



YHA (England and Wales)
Youth Hostel Profile

compiled by the Association's volunteer archivist, John Martin, 2023-12-20

Mankinholes Youth Hostel
with a note on Hebden Bridge Youth Hostel

Hebden Bridge Youth Hostel 1931 to 1934

High Greenwood House, Hebden Bridge, Halifax, Yorkshire

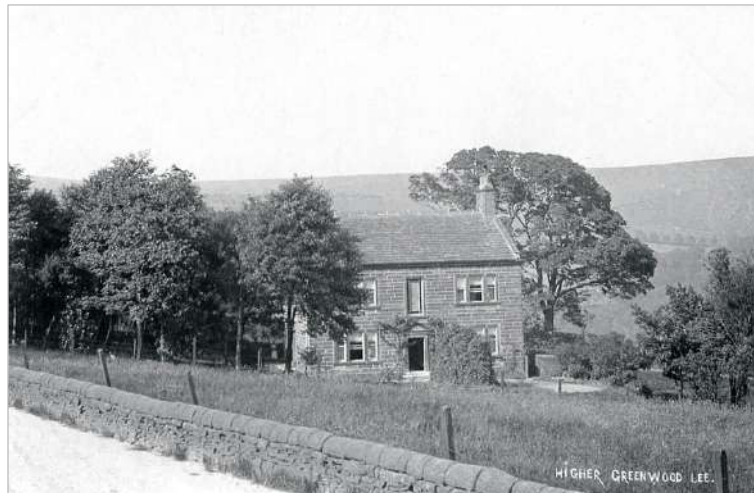
Historic County:

YHA Region: West Riding

GR: SD 969306

Yorkshire (West Riding)

West Riding Region's annual report at the end of its first year, 1931, announced that Hebden Bridge youth hostel had opened on 1st October. It was a fine double-fronted country house built in the local heavy millstone grit blocks, and a former guest house. Mrs Sunderland, the owner, had offered YHA her property as a rented adopted hostel; she would be the warden in residence and provide ten beds for men and ten for women. The Region was honest about the potentially temporary nature of its early hostels: the same annual report stated that it would be open to an early review.



1: this postcard of High Greenwood House (Higher Greenwood Lee) probably predated the youth hostel's brief existence;
2: the same house more than 70 years after YHA withdrew from the property (author's photograph, June 2008)

The hostel was modestly busy for the period, but the owners requested closure after the 1934 season. The last bednights were in September, though the 1935 annual report gave the official date as the end of December 1934, and an even later date of March 1935 in the following report suggests different interpretations of YHA's withdrawal from a property in those early years.

Mankinholes Youth Hostel 1942 to present

Mankinholes Hall, Mankinholes, Todmorden, Lancashire OL14 6HR (the hostel is in Yorkshire).

Historic County:
Yorkshire (West Riding)

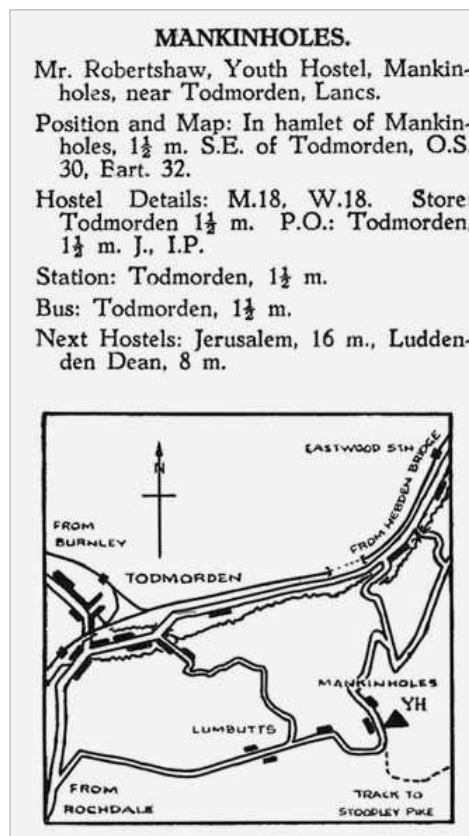
YHA Regions:
West Riding, Yorkshire, North

GR: SD 960235

Mankinholes Hall, high on the moors above Todmorden, is a small manor house dating from the late 16th century, according to the British Listed Buildings website. It maintains that 'the earliest building appears to have been a cross-wing running north to south [parallel with the road], possibly built on to an earlier timbered hall (conjectural), reorientated and rebuilt early 19th century.' A brief note in *Youth Hosteller* magazine, December 1971, offers this intriguing addition:

An archaeologist staying recently at the hostel identified the Hall as having been built around, or replacing, an ancient cruck house. The oldest parts of the Hall are reputedly 15th century.

The Hall was later used as a farmhouse. In the first part of the 20th century, it housed a children's home, but was abandoned before the Second World War and lay empty for five years. The 1942 YHA West Riding Region annual report described its acquisition and conversion from a shambles, in five weeks, to help stem overcrowding. The hostel opened late in August 1942, though rather too late to help with the congested summer period; the wardens were Mr and Mrs Robertshaw.



1: an early postcard of the hostel, complete with late wartime tinfoil sign. This is the north side of the Hall, built at a later date. The fine wooden gate was soon replaced and the approach path later became the car park; 2: a wartime issue information sheet. The high moorland villages of Lumbutts and Mankinholes were quite densely populated in the nineteenth century, Lumbutts being a centre of considerable industrial development (YHA Archive)

At first the property was leased, for £1pa, for two years, from West Riding County Council; it was vested in the YHA Trust on 17th December 1942. As the tenants, YHA had the option of continuing the tenancy for a further four years at £20pa, on giving notice on or before 4th April 1944. No doubt the cheap introductory rate was an inducement to fettle the place. There were beds for 18 men and 18 for women in the first year, expanded by the Robertshaws to 23 for each by 1944, their final year in charge.



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Mankinholes youth hostel, a collection of images dating from the time of conversion of the hostel after five years lying empty.
 1: The kitchen, with equipment perhaps dating from the former children's home; 2: a very basic washroom. Note the footbath and hot taps, however. The hostel still has the same distinctive window arrangement, replaced authentically in 2000;
 3: abandoned shelving, room unknown; 4: work force, possibly a mix of professionals and volunteers
 (YHA Archive)



Mankinholes is one of a surprisingly large number of YHA properties opened with great resolve during the war years, despite all the hardships and difficulties. It was YHA's local social groups in the towns who engendered most of the enthusiasm for finding and opening new hostels, often relatively close by, to provide a welcome respite from the drudgery and dangers of their urban lives. Ironically, they often providing voluntary work of a similar nature to their daily toil to get the hostel open.

Mankinholes Hall was a well-documented case in point. Reconstruction work from a wreck received the close attention of the wardens and YHA Local Groups from Todmorden, Halifax and Brighouse, 3 miles, 11 miles and 15 miles distant respectively. It is to the wartime Brighouse Group that the YHA Archive is most indebted for a beautifully presented album of those first months at Mankinholes, the flyleaf of which is shown on the left. It contains photographs of the group on their hostelling adventures and numerous cuttings from local newspapers about their progress. A selection of these from the album is shown below and forms a valuable record of young people's endeavours during the war.

Out O' Doors publication, July 1942:

YHA Outing

Members of the Brighouse YHA group held a day ramble on Sunday last from Hebden Bridge. The party made for Stoodley Pike, first walking through pretty woodland and later over open moorland country.

At Mankinholes, just below the Pike in an ideal situation, is what should prove to be the perfect hostel. This building has been closed for five years and was formerly a children's home. When the party called there on Sunday, they found a working party from the Halifax group hard at work scrubbing, whitewashing, and generally making the place fit for habitation.

The zest and energy with which they were working reflected their enthusiasm for the YHA movement, and they hope the new hostel will be opened in August. Members returned home by train after a very enjoyable day.

Extract from the *Todmorden and District News*, 29th August, 1942:

Opening night at Mankinholes.

A new Youth Hostel was opened last Saturday at Mankinholes. The latest acquisition to the YHA was opened (minus the usual trimmings and trumpet blowings of an official opening) at Mankinholes last Saturday.

Yostlers began to arrive round opening time (2pm) and continued to arrive until supper (a four-course dinner) was served at about 7.15. It consisted of soup, a main course of meat, potatoes and cabbage, a wonderfully sweet rice pudding, which was followed by the traditional cup of tea. The warden and his good lady, Mr and Mrs B Robertshaw, formerly of Higher Eastwood, are to be congratulated on their excellent cuisine on this their first venture into the art of catering for a number of people. Altogether about 30 people sat down to dinner. Black-outs were then attended to – this has been no mean job for a certain local enthusiast – and afterwards the company enjoyed a rollicking social evening.

Perhaps the main event was a sort of round-robin forfeits game, every one of the members present contributing something to the event. There was English Folk Dancing and Russian Dancing by the Halifax members, acrobatic turns by a certain well-known local family, singing, recitations, pianoforte solos and short stories all combined to make the effort a real success.

The hostel has in about five weeks been converted from a regular shambles into a monument to the hard work, courage and tireless efforts of the warden, his wife and members both local and otherwise. It consists of a large dining room, which when cleared becomes the common room, a spacious lounge, a self-cookers' room, in which members prepare their own meals, sleeping accommodation for about 30, and all the usual offices.

Extract from unknown publication, 14th September 1942, West Riding Region annual general meeting:

YHA Notes

Tomorrow (Saturday) the Brighouse group of the Youth Hostels Association are setting out for a weekend at the new hostel at Mankinholes, higher up the Calder Valley, near Eastwood.

Extract from unknown publication, November 1942:

Record of Events

On Sunday next a day ramble is to be held, lunch being taken at the Mankinholes youth hostel. Mr T Banks is leading this event, and intending participants should meet at Brighouse station not later than 10.15am and obtain Hebden Bridge return tickets. Halifax CHA members intend to join the train at Sowerby Bridge.



A delightful woodcut-type postcard of Mankinholes hostel in the whimsical style common in the 1940s (author's collection)

Extract from unknown publication, Christmas 1942:

A number of local YHA members are spending part or all of their Christmas holiday in and around the Mankinholes hostel, where it is whispered, adequate supplies of really Christmassy fare are to be available.

Extract from unknown publication, about Christmas 1942:

YHA Notes

There was another good turn-up of members of the Brighthouse YHA group last weekend. They travelled by bus to Hebden Bridge and then walked via Stoodley Pike to the hostel at Mankinholes.

On Sunday morning they tramped over Blackshaw Head to Hardcastle Crag, and after dinner they went over the tops again to the hostel at Luddenden Dean. Following tea they walked to Wainstalls before again boarding a bus for the homeward journey.

Extract from unknown publication, 1943

YHA Notes

Members of the Brighthouse YHA group took part in nearly every one of the events at the inter-group gymkhana connected with a hostel weekend at Mankinholes. There was plenty of fun. In the only team event of the day, the tug-of-war, the Brighthouse group beat their opponents fairly easily.

Later in the evening, in the hostel, there was a supper, and dancing, singing and games were enjoyed. All the Brighthouse members on this week-end outing were cyclists.

After the opening, Mankinholes hostel operated successfully throughout the war year, and in 1944 achieved a record overnights figure of over 3,500 that held for almost 30 years. After the Robertshaws left in 1944, there followed a series of short-period appointments, no doubt reflecting the somewhat chaotic state of the labour market as the country emerged from war. Wardens included Mr and Mrs Reyner (1945), Mr and Mrs Young (1946), Mr JR Needham (1947) and Norman Peel at the beginning of 1948. Later in that year, Mr and Mrs Arthur and Mary Archer took on the wardenship. The hostel's capacity had by now grown to 34 beds for men and 23 for women. The Archers were much more settled, and stayed in post until at least 1960.



Mankinholes in 1951. 1: anonymous image (author's collection); 2: from the road (photograph Laurie Landon, YHA Archive)

Alice Palmer enjoyed YHA adventures in the North Country and North Wales and provided the YHA Archive with her valuable memories of youth hostelling in the 1940s and 1950s:

Near to home was Mankinholes, an eerie place tucked away in the hills above Todmorden and redolent of the Industrial Revolution. Mary and Arthur Archer were wardens in the early post-war years. Both keen outdoor people and full of encouragement for our climbing plans, whether it be the local Widdop gritstone or the Alps.

This was a place where you always had hostel meals; they were so good, and after a long trek over the moors, down by Hardcastle Crag and the long pull up through Lumbutts, you were ready for supper. Mankinholes Sports in June brought friendly rivalry between the East Lancashire and the West Yorkshire area groups and we often met up again for Halloween when the place had a real 'spooky' atmosphere.

For ten years or so the tenancy at Mankinholes had held, but by the 1950s YHA was seeking to turn many leases into a more permanent form of operation and control. Accordingly, it was able to purchase the freehold of the Hall in 1953. The deeds were transferred and passed to the YHA Trust on 6th August in that year. The principal aim of purchase at this time was to enable a degree of modernisation. The *YHA Bulletin* of March 1954 advised that this was progressing, though another joiner was required.

The period from the end of the war up to the mid-1950s had been a defining era for YHA; the late teens and twenty-somethings who had been the mainstay of hostelling in the 1930s had to an extent given way to an earlier age-range, especially older school children. A craze was developing among them for collecting hostel stamps as a scholarly pastime. YHA discovered that it was both excellent publicity and decent business to promote hostel postcard sales and especially an interest in the new hostel pin badges. The 19 YHA regions discussed whether to provide them at 6d each: most were enthusiastic, a few less so, but West Riding had its finger on the pulse. In 1955, Ingleton, Aysgarth, Mankinholes and Pateley Bridge were the first badges from the Region to be available for sale at hostels. Cloth badges for sewing onto rucksacks and jackets followed.



Mankinholes ephemera – pin and cloth badges from the 1950s onwards. The black and white version of the pin badge was issued in 1955. It features Stoodley Pike, the local landmark (author's collection)

In the October 1959 edition of *Youth Hosteller* magazine, Barbara Pickles described West Riding Region's continued reliance on volunteering work parties:

Any Volunteers?

Alan and John dash home from work on Saturday lunchtime and, like many other hostellers, pack their rucksacks for the week-end. In goes the usual hostelling clobber, then a pair of Vibrams. These are followed by a blow-lamp, hammer and the usual two-foot. At the end of the road they are picked up by a van – the Regional van which covers about 4,000 miles each year taking members and materials to our hostels and returns on Sunday evenings with a rather grimy and weary crew.

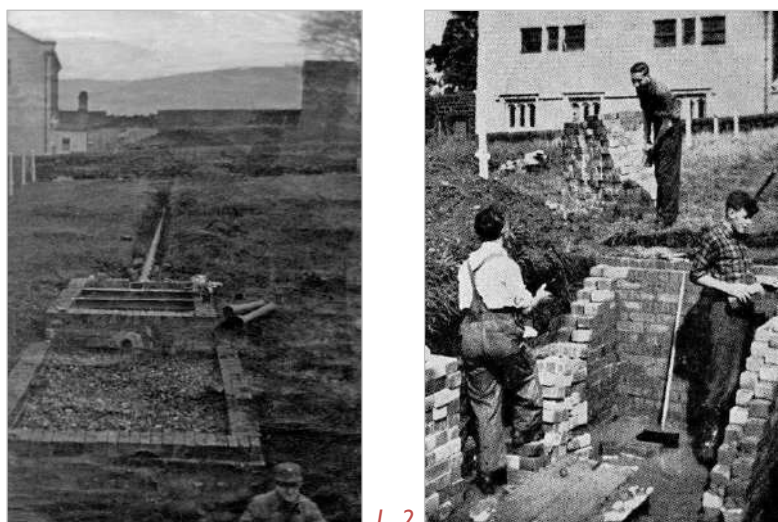
The rather smart exterior of the van belies the conglomeration found inside. The occupants are generally surrounded by timber, wash-basins, pipes and bends, tins of paint and rucksacks. Their rucksacks will not be carried over the hills, nor will the Vibrams on those boots squelch on a moorland bog, unless it is to take their owners to investigate a remote water supply or examine the peculiarities of a septic tank.

We in the West Riding are particularly fortunate in having our hostels within reach of populated areas. Many use public transport and others cycle miles, often in bad weather, but always ready to begin the job as soon as they arrive. Sometimes wishing for a hundred weekends in the year, they occasionally work after 'lights out' using extension or tilley lamps on dark evenings, if the work is outside. Hardly a weekend, or an Easter or Whitsuntide, passes without a working party being at least at one of our hostels.

Some members spend part of their annual holiday this way. Several of these volunteers have been doing this work ever since they joined the Association, in some cases for 25 years, and others are lads in the Forces or teenagers comparatively new to YHA and yet they all have the main qualifications: enthusiasm, adaptability and capability.

The most difficult job in recent years was the building of a septic tank at Mankinholes. Difficult, because the weather was more wet than usual, and before work began each Saturday, rainwater had to be baled out of the hole already dug. The working conditions were appalling and, to make matters worse, it even snowed.

Those are some of the major achievements but hundreds of other jobs are completed annually, and because these members are prepared to give so much of their time and energy the Association is saved a great deal of money and consequently charges are kept down and our hostels better equipped and decorated.

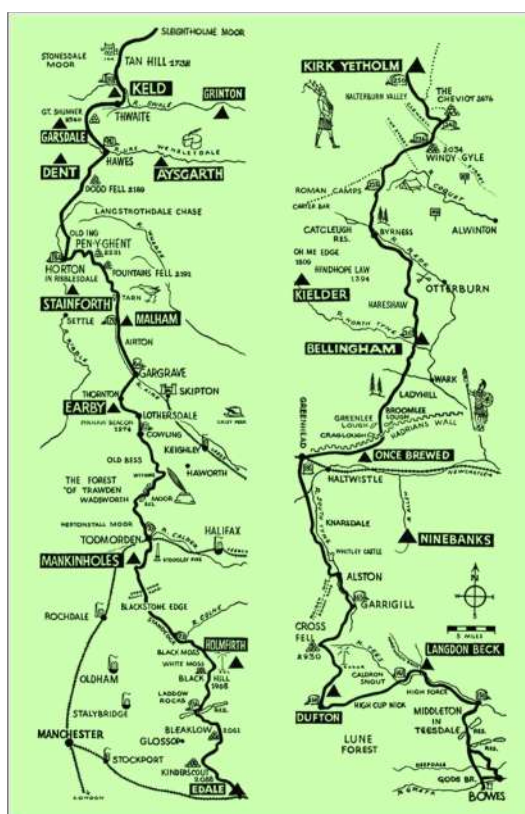


Volunteers create new drainage and a septic tank in the field opposite Mankinholes Hall (YHA Archive)

Pat Packham, enthusiastic youth hosteller and volunteer over several decades, left a stream of canny observations. She visited Mankinholes in 1960, and described the make-do-and-mend philosophy held by hostellers during this era:

The warden was cross with us for being late and with the others for having a lift. After supper we sat in the common room and listened to the wind blowing and the rain lashing on the windows...

[...the next morning] 'R' tore off the bottom shreds [of an old mac] and kept the top as a waistcoat. 'A', who had sewn her mac every day, tied it around her legs with my strap. My piece of the old mac I attached to the front of my coat [Pat Packham, 1960].



YHA issued a Pennine Way leaflet as early as 1958; this is the map page from the 1960 issue (YHA Archive). It is framed by two hostel stamps, the first from CW Maitland in 1958 and the second from the author's stay in 1968 (authors collection)

A new generation of walkers and hostellers in the post-war period was becoming aware of the potential of the Pennine Way, and Mankinholes hostel was ideally placed. Ann Beasley discovered the Way in its infant state when she walked from Edale hostel to Mankinholes via the old hostel at Holmfirth, before Crowden and Marsden were further overnight possibilities. She recalled in 2018:

Probably the last time I led a ramble for Dartford group was Whitsuntide 1961 when we started the Pennine Way. Yes, I know that the Pennine Way was not officially opened until 1965, but I had a Ramblers' Association 6d booklet with information about plans for the long-distance footpath, some sections of which had not yet been agreed with the landowners.

The historical importance Mankinholes Hall was recognised with the Grade II listing in 1966. The next year Philip Grant wrote his Pennine Way Log, remembering his perilous duty during his stay en route at Mankinholes hostel:

I was up early as my hostel duty was to collect eggs and milk from a nearby farm for breakfast. I was challenged by a sheepdog as I left the farm with two dozen eggs balanced in a tray on my arm.



1 2

Two postcards from about 1960.

1: view north, towards the steep drop to the Calder Valley. The hostel's rear garden is a pleasant spot;
2: view south, towards the warden's quarters, still undeveloped, in the recessed portion on the left. The hostel entrance, where the schoolgirl is standing, was later improved with a small conservatory shelter (YHA Archive)

In the early 1960s Mary Archer was followed by Mrs Barker in the warden's role, followed by George Thompson between 1963 and 1967. There followed a few years of seasonal custodianship, with Ian Cartwright in 1969, for instance. It took time for the success of the Pennine Way to have much of an effect on the hostel's takings. Between 1953 and 1969 annual overnights remained low for a 40-bed hostel, never reaching 2,000. *Youth Hosteller* of November 1970 stated that the hostel's future had been in jeopardy in the late 1960s, but overnights had soared under warden John Page in that year:

Usage of Mankinholes hostel, until last year in the shadow of the axe, reached 2,000 bednights this season. Warden John Page already has 300 booking for 1971. Pennine Way walkers account for about 20 per cent of the overnights.



The oldest extant part of Mankinholes Hall sits alongside the road and presents an odd end-gable shape. The decorative mullioned windows are an impressive feature (anonymous photograph, author's collection)

John Page was warden for only a couple of years, 1970 and 1971, but he helped the hostel enter a most successful period. The popularity of the Pennine Way challenge was also a very positive force. So was the stability brought by settled wardens; over the next 32 years there were only two, Mrs Ruth Halliwell from 1971 to 1983, and Bob Jones from 1984 to 2003.

Ruth Halliwell would have been pleased with a significant improvement to the hostel, not least her own cramped quarters, during her stay. The West Riding Region's annual report for 1978 told how a rebuilding project was the subject of irritating delays but that building work had commenced at the end of the season. The 1979 review reported that, as well as newly completed warden's accommodation, there were planned improvements to the washrooms and members' kitchen and much-needed roof repairs. Shortage of capital led to the fire precautions scheme being deferred to the not-too-distant future but, thanks to grants from the Countryside Commission, installation of central heating and new washrooms had also been completed.



1970s-1980s photographs of old and new on the north side of Mankinholes Hall.

- 1: George Miller took this shot of the iron gate that replaced the old wooden example seen on page 2 some time before 1979;
 2: after the 1979 rebuilding Ron Sant recorded how the annexe, originally set back on the left as in picture 1, had been extended forwards in line with the main frontage on both floors to form a new warden's entrance, lobby and spiral staircase to the first-floor level. The car park had been extended, while the caravan perhaps provided quarters for a seasonal staff assistant (author's collection)

Overnights continued to improve; though sometimes there were poorer years in line with national recessions, or even persistently bad Pennine weather. They were generally of about 4,000 annually through the 1970s, but reached an all-time record of 5,786 in in 1989. YHA Datapack publications for schools and groups in 1988-90 listed the sleeping accommodation at the hostel to be in five rooms, one with 10 beds, three with 8 beds and a further room with 6 beds listed as family accommodation, with daytime access, no doubt the ground floor room.

In July 1992 *YHA News* announced that special arrangements would be in force in August to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the hostel's opening. Among the points of focus regarding the hostel's history and location were the following features:

Mankinholes Youth Hostel 1942 – 1992

Situated in one of Calderdale's picturesque hamlets, the hostel is a converted manor house, whose present function is consistent with a proud history of serving its local community. During the early part of the 19th century a riot centred there, as the hall's occupant, one William Ingham the town overseer, was vociferously assisted by local townfolk in opposing measures to establish the hated workhouse system in Todmorden. Prior to purchase by the YHA, the hall was a children's home.

Sited on an ancient packhorse track, parts of the building are thought to be between 250 and 700 years old. Sue Hogg of Mankinholes village is running a campaign to open up the network of old pack-horse trails criss-crossing the Calderdale area. There are several riding schools close to the hostel for those who want to explore these historic tracks.

Mankinholes, long established as one of the Pennine Way chain of hostels, nestles below Stoodley Pike, a famous landmark on this arduous Long Distance Path. It is well placed as a base for both low- and high-level walking in Calderdale's varied countryside. The Calderdale Way, a 50-mile recreational path passing the hostel door, provides an excellent introduction to the diverse treasures of the area. The hostel has met the challenge of new tastes in adventurous pursuits and offers 'Great Escapes' hang-gliding courses in conjunction with a nearby centre, which

also offers paragliding tuition. A variety of water sports are catered for at Hollingworth Lake, and one of England's largest dry ski slopes is available in Rossendale.

Only two miles distant and accessible by bus is Todmorden, a pleasant town on the Lancashire/Yorkshire border with an excellent park containing a permanent orienteering course and an indoor swimming pool.

Quite apart from the outdoor facilities offered in the immediate area of the hostel, the renaissance of interest in the industrial heritage and the wonders of modern technology together provide a clue to the hostel's current very mixed business. Bradford's National Museum of Film Photography and Television, the Piece Hall at Halifax, Saltaire village and numerous working textile mills attract higher education arts students and industrial historians. Mankinholes is a popular venue too for primary schools wishing to explore the wealth of historic buildings and link National Curriculum targets with 'fresh air and fun'.

The hostel again had a surge of overnights in the early 1990s, but the totals were slipping again towards the end of the decade. In 1997 YHA was considering an alternative to Mankinholes, a lease of the Birchcliffe Centre (an old Baptist Chapel) in Hebden Bridge. This scheme was unsuccessful and Mankinholes was thoroughly refurbished instead. The hostel closed on 16th October 1999 for the overhaul, reopening on 22nd May 2000. Bed numbers were reduced from 40 to 32 to ensure the focus on greater comforts and personal spaces in modern youth hostelling.

Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows

1931-1991: previous Oct to Sept; 1992: Oct 1991 to Feb 1993; 1993-present: Mar to following Feb

♣: Hebden Bridge youth hostel; Δ: Mankinholes Hall youth hostel

●: 1932 total for 12 months from opening of hostel in Oct 1931; ●●: 163 bednights were in late 1934

*: 17 month period; +: notional figure included for exclusive hire and/or camping

∅: operation affected by Covid

...	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
...	0♣●	445♣♣	544♣	541♣	163♣●●	...	...	...	...
1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
...	...	124Δ	2316Δ	3570Δ	2805Δ	2948Δ	3023Δ	2553Δ	2041Δ
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
2206Δ	2211Δ	2296Δ	1558Δ	1585Δ	1865Δ	1526Δ	1624Δ	1565Δ	1561Δ
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
1917Δ	1495Δ	1669Δ	1488Δ	1492Δ	1823Δ	1743Δ	1603Δ	1892Δ	1840Δ
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
2069Δ	3195Δ	4402Δ	4339Δ	5236Δ	4887Δ	4632Δ	4389Δ	3797Δ	2917Δ
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
4082Δ	4031Δ	3454Δ	3383Δ	3938Δ	3799Δ	4221Δ	4734Δ	5610Δ	5786Δ
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
4875Δ	5103Δ	5456*Δ	3891Δ	3977Δ	3380Δ	3386Δ	3068Δ	2555Δ	2248Δ
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
2834Δ	2254Δ	3424Δ	3267Δ	3763Δ	3299Δ	3405Δ	3085Δ	3159Δ	2082Δ
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2332Δ	3315+Δ	3515+Δ	3261+Δ	3271+Δ	4070+Δ	4677+Δ	4336+Δ	4166+Δ	4141+Δ
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
1056+∅Δ	2582+∅Δ	3168+∅Δ	openΔ	...	...	...	...	...	...

YHA's annual report of 2000 told how the funds for the renovation project came mainly from an appeal to the members, which raised £108,000; Yorkshire Forward contributed £42,000 and YHA £31,000. The report continued:
 It is due to this generosity that we now have a superb self-catering hostel at this location. All who have seen it agree that it is a great improvement. described a total overhaul, providing family bunk rooms, facilities for guests with disabilities, and new showers.

The post of full-time warden, or manager, finished about 2005 and the day-to-day running of the hostel proceeded with volunteer wardens, based here for a week at a time and supported by the manager of YHA Haworth. For many years, and at least from the time of the author's visits in 2008, this was Alan Clarke, who also maintained Slaidburn and Earby hostels under a similar arrangement.

Alan retired from Haworth in 2016. In turn, Paul Keegan, Laura Cook and Chris Garsden took on the portfolio of hostels from 2017 to 2019, after which Amy Holman moved from YHA Hathersage to oversee the group of hostels including Mankinholes, which again had been achieving overnights of over 4,000pa consistently through the latter half of the 2010s.

Covid 19 restricted YHA's operation in 2020 and for much of 2021. YHA Mankinholes hostel operated only as a groups or exclusive hire hostel between 2020 and 2022, when usage built up gradually, but in line with the accommodation industry the hostel was operating under extreme difficulties because of the consequences of the epidemic. It was described as temporarily closed on YHA's website in 2023.



This floorplan of YHA Mankinholes dates from 2016, initially as a CAD drawing but is here redrawn and simplified by the author. It represents the general layout of the hostel from the reorganisation and modernisation of 2000 through to the present time. Bed numbers: Rooms 1 and 8 – 6 beds; Rooms 2, 4, 6 and 7 – 4 beds; Rooms 3 and 5 – 2 beds



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6 7



The hostel's interior in recent times.
1&2: the comfortable lounge in what is the oldest extant part of the Hall. The staircase leads from here to the first floor;
3&4: dining room and self-catering kitchen are combined and open-plan;
5-8 three of YHA Mankinhole's bedrooms
(YHA publicity photographs)



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5 6



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The hostel's exterior in recent times. 1: the lanes linking the hostel in Mankinholes village to the Calder Valley at Eastgate (near Hebden Bridge) and Todmorden are tortuous, narrow and steep. A little local bus serves these communities; 2: the garden entrance features this attractive iron gate with YHA insignia, similar to examples at Whitby and Ravenstor; 3&4: the north side of the hostel, showing the glazed porch entrance. The rear portion is clearly of a later era; 5&6: these two images from the garden show the very steep slope down to the road. The lower door provides an exit from the dining and self-catering room, while the open upper door is the manager's private exit. The small annexe on the left in picture 5 now houses the ground floor bedroom's en suite; 7: a throwback to more spartan times and precarious nocturnal visits. Hidden at the back of the garden is this uninviting 'Gents', with the painted sign still visible; (author's photographs from visits to YHA Mankinholes in 2008).

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