

LUDDENDEN COULD BE A CHALLENGER TO HEPTONSTALL

TUCKED away near the foot of one of the prettiest valleys in the district is the quaint village of Luddenden. It brims over with history and character and while it is just off the beaten track is certainly not backward.

The community there is as compact and closely-knit as any you will find—even though from a local government point of view Luddenden is a divided village. The boisterous River Ludd is the dividing line between Halifax and Sowerby Bridge. Luckily, both authorities have approached Luddenden in a similar way and there is no evidence of a "split."

For old-world charm and a wealth of ancient buildings Luddenden could be a serious challenger to hill-top Heptonstall. Certainly the potential is there but it needs exploiting. Many village people say that more tourists would be welcome—and local tradesmen agree.

In fact, there is only one big grumble in Luddenden—and that revolves round what is really the village centre. Old property has been demolished, several garages erected on part of the site, and the rest left derelict. The area has been called a "bomb site," "eyesore," and "black spot."

Mr. Albert Wormald, of 31, High Street, has lived in the village all his life and runs a grocer's shop there. He is the fourth generation of his family to look after the store—a record he is extremely proud of.

Garages

He told me: "Quite a bit of old property has been pulled down here. In some cases, this has improved the village but on one site they have put four garages up—all. I think a square of some kind would have been much better."

Mr. Wormald said that because of the demolition and subsequent treatment of the sites a little of Luddenden's character had been lost.

But recently an Italian businessman who called on Mr. Wormald paid the village a big compliment. Surveying the cluster of houses from the hillside of "typical Italy," he said it reminded him of

Both Sowerby Bridge and

This village ought to be on the map for tourists

Many people say that if Luddenden was given the same care and attention as Heptonstall it could become equally well-known as a tourist spot. This scene shows the junction of High Street and Stocks Lane, a quiet corner of the village.

Mr. Brian Sellers is a Luddenden tradesman—he opened his butcher's shop 18 months ago. It has always been his ambition to work for himself and he says: "I get on very well with the people and enjoy running my own concern."

students each year coming to paint village scenes and study the architecture.

Luddenden is unlikely to be given the "dying" tag for many years to come, said the vicar, but he feels that a great deal of the character of the place has been lost through the death of many older people who were rugged individualists, adding a touch of colour to the village scene. He went on: "A lot of people don't come to the church, but those who do are

By a Special Correspondent

A. Kings. And he is not the longest serving minister—a predecessor stayed for 40

very faithful. People like to be married here but don't care to a

