

# HIGH AND MAGNIFICENT

## Alan Hampshire on the views from the ground

The views from The Astleys are magnificent. I remember seeing a lightning strike on the other side of the valley – I saw the flames! When you can't see across the valley, you know there's bad weather coming! It can get so dark.



On the left as you look out from the new pavilion, you're looking over to Halifax, Wainhouse Tower, Sowerby Bridge Grammar School, then Copley, the M62, Norland, Ryburn Golf Club, Ryburn High School, and then to the left – Soyland, Stones and Luddendenfoot. And Friendly Methodists used to play in the field next door to us!

We're high up here but I'd guess Stainland and Stones are probably higher in terms of altitude. Our playing area is a decent size but it's not huge. Even so, Warley, for example, is probably smaller.

There's a whitewashed wall behind the sight screen at one end of the ground. To be honest, I'm not sure whether it's ours! But it's falling down and people keep pinching our bricks!

We staged a Yorkshire-Lancashire Under-11 game recently. The folk who came to watch were so impressed by the ground, the pavilion and the views - marvellous and wonderful, they said!