

VALLEY HERITAGE

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registration number: 1164935



Photo by Andrea Collinge and Peter Cicero

Valley Heritage
Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Letter from the Chairperson

Rossendale is an area rich in heritage, but many of our historic buildings are deteriorating rapidly and at risk of being lost forever. Four of these buildings and 3 conservation areas have spent recent years on Historic England's 'At Risk' register. This highlighted a desperate need for a Rossendale based heritage organisation capable of tackling these 'at risk' assets, addressing their viability and bringing them back into sustainable use. As a result a small group of us came together to volunteer our time to set up a building preservation trust for Rossendale.

We aim to focus our efforts on attempting to restore historic buildings that are not only at serious risk of being lost forever, but might also be beyond the capability of the private sector, due to the cost of repair being significantly higher than the end value. These types of project will often be dependent on higher levels of public funding gained from a variety of sources. In tandem with this aim is our charity's second objective; to provide education and events around heritage and heritage related issues.

With the support of the community, Valley Heritage hopes to work alone and in partnership with others to weave a thread that not only links our past with our present, but also provides the people of Rossendale with opportunities to create a positive future for all of us. We hope you will join with us to share what it is that makes both the rural and industrial history of the many towns, villages and hamlets that make up the Borough of Rossendale such a special and unique place to live and work.

Our intention was to spend 2015 establishing this brand new charitable organisation and by 2016 we hoped to be looking towards our first projects. It's been a lot of hard work and a bit of a bumpy ride at times but, as you read on you will discover that we are already achieving our aims. We hope that you will share the enthusiasm and belief we hold: that with a bit of imagination and positivity, the people of Rossendale can work together to find new uses for some of our treasured buildings in a way that meets the needs of people today and for future generations.

Stephen Anderson
Chairperson
Valley Heritage



Start up Photo album



Training for heritage professionals, charitable organisations and members of the public.

In order to ensure that the specific training needs of Valley Heritage's fledgling board of trustees was identified - we engaged in a self-assessment process and as a result arranged a total of 10 'Valley Heritage' training events over the year.

Spare places on these sessions were offered free of charge to others. This enabled us to start to achieve our aim of providing education into heritage and heritage related issues for the public benefit, help build capacity in our area of benefit, develop links with other organisations and the public and identify potential volunteers.

The sessions themselves were facilitated by a mixture of Burnley Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS), Lancashire Adult Learning and The University of Central Lancashire. Topics included the roles and responsibilities of charity trustees; recruiting volunteers; supporting and supervising volunteers and 6 linked heritage based sessions covering topics

- Why conserve heritage?
- Conservation and Legislation;
- Intro to reading a building;
- Vernacular architecture;
- Industrial buildings and
- Civic buildings.

Attended by a mixture of members of local heritage organisations, council officers, councillors and members of the public, these sessions proved popular and at times were oversubscribed! The outcome of these sessions included assisting people to develop an understanding of how important our heritage is, not just to individuals, but as a shared resource.

We also found the sessions provided fertile ground for developing and nurturing discussions around Rossendale's heritage, unique character and sense of place and some of the more challenging problems we faced.

By the end of the project the training program had assisted us to start to develop a community of people interested in learning about and exploring heritage issues, build and

strengthen links with other organisations, our borough council and members of the public.





Trustees and volunteers wanted

Are you passionate about
Rossendale's heritage?

Do you want to donate
some of your time to help
make a difference and do
something positive for the
valley?

Do you have skills you are
willing to share?

If you have answered yes
to any of the above and
would like to get involved
in some way please get in
touch.

We are particularly
looking for trustees with
the following:

- a financial background
- experience of managing
funding streams
- Legal expertise especially
in business, employment,
charity and commercial
law.
- Knowledge and experience
in areas such as project
management, media,
fundraising, education,
economics, monitoring and
reporting.

We would love to receive
applications from young
people under the age of 25

Building strong foundations - trustee development

Building and maintaining a
passionate, engaged and
competent team of volunteers, is
crucial if any charitable
organisation is to achieve its
charitable objectives.

We believed that if Valley Heritage
was to have the best start in life,
we needed to ensure our founding
trustees had engaged in solid
induction training as part of the start-up project.

As well as our volunteer trustees attending our courses for the public, we also held a range of specialist in house training and support events. This included training and support around business planning; organisational development; setting up and running a building preservation trust and developing a brand identity.

Over the year we have attended a range of external training events including a number of specialist workshops run by the Heritage Alliance and the Institute of Fundraising. These looked at various aspects of fundraising for heritage organisations.

In May we all attended a day hosted by Ingestry Hall in Staffordshire and run by The Midlands branch of the UK Association of Building Preservation Trusts. This fascinating event included presentations on differing aspects of BPT projects, followed by a tour of the hall and its 'Wren' church.

We have also had 'hard hat' tour of the current renovations at the Motor House and Stables of the Haworth Art Gallery and an architectural tour of Bacup .



Our intention is everyone at Valley
Heritage will benefit from ongoing
CPD opportunities, thus enabling all
members of the VH team to ensure
competence by keeping up to date
with current developments,
refreshing existing learning and
gaining new knowledge and skills.





£20,000 grant success for Valley Heritage creates hope for Bacup's Waterside Mill

We have received £10,000 each from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) to explore if Waterside Mill in Bacup can be saved for future generations.

The project will allow support from heritage professionals to identify if this heritage building can be saved, what repairs are needed, what they will cost and what uses the building could be put to in the future.

Built as a spinning mill in 1839, Grade II Listed Waterside Mill was damaged by a fire in May 2003 and has since deteriorated, with Rossendale Borough Council stepping in and undertaking emergency works late in 2015.

With the support of Regenerate Pennine Lancashire and Bacup THI - Rossendale Borough Council and Valley Heritage have been working together to give Waterside Mill the best possible chance of becoming a positive part of Bacup's future, instead of a blight as it is today – recent changes to the conservation area and this new grant funding are the first steps in the strategy.

Commenting on their grant success, Stephen Anderson, Chairperson of Valley Heritage said:

"We are delighted to have received the support of the Architectural Heritage Fund and The Heritage Lottery Fund to give Waterside Mill one last chance of finding a positive future. It really is now or never for this important building."

Stephen went on to say:

"The support we have received from Rossendale Borough Council has been brilliant, their work in Bacup is why Historic England has said significantly' in the latest 'at risk survey' that Bacup is 'improving' and this funding from AHF and HLF is part of that ongoing work."

Valley Heritage will be working with partners over the next few months to assess the building and welcomes contact from anyone interesting in volunteering to help on the project.

Heritage Open Day's

Once again we hope to help the public gain access to some of Rossendale's 'Hidden Heritage' as part of Heritage Open Day's so watch this space!

If you fancy giving us a hand please get in touch - ideally before the end of May so we can make plans

Haslingden street fair

As you can tell from the pictures, we had a great time at last year's street fair. After the success of splat the rat at last year's event, we have decided that the rat will once again make an appearance! Come along on the day and help us to raise funds to save some of your heritage.

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