



Station

"ACROSS FROM HERE YOU CAN SEE THE PACKHORSE YARD, OR BUILDINGS, TERRIBLE 1970'S CONCRETE BUILDINGS. BEFORE THAT THERE WAS THE PACK HORSE HOTEL WHERE I SPENT MY FIRST NIGHTS IN HUDDERSFIELD WHEN I CAME TO JOIN ICI. I WAS THERE FOR 3 NIGHTS BEFORE I GOT DIGS. A VERY OLD COACHING INN. BY THE 1930'S THERE WERE SEVERAL COACHING ROUTES ALL LEFT THROUGH THAT ARCHWAY OVER THERE, AND THERE WAS A VERY ATMOSPHERIC YARD AT THE BACK WHICH WAS VERY RUN DOWN, BUT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE UP VERY NICELY, BUT THE COUNCIL ALLOWED THE WHOLE LOT TO BE KNOCKED DOWN, AND THIS RATHER GRIM CONCRETE STUFF PUT UP, AND ITS BEEN A BIT OF AN EYESORE EVER SINCE. SO THAT WAS A BIT OF A SHAME. THESE DAYS THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF KNOCKING DOWN THE PACKHORSE YARD, THEY'D HAVE MADE SOMETHING OF IT."

"THERE'S THE HISTORY OF THE STATION AND HOW IT CAME TO BE BUILT, AND THEN THERE'S THE LATE SIXTIES WHEN BRITISH RAIL WAS WANTING TO KNOCK IT DOWN. THEY COULD CONCENTRATE THEIR ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND PLATFORM, PLATFORMS 4 TO 8, SO THEY SAID WE DON'T NEED THIS, WE ONLY USE THE BOOKING OFFICE. THERE'S THE STATION TAVERN, ALL THAT'S EMPTY, THE RAILWAY CIRCLE'S UPSTAIRS. WE'D RATHER KNOCK IT DOWN, PUT AN OFFICE BLOCK UP, AND LET THAT OUT. BUT THERE WAS A HOWL OF ANGUISH, AND THEY WERE TOLD 'YOU CAN'T DO THIS' AND HUDDERSFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL STEPPED IN, IN A FAIRLY IMAGINATIVE MOVE AND BOUGHT THE LOT OFF THEM. BY THE TIME THEY'D SIGNED THE LEASE BRITISH RAIL HAD REALISED THEY DID NEED PLATFORM ONE AFTER ALL, SO THIS BUILDING IS STILL OWNED BY HUDDERSFIELD, ALTHOUGH ITS LEASED NOW BY, I SUPPOSE ITS NETWORK RAIL. SO IT COULD WELL HAVE GONE, THE WHOLE LOT COULD HAVE GONE AND YOU COULD HAVE HAD AN OFFICE BLOCK HERE."

Library

SURFACE PATTERNS: WALKING TOURS: 03
10 People. 10 Walks. 10 Stories Told.