

**SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2009**

PROJECT TO IDENTIFY SADDLEWORTH BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

Oldham Borough Council has embarked on an ambitious project to identify all the buildings across the borough which are of historic or architectural interest. In practice this probably means most buildings built before 1870. This local list will complement the existing national list of buildings, of gradings I, II, II* etc.

The Society have agreed to produce a list for Saddleworth; it is anticipated that the numbers will be in excess of 1000 buildings, so rich is our heritage.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this enormous task. If you would like to help with this project - in the area in which you live or anywhere in Saddleworth - please contact Mike Buckley on 01457-820015 or Email mikebucklev@saddleworth.net.

A special training event will be held in June to bring volunteers up to speed on how to conduct the survey and to carry out a practical exercise in the field.

HELP SOUGHT TO RECORD MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Ivan Foster is to co-ordinate the recording of gravestones in the New Yard at Saddleworth Church. The first phase of this work will be to photograph and record all visible gravestones, beginning this autumn. The help of volunteers would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, Mr. Foster would also welcome information on any grave within the New Yard. (Any such data would be stored in the Society's archive and would be for the use of members alone. It would not be copied to third parties without written permission.)

Ivan Foster: e-mail foster946@btinternet.com Tel: 07709 081071
Address: 2, Milton Street, Mossley, Lancashire. OLS OSW

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST - FORTHCOMING LECTURES

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| Thursday, 2 nd July | Climate, Oceans and the Hydrogen Imperative.
Mike Koefman, Secretary of the Campaign for a Hydrogen Economy |
| Thursday, 3 rd September | The work of assessing, judging and awarding sites, buildings etc. in the northwest of England.
Lecture by a member of the Civic Trust, NW Region Awards Scheme. |

Venue: Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, 7.30 p.m.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - GUIDED WALKS

Except where indicated otherwise, the walks follow roads and paths along a circular route two to three miles in length and will last on average 2 1/2 hours. Stout footwear is recommended.

Children must be accompanied by adults at all times and, in the interests of safety, participants are requested not to bring dogs.

Wednesday, July 1st - Greenfield and Chew Valley circular

An exploration of how the area around Dovestone reservoir has been shaped by waterworks, hillside farming and industry.

Guide: Michael Fox.

Start: Dovestone Reservoir car park, 1.45 p.m.

Sunday, July 19th - Strinesdale

See how agriculture developed on this ancient moorland. Guide: Victor Khadem

Start: Outside the 'Roebuck Inn', Brighton Road, 1.45 p.m.

Wednesday, August 12th - From Corn Mill to Uppermill

Exploring the hamlets of Uppermill and discovering how transport routes influenced the development of the village.

Guide: Alan Schofield

Start: Saddleworth Museum car park, 1.45 p.m.

Sunday, August 30th - Shawmere boundary walk

A 9-mile circular walk along the boundary of Shawmere. The route will include Thurston Clough, Burnedge Bent, Shadworth Lane, Carr Lane, Den, Tamewater and Gatehead. Some stiff climbs are involved. Please bring refreshments for this all-day walk.

Guide: Mike Buckley

Start: The car park, The Sound, Delph, 10.00 a.m.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Alan Schofield (Hon. Secretary), 0161 338 6555.

SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

The provisional class programme for the autumn and winter terms, 2009 - 2010, is as follows:

Saddleworth History - an explorer's guide - 10 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 22nd September. Tutor: Michael Fox

Antiques Appreciation - 7 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 29th September. Tutor: Carmen Walton

Art Appreciation - 7 weekly sessions, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., starting Tuesday, 12th January. Tutor: Carmen Walton

Write Your Life Story - 10 weekly sessions, starting late September. (Exact dates, times and venue are still to be confirmed). Tutor: Chris Foley.

Banned Books - 10 weekly sessions, starting January 2010. (Exact dates, times and venue are still to be confirmed). Tutor: Chris Foley.

Additional details will be provided in the next 'Bulletin'. In the interim, for information please contact the Branch Secretary, Anne Buckley, on (01457) 872881.

SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

The following exhibitions will be on display until further notice.

'Having a Party' - This exhibition takes the opportunity to use some of the varied costumes in our collection on a party theme. It is interesting that most of the dresses on display represent an era or a decade. Fashion certainly has changed in the past but not at the speed it does nowadays. In another 100 years what fashion statement will mark this decade?

'In the Mill Pond' - With the restoration of the millpond at what was Dam Head Mill, now Willowbank, the excavations have revealed a number of interesting objects that over the years have found their way into the mud to be lost and rediscovered. The exhibition includes other curiosities that have been found in similar situations around Saddleworth from ponds and the canal and we already have a Viking ring on display found in Greenfield Brook.

'Saddleworth's the Star' - 'Yanks', some of which was filmed in the Saddleworth area, is celebrated in an annual 'Wartime' Weekend during August - but what other films have used Saddleworth as a backdrop? Well, 'Brassed Off' for one. So come and have a look to see what other films there are. The display looks at what has been filmed around the Oldham area as well and you will be able to answer the question 'What connection is there between the film "Brief Encounter" and Oldham?'

Saddleworth in Film; We are organising a 'Saddleworth in Film' event - do you have any old film of the area that we could borrow to copy onto DVD. The film would be added to our archive collection. Contact the Curator-details as over.

PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR FUTURE EXHIBITIONS!

Following on from the success with 'In Your Pram' we want to do a similar themed exhibition 'On Your Bike' so if you have any memories / photographs of owning / riding a bike please write them down and let us borrow a picture (to scan and return).

An exhibition is also planned on the theme 'What did your ancestors do?' The basis for this is a joint Saddleworth Historical Society / Saddleworth Museum project. The aim of the exhibition would be to present a photographic historical record of people at work in Saddleworth: in mills, offices, garages, shops, fields - anywhere and everywhere. But neither the Museum nor Saddleworth Historical Society archives have many photographs like this. So, before what would be a fascinating exhibition could take place the Museum would need people in the area to comb through their family albums for photographs of people at work. If you have any photographs - and / or - memories of yourself or your relatives at work in Saddleworth we would love to hear from you. (Any photographs, if local, would, if the lender wished, be copied and added to our archives.)

Museum Opening Hours:

Summer Hours: Mon to Sat, 10.00am - 4.00pm. Sunday, 12 noon - 4.00pm

Admission: Adults: £2. Concessions: £1. Family Groups: £4

Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS. Telephone: 01457 874093. Fax: 01457 870336

[E-mail: curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk](mailto:curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk) Website: www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

Seven new members have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin and we welcome them and trust they enjoy their membership:

Ms. C. Hudson, Mossley.
Mr. Denis Buckley, Diggle.
Mrs. Sheila Bocking, Lydgate.

Mr. John Hewitt, Diggle.
Dr. Brian & Mrs. Franklin, Uppermill
Mr. Norman Overend, Todmorden.

We are sorry to announce the passing of W. Donald Kershaw C.Eng., F.I. Struct. E., who lived in Southampton for many years, but was born in Saddleworth and kept his association alive by membership of our Society. He contributed an interesting article to the Bulletin, 'Joining Two Old Saddleworth Families Together in 1881', describing the connections with the Eastwoods and Heginbottoms who emigrated to Norway and of course were descended from our illustrious Curate of St. Chad's Church, Uppermill, the Rev. John Heginbottom M.A. (Oxon) 1721 - 1771, as indeed was Donald Kershaw.

Our thoughts should remain with Joan and the family of Bernard O'Kivlin of Lees, who has recently died. Always a constant supporter of the activities and could be relied upon to swell the members attending lectures at the Museum. Condolences have been sent to the family.

Unfortunately, we have to report a number of members' deaths which have taken place these past few months:

Mr. David Newton Swann, France. Mr. Victor Stubley, Delph.
Mr. C. Marcus, Shaw. Mr. M. Leadbeater, Grotton. Mr. M. J. Seville, Todmorden.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, 2009

A reminder is enclosed with this Bulletin for members who have not yet paid their subscriptions this year and we should be very pleased to receive remittances as soon as possible. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Family membership..... £14.00
Single membership..... £12.00
Retired single and family..... £ 9.00

Overseas

USA and Canada..... E15.00 or 40 dollars
Australia and New Zealand £15.00 sterling.