

The Context: Pennine town

In recent years, Hebden Bridge has reinvented itself as a place of culture, heritage and history. One tourism-orientated website states:

Known as the "Pennine Centre", Hebden Bridge takes its name from the packhorse bridge over Hebden Water. The town developed in late medieval times as a river-crossing and meeting point of packhorse routes from Halifax to Heptonstall, Burnley and Rochdale.



Textiles have been important in the Upper Calder Valley for centuries, but it was not until mechanisation and steam power were introduced from the late 18th century that Hebden Bridge began to grow significantly.

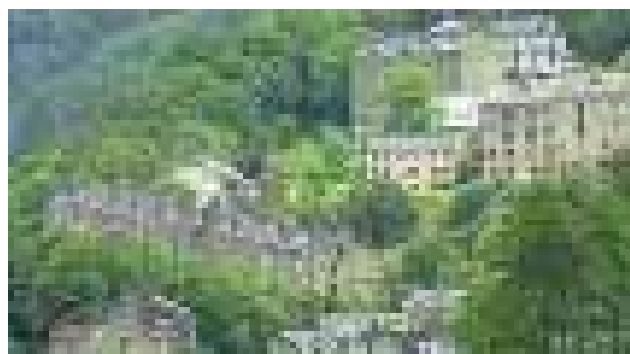


And the official Calderdale Council website says:

Today, the town retains its special character, but offers so much more to the visitor. Mills and canalside workshops are now home to craft galleries, restaurants and shops.



The unusual townscape and beautiful setting inspires many local artists, many exhibiting their work each year in the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival...Cosy tearooms and friendly hostelries abound. Most offer real ale, many have intriguing histories, but all offer good cheer!



Almost 200 years old!

KEY DATES IN THE EARLY CRICKET HISTORY OF CALDERDALE

June 1834: Halifax Clarence play Bradford on Skircoat Moor.

1836: Halifax Alliance take on Huddersfield Britannia.

Monday 20 August 1838: Todmorden CC stages its first recorded match.

1860s: Inter-town matches staged involving Halifax, Elland and Brighouse. Smaller teams emerge, too.



1870: 'Cricket Battery' (an early 'bowling machine') invented by Mr Swaine, a Halifax cricket pro.

1877: Halifax's Thrum Hall ground leveled.

1887: Founding of the Halifax Parish Cup

July 1888: First county match at Thrum Hall - Yorkshire v Gloucestershire (and WG. Grace).

1897: Joe Nicholl opens the first 'sports shop' in Halifax on Cheapside.

10 June 1897: Yorkshire visit Thrum Hall for last time.