

**SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008**

It wouldn't be spring if the thrush didn't sing,
For how would flowers know
It were time to wake, in meadow and brake,
And make the green earth glow?

Then hey for a thrush and a whitethorn bush,
Hey for a song to sing
That will fill the blood with a joyous flood
Warm from the heart of spring.

*Songs of the Pennine Hills.
Ammon Wrigley.*

SOCIETY COACH TRIP - YORK - SATURDAY 12th JULY 2008

This year we are going to the historic City of York to look at the Medieval era and very privileged once more to have Alan Petford with us to enhance our understanding of this important period of our history. The coach will depart from the Museum, High Street, Uppermill, 8.30 am.

We will be visiting the finest medieval Guild Hall in Britain. The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, is a 650 years old magnificent building with a timbered Great Hall, Undercroft and Chapel with a fascinating history as a meeting place of the Guild. Tea/Coffee will be provided here.

A short walk away is the church of St. Denys, built in 1154 on a much older Anglo-Saxon site and has connections with the Merchants through its medieval stained glass windows.

Lunch is not included in the booking, but many cafes are available and you will be able to take in the other delights of York before reassembling at 2.00 p.m.

Alan will guide the party around the inspiring remains of the medieval St. Mary's Abbey.

The Library of York Minster is our next port of call where the Librarian Mr. John S. Powell, will open the Library especially for us and describe the building, its work and some of the early books. You will have time to browse through some of the 17th and 18th C. collections. The library is available for public use and has a large Yorkshire Collection.

After some light refreshment at St. William's College we will return to Saddleworth arriving around 6.30 p.m.

The price of the Coach Trip is £22.00 per person. A booking slip is enclosed and should be returned to Mrs. D. Latimer, as soon as possible. Tel. No. 0161 633 3205

FORTHCOMING LECTURES

Thursday 5th June, 2008. 7.30 pm. at the Museum.

Ancient Highways & Byways. Mike Buckley.

PAST LECTURES.

George Shaw, Antiquarian, Collector & Architect. - Alan Petford

On the 5th March, 2008 our Society Archivist, Alan Petford, delivered a rich and illuminating lecture on our much respected Saddleworth Architect and Antiquarian, George Shaw, who we learned was a well travelled and experienced individual. We followed his footsteps all the way up the west coast of Lancashire and Cumberland on his Northern journey from Liverpool via Carlisle to Glasgow, traversing Scotland with the young Lochinvar to the old town of Edinburgh and not missing an apartment, house or place of interest. New streets, high roofs and the balustrades of bridges caught his discerning eye. Of course, his pride and joy was buying antiques with which he furnished his home at St. Chad's, High Street, Uppermill. Regretfully some of his external stonework antiquities have disappeared, but internally his handiwork at St. Chad's is still evident for our lasting and worthy appreciation.

His architectural stature is also reflected in the many spires and towers of his capital designs which are all around these Northern Counties.

The Changing Face of Lees. Freda Millett. 2nd April, 2008

The township of Lees and Leesfield were the subject of ever popular local author and late Oldham Local Studies Librarian, Freda Millett. Her slide lecture had great clarity with its many local views to capture the very full audiences imagination. The old and new vistas of High Street, and Thomas Street were prominent and the various churches came into the picture, St. Thomas and St. Edwards, Hey St. John's and Zion all figured in Freda's story told so perfectly at the Museum in Uppermill. A searching question session filled the evening's entertainment on this history of the parish of Lees and district.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - 13th and 14th SEPT. 2008 SAT & SUN 2.00 pm

Jim Carr will be guiding walks around Castleshaw Roman Forts with views of the Roman Road between the fortresses of Chester and York.

Meet at the Castleshaw Centre, off Waterworks Road, Delph, Map Ref. SD9909. Turn off A62, 2 miles NE of Delph, between stone gate posts marked OCWW along Waterworks Road. Park by Castleshaw Centre. There is no charge, but the Society publications will be on sale at a small cost.

If wet stout footwear needed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM:

Boredom Busters & Boom Ting. Children's Events.	Ring Museum for details 01457 87 4093
2nd Sunday of each month 8.00 am to 2.00 pm	Farmers' Market.
2nd Wednesday of each month 10.30 am to 12.30	FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING Admission £1.00. Note new times.
Tuesdays 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.	Canal Quilting Group. Free to new members for the morning Annual £10.00 or £2.50 per week.
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 4 days Thursday to Sunday 11th SEPTEMBER to 14th SEPTEMBER, 08	Free entry to the Museum during the 4 days. Thurs to Sat. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS:

31 st May - 29th June, 08

Saddleworth Group of Artists.
Annual Exhibition.

5th July - 23rd August, 08

Textile Art Group.
Everything in Textiles.

9th August - 7th September, 08

Lancashire Arts & Crafts Guild.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday 11th Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and 14th September, 2008

As part of this national event, organised by the Civic Trust, admission to the Museum will be totally free during the 4 days.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS:

All dressed Up and Nowhere to Go

This Exhibition takes the opportunity to use some of the varied costumes in our Collection. Most of the dresses on display represent an era or decade.

We thank Lucy Cobb of High Street, Uppermill for help with the exhibition and loan of contemporary costume.

The exhibition will change throughout the year as we show more from our collections.

Villages of Saddleworth

Looks at the villages of Grasscroft, Lydgate and Greenfield, showing the development and focuses on the lives of the people living and working there, with particular emphasis on the village centres, shops, inns, schools, leisure and work, churches and transport. Find out about the Grasscroft Searchlight, romantic, sporting and wartime Greenfield. Learn more about Butterworth & Fletchers and the development of the Co-operative Movement and also how 'watery' Greenfield led to the building of today's reservoirs.

Saddleworth Musical Society

An exhibition celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Saddleworth Musical Society and excellent insight into the formation of the society and its talented artistes.

Museum Opening Times:

Mon. to Sat. 10.00 am: to 4.00 pm.

Sunday 12 noon to 4.00 pm.

Tel: 01457 87 4093

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

LECTURES 7.30 pm. SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

- Saturday 14th June, 2008 2.00 pm. Half Day Heritage Walk
Guided by Mike Buckley. Details later.
- Thursday 26th June, 2008 Life in Saddleworth in the early 1800's
connected with St. Chad's Church etc.,
Illustrated lecture by the Rec. Duncan Rhodes,
Local Historian.
- Thursday 3rd July, 2008 Summer Coach Trip
Duncombe Hall 8 Gardens & Helmsley Town,
North Yorkshire.
Fully inclusive day out - details later.
- Thursday 4th September, 2008 All That Messuage or Tenement - 400 years
of housing in Saddleworth.
Mike Buckley.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust - Contact Loma Gartside 01457 87 3195

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- Art Appreciation - Demonstrated.
Tuesdays 30th Sept. 08 to 11th Nov. 08. 1.00 pm TONIE RIGBY
The Gallery, Gatehead Park Business Centre,
Gatehead Road, Delph. 7 weeks.
- British Architecture from Wren to Lutyens. ALAN PETFORD
Tuesdays 23rd Sept. to 2nd Dec. 08 7.00 pm.
Saddleworth School, Uppermill. 10 weeks.
- An introduction to Computers & Digital Technology. ANNE BUCKLEY.
Thursdays 25th Sept. to 13 Nov. 08. 7.00 pm
Saddleworth School, Uppermill. 7 weeks.
- More Computers & Digital Technology. ANNE BUCKLEY
Thursdays 8th Jan. 09 to 19 Feb. 09 7.00 pm.
Saddleworth School, Uppermill. 7 weeks.
- Creative Writing. CHRIS FOLEY
Thursdays 25th Sept. to 4th Dec. 08 7.00 pm.
Saddleworth School, Uppermill. 10 weeks.

Contact Mrs. Anne Buckley for further details on 01457 87 2881

email – annebuckley@myway.com

Or enrol on the day or night.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

We would like to welcome eight new members to the Society and hope they will enjoy their membership.

Mr. & Mrs. K. R. Reid, Epsom, Surrey.
Mrs. V.M. Gibbs, Bristol.
Mr. Phil Skye, Llantrisant, Mid. Wales.

Dr. & Mrs. R. Edwards, Frodsham, Cheshire.
Mr. & Mrs. John Grice, Lydgate.

We were sad to hear of the recent death at the age of 92 years of George Taylor, from Mottram, a Society member for many years. He worked as an Industrial Chemist and during the Second World War was involved in research at the Government Experimental Station, Porton Down.

George's abiding interest was Archaeology and he spent his summers after retirement working as a volunteer at digs in the Midlands. He was a contemporary of Alec Schofield, and Dr. Pat Stonehouse. At meetings he would expound his theories on Roman Roads through Stalybridge and led visits to his favourite Roman Fort at Melandra.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008

A reminder is enclosed with this Bulletin for members who have not yet paid the Annual Subscription and we would be very much obliged to receive remittances as soon possible. Your valued support is very much appreciated.

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

Best wishes to all our members for the Summer months.

S. Broadbent.