

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2006

O fair valley, pleasant to all my thoughts,
Pleasant as drink to parched thirsty souls,
Pleasant as shade in burning Torrid Clime,
Or downy pillow, to the weary limb
Of worn out traveller, or toilsome serf,
'Twas here I smarted first, and first knew joy.

From The History of Saddleworth, James Butterworth.

The **40th Anniversary Dinner** on Friday 20th October, 2006, was a most successful and convivial evening spent in the company of 84 society members in the splendid and aptly named Oak Room at the White Hart Inn, Lydgate, with its masterly oak-beamed roof arched above this very special gathering. This event was honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Bernard Judge and his Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Arita Judge, the Chairman of Saddleworth Council, Councillor Mrs. Alma McKinnes and the Society's Patron, Mr. Roger Tanner. Our Chairman, Mr. Michael Buckley gave the speech of the evening outlining the Society's history, its highlights over the years and giving his appreciation of the Committee's dedicated work over these lecture filled years.

Mr. Ken Booth gave a generous vote of thanks which concluded the evening in a jovial manner.

The celebrations continued with a lecture at the Museum on Saturday 21st October, 06, during the afternoon, when Dr. Robert Poole of Lancaster University spoke on the **life and works of James Butterworth** the Oldham weaver, poet, radical journalist, postmaster for Oldham, and historian. A born writer, who produced The History of Oldham, 1817, The History of Rochdale and The History of Saddleworth 1828, as a planned addition the Antiquities of Manchester 1822/3, A History of Stockport, Ashton-U-Lyne, Mottram-in-Longendale and Glossop 1827. He was born and brought up in Pitses and Alt, a rural backwater, but, no doubt, he looked out at the neighbouring townships, finally his wanderings on these parishes became his life's work as a historian of the Lancashire cotton districts and beyond to Saddleworth, with his tours of the various areas of Lydgate, Greenfield and Dobcross, also of Hey, Delph, Grains; together with his reviews of other places outside these boundaries. The detail and richness of his writing will benefit all his reader's knowledge of our landscape with its varied and grand scenery. It is a most lively piece of travel writing and gives an excellent insight to these Pennine townships. The Book Launch of The History of Saddleworth a reprint of the 1828 book was held after Dr. Poole's lecture and is now on sale for the sum of £12.95 plus postage, see our Publications List.

A conducted walk led by Michael Buckley and Alan Petford was held on Sunday 22nd October, 2006, beginning in Greenfield and describing the history of the village, its creators and vernacular architecture of the attractive buildings, prominent houses and, of course, cottages of import. Morning coffee was taken at Roger Tanner's house, Furlane, and provided a very welcome break.

As expected these Anniversary Celebrations created great interest and attracted a large audience. The magnet of Saddleworth lore continues and provided another milestone for its written history to record. Generous thanks were given to Mrs. Elsie Broadbent and Mr. David Harrison for organising the memorable dinner on behalf of the Society.

SOCIETY LECTURES

A well illustrated lecture on 'Victorian Christmas Cards and other Seasonal Items', was presented by Sheila Shurroch at the Museum on Wednesday, 8th November, 06, the enthusiastic and knowledgeable delivery of this seasonal production gave the good audience an entertainment they all would have felt to be a worth while experience.

The lecture by Dr. K. W. Mitchinson entitled England's Last Hope: The Local Territorial Force 1908 - 1919' traced the activities of the volunteer soldiers during their training and preparation for war, which would commence with the dreadful Battle of the Somme. No doubt, Oldham's own Territorials serving at the Drill Hall came to mind for some of the evening's audience. An excellent and very professional lecture.

The Annual General Meeting was successfully held on Wednesday 7th December, 06. and attracted a most reasonable audience to elect the new officers for the Society's duties in 2007. Our Treasurer Mrs. Dorothy Latimer resigned after serving for 10 years as a very popular Treasurer, conducting the Society's business in her quiet and most efficient style. Dorothy is still remaining as a Committee Member. Mr. Neil Barrow has volunteered to take over the Treasurer's post after being our diligent Secretary for over 20 years and we wish him much success in his new position and we trust his enthusiasm for the Society stands him in good stead.

Another Committee Member Mr. Alan Schofield is prepared to adopt the Secretary's area of responsibility and he will be most appreciated in this important role.

The Chairman's Report will be published in the next Bulletin to be issued.

SOCIETY LECTURES:

Wednesday 10th January, 07, 7.30 pm, at the Museum. The Men Behind the MedalsII' Ian McKinnes. Unfortunately this lecture was cancelled and will held at a future date.

Wednesday 14th February, 07, 7.30 pm. at the Museum 'The Scattered Homes', Freda Millett.

Wednesday 14th March, 07, 7.30 pm. at the Museum, Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture. . 'The Historic Landscape of Saddleworth' Stephen Moorhouse.

Thursday 19th April, 07, 7.30 pm. at the Museum. 'The Gartsides of Rochdale: A Medieval Merchant Family' Victor Khadem.

The lecture which was cancelled will now be held on Wednesday the 9th May, 07, at the Museum. Ian McKinnes The Men Behind the Medals 11'

THE SADDLEWORTH-AMERICA CONNECTION.

Due to the continued interest in this exclusive publication, long out of print, a reprint has been commissioned to satisfy the requests for this record of the emigration to America of Saddleworth's adventurous men and women seeking the opportunities offered in the New World. It is printed at an attractive price of £5.00, which includes post and packing U.K. Overseas members \$15.00 or £7.50 Sterling.

An order form is enclosed for your attention.

SADDLEWORTH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS: 2nd - 10th June, 2007

This year, the Society is producing a new book 'Mapping Saddleworth' for our contribution to the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts, which will be a subscribers publication and is to be launched at the Museum on Sunday 3rd June, 2007 2-00-p.m. together with a lecture to be given by Alan Petford entitled 'Mapping Saddleworth; an enlarged and revised collection of Historic Maps of the Township'. This should prove to be a splendid occasion to celebrate a literary achievement by our scribes on the Committee. More information on this publication will be furnished together with an order form in the next Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM:

Coffee Morning & Boutique. 2nd Wednesday of each month..

Farmers' Markets. 2nd Sunday of each month

EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM:

Delph Donkey - a local Railway	Continuing until further notice.
The Changing Face of Saddleworth.	Continuing until further notice.
Ammon Wrigley - a Celebration.	Continuing until further notice.

Museum Opening times: Winter hours November until the end of March 07. 1.00 - 4.00 pm
Adults £2.00 Concessions £1.00 Family Groups £4.00

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY Lectures 7.30 pm. Saddleworth Museum.

Thursday 15th March, 07 [Saltaire World Heritage Site](#) - Maria Glot, Lecturer with the Saltaire World Heritage Centre.

Thursday 10th May, 07 The Work & Projects of the Yorkshire & Humberside Association of Civic Societies. Peter Cooper, Chairman of Yorkshire & Humberside Civic Society.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust apply to Mrs. Loma Gartside, Hollingreave Farm, Holly Grove, Dobcross, Saddleworth. OL3 5NJ 01457 87 3195

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

We welcome fifteen new members to the Society who have joined since the publication of the last Bulletin.

Mrs. Sandra Drake, St. Neots, Cambs.	Mrs. M. George, Wellingboro, Northants.
Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Baumann, Diggle.	Mrs. Glenitz Davison, Greenfield.
Mrs. Irene Rhodes, Victoria, Australia.	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Broadbent, Luton.
Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Lord, Marsden.	Mr. Stuart Smith. Toronto, Canada.
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Heginbottom, Wirral.	Mr. Malcolm Firth, Chadderton.
Dr. P.A. Banister, Shaws, Uppermill.	

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2007

It was decided at the AGM that the Annual Subscriptions for 2007 should remain unchanged for the benefit of the membership. A subscription form is enclosed for your personal use and

we should be glad to receive your payment at your earliest convenience. Your membership is greatly valued by the Society.

Family Membership	£14.00	Single Membership	£12.00
Retired Family & Single	£9.00	Student Membership	£9.00
Overseas Family & Single USA & Canada. £15.00 Sterling or \$40.			
Australia & New Zealand	£15.00 Sterling.		

Cheques made payable to the Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to the Hon. Memberstfip Secretary, Mrs. E. Broadbent, Pastures Farm Flat, Back o' th' Low Road, Strinesdale, Saddleworth, Yorks. OL4 3SG (0161 785 8268)

Regrettably we have to report the death of Mrs. Joan Blower of Grasscroft who will be remembered for her abiding interest in botany and the pleasure it endears. She was a very long standing member of our Society together with Roy and our condolences have been forwarded.

Sadly Mr. Frank Allsopp of Greenfield has died who was a strong supporter of the Society for many years. Sympathy has been extended to Mrs. Allsopp and family.

'RAKINGS UP' - AMMON WRIGLEY.

An Ammon Wrigley book is available 'Rakings Up', which is an autobiographical study of Ammon's early life, well illustrated with many photographs and in excellent condition. This is a first edition 1949 produced by Sam Seville, Ammon's son-in-law.

The price is £22.00 - Contact Mrs. E. Broadbent on 0161-785-8268 if you are interested in purchasing.

J. Hindle.