

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2008

On old Highmoor heather's in bloom,
A stretch of purple sea;
And the breath it breathes in my face
Is like old wine to me.

On old Highmoor, heather's in bloom;
And joy runs through my blood;
Like sap through an April tree,
And always does me good.

Heather Time on Highmoor, Ammon Wrigley.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009

The Subscriptions for 2009, which are due in January, remain unchanged for the benefit of the members. A subscription form is enclosed and we shall be grateful to receive payment at your earliest convenience. Your membership is greatly appreciated by the Society.

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

**FORTHCOMING LECTURES AT THE MUSEUM.
BERNARD BARNES MEMORIAL LECTURE.**

Wednesday 7th January, 2009	The early history of the Springhead area. Mike Buckley.
Thursday 22nd January, 2009	The development of modern Springhead. Neil Barrow.
Wednesday 25th February, 2009	In search of phantom fortunes: Working class gambling 1900-1960 Prof. Keith Laybourn.

FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND THE MUSEUM, UPPERMILL.

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July, 2009 an opportunity for Overseas Members and UK Members who are researching their family trees to meet and become involved with other members at the Museum, and conduct Historical investigations into the Society's and Museum Archives. The programme will include a Day School on Family History, Lectures & Working Session, Guided Walk and Social Occasion.

The previous Family History Weekend was very popular and we were most pleased to welcome many of our Overseas and Country Members taking advantage of this Family Event and we trust with your continued support that another success is struck with this programme. Further details later.

PAST LECTURES & EVENTS

Building the Big Ditch.

On the 24th September, 2008 an excellent lecture and Magic Lantern presentation using authentic Victorian slides was given by Glen Atkinson and contained an atmosphere of the epic work effort by the men engaged in providing this Ship Canal connection between Liverpool and Manchester, linking the Lancashire Cotton Industry directly to the Cotton Fields of the New World. Health and Safety at work had not appeared then so did not hamper their hazardous civil engineering works nor stint their onward progress to achieve their goal.

The lecture totally engaged the audience in this gripping story of a piece of history well worth retelling and done so in such an interesting manner.

Shifting Boundaries, Changing roles, 60 years of Nursing in the National Health Service.

1st October, 2008

We all have our own opinions of the National Health Service, but this graphic description of the workings of this National Service from the inside was most revealing and informative and gave the audience its full value of attention and created another good questioning session. Dr. Christine Hallett's boundless experience within our Hospitals gave her the authority to explain those moving boundaries, but progress dictates a changing role and an unfolding programme of works within the Nursing Profession.

Agriculture & Farming in Ancient Egypt.

The speaker on the 22nd October, 2008 was Victor Blunden of the Manchester Ancient Egypt Society, a renowned expert in his field. The civilisation was essentially agrarian and dependent on the waters of the Nile. Using slides of the monuments and friezes he showed how they can provide evidence of the crops grown and the farming methods. It was a most enjoyable and absorbing talk. Members can find out more at www.ancientegyptmagazine.com

Family History Day - At The Gallery, Oldham, organised by Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

A Family History Day was held on the 15th November, and attracted many Local History Societies from Ashton-U-Lyne, Royton, Stalybridge, & Huddersfield amongst others.

It was reported to be an extremely well attended event represented by our Society with Committee Members who formed a rota and met likeminded enthusiasts recording the historical content of their local environment for posterity.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 13th/14th September, 08

Jim Carr, leader of our Archaeological must be applauded for organising Guided Walks around Castleshaw Roman Camp each year during the Heritage Open Days

Both days were very well attended and all the participants enjoyed the afternoons talks and being with the Romans in Saddleworth

PUBLIC GUIDED WALKS - SUMMER 2008

From Hillside to Suburbia (Springhead)

Neil Barrow led members and guests from the old railway station at Grotton along Wood Brook past the sites of the old cotton mills of Radcliffe, Livingstone and Springhead. On Oldham Road and Walkers Lane the development of the textile workers houses became evident as did the more imposing mill owners' mansions on Cooper Street. Continuing past the cricket field to Woodbrook to the site of yet another cotton mill and the farms and Manor House at Stonebreaks. Passing above Grotton Lido, the open air 1930s swimming pool we descended Radcliffe Street between the Congregational Church graveyard and Sunday School finishing the walk in the centre of the 20th Century residential area of Grotton Hollow.

Friezland.

Jim Carr started the walk inside Christ Church Friezland designed by George Shaw and engaged by the prime movers, the Whiteheads, the local mill owners. After a short section along the Huddersfield Narrow Canal we learnt about the growth of the Royal George Mills as felt and banner makers and the lifestyles of the Whiteheads. After climbing to the turnpike cross roads at the Royal George public house we descended through the 18th Century Wellihole farm hamlet before returning to the church.

Mill after Mill in Diggle.

Alan Schofield led the walk up the Harrop Court valley past the late 18th century scribbling mills Mitchell, Court and Grove to the site of the long gone Backstone Pit Mill where the bake stones were quarried until the 1720s. Climbing up to Brun we viewed the late 18th Century farmsteads before descending to the woollen manufacturing hamlet of Deanhead. Down Thornsclough skirting the farmsteads at Acker and Brow we reached further scribbling mills at Warcock before finished at Yew Tree with its farm with 16th Century origins and the site of a 19th Century cotton mill.

Scouthead, Saddleworth's Forgotten Hamlet.

Jack Schofield completed his new Scouthead Trail with an inaugural walk around the route with 40 or so enthusiasts. Starting on the Turnpike at the Three Crowns with tales of manslaughter and the death of a balloonist we crossed the fields to Pastures Mill and mill owner's house. Passing Wrigley's Mill and the terrace of workers houses we crossed the line of the Roman Road to the first turnpike along Thorpe Lane. A visit to the High Moor infill site was followed by tales of The Old Original ghost. With a view of the 17th Century enclosures we were introduced to Dr Byrom and his House, the Starting Chair and Grandstand. A visit to Newhouses followed with stories of the Kitling Power Mill. A tour of the 21st Century conversion of the Parish Church concluded the trail.

Walk The Friarmere Boundary.

Chairman Mike Buckley walked the boundary with 16 hardy souls. Starting at Brun Clough we strode out along Millstone Edge. The Medieval ditch took us round Readycon Dean to The Rams Head. Avoiding the barbed wire we crossed the fields to Cherry Clough and up onto Crompton Moor with its extensive views over Friarmere. After a refreshment break at Grains

Bar the boundary trail continued round Knott Hill, through Delph and along the Magna Via to Bleakhey Nook and Standedge Foot.

Alan Schofield is to be thanked most cordially for his organisation and also the people who took part in guiding these most interesting walks.

FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

Meanwhile a piece of Museum News where Oliver Benson has been appointed Chairman of the Friends of Saddleworth Museum This a worthy office for Oliver to hold because with John Buckley he created and built the Textile Section at the Museum with its Mule Spinning Frame and Weaving Loom upon which he had working experience.

So congratulations are to be offered and may he serve many years.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM, HIGH STREET, UPPERMILL

6th December, 2008 - Father Christmas Special
Boredom Busters & Boom Ting - Children's Events.
Fridays.

Ring Museum for details
01457 874093

2nd Sunday of each month 8.0 am. to 2.00 pm.

Farmers' Market.

2nd Wednesday of each month 10.30 am. to 12 noon.

FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING

Tuesdays 9.30 -12.00 noon.

Canal Quilters - Quilting Group

29-30th November, 2008

Model Railway Weekend.

2009 'Saddleworth in Film' If you have any old cine film of the area the Museum could borrow to copy on DVD please contact Peter Fox, The Curator, on 01457 87 4093

Art Gallery Exhibitions.

21st November 2008 -11th January, 2009

The exhibition is the first at the Gallery showing the work of the Canalside Quilters who meet every Tuesday morning at the Museum.

CANALSIDE QUILTERS

Preview Friday 20th Nov. 2008

17th January 2009 -15th February, 2009

Oldham 6th Form College. Preview
Friday 16th Jan. 2009

Future Exhibitions.

Following the success of 'In Your Pram'- we are organising a similar themed exhibition 'ON YOUR BIKE' so if you have any photographs/memories of owning/riding a bike please write them down and let the Museum borrow to scan and return.

Another exhibition 'WHAT DID YOUR ANCESTORS DO'- if you have any photographs/memories of yourself or relatives at work please contact Peter Fox at the Museum 01457 87 ~093

SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

28th February, 2009 7.30 pm. The Museum, High Street, Uppermill.
Gordon Jackson - A Musical Evening. Classical- Light Music.
Donations would be appreciated.

Branch Secretary - Mrs. Anne Buckley: Tel. 01457 872881

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST 7.30 pm. at The Museum, Uppermill.

Thursday 29th January, 2009 Silk Towns across the Sea - Macclesfield, Como - Italy.
Illustrated Lecture by Richard De Peyer. Director of
Macclesfield Silk Museum & Heritage Centre.

Thursday 12th March, 09 An Account of the Rural District of Hartshead & Broadcarr.
Talk headed by Mavis Defley and 5 others.

Thursday 30th April, 09 Ten Things I Didn't Know About Manchester. Lecture given
by Livi Michael, Local Author.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust contact Loma Gartside 01457 87 3195

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

Twelve new members have joined the Society since the publication of the Summer Bulletin. We welcome them and trust they enjoy their membership.

Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Gradwell, Diggle.
Mr. & Mrs. John Buckley, Fleetwood.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen G. Whitehead, Springhead.
Mrs. Jane McCann, Dobcross.,

Mrs. P.A. Woodcock, France.
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Gledhill, Delph.
Mr. Phil Wild, Grotton.
Mr. John McCarthy, Chadderton.

Shelia Maden who has recently died was a well known personality at the Museum and a member of our society for many years. She always was busying herself at the Museum with whatever task required discharging, catering, kitchen work or helping in the upstairs Office. She will be sadly missed by her friends. Harry, her husband served in Bomber Command during the 2nd World War and people will, no doubt, recall him working in the Archive for the Museum. They lived at Higher Cross, Uppermill, before Sheila moved to Wellington Road, Greenfield.

The Christmas Season is coming upon us and presents are foremost in our minds, which prompts the Publication Department to draw your attention to our available book list contained in this issue. 'Mapping Saddleworth' Printed Maps of the Parish 1771-1894 would be delivered by hand to addresses in Saddleworth.

Good luck with your choice and thank you for your support.

Stanley Broadbent