

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FORTHCOMING LECTURES

All will take place at Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill, at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 26th November

Darwin's voyage of 'The Beagle'

Speaker: Ian McInnes

Thursday, 17th December*

14th Century Saddleworth

Speaker: Victor Khadem.

This lecture will be preceded by the Society's Annual General Meeting.

*** Please note the change from the original date of Wednesday, 16th December.**

Thursday, 21st January

The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture

Water, Industry and Society in Saddleworth - a historical survey

Speaker: Michael Fox

Thursday, 18th February

Oldham Treasures

Speaker: Sean Baggaley.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST

Wednesday 9th December

Winter trip: Lancaster & visit to Leighton Hall & Estate, Carnforth

Thursday 28th January

Church and well known Public Clocks throughout the UK

Keith Scoby-Youngs

For further information contact charles.baumann@sky.com

SADDLEWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Tuesday 8th December.

Recent Excavations at Buckton Castle

A slide lecture by Norman Redhead. County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester.

Tuesday 12th January

A.G.M. followed by A Miscellany of Archaeological Sites

An illustrated talk by David Chadderton and Ken Booth, Saddleworth Arch. Trust.

Tuesday 16th February

Coccium reconsidered: Recent Excavations of Roman Wigan

A slide lecture by Ian Miller, Oxford Archaeology North.

Tuesday, 16th March
The John Buckley Memorial Lecture
Lentworth Hall Mill, Wyresdale

A slide lecture by Ben Edwards, Former County Archaeologist, Lancashire.

Unless indicated all meetings are at the Masonic Hall, 138 High Street, Uppermill. 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm. For further information see www.sadd-arch.org.uk/index.htm

SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

The class programme for the winter term, 2010, is as follows. All classes are held at Saddleworth School, High Street, Uppermill. Please enrol at the first class.

Art Appreciation

Tutor: Carmen Walton

7 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 12th January, 2010.

Banned Books

Tutor: Chris Foley

10 weekly sessions, starting Tuesday, 12th January 2010.

(Prospective learners for this class - which will be a form of reading group - are encouraged to enrol in September 2009, to allow them time to read the novels to be covered.)

For further information please contact the Branch Secretary, Anne Buckley, on 01457- 872881.

GALLERY OLDHAM

Women of Oldham

12 September 2009 - 10 January 2010

An exhibition that looks at the character, the independence and the achievements of Oldham's women. It tells the story of local women who have won national fame and recognises the many ways women have contributed to the wealth and growth of the area over the last 200 years.

Oldham Treasures

5 December 2009 - 12 April 2010

Gallery Oldham's collections have been assembled over a period of 125 years and contain many items of really high quality and significance. These treasures belong to the people of Oldham and are celebrated in this special exhibition. From oil paintings to studio pottery, from cotton cops to grandfather clocks, there should be something here for everyone. The displays chart the progress and fashions of the Gallery's collecting of art and social history. Works by artists such as Lowry and Millais can be seen alongside items that reflect the history of the area and its people.

For further information see www.galleryoldham.org.uk.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

The following new members have joined the Society since publication of the Summer Bulletin, and we wish to extend a welcome and trust they will enjoy their membership.

Mrs. Mary Rodgers, Delph

Mr A.L. Mouatt, Rutland

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Hartley-Smith, Delph

Ms. Pat Ashton, Slaithwaite

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Goodyear, Shaw.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009

There are still a few members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions to the Society and we shall be pleased to receive remittances as soon as possible.

SADDLEWORTH WEBSITES

Francis Frith <http://www.francisfrith.com> This is a commercial site displaying the firm's archive of photographs taken to produce postcards. There are also old maps. Type: Delph in the search box to bring up twenty-nine 1950s photographs. To find other villages use: select a neighbouring place i.e. do not search using Saddleworth.

PUBLICATIONS

Members, particularly those outside the area may not be aware that it is not only the Society which is publishing Saddleworth books:

The Pre-History of Saddleworth WPB Stonehouse

Based upon many years of excavation of sites on the local moors and thorough research, this is a comprehensive and definitive study.

Roman Saddleworth The History Archaeology and Visible Remains of the Roman Occupation in an Area of the Pennines.

Ken Booth

Originally published in 2001 and now back in print this is a full account of the Roman period. It discusses not only the forts and the various excavations and Roman roads but also details the finds within the forts and elsewhere.

Both published by Saddleworth Archaeological Trust and available at Saddleworth Museum bookshop or via www.sadd-arch.org.uk

FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND

On Saturday July 4 some thirty members of the family history group assembled at the Museum for the second Family History Weekend and a very full two-day programme of visits, talks and workshops.

After a welcome by Mike Buckley we first set out along the canal towpath towards Frenches, seeing early industrial development (goits) by the River Tame. At Frenches we gazed on the canal wharf noting the additions to the early buildings that had served it. Then, heading along Chew Valley Road we next stopped at the Wellington mill site with its surviving office block and the turnpike toll house (known locally as the Bar House) facing it.

Having passed through the mid-20th century Queensway estate we headed up Arthurs towards Kinders House and then started the climb to Higher Kinders, Fur Lane and up Haw Clough Lane to Knowl Top following the old road to the St Chad's church area. Passing many examples of the early

woollen industry the prospect of a well-earned lunch in Uppermill took us back towards the Museum.

The afternoon session took us to Golcar to visit the Colne Valley Museum with its early textile machinery and tools and also a clog making shop.

Mike hosted a most enjoyable social evening at Dobcross with excellent food and musical entertainment. Those of us who had attended the first Family History Weekend three years ago will have had fond memories of the social and this year's did not disappoint!

Sunday morning found us raring to learn from the formal sessions, which began with an interesting talk by Mike on the information on ancestors that can be derived from wills. Subsequent sessions were to show how true this was.

Victor Khadem, had entertained us the previous evening with his recital on Mike's virginal (many of us had had revealed our ignorance by believing it to be a spinet). He now gave us a talk on the Gartside family. Neil Barrow followed, speaking about some of the families whose industrial and commercial activities had shaped Saddleworth paving the way for the enterprises of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

An excellent cold buffet in the Museum gave us an opportunity to chat to folk over lunch - none too long a break as some of us (I confess to being the main offender) had to be dragged back to allow the afternoon's proceedings to start more or less on time.

Alan Petford opened the final session with a talk showing what wills can reveal about the economic activities of our ancestors and about the development of the district in general. Finally and continuing the theme of his talk, Jean Sanders set us to work on copies of early mid-seventeenth century wills (fortunately with transcripts which allowed us to cope with the calligraphy). Then a will and inventory from the end of the century had us concentrating on the archaic spelling and technical vocabulary. Lastly we tackled a will with early seventeenth-century calligraphy.

The Weekend came to a close at 4pm having proved both stimulating and entertaining, as well as astonishingly good value for money.

Congratulations and thanks to those in Saddleworth who worked so hard to make the event so memorable. May we look forward to another one in due course?

Brian Kenworthy