

# Catley Lane Head In Bloom 2018



## It's Your Neighbourhood





# Content

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Meet the Team.....</b>	<b>4</b>
The Team.....	4
<b>3. History of the Area .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Built Heritage and Architectural Character .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Listed Buildings.....	8
<b>5. Conservation Areas .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area .....	8
Catley Lane Head Conservation Area .....	8
<b>6. Other Heritage Features .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Rooley Moor Road also known as the 'Cotton Famine Road' .....	9
Fern Hill Hamlet.....	10
<b>7. Natural Heritage and Environment .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Wildlife and Habitats .....	10
Healey Dell Site of Biological Importance and Local Nature Reserve .....	11
<b>8. Planters, Flowerbeds and Floral Displays .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9. Love Where You Live .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10. Before &amp; After Photos .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>11. Other Photos &amp; Links.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>12. Credits.....</b>	<b>20</b>
Benches .....	20
Fairy Garden .....	20
Garden Centres.....	20
Groundwork .....	20
In Bloom Committee .....	20
Photographs .....	20
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council .....	20
RMBC Officers.....	20
Sponsors .....	20
Tree Surgeons.....	20
Volunteers .....	20



## 1. Introduction

*A very warm welcome to Catley Lane Head and the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area, which is a great place with a unique heritage and a vibrant future. Members of Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum (RMNF) and 'In Bloom' volunteers work together, with the support of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) to make a real difference to the lives of local people and the future of our community.*

*It started back in May 2015 when people in the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area wanted to have a say in all aspects of the future of the area in which they live.*

*Our vision for the area reflects the thoughts and feelings of local people who have a real interest in their community.*

*We are extremely fortunate to have so many excellent volunteers who dedicate an enormous amount of time to In Bloom, they are crucial to having a neighbourhood of which we can be proud and they help make our borough an attractive place to live.*

*I'm really looking forward to meeting the judges and showcasing our beautiful area. I thank all the volunteers and congratulate them for the work they do.*

*RMNF is committed to developing and strengthening the contacts and groups that have evolved as a result of our Neighbourhood Forum. We believe that by working together we will make the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Area an even better place to live, work and enjoy.*

*Andy Meek, Chair, Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum*

## 2. Meet the Team

This is our first year and members of the community have been meeting informally since April when it all started with a village clean up. We're not only cleaning up and making our area more attractive, but we're making friends, enjoying ourselves and staying fit and healthy.

### The Team



Helen Moore

&

Elaine Marsden

On behalf of our 'In Bloom' volunteers we are delighted and privileged to welcome the In Bloom Judges to Catley Lane Head.

From humble beginnings everyone in the area has taken this initiative to heart.

Catley Lane Head regards itself as an 'In Bloom' village and as the Judges undertake their Judging journey we are sure they will find this evident. We are truly proud of what has been achieved and we plan to continue to develop, innovate and, hopefully, exceed our own expectations.

As you travel around our area you will see for yourself the results of the hard work and dedication of the extraordinary relationship between our volunteers, sponsors and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. None of the outcomes could have been achieved without this 'special' coming together and we are truly grateful to everyone who supports us.

We would like to record our very sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved, without their hard work, passion, dedication and commitment none of this would be possible.





### 3. History of the Area

In the Medieval period, Rooley Moor lay within the ancient township of Spotland. In 13<sup>th</sup> Century, a route across the moors to Whalley Abbey was established, and became Catley Lane.

The first reference to buildings in the area was in 1560-61. There are also records of houses in Shawfield by 1630, occupied by Arthur Clegge and Christopher Belfield, at Prickshaw by 1623 and in Woodhouse Lane by 1702.

The woollen industry grew dramatically in the 16th and 17th centuries and many farming families in the area supplemented their income with wool spinning and weaving. Houses were fitted with long ranges of mullioned windows on the first floor to provide better light for weaving textiles.

Rooley Moor got its present name in the 18th century when Mr Rowley, later corrupted to Rooley, settled on what was to become the site of the Old Moorcock Inn. University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) surmises that this referred to the stretch of Rooley Moor Road from Spodden Brook, 2km to the south-east of Catley Lane Head, to the area currently known as 'Top of Leach' near the highest point of the moor. Like many roads at the time, the upkeep of Rooley Moor Road fell to the local inhabitants of the area who had to supply all materials and labour. The Lancashire County Quarter Sessions records local people being required to pay a levy for maintenance of Woodhouse Lane by 1746 and Rooley Moor Road again in 1767.

Both roads are shown on Yates map of 1786, leading from Spotland over the moors to the Rossendale and Rawtenstall area. This map also shows buildings in what is now called Catley Lane Head, Fern Hill Farm and probably Brown Hill Farm and Harper Road Farm. It also appears to show Smallshaw Farm as well as Knacks Farm and Prickshaw to the northeast. The hamlet of Shawfield and Bankhouse Farm are also shown, as are Woodhouse Farm and other buildings up Woodhouse Lane. There are also watermills and scattered coal pits, showing that coal mining was developing in the area. Prickshaw appears to have developed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries with a small agricultural and textile community. Most of the surviving built structures in the settlement date from this period although there is a re-used date stone (IB 1679) at Croft Head.

By the mid-18th century, Methodism was growing in the area and John Wesley is said to have preached from the staircase at Bank House in April 1752. Methodism grew in the area and Blomley's Barn, on the left side of Woodhouse Lane, was requisitioned for regular services, holding over 50 people. Services were also held in rooms in cottages in Catley Lane Head or outside at the bottom of the moor.

During the 19th century, cotton mills were built, including Broadley Wood Mill and Healey Hall Bottoms (which converted from flannel production) near to Prickshaw and at Smallshaw Farm by members of the Tweedale family, providing employment to many local people. A water-powered Waste Mill is shown on the 1818 Greenwood map on Knacks Lane, near Prickshaw. A setted road replaced what appears to have been an earlier simple track south from Prickshaw to the river.



The character of the moorland changed from a rural upland to a more industrial landscape as gritstone quarrying and coal mining proliferated in the area. Improvements were made to Catley Lane in 1818 and a new turnpike road opened at Norden. Ding Quarry appears on maps by the early 1840s and, by 1850, there were a further eight quarries along Rooley Moor Road, with more developing during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Collieries included Rooley Moor Colliery, another at the bottom of Hunger Hill and others towards the south east of Rooley Moor. There was also a stone crushing plant alongside a siding on the railway by 1893.

The 1851 Ordnance Survey map is the first to show the area in any detail and shows the level of industrial development in what had been an agricultural landscape, with large mill developments in the valleys on either side and many scattered quarries and coal pits. It also shows the routes of Rooley Moor Road and Woodhouse Lane in detail, two pubs in Catley Lane Head, the Moor Cock and the Black Dog, with Fair View to the south, the mill at Smallshaw, Syke Bank (now derelict), Knacks and Dunishbooth Farms towards Prickshaw and Hunger Hill Hall to the south-west towards Bank House and White Lees.

By the mid-19th century, the cotton mills of North West of England were heavily dependent on raw cotton grown by slaves in the southern states of the USA. The American Civil War broke out in an attempt to abolish slavery and Abraham Lincoln blockaded the southern ports to prevent the export of cotton. This led to the 'Cotton Famine' of 1862-1863 which was a time of great hardship to both mill owners, who recorded losses of around £30m, and to mill workers who were dependant on the industry. The Cotton Famine left many of these workers unemployed and their families starving. However, there was great support across Lancashire and particularly in Rochdale for the abolition of slavery. Lancashire mill workers sent a letter of support to Abraham Lincoln in 1862 and he replied personally, acknowledging the hardships the people had had to suffer. Local councils including Rochdale organised their own 'Cotton Famine Relief Funds' to alleviate the suffering of unemployed mill workers. By March 1863, 'outdoor relief' was being given to 19,374 people and, with many other workers on short time, local action was not enough. Later that year, the Public Works (Manufacturing Districts) Act was passed allowing the town's Board of Guardians to borrow money at a low-interest rate to create projects in areas of high unemployment. One such project was for 'improvements to Catley Lane' for which £500 was borrowed; this may be where the local styling of the 'Cotton Famine Road' originated. In February 1864, the Board of Guardians had hoped to borrow twice that amount and construction work was interrupted but had re-started by May with 25 men employed at Catley Lane and at another project to build a workhouse at Marland.

Many of the quarries, coal mines and smaller mills fell out of use in the late 19th century and the area around Rooley Moor Road fell into decline. Smallshaw Mill was last listed in directories in 1873. New turnpike roads linking Bacup/Whitworth Road and Rawtenstall/Edenfield were built with easier gradients for transporting large loads. However, a railway station was opened at Broadley, shown on the 1890 map as a platform with a signal post at the south end; a station building was added by 1908.

By the 1950s, much of Prickshaw was unoccupied and the settlement fell into disuse but, in 1993, a sensitive restoration scheme led to Prickshaw being brought back into use. The scheme received several awards, including Rochdale Council's Environment Week Award (1993), The Rochdale Civic Society Award (1993) and a Civic Trust Award (1993).

In around 1980, improvements were carried out at Fern Hill to bring the oldest part of the fold back into use. The Council also carried out improvements to Rooley Moor Road and constructed a bus turning circle just to the north of Catley Lane Head.

During the 20th and early 21st centuries, there has been further development in some areas but loss of buildings in others. New buildings have been constructed at Woodhouse Fold Farm and Top of Croft but Tweeddale, Blomleys Barn, Hill Top and Greenbooth have gone.

Brown Hill was two cottages and is now one house and Doldrum Farm has been rebuilt. In Catley Lane Head, there have been new buildings at Fern Hill and at Brown Hill Farm but Kit Booth has gone, as have two cottages opposite Fair View. The Methodist Church was demolished in around 1960 and many cottages and the Black Dog have gone from the east side of the road in the centre of the hamlet. The central building from Syke Bank has been demolished. Number 25 Smallshaw Road has been constructed on the north side of the road. There have been new buildings at Knacks Farm, the Waste Mill further north along Knacks Lane is used for residential and stabling purposes and Spring Mill Print Works has gone.

The sites of Broadley Mill and Broadley Wood Mill are protected by the Healey Dell Nature Reserve and Desk-Based Assessments by UMAU cover the history of these sites.



**Yates 1786**



**1818 Greenwood**

## 4. Built Heritage and Architectural Character

Architectural character makes a significant contribution to the charm and identity of the Rooley Moor Area. Buildings, walls, fishing ponds and the upland moors all help to define public areas, which are attractive features within the local environment.

The area currently contains two conservation areas and 4 listed buildings.

### Listed Buildings

<i>Status</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Location</i>
Grade 2	Prickshaw Cottages	Prickshaw Lane
Grade 2	Smallshaw Farmhouse	Smallshaw Road
Grade 2	Fern Hill First Farmhouse	Fern Hill Lane
Grade 2	Fern Hill Cottage	Fern Hill Lane

## 5. Conservation Areas

### Prickshaw and Broadley Fold Conservation Area

This historic Pennines hamlet lies on a relatively gentle southwest incline, surrounded by open, uncluttered moorland. Access to the conservation area is via three principle routes: Prickshaw Lane from the North, Station Road from the East and Knacks Lane from the south. The Pennine Bridleway runs through the area.



The character of the settlement is largely a result of its historic development as a textile community of the late 18th. Its character is typified by its vernacular architecture and materials as well as it's rural setting. This applies not only to the restored textile buildings themselves, but also to the winding stone sett road, around which the settlement

has developed over time. Today, the hamlet is in relatively good condition, with all of its buildings sensitively restored and in residential use.

### Catley Lane Head Conservation Area

The area is described as “a unique example of an historic Pennine hamlet”. It dates back to the 13th century and includes one listed building. Catley Lane Head demonstrates vernacular architecture, which reflects the historic industries along the line of historic routes. The evolution of the hamlet is still evident in the built environment and landscape, including millponds and farmland. The general character of the Conservation Area is typified by its use of vernacular architecture and materials and its rural setting. This applies not only to the restored textile buildings themselves, but also to the historic Cotton Famine Road.



The form of the settlement seen today is a direct result of this relationship between the development of industry in the area and built environment, with millponds forming a focal point of the hamlet. Critical to its integrity are views from the Conservation Area from within and views of the Conservation Area from outside its boundary. The conservation area includes Brownhill Farm in the south,



the listed Smallshaw Farm in the east, a significant section of Rooley Moor Road up to Knacks Lane in the northwest and there are good views to the north and west. The conservation area also includes three ponds, a stream, features such as setted roads and dry stone walls, and a number of vernacular houses. Catley Lane Head is the gateway to Rooley Moor and a focus for those visiting the area.

## 6. Other Heritage Features

Other heritage features include The Cotton Famine Road - a predominant feature of the Catley Lane Head Conservation Area and of the moorland landscape to the north, and Fern Hill hamlet, which includes two listed buildings.

### Rooley Moor Road also known as the 'Cotton Famine Road'



The road is a former packhorse route and comprises a long setted section of Rooley Moor Road with stone kerbs and drainage channels at the sides. It is a historically important route from the Roch Valley to the Irwell Valley in Rossendale and is a significant landscape feature, conspicuous from a distance. A significant

section of this former packhorse route was improved or rebuilt by the mill workers of Rochdale who supported the civic rights of the slaves in the USA during the American Civil War'.

The varying sett sizes and laying styles seen along the length of the route suggests that some areas predate the proliferation of quarries along its length in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, while others were rebuilt or strengthened in order to carry the weight of grit stone being carried to Rochdale and other towns. As such, the Cotton Famine Road constitutes an important part of both national and international social history.

## Fern Hill Hamlet

This attractive pocket contains Fern Hill First Farm and farmhouse (a Grade II listed building consisting of a 2-unit 18th century house with a 17th century wing) and the Grade II listed Fern Hill Cottage, which dates from the early 18th century and is built on a 2-unit plan with a large central entrance porch. There are also a number of historic stone outbuildings at Fern Hill that have been converted for other uses in a sympathetic manner.



## 7. Natural Heritage and Environment

### Wildlife and Habitats

The Rooley Moor area is made up of open moor, mire, bog pools, grassland, pasture and woods. Plants in and around the area include heather, ferns, almond willow, bluebell, corn marigold, floating water- plantain, red threadwort (liverwort), fingered cowlwort (liverwort), earth-cup flapwort (liverwort), common kettlwort (liverwort), dotted thyme-moss, lesser cow-horn bog- moss and slender haircap. Wooded areas contain oak, birch, beech and elm trees. Willow and birch scrub, ivy and bilberry is in evidence as is wax cap fungi.





The area and its surrounds contain a significant colony of common lizards and it is considered that some of the ponds could provide suitable habitat for frogs and the great crested newt. Stickleback and white-clawed crayfish are known to occur in the area.

Badger, brown hare, mountain hare, otter and water vole are active in the area. Roe deer are also becoming frequent visitors to the area.

Bats species include the common pipistrelle, daubenton's bat, serotine bat and soprano pipistrelle.

Insects include dragonfly and bees. Moth species in and around the area include the cinnabar moth, small phoenix moth; dark-barred twin-spot carpet moth and the chimney sweep moth.

There is a varied bird population in the area due to its diverse landscape comprising woodland, water features and open moorland. Notably, there are fifteen 'red' species (species most critical and in decline) and twenty amber species (next most critical). Including other non-threatened species there are approximately 75 different species present.

The Whitworth Valley Anglers' fisheries at Lane Head and Broadley Wood contain around 16 fish species including Bream, Barbel, Brown Trout (these are also in the River Spodden which forms our Eastern boundary), Common Carp, Mirror Carp, Ghost Carp, Crucian Carp, Chub, Ide, Orfe, Perch, Pike, Rudd, Ruffe, Stickleback and Tench.

Different breeds of cattle and sheep can also be seen where commoners exercise their rights to graze.

The Area contains the following site of wildlife importance.

### **Healey Dell Site of Biological Importance and Local Nature Reserve**

This Site of Biological Importance and Local Nature Reserve (see Figure 11) forms an attractive area of dense natural woodland on steep banks around the River Spodden valley. The river forms part of the Eastern border of the Neighbourhood Area. The Dell is a popular local visitor attraction due to the quality of the scenery (which includes spectacular waterfalls), its biodiversity (which includes a varied bird population and a resident population of Roe deer) and its industrial archaeology (the area contained water powered ancient corn, wool and cotton mills). A disused 1800s railway line is now a nature trail with magnificent views from a 100-foot high viaduct. There are extensive areas of woodland protected by Tree Preservation Areas (TPO's).



## 8. Planters, Flowerbeds and Floral Displays

We have created planters and flowerbeds around the village. This has inspired residents and businesses in surrounding and nearby areas to do the same. Gardening groups have come together whilst our neighbourhood forum and local businesses have provided funds to support our activities.



The planters have transformed waste land from overgrown shrubs blocking sight lines and gathering litters, to displays that act as gateways to the Village, giving year round texture, movement and colour that attract beneficial insects.

### Sustainable Planting

The perennial plants are hardy and drought tolerant. We collect seeds, divide plants and take cuttings so that we can sustain and maintain them. Organic manure is used on the floral beds and watering of the baskets and troughs are carried out in the early hours to reduce transpiration. Traditional composting methods are used along with farmyard manures. Mulches of manure, composted or ornamental bark are used to help with weed suppression but also to enhance the look of the planting.





## Floral displays

Floral displays play a significant part of our seasonal planting. Displays are placed in the most prominent locations in both spring and summer, both in our gardens and on main highway locations where the widest audience can see them. Planted for both spring and summer display the schemes attract sponsorship, which in turn offsets cost.



## Bulb Planting

Forum members supported the Rotary's, 'Purple4Polio' campaign, which is designed to unite communities to engage in activities as part of the final push to eradicate polio for good.





Well, it certainly engaged the Catley Lane Head community who thought it would be a great idea to plant crocuses and brighten up the area around the BBC Plaque, commemorating the Rochdale Millworkers during the Cotton Famine, and the entrance to the village.

### Willow Obelisks

Rustic willow obelisks have been used in gardens and throughout the village.



### Green Space and Going Wild

With ever diminishing reserves from the result of intensive farming methods we are conscious of the impact of what we do on Bees, Butterflies and general insect populations.





## 9. Love Where You Live

We carry out 'community clean ups' to do tasks such as litter picks, painting and planting of tired shrub beds.

The Council also provides equipment, such as rubbish bags, gloves and litter pickers. The cleansing team then collect the rubbish from a designated pick up point.

In Bloom Volunteers work to litter pick, remove weeds in gutters, varnish street furniture and replant shrubs beds.









# ROOLEY MOOR heritage walks

discover hidden  
secrets of the moors

[www.rmnf.org.uk](http://www.rmnf.org.uk)





## 10. Before & After Photos

Before



After





## 11. Other Photos & Links



### QR Codes (to scan)

History & Heritage



Audio & Video



## 12.Credits

### Benches

- Two long forgotten benches, originally for the use of villagers, have been donated and restored for neighbours and visitors to enjoy

### Fairy Garden

- Created by village children Kodie, Tyler and Lara who were ably supported by their mum, Tara

### Garden Centres

- Gordon Rigg Garden Centre, Rochdale

### Groundwork

Byron Radcliffe of BR Excavations and Groundwork, Rochdale

### In Bloom Committee

- Nigel Morrell – Thank you for your experienced guidance and support!
- Philip Massey

### Photographs

- David Pheasey, Helen Moore, Elaine Marsden, Ruth Howard and Nigel Ashworth

### Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

- Councillor Cecile Biant
- Councillor Wendy Cox

### RMBC Officers

- Ian Trickett

### Sponsors

- Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum
- Fern Hill Bed & Breakfast
- Joe Brierley Agricultural Contractors – Bench in memory of Grandfather Ken Brierley of Brown Hill Farm, Catley Lane Head
- Graham Brierley, Lane Head Livery Stables, Brown Hill Farm, Catley Lane Head
- Jon Meek Transport, Prickshaw Village
- Spring Court Auto Centre, Whitworth Road, Rochdale

### Tree Surgeons

- Special Branch Tree Surgery, Meadow Head Lane, Rochdale

### Volunteers

- Too many to mention, you know who you are and we can't thank you enough!