elections are normally the first Thursday in May after which the Council is legally required to meet within ten days.

The May meeting is preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting to which members of the public are invited. All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the Press, members of the public and at the discretion of the Chair everyone is allowed to speak. Meetings are publicised on the two official notice boards and via email to the Blackshaw Googlegroup.

The WayaHead Committee

The WayaHead Committee is responsible for developing the Parish Action Plan and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The Chair of the Committee is usually not a Councillor. Being a small Council all the Councillors are members of the committee but they are usually outnumbered by local residents who become members by attending.



Belle Royd



History of Blackshaw Parish

Blackshaw Parish has two historical societies. One at Charlestown, based in the lower part of the Parish has spent many years building up information on its website. (www.charlestownhistory.org.uk). The other, Blackshaw Historical Group or Shed, was formed in 2003 as part of "The Vital Villages" Initiative and still holds regular informal meetings and carries out research on a main topic of historical interest relating to the parish every year. Presentations displaying the results of our research are held in Blackshaw Head Chapel on the day of the annual Fete. Subjects so far are the census returns for 1851 and 1891, the history of Farming, Settlement, the Textile Industry, non-conformity and the Chapel and the effect of the First World War on the community.

In this way a body of knowledge has been built up about the history of the area, which, hitherto, with the exception of Charlestown, had been almost wholly neglected in historical research. The following article strives to give a rough outline of the history of our parish, on the basis of information so far gleaned in preparing these presentations.



shed exhibition at the chapel

Early Times and the Pre Conquest Period

The West Yorkshire Archaeology Survey records finds of flints on Staups Moor dating back many thousands of years. It is hard to envisage the landscape of these early times but it was not until two and half thousand years ago that Iron Age farmers succeeded in clearing the rough scrub and woodland that covered the area enabling some rudimentary farming to be carried out on the upper terraces of the valley. It was well after the Norman Conquest before the valley floor itself was cleared of dense woodland.

There is some evidence in Blackshaw of these early inhabitants. Besides an ancient track leading to Lower

Rawtenstall, there is an "orthostatic" wall (wall made up of vertical stones) which could be many thousands of years old and fringing the waters of Hippians Clough below the farmhouse there are the remains of a massively constructed boundary wall possibly Iron Age in date. Other than a pre-conquest quern also found at Hippians, there is no tangible evidence of so-called Dark Age inhabitants of the area.

It is to language and dialect that we must look for signs of people who were lived in the area in the Anglo-Saxon period. It is known that there was a considerable influx of Norwegian settlers via Ireland and Lancashire into the Pennine dales. They left a signature of their presence deeply rooted in the Yorkshire dialect in words such as bairn (child), flit

(move house), gawp (stare), hey up (hello), laik (play) familiar to all those who had a Yorkshire childhood. Our description of the landscape owes much to these people i.e. fell, beck, ness, moss, and scar. More specifically many words of Norse origin are used to describe settlement and farming. For settlement there are words such as toft, thorpe, gate, flags etc and for farming acre, ing, midden, muck, scale, seat, sett (summer pasture).

Post Norman Conquest and Medieval Times

After the Norman Conquest Stansfield township entered the historical record as part of the vast manor



of Wakefield. The Domesday Book refers to nine berewicks of which Stansfield is one, and 60 caracutes of land only half of which was ploughed, implying a large amount of land was "waste" or pasture.

The first mention of a local name was of Rawtenstall called "Ructunstall" in a charter of 1238, which referred to it as a "vill". In fact it had become a "subfeudinated" manor within the Manor of Wakefield that is it was leased to a minor lord who paid rent to the feudal manor. The original Manorial lords were the Thornhills who gave over the lease to the Saviles in the late 14c.

The Wakefield Court rolls in 1275 refer to a John Del Grenwode being fined "for the escape of three beasts into the meadow at Routunstall".

There are numerous entries in the rolls recording transfers of land and the various misdemeanours of the vill's inhabitants and appropriate fines levied from the 13th to the 15th century.

There are currently three farms with the appendage "Rawtenstall": Far, Higher and Lower. Lower Rawtenstall was probably the centre of the medieval settlement. The manor had its own manor house, manorial court and mill (Hudson Mill) for grinding the

manor's corn/oats. It is difficult to ascertain how extensive this feudal manor was but ridge and furrow marks characteristic of medieval arable agriculture can still be seen above Shay bend (see photo). The settlement at Rawtenstall continued to be a substantial with a large number of families are recorded as living there in the 19th century.

The warmer climate of the 12th and 13th centuries enabled arable farming to take place at these altitudes. However, over population, soil exhaustion, a cooler and wetter climate, and plague signalled the end of the feudal system.

The Development of the Dual Economy- Textiles and Farming

In the West Riding in general and the township of Stansfield in particular the development of the textile industry was to play a part in reviving and expanding the economy and bringing unrivalled prosperity to the area.

The involvement of the Halifax region in the textile industry goes back many centuries, but this was only a very small scale until the late 15th century. Hitherto York and Beverley had been its great centres, but rigid guild regulations and increased costs of production signalled their sharp decline. This was to the benefit of the Pennine areas, where there was no guild regulation and a plentiful supply of fast flowing water to power the fulling mills to wash the wool.

Some individuals had prospered in the midst of the declining late medieval economy. They had survived plague and had benefited from increasing freedom, lower regulation and rents and higher wages. From the late sixteenth century onwards their descendants looked to take in land from the waste beyond the old manorial boundaries ('assarting') and the spur was the increasing economic potential of the textile industry.

Daniel Defoe passed through the region in 1724 and the comments he recorded in his book "A Tour Through The Whole Of The Island Of Great Britain 1724" gives us a valuable insight into this economy at its most vibrant period:

"The nearer we came to Halifax... the sides of the hills..., were spread with houses, and that very thick; for the land being divided into small enclosures from two to seven acres... every three or four pieces of land had a house belonging to it."

"... I found that the division of the land into small pieces and scattering of the dwellings was done for the convenience of the business which the people were generally employed in... This business is the clothing trade."

"We could see that at almost every house there was a tenter and on almost every tenter a piece of cloth or kersie or shalloon... wherever we passed any house we found a little rill or gutter of running water... and at every considerable house was a manufactory or work-house."

"Then as every clothier must keep a horse, perhaps two to fetch and carry for the use of his manufacture... so every manufacturer generally keeps a cow or two or more for the use of his family and this employs the... enclosed land about his house for they scarce sow corn enough for their cocks and hens."

The aim was to create a landholding or farming unit that would be large enough to achieve self-sufficiency in conjunction with weaving activities. The land had to have its own water supply and the plentiful distribution of spring water provided the essential infrastructure for the spread of settlements. It had also to be extensive enough to pasture a horse or cattle and for tenting cloth, and have an area to grow oats, perhaps keeping pigs and poultry, the whole large enough for the family's subsistence. Thus was the "Dual Economy" created.

By such a process the yeomen/clothiers emerged and with them a distinctive form of architecture and pattern of farm holdings in the landscape. There are some fine yeoman clothiers houses in the Blackshaw region such as Strines, Fieldhead (the back of the house betray its early origins), Lower Moss Hall and Hippins. These buildings were constructed on early "assarts from the waste" and their location and early date possibly define the outer boundaries of the manor of Rawtenstall.



Weaving was concentrated initially in the clothier's house itself. Raw wool and later, cotton was distributed to cottagers to spin and the yarn was woven into "pieces" to be sold at cloth halls and markets. Land sublet from larger holdings in small one or two-acre plots enabled the "outworkers" to maintain a balance between farming and textiles at a less prosperous level. This was called "The Domestic System".

As there was mutual need of each other's economic input between clothiers and outworkers in the "Domestic System", so there was similar economic interdependence between textiles and agriculture in the "Dual Economy" The whole created a virtuous circle that led to unbridled prosperity for the textile regions of the West Riding centered on Halifax, in which our region in the upper Calder Valley shared.

Colden valley

Early Industrialisation

The latter part of the eighteenth century was a period of great technical advances as the industrial revolution got underway and at the forefront of this change was the textile industry. Amongst these developments were John Kay's "Flying Shuttle" of 1733, James Hargreaves "The Spinning Jenny" of 1764 and Sir Richard Arkwright "Water Frame" of 1769. Arkwright's Cromford mill which opened in Derbyshire in 1771 became the template for cotton spinning on an industrial scale and the model for factory production. There were further improvements in the spinning process with the invention of Samuel Crompton's spinning mule of 1770.

It was not long before industrial production reached our region. The part of Stansfield Township that was later to become Blackshaw Parish was admirably suited topographically to take advantage of the new industrial processes. Colden Water and Jumble Hole Clough each provide a good flow of water descending from over one thousand feet to the Valley floor, falling about one hundred and eighty feet per mile.

"Blackshaw Head for travellers" is an eighteenth century saying that refers to its location on the great transpennine route of the Long Causeway, together with the favourable topography and network of pack horse causeys, which had been established during the earlier days of the Dual Economy that encouraged the development of early water-powered textile mills.

Wealthy local families (e. g the Horsfalls of Staups Mill, Cowbridge Mill and Winters Mill) were quick to exploit the opportunities offered by the new technology and the special geographical qualities of the area. The late 18th century saw several water-powered cotton spinning mills being built to utilise the new technology. Amongst these were Staups, Spa, Cow Bridge and Jumble Hole Mill in Jumble Hole Clough, and Winter's Mill on Dale Clough which is a tributary of the main stream. On Colden Water there were Land Mill, Rodmer Clough Mill and the old manorial Hudson Mill which was converted to cotton spinning at about this time.

There were usually complex water engineering works associated with the building of these mills with header and compensation dams and sluices. The aim being to supply a sufficient head of water to turn the wheel and power the mill machinery even when the natural flow of water was very low many of these can still be found on or near the streams. Often mills were built quite close together to take advantage of the fall of the stream in that area such as Spa Mill and Cowbridge Mill in Jumble Hole Clough. In these deep sided valleys with their good "head" of water, the more efficient "overshot" water wheel could be employed whereas in the valley sited on the slower flowing river, mills were fitted with "breast- shot" or "undershot" wheels.

Parallel to the development of cotton spinning was the slower growth in the upper valley of worsted spinning

which was based on the use of longer and rougher staple woollen yarns such as at Rodmer Clough Mill. Worsted spinning eventually came to predominate over cotton in the heart of the textile districts.

With spinning having moved from cottage to factory and finished yarn being available in much greater quantity, there was a great demand for weavers. Yeoman Clothier's houses were no longer the sole places which housed the looms as they had done in the "Domestic System". In fact many of these houses became subdivided into separate dwellings and rented out. Hand loom weavers living in cottages and farmhouses wove the yarn supplied by the factories. The late eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries were the great age of the hand

loom weaver. Their houses provide much of the historic built environment of the parish as we see it today.

The 1851 Census shows that the Dual Economy was still operating with many farming households having occupants employed in one or both trades. In over one in seven farms the farmer himself was a hand loom weaver with his wife being employed in the mills often as a "bobbin winder".

This was also a golden age for farming itself. The 18th and early 19th centuries besides being a time of great technical change in industry also witnessed a countrywide improvement in farming both in terms of land organization and cultivation. The enclosure movement which lasted in this area from 1778-1848 totally transformed the landscape, creating the kind of rural environment over the region that we are familiar with today. It had the effect of leading to more productive land use and better organisation and management. The adoption of root crops such as potatoes was a great improvement. Allied to the ready availability of cheap labour, careful husbandry ensured the land was farmed and cultivated in a very conscientious way not achieved before or since. Fields were cropped in rotation

e.g. with potatoes then oats for a few years then turned to meadow. The land was limed, manured and well drained. There is as much stone hidden beneath the landscape as displayed above it. Meticulously built stone-lined drains provide an extensive network of drainage criss-crossing the sub-surface of the fields.

The success of the mills, diversified support industries and a growing workforce and population ensured a greater demand for locally sourced food, with the result that, as the 1851 census shows; several farms were doing quite well just from farming alone. Over half of the sixteen farms under nine acres recorded no-one working in the textile industry.

Later Industrialisation

The appearance of power loom weavers in the census heralded change (there were twenty-three recorded in the 1851 census). Steam power was slow to take over from water power, often being employed in mills with better access and some mills even used both forms motive power for a time but it was in power loom weaving that steam was to prove its efficacy and superiority.

This sounded the death knell for the handloom weaver. All textile processes were soon concentrated in the mill, and the mills themselves moved away from the remote upland valleys and cloughs where they had previously been sited. The growth of the railway network and the improved communications enabled for the delivery of supplies and the distribution of



Blackshaw food network

finished goods further concentrated industry in the valley bottoms.

Farming also declined as the railways provided a greater variety of food. In the latter part of the 19th century oats fell out of favour as the staple bread cereal to be replaced by imported American wheat and the idea of self-sufficiency lost its purpose and viability.

The progress of the industrial revolution had by the late 1870s totally swept away the twin props of the Dual Economy just as the last fringes of moorland were enclosed. Copley Holme on Staups Moor provides a classic example of how far this final enclosure movement went before being halted by the changed economic circumstances (see photo). From that point on the long retreat of cultivated land began, smaller farms disappeared and were amalgamated with larger ones. Farming reverted to pasturing animals which is perhaps what this high lying land is best suited for, as indicated by those distant compilers of the Domesday Book 900 years previously.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Blackshaw Parish (for now it was a Civil Parish) caught up in the tide of the Industrial Revolution was witnessing major changes to its way of life. A few handloom weavers continued their craft into the 20th century, and there was still work to be had at some upland mills such as Land Mill at Jack Bridge before 1900, and the newly built steam operated Blackshaw Mill 1870-1900 but these were the exception.

Work and home were now separated. The upland regions began to lose population as people moved to be nearer to the mills and for those who stayed the daily trudge in clogs down the hillside in the early morning to work became part of the way of life for many years. A thick pall of black smoke from the mill chimneys in the valley bottoms polluted the air, houses lay empty, fields which had only recently been taken into cultivation were abandoned, and rough grass and moorland crept back.

Blackshaw Head and Charlestown went their own separate ways as befitted the difference in their geographical location in the parish. Whereas Charlestown was located at the heart of the steam powered mills with their easy road and rail access in the valley bottom, upland Blackshaw reverted to a predominantly agricultural way of life.

Chapel and Community

Existence in this remote village and its surrounding area had never been easy. At these altitudes the climate can be harsh, and there was no electricity or piped water until the second half of the 20th century but the village had its own butcher, co-op and pub. What mattered was the community spirit that prevailed and many families were interrelated having lived in the area for many generations. At the centre of this

community was Blackshaw Head Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built originally in 1815, from subscriptions raised by the founders, who originally met at Appletree Farm.

Blackshaw Head Chapel is one of the earliest Methodist Chapels in the country. There was a major modification a few years after it was built with the addition of a Sunday School wing in 1838, and there were successive alterations to the school over the years. The original plan of the building was so designed that the main building incorporated two doors creating separate entrances for boys and girls to attend Sunday school in the chapel itself. The paths to these entrances can still be seen today on the south side of the building leading to blocked-up doorways converted to windows.

Rainbow





The importance that was attached to educating the young not only in bible studies but also in reading and writing at a time when there was no formal education gives us a prime insight into the mentality of the founders. The non-conformist movement swept the country in the eighteenth century and it was the preaching of John Wesley that encouraged many to join the Methodist movement. The established church had grown increasingly apart from ordinary people and was seen as little removed from the "squirearchy". Blackshaw Head belonged to the ecclesiastical Parish of Halifax with the nearest church being "Thomas a Becket" at Heptonstall.

In 1843 the Sunday School had two hundred and forty scholars and sixty-six teachers. There were similar high numbers in other nearby chapels. Charlestown

had its own vibrant chapel and Sunday School first at Old Naze, then at Nazebottom.

Major improvements were made to the main part of Blackshaw Head Chapel itself in 1899-1900 with the addition of a new eastern door and alterations to the roofline and it was probably about this time that the interior was fitted out with fine woodwork.

The first interment in the chapel graveyard took place in 1817 but since then many generations of chapel-goers and local people have been buried there as attested by the fine stone monuments.

First World War

The most poignant memorial of all though contains no grave. It commemorates those local men who gave their lives in two world wars in service to their country. Originally erected in 1921, the majority of names recorded there are of soldiers who served and died in The First World War.

Behind each bland inscription on the stone obelisk there are human and family tragedies. For example, the Carling Frank who enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers and was then re-assigned to The King's Liverpool Regiment. He was killed in 1917 aged only 19 and is commemorated at Tynecot, the great Flanders battlefield memorial to the missing. Brother Clifford enlisted in The 5th Royal Scots but died of his wounds in a POW camp two weeks after the war ended aged 20. They lived in Eastwood but are

remembered on The Blackshaw Head Chapel War Memorial. Perhaps they attended Sunday School here together? Further research has revealed that their father had already been wounded at Ypres and was invalided out of the army. Younger brother Arthur was later to die in a Japanese POW camp in The Second World War. Giles Sunderland who lived in Charlestown and worked at Pry Farm enlisted in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was killed on the Somme in October 1916, aged 30. He was a father of five children. The list goes on...

The First World War must have had a devastating effect for many families in the Parish as it had for so many communities across Britain. The numbers of Chapel-goers declined after the Great War but both the chapel and Sunday School stabilised their attendances up to the Second World War.

Modern Times

Blackshaw must have been a very different place fifty years ago in the shadow of a declining textile industry and before the introduction of the Clean Air Act. The renaissance of Hebden Bridge in the 1960's and 1970s spread out to neighbouring areas. With the end of the textile industry and the pollution it caused, Blackshaw was slowly transformed from being a static semi-rural hinterland of a smoke-stack industrial area to a much sought after beautiful place to live with a changing population of "offcumdens" many commuting to Manchester or urban West Yorkshire.

Modern Blackshaw Head owes much to the 1979 campaign to save the chapel from closure. It had suffered declining congregations for many years but its successful revival and gradual renovation over the years has created a base around which a vibrant and lively community has been built. This received a tremendous boost in 2003 with the Vital Villages Initiative in the wake of which many new groups were formed, Shed being one of them.

This brings this brief article on the history of Blackshaw Parish and Blackshaw Head full circle. It has been a tale of pre historic people, Iron Age and Norse settlers, medieval lords and peasants, yeoman clothiers and cottagers, handloom weavers and early mill owners, hard working farmers, chapel-goers, brave soldiers, textile workers and offcumdens. History is never ending only perspectives shift as time passes, and new chapters are added.

Ged Haley (Secretary of Shed)

Shed meets on the second Monday of each month at Hippins Farm - new members always welcome.

For further details contact Ged Haley, Dorothy Sutcliffe or Eileen Stewart or go to www.blackshaw.net.

Charlestown History Group
www.charlestownhistory.org.uk



Poems...

Copley Holme

There's been no-one to speak of here for years.

Just the rushes whisper of who grafted,
watered and fed, how they homed. Dew's washed off
what once condensed upon these naked walls —
loves'—heats, cows'—breath, sheep—grease, chicken—muck, toil.
No glass or shutter stops the wind or could
as thistle—drift ghosts into nettle—webs
and stones and mortar fall to earth run wild.
The way's grown over. The goit silts, swells, soaks and
breaks its bonds. The lintel bars the threshold.

What dark Jerusalem or Eden this;
what new world, a scrap of moor with blinding cloud
blown to high heaven, its Kingdoms come, cut off
and gone?

Adam Hansen

Noah Dale Anthem

"Will you come to the bower I have shaded for thee,
And thy bed shall be of roses all sprinkled with dew"

"Oh will you, will you?"

"Yes I will."

"You say you will?"

"I will" she cried

"I'll come to the bower thou hast shaded for me."

'Twas down upon yon banks where the sweet briars grow,
She'd a blush upon her cheek that was brighter than a rose.

"Oh will you, will you?"

"Yes I will."

"You say you will?"

"I will" she cried

"I'll come to the bower thou hast shaded for me."

When he showed her the ring made of purest gold,
Her eyes they shone like diamonds so lovely to behold.

"Oh will you, will you?"

"Yes I will."

"You say you will?"

"I will" she cried

"I'll come to the bower thou hast shaded for me."

Then to the Church they went, and stood hand in hand,
As they pledged their lives together with a plain golden band.

"Oh will you, will you?"

"Yes I will."

"You say you will?"

"I will" she cried

"I'll come to the bower thou hast shaded for me."

Courtesy of Tony Greenwood, Colden J and I School

Flora and Fauna in Blackshaw by "BEAT"

Living in this hidden gem of countryside, largely overlooked in favour of its neighbours the Peak District and the Yorkshire Dales, it is sometimes easy not to notice the huge diversity of flora and fauna that exists on our doorstep.

When Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT) was set up in 1998 it asked local environmentalist Charles Flynn to carry out wildlife surveys of Stansfield Moor.

Since then BEAT in conjunction with Calder Future has worked very closely with Charles and commissioned him to carry out two further wildlife surveys within the Parish. These surveys looked at Colden Clough, now designated a local nature reserve and Jumble Hole, both steep sided valleys, with fast flowing streams running through them.

Stansfield Moor

This moor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protected Area (SPA). There are two main vegetation zones on the moor, the north eastern part being significantly different to the rest.

Harestail, Cotton Sedge and *Purple Moor Grass* dominate the areas known as Moss Crop and Clunters. Along the edge of Lead Mine Clough extending up to Moss Crop Hill are patches of *Crowberry* and *Bilberry*.

Heather, Bilberry and *Cotton Sedges* are the dominant vegetation extending eastwards from Hoppet to Dukes Cut.

From a nature conservation standpoint the most significant plant species is the *Cloudberry*, with about 50 square metres on the western side of Moss Crop.

Of the greatest conservation importance are the moorland breeding birds; *Red Grouse, Golden Plover, Snipe, Dunlin and the Short-eared Owl*, but *Lapwing, Hobby, Kestrel, Merlin, Curlew, Skylark* and *Wheatear* which can all be seen on the moors.

The survey also highlighted a wide number of insects including; *Common Hawker Dragonfly, Large Red Damselfly, Red Admiral and Peacock Butterflies, Northern Eggar Moth, Mountain* and *Buff-tailed Bumble Bees*.

Colden Clough

This is a large area of attractive semi-natural woodland with some areas of grassland and heathland. The footpaths and bridleways that run along the valley sides give the visitor wonderful panoramic views. A fast flowing stream known as Colden Water runs through it, joining the River Calder at Mytholm. There are also rocky crags on the valley sides, some of which are the result of quarrying in the past. The valley floor gives more evidence to human activity, particularly to the early years of the industrial revolution - a kiln, old chimneys, weirs and millponds can still be seen.

There are many different habitats in the Clough and the following is a brief description of these.

Colden Water runs right through the bottom of the valley and is best observed from one the footbridges that span the beck. One of the best areas to observe the natural habitats in the Clough is at the clapper bridge in Hebble Hole. Here some of the plants you will see are *Common Valerian, Reed Canary Grass, Common Bent* and *Cocksfoot*. Most of the other vegetation is on the rocks in the beck or along its sides and consists mainly of mosses and liverworts.

Herons, Dippers and *Grey Wagtails* can be seen using the beck.



Colden Water

Woodland area – this can be divided into four basic types:-

Oak-Birch-Rowan Woodland with *Heather, Bilberry, Bramble, Wavy Hair Grass, Creeping Soft Grass* and *Broad Buckler Fern*.

In spring and summer you are likely to hear the song of a *Blackcap* here as well as *Willow Warblers* and an occasional *Chiffchaff*.

Birch-Oak Woodland – although floristically less interesting it is extremely good for seeing birds. It is also a good place to find fungi; the *Fly Agaric* is particularly common under birch here as is the often-enormous *Orange Birch Bolete*.

Birch-Oak-Scots Pine Woodland – the understorey consists mainly of *Heather, Bilberry* and *Moss*, but there are some interesting fungi. These include the very distinctive *Trumpet Chanterelle*, which has veins rather than gills on the underside of the dark cap, and the *Amethyst Deceiver*.

Coal tits and *Goldcrests* live in this habitat but in summer are more likely to be heard than seen due to the leaf canopy.

Beech-Sycamore Woodland – in this habitat near the clapper bridge the ground layer is probably at its best. There is a most impressive display of wild flowers

particularly in spring, with *Bluebells*, *Wood Anemones*, *Ransoms*, *Pink Purslanes*, *Lesser Celandines* and *Dog's Mercury* all in flower at the same time.

If you are here in May, you are likely to hear the song of the rare *Wood Warbler* coming from the sycamores.

Among the fungi found under the beech are the *White Chanterelle*, the *Wood Hedgehog*, the *Beech Milkcap* and the *Green Brittlecap*.

Just south of the clapper bridge there are some old millponds, which contain a quite special mix of plants, in particular the *Eared Willow*, which is at the southern limit of its British distribution in Calderdale. Also present is the *Goat Willow*, *Marsh Marigold*, *Large Bitter Cress*, *Water Figwort* and *Reed Sweet Grass*.

This is also one of the best places in the Clough to see dragonflies; the *Large Red Damselfly* and the *Common Hawker* are to be found here.

One of the best places to see bird life is on the paths above Foster and Bob Woods, *Skylarks*, *Meadow Pipits*, *Curlews*, *Lapwings*, *Swifts*, *Swallows* and birds of prey can be observed over the adjacent farmland. In winter sightings of *Fieldfare*, *Redwing*, *Brambling*, *Siskin* and *Redpoll* are quite common.



Jumble Hole Clough

Jumble Hole Clough

This Clough is a steep sided valley south of Blackshaw Head between Todmorden and Hebden Bridge. It extends from Jumble Hole Road and Halifax road up to Hippians Bridge. Most of the valley above here is pasture and is known as Hippians Clough and Daisy Bank Clough.

The main stream flowing through the Clough is known as Earnshaw Water. Two other smaller streams flow into the waters from the east while it runs through the Clough. Most of the valley is wooded, consisting mainly of *Durmast (Sessile) Oak*, *Downy Birch*, *Rowan* and *Holly*, but both *Beech* and *Sycamore* are locally significant. In spring there is an extremely impressive display of flowers throughout the Clough.

The **heathland** (mainly high up on the western side, but with a few smaller areas lower down) consists mainly of *Heather*, *Bilberry* and some *Cowberry*. *Purple Moor-Grass* and *Soft Rush* are found in flushed areas. This is one of the few areas in Upper Calderdale that *Linnets* breed.

The **pastures** are flower rich containing large patches of *Harebell*, *Pignut*, *Lesser Stitchwort* and *Field Wood-Rush* which support good butterfly populations, *Small Copper*, *Wall Brown*, *Meadow Brown* and *Small Heath*. The most important grasses in the sward are *Common Bent*, *Sheep's Fescue* and *Wavy Hair Grass*.

The **upland Oak –Birch woods** consists mainly of *Durmast Oak* and *Downy Birch* but is also home to *Rowan*, *Hawthorn* and *Holly*. The undergrowth consists of *Bluebell*, *Sweet Vernal grass* *Lemon Scented Fern*, *Wood Sorrel* and many other species.

Young woodland on the western side of the Clough consists almost entirely of *Downy Birch*. *Rowan* and *Goat Willow* are occasional here.

On the **hillside** *Ransoms*, *Bluebells*, *Wood Anemone* and *Lesser Celandine* give impressive displays in spring and early summer.

Near the **Clapper Bridge** lower down in the Clough *Meadowsweet*, *Valerian*, *Yellow Pimpernel* and *Pink Purslane* are to be found.

There is an abundance of **breeding birds** in Jumble Hole Clough giving wonderful bird watching opportunities throughout the year. *Sparrowhawk*, *Kestrel*, *Tawny Owl*, *Green Woodpecker*, *Greater Spotted Woodpecker*, *Chiffchaff*, *Wood Warbler*, *Treecreeper* and many other species are to be seen or heard throughout the Clough.

These descriptions of Stansfield Moor, Colden Clough and Jumble Hole are a brief summary of the surveys carried out by Charles Flynn, local ecologist. For the full results of his survey go to www.blackshaw.net.



Phil Knowles on behalf of BEAT
(Blackshaw Environmental Action Team)

Results of the 2009 Blackshaw Parish Household survey

Conducted by the WayaHead Committee



Every household on the electoral roll was sent a questionnaire

Returned	112 households (31%)
Blackshaw Head	40 (35.7%)
Charlestown	37 (33%)
Outlying areas	35 (31.3%)

215 people responded

Male	101 (47%)
Female	114 (53%)
Aged 11 to 24	9%
Aged 25 to 44	32.5%
Aged 45 to 59	31.6%
Aged 60 to 64	15.6%
Aged 65 to 74	11.3%

Who had lived in Parish for:

0 to 5 years	32.8%
6 to 15 years	29.0%
16 to 25 years	16.7%
26 to 50 years	16.7%
51+ years	1.0%
Whole life	3.8%

Types of transport owned:

171 cars, 10 vans, 18 motor bikes and 129 bicycles

Types of employment:

Employed	48.0%
Self-employed	18.3%
Retired	19.7%
Full-time education	6.7%
Unemployed	0.5%

People who work do so:

More than 15 miles away	31.3%
Within 10 to 15 miles	22%
At home	20%
Within 0 to 5 miles	14.7%
Within 5 to 10 miles	12%

Waged employment:

Local Govt/public sector	49.1%
Legal/financial	14.5%
Retail/service industry	13.6%
Agriculture/Horiculture	1.8%

Main modes of transport to work, training or study:

Car/Van	70%
Train	12.4%
Bus	9.5%

Main Issues - figures for the whole Parish (with separate figures for Charlestown in brackets)

The Church or Chapel is a focal point for the community 72% (58.8%).

Most people get their information about events in Blackshaw by:

Word of Mouth	59% (38.5%)
Parish Magazine	57% (7.7%)
Local Paper	50.8% (67.3%)

TV/Radio/Mobile phone reception

was poor for 53% (69.8%)
A lot of people 40.6% (27%) were unhappy about the broadband internet service.

34.8% (55%) do most of their shopping in **Hebden Bridge**.

60.5% (37.5%) thought **Blackshaw Fete** should continue in its present form.

31.3% (28.3%) would like to join a **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme.

Most people thought the **bus service** was good or reasonable for route and reliability but 41.4% (46%) thought it was poor for cost. It should also be extended or improved to **Todmorden** 55.7% (45%) and **Kebcote** 43.4% (15%).

Road safety should be improved at:

Mytholm Steeps	49.3% (33.3%)
Charlestown junctions with Burnley Road	39.4% (95.6%)
Ingle Dene exit road	26.8% (57.8%)

Most people thought that there were the right number of **houses in the area**, 61.6% (50%) but many 44.5% (47.5%) thought they were too expensive. Some people thought there was a need for affordable housing, 46.4% (56.8%).

The following activities should be encouraged:

Homeworking	76.9% (78.1%)
Small businesses	55.0% (70.5%)
IT businesses	52.1% (55.7%)
Tourism	37.1% (50.8%)
Walking	96% (93.7%)
Horse riding	91% (84.1%)
Nature study	91% (87.3%)

Residents wanted more sustainable energy by the use of:

Insulation schemes	81% (88.5%)
Solar panels	80% (80.3%)
Energy saving training	75% (75.4%)
Photo-voltaic panels	67% (62.3%)
Domestic wind turbines	61% (54.1%)
Heat pumps	60% (55.7%)
Hydro-electric schemes	57% (68.9%)
Slightly larger wind turbine serving a group of houses	52.2% (45.9%)

People would like:-

A Village Green	66% (50%).
A Children's play area	47.6% (22.9%).
Maps of local footpaths and bridleways	87% (80.9%).
Repair dry of stone walls	92.9% (86.9)
Deal with fly tipping	88.9% (88.5%)
Look after woodlands	86.5% (88.5%)
Remove ragwort, thistles, nettles etc	74.3% (67.2%)

If available people would buy locally produced:

Vegetables	92% (91.2%)
Dairy produce	81% (89.5%)
Fruit	81% (91.2%)
Eggs	80% (86.0%)
Bread, Bakery	72% (82.5%)
Poultry	69% (80.7%)
Lamb	65% (82.5%)
Beef	64% (64%)
Pork	60% (66.7%)
Beer, Wine	47.6% (63.2%)

Meat should be free range or produced to high environmental standards 65.7% (81%).

Food should be locally grown, produced 65% (86.2%) and Fair Trade 61% (81%)

21 (6) respondents were **willing to share some of their land** for others to grow food.

The Plan for the Future

May's Shop



Current projects

The success of Blackshaw as a good place to live and work cannot be taken for granted. To be sustained the community has to be nurtured and cared for. That is the aim of most of the "Current projects" in the plan many of which were developed as part of the previous plan and are ongoing. These projects reflect the beating heart of the community and the future viability of the Blackshaw community and its environs. Their continued success and survival is dependent on encouraging new residents to become actively involved.

This includes ensuring the future of the very successful Blackshaw Fete and community facilities such as Blackshaw Chapel, Colden Clough Nature Reserve, The New Delight, The Sportsman and award winning "Mays" shop. These and the various local groups such as SHED are what sustain the community and they should never be taken for granted.

Similarly the Village cleanups, Himalayan Balsam and Ragwort control should never be taken for granted.

New projects being developed over the next 18 months

These projects, many of which were initiated during the development of the Parish Plan should be substantially established or completed by 30 September 2011.

The issue that generated most discussion and interest was the desire to develop a local "Blackshaw Food Network" to promote local food production and consumption. This was very much inspired by Incredible Edible Todmorden and it is hoped that the marketing will be a key feature of the new Parish website.

There is a concern with community infrastructure through the projects such as developing the community buildings of Blackshaw Head Chapel and Hebden Bridge Town Hall to make them more available for community use.

There is also a lot of excitement about taking over a piece of land previously owned by the Parish and transferred in 1974 to Calderdale Council as Charlestown community garden. Nearby the Oakville Residents Association is taking legal action to secure the area of land known as "The Pen" as a Village Green.

There is continuing concern about responsible enjoyment of the countryside through avoiding dog fouling and using local footpaths and bridleways.

There is also concern to establish an effective system of Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish.

Blackshaw food network



Long term projects to be developed over the next five years

These projects tend to be more aspirational and are expected to be developed by 31 March 2015. The extent to which they happen will depend on the extent to which the community takes ownership of the plan.

The current Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment has highlighted the possibility of new and affordable **housing on brownfield sites in Charlestown**. This is supported by the plan but will only be possible if flooding issues are dealt with.

Projects to help develop the infrastructure of the parish through improved **broadband, TV, radio and mobile phone reception** is also included.

Better safer transport facilities such as **an improved bus service to Todmorden and Kebcote** establishing a **Car sharing**.

Improved road safety continues to be very important and strenuous efforts will be made to get Calderdale Council to improve safety at **Mytholm Steeps, Burnley Road junctions and Ingle Dene exit road**.

There is also a concern to improve play facilities by providing a **play area in Blackshaw Head** and an aspiration for a **Blackshaw Head Village Green**.

The predominant theme of the plan is the sustainability of the community and reducing the **Carbon footprint**. This is reflected in the concern

about **energy awareness micro energy generation**. Wind Turbines are proliferating across the Parish and therefore on 24 August 2009 Blackshaw Parish Council agreed the following:-

Policy on Domestic Wind Turbines to be included as part of his local plan:

- The characteristics of individual turbines and sites can vary but generally domestic wind turbines of under 20 KW should not be located closer than 80m to 100m of neighbouring residential properties other than the applicants own property.
- Each site should be considered for its possible effect on wildlife.
- Special care should be taken when wind turbines are in close proximity to one another as the amplitude of their combined noise impact can be substantially enhanced. To assist in such consideration established wind turbines should be mapped to avoid future problems.
- There can also be possible problems with shadow flicker but this is unlikely to last more than 15 minutes in a day as it is dependent on direct sunshine.
- Each site should be considered for its possible effect on springs, water courses and land drainage.



Charlestown from the Pennine Way



Blackshaw 2010 Parish Action Plan

Aiming to make Blackshaw an even better place to live and work.



Current projects				
Aim	Action	Partners	Funding	Leading role
Blackshaw Fete	Continue to develop and involve the whole community.	Blackshaw Fete Committee, local landowner, Blackshaw Head Chapel	Self financing	Blackshaw Fete Committee
Blackshaw Head Chapel	To provide the venue for celebrating rites of passage (births, marriages, deaths); the local cenotaph and burial ground; Community celebrations of harvest, Christmas, Village Fete etc. Communal global concerns through Heavens Kitchen, The "Wave", Making Poverty History etc.; personal meditation and peace. A venue for other activities such as meetings of the Parish Council, Arts and Crafts, TABS, Pilates and other activities.	Blackshaw Head Chapel, local community	Blackshaw Head Chapel, local Groups, local community	Blackshaw Head Methodist Church
Club development	To support the Arts and Crafts Group, Toddlers and Babies group (TABS), Blackshaw Optimistic Gardeners (BOGS) etc. and any new groups.	Local community, Blackshaw Head Chapel	Calderdale Community Foundation, Parish Council, Blackshaw Fete	Local activists

Current projects

Aim	Action	Partners	Funding	Leading role
Colden Clough Nature Reserve	Sensitively nurture.	BEAT, Calderdale, Hebden Royd, Heptonstall and Blackshaw Councils	Calderdale Council, BEAT, Calder Future	Friends of Colden Clough
Fly-tipping	Educate and encourage proper disposal and support clean-ups.	BEAT, Calderdale Council	Grants	BEAT
Himalayan Balsam control	Manage spread of Himalayan Balsam.	BEAT, Calder Future, local community	BEAT, Calder Future	Local landowners BEAT, Calder Future
Keep fit classes	Develop local keep fit classes.	Trudie Quinn for Pilates, The Sportsman for Yoga	Self financing	Trudie Quinn, The Sportsman
Local History	Research and dissemination of information through exhibitions etc.	SHED, Blackshaw Head Chapel, local community	Parish Council, Blackshaw Fete	SHED
May's shop	A wonderful role model supporting the whole community.	May Stocks, loyal customers	May Stocks, loyal customers	May Stocks
New Delight Inn	Local focal point and meeting place.	Tasker Family, loyal customers	Tasker Family, loyal customers	Tasker family
Ragwort Control	Cut highway verges three times a year. Encourage local community to control Ragwort.	Calderdale Council, local community	Calderdale Council, local community	Calderdale Council, local community
Sportsman Inn	An important arts, music and meeting place.	Steve and Claire Mackwell, loyal customers	Steve and Claire Mackwell, loyal customers	Steve and Claire Mackwell

Projects being developed over the next 18 months up to 30 September 2011

Aim	Action	Partners	Funding	Leading role
Blackshaw Food Network	Develop a local food marketing framework.	Local producers and consumers	Local producers and consumers	Blackshaw Food Network
Blackshaw Head Chapel Hall	Further develop access and community facilities at the Chapel.	Church Trustees, local community	Church members and fundraising	Blackshaw Head Methodist Church
Charlestown community garden	Develop a community garden between the Woodland Inn and Ingle Dene.	Calderdale Council, Parish Council	Grants, Parish Council	Ingle Dene residents
Christmas Tree	Provide a permanent, sustainable Christmas Tree for the Parish.	Parish Council, Blackshaw Chapel	Parish Council	Parish Council
Dog fouling	Children's Poster competition	Parish Council, local Schools	Parish Council	Edith Bowman, Phil Knowles
Hebden Bridge Town Hall	To support the development of the Town Hall as the hub for community support.	Blackshaw, Calderdale, Erringden, Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, and Wadsworth Councils	Calderdale Council, Community Builders Fund, ERDF	Hebden Bridge Community Association
Local footpaths and bridleways	Provide information on local footpaths and bridleways. Maintain viable footpaths and bridleways.	Calderdale Council, Parish Council, BABA	Calderdale Council, Natural England, Parish Council	BABA
Neighbourhood Watch	Establish Neighbourhood Watch network.	West Yorkshire Police, Parish Council	West Yorkshire Police, Parish Council	Edith Bowman, Rachel Elwell
"The Pen" Village Green	To get legal recognition for the piece of land known as "The Pen" as a Village Green.	Oakville Road Residents Association.	Local residents	Oakville Road residents
Website	Develop and encourage use of new Parish Website www.blackshaw.net	Parish Council	Parish Council	Tony Burger, Steve North

Projects to be developed in the next 5 year up to 31 March 2015

Aim	Action	Partners	Funding	Leading role
Blackshaw Head Village Green	Identify site, develop, consult and implement.	Local Landowners, and Parish Council	Grants, fund raising	Parish Council
Broadband	Improve	Broadband providers	Private	Homeworkers group
Car sharing	Organise car sharing for commuters.	Local community	Private	Local community
Countryside care taking	Encourage take up of Defra Land Stewardship schemes.	Defra, Calderdale Council	Defra, Calderdale Council	Local landowners
Homeworking	Encourage	Local community	Self financing	Individuals
Housing	Ensure new house building is sensitive to the needs of the local community.	Blackshaw, Calderdale, Erringden, Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, and Wadsworth Councils	Calderdale Council, Community Builders Fund, ERDF	Hebden Bridge Community Association
Develop sites at Woodman Inn and Callis Mill.	Calderdale Council	Private developers	Parish Council	BABA
Play Development	Establish a formal play area in Blackshaw Head.	Calderdale Council, Blackshaw Head Play area group	Grants, Calderdale Council	Blackshaw Head Play area Group, Calderdale Council
Public transport encouragement	Improve bus service to Todmorden and Kebcote.	Metro and Calderdale Council.	WYPTE	Parish Council
Road Safety	Improve road safety at Mytholm Steeps, Burnley Road junctions and Ingle Dene exit road.	Calderdale Council, Parish Council	Calderdale Council	Local community, Parish Council

Projects to be developed in the next 5 year up to 31 March 2015

Aim	Action	Partners	Funding	Leading role
Small scale developments	Encourage small scale business and industrial developments.	Calderdale Council, Parish Council	Private	Calderdale Council, Parish Council
Sustainable community	Encourage energy awareness and Micro energy generation. Ensure Wind turbines meet agreed criteria.	Parish Council, BEAT	Grants, Local community	Parish Council, BEAT
TV, Radio, mobile phone reception	Improve TV, Radio, mobile phone reception.	Signal providers	Private	Private providers
Wildlife conservation	Update and develop Wildlife Mapping.	BEAT	Various	BEAT



Pennine View

Beverley End



Blackshaw Parish Boundary

