

# Saddleworth Historical Society

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURES

Unless advised otherwise all talks will be held at Saddleworth Museum starting at 7.30pm..  
Refreshments are provided after the talks.

**Wednesday 14 March 2018**

**‘Blending Instruction with Amusement’: The Huddersfield Exhibition of 1840**

David Griffiths

**Wednesday 11 April 2018**

*The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture*

**The Crusades and the Society of the Medieval North West**

Dr Kathryn Hurlock

**Wednesday 9 May 2018**

**The Church at the Park Gate: The Anglican Industrial Squirearchy in Victorian Manchester**

Dr Meriel Boyd

### SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST PROGRAMME 2017

Unless advised otherwise all talks will be held at the Saddleworth Museum starting at 7.30pm.  
Refreshments are provided after the talks.

**April 2018**

**TBA**

**Saturday 16th June 2018**

**Summer Outing: Visit to Kiplin Hall, Gardens and Estate, Richmond**

Includes Flower Show.

### FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

Unless advised otherwise all events will be held at the Saddleworth Museum starting at 7.00pm.

**Friday 16 March**

**Yorkshire inspired musical evening and supper.**

**Tuesday 10 April**

**The Great British Tapas at the Navigation Inn, Wool Road, Dobcross.**

**Sunday 27 May**

**Plant Sale from 10.00am.**

### FRIENDS OF CASTLESHAW ROMAN FORT

Unless advised otherwise all talks will be held at the Saddleworth Civic Hall starting at 7.30pm.  
Refreshments are provided after the talks.

**Wednesday 21 March 2018**

**Romano-British Curse Tablets**

Stuart McKie

### HEBDEN BRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Unless advised otherwise all talks will be held at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, starting at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 28 March 2018**

*The Alan Petford Annual Memorial Lecture*

**Township Boundaries and Commons Disputes in the South Pennines**

Dr Nigel Smith

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### **WILLIAM POWNALL'S UPPERMILL: Memories of a Saddleworth Village in the late 1800s.**

Based on the vivid account of someone who lived and worked in the village, William Pownall's Uppermill presents a detailed picture of a Saddleworth community in the late 1800s. The reader is taken on a tour of Uppermill – its people, locations and businesses – as recalled by an elderly man looking back at his childhood.

Illustrated by maps and numerous contemporary photographs, and enriched by historical detail from Census returns and commercial trade directories, this book provides a window on life in the Saddleworth of over a century ago.

ISBN: 978-0-904982-19-0

**This book is available from the SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY at a price of £9.95.  
Buy using the form on p. 7 or contacting Charles Baumann, see Committee Members below**

## SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Books published by the Society are on display and can be purchased at each meeting in the museum. Some books are presently being offered at a reduced price. The books cover a wide variety of local topics and would make excellent Christmas or Birthday gifts.

## GENERALLY

### **Lecture 14 June - GREENFIELD: The Making of a Saddleworth Village**

To date our programme of talks on village history and development has covered Denshaw, Delph, Diggle and Dobcross. This year Michael Fox gave a presentation on Greenfield village. It was well-supported, 150 or so attending, 100 of whom were not members of the Society but visitors. Michael used an excellent collection of photographs - the great majority drawn from his brother, Peter Fox's, extensive collection - to help explain how Greenfield originated and developed.

Michael began by describing the various farmsteads and hamlets scattered across the local hillsides. He went on to relate how and why mills appeared lower down the valley sides and in the valley bottom, initially powered by water but later by steam. Among those he mentioned were the scribbling mill built in Tunstead Clough in around 1790 by the Buckley family of Tunstead, Waterside (Tanner's) Mill, which was in use by 1836, and the large Wellington Mill which, founded in 1853, alternated between producing cotton and woollen goods and survived a catastrophic fire in 1955 when being run by the Knoll Spinning Company.

The housing provided for the rapidly increasing numbers of mill-workers and their families formed part of Michael's talk. Much of it was built by the Greenfield Co-operative Society which, established in 1856, grew steadily to become a vital part of the life of the village. Several of the shops the Co-op ran were sited along Chew Valley Road. Michael showed how this road, which originated in the 1820s as a branch of the Oldham and Standedge Turnpike and connected Frenches Top with Road End and later 'The Clarence' pub, was the nucleus around which the village of Greenfield grew. Among buildings put up alongside it was the toll-house at the junction with Wellington Road (and to which a blue plaque, outlining its history, has been affixed by the Saddleworth Civic Trust).

Another area that Michael covered was public transport. One photograph showed an electric tram at Red Sign, on the boundary of Greenfield and Mossley near the 'Royal George'; Michael speculated how differently Greenfield may have developed had this tramway, operated by the Stalybridge, Mossley, Hyde and Dukinfield (SHMD) undertaking, been extended through the village as was planned early last century.

This brief report can highlight only a few of the aspects of the history of Greenfield village that Michael covered in a talk which made for a most enlightening and enjoyable evening.

### **Boarshurst Silver Band**

The location for the talk about the history of Greenfield given by Michael Fox was the Boarshurst Band Club in Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield. The Chairman of the club, Mr Neil Jackson, welcomed us and mentioned that they had recently celebrated the fact that the band has now been in existence for 165 years. The anniversary had been marked by a reunion celebratory concert held on 28th October 2015 in Saddleworth Civic Hall.

Subsequent to our meeting your editor asked Neil for some further details on the history of the Band which he very kindly supplied, as follows:

### Boarshurst Silver Band

165 Years Anniversary/Reunion Celebration Concert  
Saturday 28th October 2015  
7.30pm Saddleworth Civic Hall, Uppermill

Musical Director - James Garlick

The Band was formed in 1849 at Boarshurst School in Greenfield, Saddleworth. and is now one of the oldest established Brass Bands in the country. The first minute book records meetings being held at various Inns in the village with rehearsals in a loft over the stable at the Casey Mill, and during summer months under the railway arch at Arthurs Lane. The Band competed with only twelve players at the very first Belle Vue contest in 1853 and played 'The Hallelujah Chorus' and 'Fill the Shining Goblet'. By 1877 the Band had acquired a full set of 'Bessons Best' instruments and also engaged the legendary Alexander Owen as their Conductor - his first professional appointment.

In 1901 land in Greenbridge Lane was purchased for building a band room and the formation of Boarshurst Brass Band Institute Limited with the floatation of five shilling shares. From 1926 to 1930 the Band achieved outstanding results under the professional tuition of J. A. Greenwood and then Charles Anderson who composed the famous contest march ORB (Oldham Rifles Band) with which Boarshurst won many prizes. In 1938 the famous Harry Mortimer was appointed Professional Conductor and expectations were very high, but the war years intervened and the band room was commandeered by the Home Guard. During the 1950s and 60s the fortunes of the Band ebbed and flowed and with the band room having been sold after the war they were left without a permanent home.

The early 1920s saw many changes in personnel with the clear intention of returning the Band to its former halcyon days. In 1972 Bryan Garside was appointed Musical Director, and very quickly achieved some outstanding results. The highlight being first prize at the Leicester Brass Band Festival the first major title won since 1939 under Harry Mortimer. Throughout the 70s success followed success with major prizes won at contests in the Northwest and London. In 1979 new headquarters were established with the purchase of a building in Greenbridge Lane which was converted into a band room and clubhouse and by a remarkable coincidence quite close to the original home of the Band some 80 years ago. In the late 1980s with David Morris as musical Director the Band had a remarkable run of success winning many prizes both locally and nationally and finally gaining promotion to the championship section.

The 90s saw the Band playing under several Conductors and meeting the challenges of playing in higher sections but managed to continue winning prizes. In 2001 Jonathan Webster was appointed Musical Director and in 2002 the Band competed at the French Open Brass Band Championship in Amboise in the Loire Valley where they won their class with honours. The Band then recorded their first CD - Northern Landscapes - and in the following years qualified to play in the National Brass Band finals in Dundee, and then Harrogate.

David W Ashworth took over the baton in 2008 and the Band enjoyed many contest successes both locally and in the North West. They again qualified for the National Finals in 2011, held in Cheltenham gaining a very creditable 5th place in the final. This was followed in January 2012, with the Band entering the Butlins Mineworkers Open Championship in Skegness and winning first prize in the third section, and it was then successful in defending its title in 2013.

The current Musical Director, James Garlick, was appointed in June 2014 and is currently rehearsing the Band for the North West Area National Championship in March.

Whilst the above narrative relates to the significant events in the Bands history, one other aspect should be recorded. and that is the training and development of very young players, initially by Eric Landon, Dean Redfern and Linda Finan. It has been, and is, an integral part and policy of the Band and Club for some 40 years.

Having established the Club in 1979 for the Band we chose to extend the facilities to the local community. Currently there are several organisations of different disciplines that are using the first class facilities of the Club.

Finally, to have achieved 165 years of unbroken existence is no mean feat and Boarshurst has been fortunate in having dedicated and experienced people managing the organisation. This, together with the ability, commitment and enthusiasm of the players, along with the supporters of the Band and Club, is essential for its continuing success.

## **City of Culture 2017 and Saddleworth Connections**

Hull is the UK City of Culture for 2017 and well worth a visit. The city was founded in the late 12th century on and by the rivers Hull and Humber and became one of the UK's major ports. It prospered during the Industrial Revolution and many of the handsome buildings date back to that time. Around the former port/harbour area there is a plethora of narrow lanes and closely built warehouses which is very attractive and very different from the adjacent, more modern, part of the city which has a series of open squares and gardens. These are the result of the relocation of the main port of the city further down the estuary and the filling in of the former harbour areas to create spacious gardens and open areas, or features of new buildings such as the shopping complex, 'Princes Quay'.

When the Port of Hull was first established the main trade was with the Baltic countries, exporting grain and wool and importing timber. The goods were transferred from the sea going ships to smaller vessels that could navigate along the rivers to the east Midlands and much of Yorkshire. Many of the pine roof timbers used in Saddleworth buildings are thought to have arrived here in this way.

In recent times studies have been made of the marks carved into these pine beams in Saddleworth buildings, such as those in High Kinders. Some are simply numbers, but other marks may be letters from the Cyrillic Alphabet. There are various interpretations of the meanings of these carvings and in order to study these further it would be helpful if any readers could send to the editor details of such carvings, and photographs where possible, where found in their own properties.

It so happens that the day of the visit to Hull, 28 September was National Poetry Day, so our guide made reference to Philip Larkin who spent much of his adult life in Hull and where most of his writing and poetry was produced. This brought to mind some Saddleworth poets, firstly Ammon Wrigley, but also Samuel Bottomley because of the recently published 'History in the South Pennines' and its chapter by Victor Khadem entitled 'The Landscape, history and folklore in Samuel Bottomley's 'Greenfield - a Poem''. Victor's Chapter deals with the history of poetry writing in the 1790s, and specifically what inspired Bottomley to write this particular poem. Whilst a few short excerpts from the poem are given in Victor's text, some readers may enjoy the whole poem which is printed in full, together with a few other poems, by Samuel Bottomley and illustrated by engravings by James Bottomley. The original second edition was published in 1816 and a facsimile was published by Moorland Books, Uppermill in 2012. Copies of this delightful little book will be on sale at most lecture meetings of the Society.

## **Local History**

The Gallery Oldham programme to April 2018 has recently been distributed and includes a range of new exhibitions in addition to information about the gallery's permanent collections.

It includes a selection of paintings by the local artist and story teller Helen Bradley and features local figures such as suffragette Annie Kenney. A series of lectures is held throughout this period to complement some of the items in the permanent collection. The lectures are held monthly starting at 2.00pm, are free and last about 40 minutes with time set aside for discussion afterwards.

## **Overseas Member**

Over Christmas neighbour, Wilfred Buckley, had a surprise visit from a niece, Lynne Hopkin, who now lives in Western Australia and was visiting family members in the UK.

Lynne has two daughters, born in Australia and well settled there, and she is keen to find out the family history of the Buckley family in Saddleworth and that of her late husband, who came from Nottingham. This would enable her two daughters to understand their heritage and learn something of their near relatives.

Lynne was born in High Kinders, Greenfield, at that time the home of her grandparents and where most of her aunts and uncles were born including her Uncle Wilfred. She believed that her mother was born somewhere in Boarshurst. On her UK visits she is based in Grantham where she was brought up in her own family home and her brother, Victor, still lives there, but most of her aunts and uncles live in and around Saddleworth. She used to be a member of the Saddleworth Historical Society and on visits in the past searched for family gravestones around St Chads Church and copied the inscriptions. She was pleased to learn of the two CDs 'Saddleworth and Lees Churchyard Burials' and 'Records of Saddleworth Chapelry 1613 – 1800' and left with copies to take back to Australia to continue her research and add to the information she had already collected.

She told us of a walk round the borders of Saddleworth taken over two days which was organized through the White Rose Society by Mike Buckley and Alan Petford and described to us a very knowledgeable young man she'd met whom we took to be Victor Khadem (that must have been in 2001 or 2006). On the first day the weather was fine and the route fairly flat but on day two it was dull and ended with torrential rain where the

terrain was at its steepest - not much wonder that Lynne remembers the walk in such detail. As a result of that meeting Mike Buckley drew up a family tree going back to Lynne's great, great grandfather, Joseph Buckley, born in 1795.

The visit prompted me to enquire into the number of members of the Society who live abroad. Out of a total of 270 members 29 live abroad; USA 12, Australia 10, New Zealand and Canada two each, and Finland, France and Germany one each. It may well be the case that some of these members are also interested in their family history and may find some of our publications helpful. In addition to the two CD ROM's mentioned earlier, the book about St Chads Church 'Monumental Inscriptions in the Old Church Yard' gives much information on the details of past generations. As ever these can be purchased directly from the Society.



**Victor Buckley, Lynne Hopkin, Wilfred Buckley**

*Meg Langton*

## SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2017-18

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The Newsletter Editor would be pleased to receive any letters or information/comments you might like to make. Please forward to [langtton7bh@talktalk.net](mailto:langtton7bh@talktalk.net) or write to the editor's address as noted above.

### SHS MEMBERS

The Society is saddened to learn of the passing of the following members:

John Irvin Gartside of Hollingreave, Dobcross, Saddleworth

John Cleverley, though not a recent member he was a very early active member.

Dr & Mrs D.J. Rhodes, Nottingham have resigned due to Mrs Rhodes's ill health. We send them our best wishes.

The Society is pleased to welcome the following members, both new and returning:

Kathryn Mary Wilkins,	Newquay	
Simon Wray,	Dobcross,	Saddleworth
Catharine Davies,	Greenfield,	Saddleworth
Sam Robson,	Grotton,	Saddleworth
Bob Hill,	Dobcross,	Saddleworth
Philip M. Blanchard,	Delph,	Saddleworth
Ms K.J. Brookes & Mr J. Hellan,	Lees,	Oldham
Rev Canon J.D. & Mrs I. Burns,	Diggle,	Saddleworth

### Subscriptions

The committee would ask that members note that their active membership period is now determined to run from 1 January to 31 December each year rather than from the date of joining and that members who pay by standing order are requested to adjust their mandates to reflect this.

In order not to disadvantage those who joined the Society late in their year of joining it has been determined that anyone who joined between 1 July and 31 December inclusive may consider their membership to be valid for the following full year. i.e. Their annual subscription will cover up to 18 months, depending on the date of joining, for one membership year.

**Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due for the year 1 January to 31 December 2018.**

# POWNALL BOOK ORDER FORM

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Tel.....

Email.....

No. of copies required at £9.95 per copy

How would you like to receive the book?  
(please tick as appropriate)

- By post. Postage and package: £1.95 per copy (UK);  
Europe £5.45 per copy; Elsewhere £7.75 per copy.

- By collection from Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery

Payment in Total .....

Date .....

Sterling cheques are the preferred method and should be made payable to  
**Saddleworth Historical Society** and sent with this form to:

Charles, Baumann, 19 Ravenstone Drive, Diggle, Saddleworth, OL3 5JU.  
charles.baumann@sky.com, 01457 876858.

Alternatively,

By Bank Transfer: Yorkshire Bank, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6AN, Sort Code 05 02 14,  
Account No. 524671679.

And by sending this form to Charles Baumann, contact details above.

I have paid by bank transfer

# SHS MEMBERSHIP 2018

To:

Mike Buckley,  
Acting Membership Secretary,  
10 The Square, Dobcross,  
Saddleworth OL3 5AA

mikebuckley@saddleworth.net

Annual subscription (due 1st January 2018):

Individual and family membership	£15 (Europe £25/Elsewhere £35)
Email membership*	£12
Student membership*	Free

\*Email and Student members receive copies of the Bulletin by email

Annual membership runs from 1st January to 31st December. Subscriptions for new members joining after 30th June include membership for the following year.

Name(s).....

Address .....

.....Post code.....

Tel. ....

Email .....Date .....

Gift Aid Declaration: I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer. Please tick

Please treat all membership subscriptions / donations that I pay to the Saddleworth Historical Society from April 2007 as Gift Aid payments.

Signed ..... Date .....

Please make cheques payable to *Saddleworth Historical Society*

Payment by Bank Transfer: Yorkshire Bank, 26 Market Ave., Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6AN. Sort Code: 05-02-14, Account No 52467179. If paying by bank transfer please reference your payment with your name and postcode also indicate payment by sending this form by email to [mikebuckley@saddleworth.net](mailto:mikebuckley@saddleworth.net).

I have paid by bank transfer Please tick