

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

**THE BUSY BEES'
SPECIAL EFFORT
FOR
SALUTE THE SOLDIER
WEEK.**

At TUNSTEAD,

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1944

AMERICAN TEA & SIDESHOWS

2-30 p.m.—5-30 p.m.

Entrance and Tea, 1/-.

WHIST DRIVE

7-30 p.m.

Entrance and Supper 1/-.

**Proceeds to be invested in War Bonds for
The Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Fund.**

**Knitters Welcome. Donations gratefully
received.**

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

Volume 30

Number 4

Winter 2001

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Cover illustration: The Busy Bees was founded in Tunstead on the day following the declaration of war, and during the six years of the war made over 16 000 woollen knitted garments for the Forces, on top of their fund-raising activities.

In this issue we are pleased to be able to offer three articles on aspects of World War II as they affected Saddleworth, together with some archive material. The Editor would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has memories of the Busy Bees.

Saddleworth Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 505074

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Publications Officer	Bryan Jackson	01457 874530
Internet Site Manager	Michael Buckley	01457 820015

The Bulletin aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleworth. It relies on a regular supply of articles, letters, short reviews, etc. from members and others. Fresh material is required constantly, and should be sent to the Editor, who will be happy to discuss ideas for articles (or shorter contributions) from anyone considering preparing one. Articles need not be confined to subjects within Saddleworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

Please send items of historical interest to the Bulletin Editor, John Farrow, and items of current interest (e.g. forthcoming events) to the Newsletter editor, Jack Hindle.

The Society's Web site is at

<http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk>

This has full details of the Society's activities, publications, library and archives, and there is an e-mail facility. An index to Saddleworth place names, a reference map of Saddleworth, and a bibliography of Saddleworth publications are included, together with the Newsletter and the current issue of the Bulletin. There are links to other Saddleworth Web sites.

**The Chairman's Report at the Annual General Meeting
of the
Saddleworth Historical Society
on
Wednesday 6th December 2000**

In this, my eleventh Report as Chairman of the Society, I am happy to summarise a year of healthy progress, due mainly to the hard work of your Committee and the varied activities of the membership.

Vice-Chairman Stanley Broadbent captures the society's image in his reports to the Oldham Chronicle on our excellent lecture programme throughout the year, thereby advising the general public of the Historical Society's activities.

The 2000 Saddleworth Festival of Beer & Brewing triggered by Stanley was presented by Jack Hindle, Richard Hotchkiss and Bill Hartley who raised £961.00 for the Friends of the Saddleworth Museum, the ladies of the Museum providing refreshments, and with the Oldham, Rochdale & Bury Branch of CAMRA offering good guidance on beer selection.

The beer garden wall in front of the Commercial Hotel, Uppermill Square, is eventually to be removed in the new year as part of the upgrading scheme for the Square being carried out in association with English Heritage. No doubt prompted by the activity of the Save Our Square and the Uppermill Residents Association.

Stanley also serves on the Civic Trust Committee.

Elsie Broadbent, our Membership Secretary, reports that the interest generated in Local History continues to flourish with regard to Saddleworth and in this respect our Membership now stands at 517. This year 51 new members have been recruited, including on our overseas list Mr. James Bottomley, Princeton Jct., New Jersey, Mr. Richard Whitehead, Charlton, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Elaine Sykes from Toronto, Canada.

The above figures are arrived at taking into account a family membership of two people where applicable.

The highlights of the year have included visits by Mr. Richard Whitehead from Massachusetts, being shown family houses in Whitehead territory by Michael Buckley. Mr. Trevor Butterworth and his brother from Sussex evoked the past in a journey around the district. Two further new members George Boote of the Irish Guards, serving in Surrey and his sister Mrs. Verity Jackson of Hardtimes Farm, Mottram whose family lived at Boote Cottage, Uppermill, provide the basis of a coincidence. For finally we have a new member Mrs. Jean Cunnington who lives at Boote Cottage, Church Lane, Uppermill.

For the last twelve years your Membership Secretary has been carrying out the organisation of the distribution of our quarterly Bulletin. However, Dorothy & David Latimer have kindly come along to assist in this organisation

We have again been well served by Neil Barrow, who has augmented his workload as Honorary Secretary with the production of our next Local Interest Trail for the Diggle area. He has also continued the background script for the Godfrey editions of Old Ordnance Survey maps – Lydgate, Roaches and Quick 1906 being the latest sheet.

Money matters have occupied our minds in recent months, and we are fortunate to have the services of Dorothy Latimer to oversee our finances. She has again produced accounts to be proud of and is congratulated by our auditors Godfrey Adams and Richard Hotchkiss to whom we are again grateful for their efforts. As a registered charity we are unable to make donations to other charities so we have been happy to support Roger Tanner's appeal on behalf of the Museum which was published in the Bulletin. £1984 from 40 people was thus raised in donations and we must record Mrs Esther Shaw-Lawn of California's donations of \$500 both to the Museum Appeal and to the Society. We are happy to maintain our close connection with the Museum and its Curator Matthew Richardson, who has contributed both lecture and text of *Thomas Steele VC* to our programme. Matthew has already been congratulated on his marriage this year. We have agreed to share with the Museum the display of new archives and recent acquisitions.

We continue to hear appreciation of our Bulletins, and John Farrow our editor is to be congratulated on his efficient publication. He, as always, appeals for relevant material for inclusion quarterly and is always happy to have articles in reserve. You will see the inclusion of Museum, W.E.A. and Civic Trust activities which augment the Newsletter effectively brought out by Jack Hindle. Members are invited to let Jack have appropriate titbits for inclusion.

Bryan Jackson, our Publications Officer, keeps a tight rein on our Trails, maps and books. This stock is largely stored in the homes of Committee members and others. With your Treasurer he controls much of the Society's holdings.

John Buckley, a founder member and for many years the leader of the Industrial Archaeology Section of the Society, has decided to resign from the Committee. He has been responsible for many activities: several conferences concerned with industry and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. He has served with the Canal Festival and with the Northern Mill Engine Society and has been an active member of the Museum's black hand group who service the textile and other heavy machinery and will continue to do so. We wish John and his wife Nell a happy retirement.

On Saturday 22nd July, Wendy Murray organised our Summer Trip, this time to Denbighshire. Alan Petford led the tour in his expert manner.

Wilf Theakstone as Archivist has had another full year, along with Maurice Dennett, his Museum counterpart. Materials have been received concerning the Whitehead family and the Royal George Mills, along with their building of Christ Church, Friezland, 150 years ago. Gladys Buckley and Dorothy Rhodes have loaned papers about Diggle, and Margaret Unsworth has donated fourteen nineteenth century deeds referring to lands in Greenfield, along with many old newspapers. A lot of work has also gone into Frank Akroyd's papers, lent by his daughter Patricia Wisenden, and several have been included in recent Bulletins. We still have work to do on an Historical Map of Saddleworth and on a projected Saddleworth Villages book. Your Chairman was part of a group which has produced *A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Manchester* for the Association for Industrial Archaeology which held its annual conference at the University of Manchester.

This year's Heritage Open Days were again celebrated at the Castleshaw Roman Fort with an exceptionally good turn-out on the Sunday despite the petrol shortage at the time.

This coming spring we are hoping to renovate the lettering on the Ramsden Memorial on Dobcross Square and to add the name of Dr Pat Stonehouse. The British Legion will also be represented along with Dobcross Residents.

During the year we were sad to record the passing of George Waugh of Stonebreaks and of Ivan Hirst of Marsden, of VW Beetle fame.

A family history project has been mooted by Michael Buckley who receives many queries through our Web site which continues its success. The latest copy of the Bulletin is included and provokes comments, particularly from abroad.

We must acknowledge our gratitude to John Cordingley, who sets out the gallery for lectures, to the kitchen helpers who provide refreshments, to those who extend votes of thanks to lecturers, and to all who assist in any way to make the Society the success it is.

I wish all members a prosperous new year, bearing in mind that China has ruled that the new millennium will begin on January 1st 2001. The decision was taken after officials had looked up the word 'millennium' in Webster's New World Dictionary.

Election of Officers

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SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Receipts & Payments Account Y/E 31-10-2000

Receipts		Payments	
Membership fees	3509	Lecture Programme / fees	276
Bulletin Sales	323	Bulletin costs	1582
Publication Sales	2836	Publication costs	432
Donations	255	Web site cost	59
Refreshments	22	Refreshments	15
Social Trip	238	Social Trip	258
Bank Interest	837	Affiliation fee -- Museum	1000
Post	2	" fees - other	110
		Books for archives	50
		General postage	74
		Stationery	31
		Photocopying	21
		Maintenance of equipment	<u>24</u>
		Sub total	8397
		Cash gain in year	968
	<u>8022</u>		<u>8022</u>

Income & Expenditure Account Y/E 31-10-2000

after adjustments for debtors, creditors, transfers to stock and assets

Income		Expenditure	
Publication Sales	2461	Opening Stock	14103
		Publication purchases	432
		less closing stock	<u>(13417)</u>
		cost price of publication sales	1118
Membership fees	3431	Lecture programmes & fees	276
Donations	255	Bulletin costs net of sales	1303
		Affiliation fees	1110
		Archive books	50
		Web site	59
		Post, stationery, photocopying	209
		Maintenance of equipment	24
		Stock write-off	1341
Bank interest after trf. to B.Barnes' a/c	787	Surplus for year	1431
	<u>6934</u>		<u>6934</u>

Balance Sheet at 31-10-2000

Accumulated Fund		Assets	
Balance b/f 1.11.98	37915	Equipment b/f	1888
Surplus for year	<u>1431</u>	Purchased this year	— 1988
Balance c/f	39346	Depreciation b/f	1637
		" this year	— (1988)
		Net assets	nil
Creditors	107	Debtors	187
Bernard Barnes Fund		Stock of publications at cost	16488
Balance b/f 1.11.98	1123	Stock write offs (cumulative)	(4412)
Notional interest	<u>50</u> 1173		
		Bank - Current a/c	1631
		Premium Plus a/c	26732
	<u>40626</u>		<u>28363</u>
			<u>40626</u>

Pat Duffy : Colne Valley MP

Part 1

Paul Fryer

Albert Edward Patrick Duffy, or Pat Duffy as he is better known, is now in his 81st year having been born on 17 June 1920 in Wigan, son of James Duffy, a coalminer. He is still as active as ever according to a letter I received from him while researching this article. In the summer of 2000 he has visited the aircraft carrier, HMS Invincible, at sea, attended a series of meetings in London, before 'disappearing' (his words) to the west of Ireland until late September. This article will examine the career of Pat Duffy, now Sir Patrick Duffy, from his early years until the 1964 General Election. Part two will cover the years between 1964 and the present.

After service in the Fleet Air Arm during WW2 Pat Duffy went to study at the London School of Economics, gaining a degree and doctorate by 1950.

Pat Duffy first stood for Labour in the election of 1950, in the Devon seat of Tiverton. Duffy lost by 8,551 votes to the Conservative candidate, Derek Heathcoat-Amory, a future Chancellor of the Exchequer. A few months later the Labour Government called a second election in 1951. With the Conservatives winning nationally and no Liberal candidate, Heathcoat-Amory's majority over Duffy increased to 10,448. It was not to be third time lucky for Duffy in the 1955 election, although he managed to reduce Heathcoat-Amory's (by now an Agriculture Minister) majority by 24 votes.

Since 1950 Pat Duffy had worked as a lecturer at the University of Leeds. He also lectured at trade union summer schools and on tours of the USA and Germany for the Foreign Office. While in the US he made several TV and radio broadcasts. He wrote articles for academic journals and a history of the Labour movement.

In October 1962 Glenvil Hall, who had been Labour MP for the Colne Valley since 1939, died. Hall had served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the post-war Labour Government. He had held onto the seat with fairly comfortable majorities, including 11,895 in 1945, the highest majority for any MP in the history of the old Colne Valley seat. His majority in the 1959 election was 6,254.

In December 1962 Pat Duffy was selected as the Labour candidate in the by-election, defeating amongst others for the nomination Merlyn Rees, later Home Secretary. By convention a by-election should be called by the defending party within 2 or 3 months, but the Colne Valley by-election had to be delayed when in January 1963 the Labour Leader Hugh Gaitskill died, leaving the party in confusion, until Harold Wilson was elected the new leader. The by-election was eventually called for 21 March.

At the annual meeting of the Saddleworth Labour Party in February 1963 Pat Duffy told them that the Government had fumbled everything it had touched, and particularly attacked Harold Macmillan's handling of negotiation for Britain's entry into the Common Market, which had recently broken down. 'So Britain is barred from Europe. What an affront. Twenty years ago Britain inspired the people of Western Europe by her example and saved them by their exertion. Now we are considered unfit to associate with them. What a national humiliation.'

More campaigning in Saddleworth saw Pat Duffy address the local branch of shopworkers union USDAW, visit the Woolpack Hotel in Dobcross and play a game of darts, and visit the exhibition and dance organised by Uppermill Evening Institute.

The Orpington by-election in 1962 had seen the Liberals overturn a Conservative majority of 14,760, to a Liberal one of 7,855. Duffy said that 'the Liberals have got to do well otherwise people will just cease to take seriously the so-called revival. They must repeat Orpington in an industrial area.' He said that he found it difficult to take the Liberals seriously, and he did not think they would make much of an impact on the constituency. He had not met anyone who was worrying about their chances. However the *Oldham Weekly Chronicle* pointed out in *Saddleworth Notes* that on Saddleworth Council it was a battle between the Liberals and the Conservatives, with Labour the party that was far behind.

In early March the new Labour Leader Harold Wilson visited Huddersfield to talk to campaign workers. At that time there was a convention that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition did not campaign actively in a by-election. Those who remember the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election in 1995 and Tony Blair's visits will know that that convention no longer applies. Wilson held a press conference at the Queens Hotel, where Pat Duffy was staying for the by-election. It was also the place where the Liberal and Conservative candidates were staying, a circumstance that is unlikely to occur nowadays. The hotel manager, George Rappos, commented that 'The three candidates get along quite happily. And as long as everything stays all smiles I will be quite content. Besides it is very good for trade.'

On the 14 March Pat Duffy spoke at meetings in Dobcross, Greenfield and Springhead. He said that when Labour came to power it would set up a powerful consumer council to protect the buyer, strengthen the laws against monopolies and establish a government department to deal exclusively with problems affecting the shopper. Duffy was supported at the meetings by Hervey Rhodes and Oldham West MP, Leslie Hale.

There is no doubt that the Colne Valley by-election was regarded as the most important since Orpington. The Conservatives needed to do well to show they had turned the corner after a series of disasters, the Liberals needed to continue their success of Orpington, while Labour had a new leader anxious to get off to a winning start. There was a great deal of interest in the constituency, with even the Independent candidate, Arthur Fox, getting good audiences at his meetings.

Apart from Pat Duffy the other candidates were: Richard Wainwright for the Liberals, a 44 year old Leeds accountant, local Methodist preacher, Vice-President of the Liberal Party, who had served in the Friends Ambulance Unit during WW2; Andrew Alexander for the Conservatives, a 27 year old leader writer for the Yorkshire Post, former chairman of Dorchester Young Conservatives and an Independent councillor for Dorchester; and Independent Arthur Fox. Fox, a Manchester strip club owner, insisted he was not running as a gimmick and hoped that the voters would take him seriously, even in an area with more churches per head than in any other part of the north. There could have been a fifth candidate, actually from Saddleworth. Vernon Broadhurst arrived at Slaithwaite council offices half an hour before close of nominations. He had the eight assentors and the deposit, but no proposer or seconder, so the returning officer rejected his nomination. Broadhurst, of Huddersfield Road, Scouthead, was going to stand on a platform of greater employment, a shorter working week, spreading the load amongst more workers, and increased pensions. His wife told the *Chronicle*, 'I don't know why he wanted to stand. He's no idea about politics. It's just a craze with him. Last time he wanted to be an evangelist.'

On election day, 21 March, air raid sirens wailed around the hills of Saddleworth as voters went to the polls. But there was no cause for alarm, the sirens were part of a Civil Defence audibility test. The day meant that Saddleworth at last could begin recovering from the weeks of loudspeaker addresses and election literature. As one woman said, a view perhaps echoed by modern day electors who experienced the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election, would it not have been better had the money spent by the parties been spent on helping starving refugees or building new schools.

The result:	Pat Duffy (Labour)	18,033
	Richard Wainwright (Liberal)	15,994
	Andrew Alexander (Cons)	6,238
	Arthur Fox (Independent)	266

Pat Duffy's majority was only a third of Glenvil Hall's in 1959, and was the worst Labour vote in the Colne Valley since the 1939 by-election. The Liberals with Richard Wainwright had leapt from third to second. The Conservatives had suffered their worst vote since December 1910. So although Labour had won, it was the Liberals who were most pleased.

Nevertheless, Pat Duffy was jubilant. He said Labour had stopped the Liberals 'in their tracks'. Labour would do even better at the General Election. He told a crowd of 400 outside the civic hall in Slaithwaite, whose high spirits were not dispelled by driving snow, 'This result confirms the total collapse of support for the Government. When the General Election comes they will pay a still greater price.' The result was a 'notice to quit' for Macmillan and his cronies.

Pat Duffy was the first Catholic to represent Colne Valley. Glenvil Hall had been a Quaker, and Victor Grayson and Charles Leach had actually been Unitarian ministers

Alexander had at least saved his deposit, and ruled out any Lib-Con alliances as there had been in the 1950s. Arthur Fox, who was accompanied to the count by 2 'dancers' from his club (who must have been a little cold to say the least), told the crowd that 'I am pleased to see the protest vote has gone to Mr Wainwright. It has proved the people of Colne Valley are thinking differently. I think the electors have listened to me and given me a fair hearing.'

On Saturday 23 March Pat Duffy left Huddersfield to return to his home at Ackworth, near Pontefract, to see his parents for the first time in 6 weeks. Before he left he held a press conference, where he said that the real significance of the by-election was that the Liberals could not make any inroads into the Labour vote. This was not another Orpington. He said that he would immediately resign his lectureship at Leeds.

On 5 April a victory celebration was held at the Civic Hall in Uppermill. Cllr Sam Buckley, chairman of Saddleworth Labour Party, presided, and the guests included Hervey Rhodes and Cllr Jim Whitehead, Chairman of Saddleworth Council.

One of Pat Duffy's first pieces of casework came on Saturday 30 March, when a coal lorry crashed into the Navigation Inn, Dobcross, killing the driver. The lorry was travelling towards Ashton when it went out of control. It smashed down iron railings at the junction of Sugar Lane and Wool Road, demolished lamp-posts and walls, down what was then known as the village's main street, before crashing into the Inn. Such was its speed that the lorry corkscrewed into the air, leaving gashes in the tailor's premises next door.

Duffy's first two questions in the Commons related to this accident. He asked the Transport Minister, Ernest Marples, for a special enquiry into the accident. In a second question Duffy asked the Power Minister, Richard Wood, to give 'a general direction in the national interest to

the Central Electricity Generating Board to arrange, where possible, for the delivery of coal to power stations by rail or water, in order to reduce the congestion and accident danger from carriage of coal by road.'

Other local involvement included, attending an American tea at the Civic Hall in Uppermill to raise funds for the Freedom from Hunger charity and council chairman's charities. Duffy also promised to look into the grievances of Wool Road residents who faced the prospect of losing their homes because of county council improvement schemes. The residents were worried that official valuations would not give them true compensation for their stone-built houses. Altogether 22 houses, two shops and a workshop were scheduled for demolition as part of improvement plans for Wool Road. The residents were told they must quit by July 1964. Pat Duffy said that, 'I think they have a strong case for redress, and I will do my best to see their case is heard.'

In Greenfield Pat Duffy raised the question of the transfer of the Joseph Clare Ltd dye works from the village to Salford. The firm claimed there was no room to expand the business on their present site, and offered free transport to the 160 workers to get down to Salford. After meeting some of the employees at his very first surgery in Saddleworth, Duffy promised to talk to the Board of Trade. 'I don't think we can sit idly and just let the works close down. I am determined to do all I can to maintain and increase industry in the district.' Duffy asked the Minister of Labour what it would do to help those workers from Joseph Clare, a firm which had operated in Saddleworth for two centuries. The minister said that local officers would do all they could to help the workers who could not travel.

Also in Greenfield Pat Duffy sought a public enquiry into the problem of unpleasant smells from the animal by-product factory at Wright Mill. In a written question to the Local Government Minister, Sir Keith Joseph, Duffy said numerous complaints had been made, and asked whether the minister is satisfied that safeguards for the emission of 'noxious smells and vapours' from the works have now been met. In a written reply, Sir Keith said that he was aware of the problems and discussions were taking place to resolve the problems.

At a Colne Valley Division Party meeting Pat Duffy said that if a Government lost the confidence of the country, as reflected in the national opinion polls, they should be forced to hold a general election. Loss of confidence could also be signalled by a measurable loss of council seats. This was no doubt a popular idea in May 1963 with the Conservatives so far behind in the opinion polls. Nowadays such an idea would probably lead to general elections every year, if not more frequently.

In September Pat Duffy visited Denshaw and met residents who complained about the lack of proper facilities for old people, the removal of a bus stop and the acceptance age for children wishing to attend the local school. Duffy promised to look into all the issues.

Pat Duffy made his maiden speech in the Commons on 8 July. He spoke in a debate on housing and land prices. In terms of absolute need, obsolete housing and scarcity of land, the old industrial areas, especially the Pennine valleys, were worst off. By tradition he talked about his new constituency, the dominance of textiles, the history of radicalism, that Colne Valley had long been the cockpit of British Socialism, even the River Colne had been known to flow red, although this was more to do with the dye works than politics. He said there was a need for more effective planning and that the Yorkshire region would be in a poor economic state within ten years if nothing was done. John Temple, Conservative MP for Chester, congratulated Duffy on a 'notable maiden speech.'

In October Duffy talked about the next election. At lunchtime Millgate meetings in Saddleworth he said the choice next time would be between 'a lethargic, demoralised Tory Government' and 'a rejuvenated, dynamic Labour administration.' Britain's industry needed to revive to support the building of new homes, hospitals and schools. Eton and the Guards had to be rejected as qualifications for leadership in industry. However, he warned that the next election would be the bitterest and dirtiest in history. The Conservatives would employ, expensive advertising, hired canvassing, downright misrepresentation and smear. But, he said, the public's mind was already made up.

In November Pat Duffy attended a coffee morning in aid of Saddleworth Party funds at the Delph home of Hervey Rhodes. 70 visitors, among them chairman of Saddleworth Council Cllr Roger Tanner, raised £15.

In a meeting in Keighley Pat Duffy made his views on the new Prime Minister Douglas-Home clear. 'Squire' Douglas-Home personified the out of date class which stifled talent, cleverness and potentiality, caused our scientists to leave for America and brought economic stagnation. It was a depressing appointment.

In December Pat Duffy was appointed to his first Parliamentary Committee, dealing with the Industrial Training Bill. Duffy also made a surprise visit to the Christmas party organised by the Springhead Higher Ward old people's welfare committee, held at the Pastures Sunday School.

The fact that the Catholics had been able to use the Methodist school rooms at Uppermill for their Christmas fair was a small but significant step on the path towards Christian unity said Pat Duffy as he opened the fair on Saturday 14 December. In an appeal for greater effort towards unity, he challenged more than 100 Sacred Heart, Ladcastle, parishioners, to play their part. Eventually religious sectarians would be looked on as out of place. 'If the people of the world are to look to their horizons of truth, beauty and goodness, churches will have to join in heart and mind.'

On the same day Saddleworth Labour Party held a chairman's reception at the Grotton Hotel. Cllr Sam Buckley as chairman was host to about 40 guests, including Pat Duffy and Hervey Rhodes. In his speech Duffy said that recent by-election results still pointed to a Labour victory next year.

That General Election took place on 15 October 1964. The excitement of the by-election had clearly not spilt over into the general election in Denshaw. At a public meeting at the Co-operative Hall on 29 September only 4 people turned up to hear Pat Duffy. Chair of the meeting, Cllr Florence Price, blamed radio and TV coverage, which enabled people to hear and see leaders of the political parties without leaving their firesides. But Cllr Price argued that the public meeting was the only place that the voters could really question the candidate. The Colne Valley Labour Party intended to maintain the tradition of bringing the candidate to the people. Duffy would attend three meetings nightly, in addition to factory gatherings. At the meeting itself Duffy attacked the Conservatives for neglecting areas like the Colne Valley. Labour had the men to properly run a modern Britain, and would enable the country to return to a badly needed sense of moral responsibility. Labour would build more houses for rent and sale.

At a campaign meeting in Greenfield Joseph Mallalieu, Labour MP for Huddersfield, said that road users were being 'snarled up' through lack of an integrated transport system. Despite the amount being spent on new roads, the problem would continue because of the increasing number of car owners. 'The whole country would soon come to a standstill', the Conservatives

had not tried to plan a transport system. It was 'just stupid' to let railways and canals go to seed when extra traffic on the roads was making the transport situation even more acute.

Pat Duffy highlighted the drift of youngsters from the Colne Valley. The proportion of those over 65 per 1000 was well over the national average. The 1961 census had revealed a drop in the population of the Colne Valley. There was no sign of any of the new industries coming in to replace textiles. On pensions Labour would introduce an income guarantee to give immediate relief to pensioners in poverty, and then link benefit increase with average earnings.

On the eve of poll Labour peer Baroness Summerskill spoke at the Little Theatre in Delph. She attacked the Conservatives for their remoteness, young people were demanding a better deal as they had more spending power. Wilson, unlike Douglas-Home had technical training to deal with a modern society.

Polling was reported as brisk early on 15 October at most of the 14 polling stations in Saddleworth. In the first 2 hours in Delph over 300 voted, mainly those on their way to work. Polling was from 7 am to 9 pm, with only 3 candidates standing.

Following a recount, the result was announced from the balcony at Slaithwaite Civic Hall at 3 am to a crowd of around 200. The result was:

Pat Duffy (Labour)	18,537
Richard Wainwright (Liberal)	18,350
Andrew Alexander (Con)	7,207

Pat Duffy had squeezed home by just 187 votes, the second lowest majority after Victor Grayson's in 1907.

For Pat Duffy a win was a win. He said that for the second time in 18 months Labour had withstood a tremendous Liberal surge. It was unlikely they would come so close again. 'We are not celebrating tonight another Labour win throughout the country. It is a win that will alter the whole complexion not of national but of radical politics. If there has been some doubt in this campaign that Labour is not the major party of the Left this will be disproved after four successful years of Labour government'. Nationally Labour had achieved a slim majority of 4 in the Commons, suggesting that Pat Duffy's words might face severe examination as he entered Parliament to sit on the Government benches for the first time.

Sources

Correspondence with Sir Patrick Duffy

F.W.S. Craig (ed.). *British Parliamentary Election Results, 1950-1973*. Political Reference Publications, 1983

Oldham Weekly Chronicle:

1962, December 15

1963: February 16, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, May 11 and 25, July 13, August 3, September 28, October 19, November 9, December 7, 14 and 21.

1964, September 30, October 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16.

M. Stenton and S. Lees (eds.) *Who's Who of British Members of Parliament*. Vol. 4: 1945-1979. Brighton: Harvester Press, 1979.

Who's Who 2000

Recollections of a Wartime Childhood in Greenfield.

Memories of Childhood in the 1940s.

Trevor Butterworth

From close to the shopping centre of Greenfield, the walk to our home was along Carr Lane, at the foot of the eastern hill of the valley. Nigh on fifty years ago this was the pleasant, traffic-free way to Uppermill, and had the homely feel of the lanes higher along the hillsides – peaceful and pastoral.

The walk along Carr Lane took us in between the council school and the doctor's wedge of a garden. Here the high railway embankment gradually came nearer on the right of the lane squeezing the garden to an end as the embankment took over.

Beyond Haytacks' small sawmill and the railway bridge over Arthurs Lane, Carr Lane mounted the sudden rise above Baxters' bungalow, to wander along above the meadow's edge and below the houses bordering the railway cutting. On the right of the lane, the gardens, - first those of the semis then of the bungalows, -clambered steeply away from the road, - each successive one longer than its neighbour, labouring up steep paths and steps to the dwellings perched alongside top of the railway cutting.

Mr and Mrs Green lived in the last bungalow before the Top Field, from where the stone footbridge straddled the cutting. Just past the garden of this last bungalow, but on the other lower side of the road, lay Lower Carr lane. A half hidden letter-box peeped out from the corner of a privet hedge marking the boundary corner of the garden of the topmost house. From here a cinder track which provided a short cut all the way down to the steps descending to the end of Wellington terrace, sloped gently from wooden stumps which prevented access for vehicles. There, Wellington Terrace which had drawn a line from Chew Valley Road, gave way to another track which turned away at right angles at the last house, to go straight as a die to Halls Farm, where it scrambled up by a gate onto Chapel Road.

The Lower Carr Lane houses were substantial Victorian semis, with open entrance porches and green painted doors into useful cubby holes and well proportioned rooms. They had long front gardens, albeit formal and flat, each open to its neighbour. Vehicular access to these houses was at the back, down a tree-lined street that separated them from the back fences of Beech Avenue. Beech Avenue then consisted of merely 20 houses. They were of a different newer order from those of its companion street; here the semis were fairly small, two bed roomed, and with tiny gardens.

Here in this last out-post of Greenfield, in a small semi-detached house half way down on the left of the avenue, was our home.

Further down across on the far side of this narrow valley, at Halls Farm, the Huddersfield Canal entered the deep lock gates as it tracked the river Tame's course through the valley. From the tree-shrouded bank on its far side the ground rose very steeply, sweeping upwards, climbing past first one road, then further up another, alongside the deep carved railway cutting taking trains between Manchester and Leeds and which serviced the valleys.

From here the scrub fields of this western boundary to the valley soared up past the old Ladcastle Road as it meandered its way to Dobcross, and curved on up high to the summit of Wharmton. This hill, scarred by the busy quarry, stood as backdrop to life in our avenue. From the point bordering Beech Avenue, where the decaying wooden gate knelt open at the side of the ditch, Carr Lane was accessible only for pedestrians and Ernest Schofield's open trap – and of course his horses and cattle.

Bordered only on one side by hawthorns, the lane wound around the side wall and tiny garden of Ernest (Schofield) o' Darby's farm. Ernest used to tether his sheep dog in the garden as an effective discouragement from picking the cherries that grew against the house wall.

The lane wound around the farmhouse, skirting the massive old stone steps up the outside of the farm, and twisted back on track, to wander through the gently undulating meadows, past the dip down to Dickie-Bird Hop, through the white gate, then on by the Manse and the first of the houses marking the outskirts of Uppermill.

There were four gates on that stretch of Carr Lane through the fields when I was a lad; two of them wooden and two of them of iron rails, hung from iron hinges set into great stones, with stiles. On these, there were two stones at one side set in a gentle V with a slanted gap between the two; one stone was set against the road boundary, and the other acted as gate post. There was just sufficient room for a portly chap to scrape his waistcoat against while squeezing through.

Ernest o' Darby was our provider of milk, delivered from churns on the horse drawn float. He and Minnie, and their farmhand Dennis tolerated our 'help' at harvest time as we trailed behind the hired temporary farm hands who were scything and raking and stooking the hay, or later when it was dried, pitch forking it onto the hay cart, or building a hayrick. Great fun, under the watchful eye of adults careful to keep us from accidents inherent in play around such work, and rewarded with a share in the grub and lemonade provided.

I was often allowed to help Dennis milk the cows in the shippon, and I can recall the sweetly smell and rough feel of the cows belly against my cheek as I and the cow leaned hard against one another, me striving to wheedle milk from each teat in turn on the udder, the cow more interested in munching straw and attempting to flick me away with its encrusted tail.

I recall the satisfaction I felt as at last I got the knack; the cheery ring of each stroke as the milk jetted into the pail, and the pain of getting in the way of an impatient kick. I remember too the mischievous squirts caught full face from Dennis milking at the other stall. The pails were poured into a vast wooden tub, which stood outside against the back wall of the farm in a big stone trough full of running water that rose at a spring in the field across the road from the farm. As the milk cooled, the top of the tub was blanketed with inches of thick, rich cream.

The spring which emerged from the Top Field paused briefly in a makeshift pool before swamping the meadow below it, and dribbling continuously across the lane into the yard, making it all a permanent manury dabble to negotiate; and the wild barking of the dog which would rush to snap at the heels of the human animals passing by.

Each time he encountered us youngsters, Ernest, with his boots and gaiters, warm checked shirt and waistcoat and jacket, head topped with an old brown Derby at a jaunty angle, would hold his stick daintily before him and dance a jig for us. He always had the time of day for us children; it was Minnie who would be the one to reason with our parents when we had overstepped the mark on their land, as we did!

When the war came and the men disappeared largely from our lives, we kids found ourselves in a predominately female adult society. There were a few men around of course, but they were mainly either old or infirm or had jobs that excluded them from military service. The remaining people welded into a strong support for one another, and everything tended to be pooled to make life more tenable. Values were focussed; there was an almost complete lack of commercialism and such times as Christmas sharpened true concentration on its meaning and hope and on helping one another.

I recall it was hard to come by anything at Christmastime. So different from today. Like most people around we were strapped for money, and I warm to remember the time and effort put in by our next-door neighbour who skilfully built and painted a wheeled wooden trolley of 'alphabet' blocks for my infant brother's 'stocking'.

As the threat of air raids assaulted the country we became accustomed to a new noise. On receipt of warning of an impending air raid on one of the neighbouring towns, the duty Warden cranked up the handle of an air raid siren situated atop of one of the mills, and broadcast a banshee wail across the valley. Not many people had any form of shelter, but in our avenue we were fortunate to have Mr Henshaw (of the Wharmton quarry), and he had one.

At the warnings I remember we would troop out in our 'siren suits' and with blankets, cross the avenue to join other residents of the avenue in the Anderson shelter which Mr Henshaw had dug into his garden. The invited 'guests' would huddle together squeezed on the planking seats grasping the blankets tight against the dank chill and discomfort, sipping the hot drink kindly offered, until the all-clear signified that the hell over the hills had ceased for another night. Gas masks were issued, and I remember going to collect mine; my brother John being only a little 'un had a red and blue Mickey Mouse one. Fortunately for us in our valley haven, the only serious use either of our masks were put to was to make embarrassing noises.

John and I attended Greenfield Council School, where the headmaster was Mr Lewis, and the teachers included Mrs Schofield from Carr Lane Uppermill who had also taught our father (Clarence), and Miss Buckley and Mrs Stott from Lydgate.

During air raid warnings whilst at school, the children would be brought to attention by the class teacher and instructed to file out into the school yard from where we were conducted by the headmaster, Mr Lewis, along the cinder track behind the Wrights's house, and past Raymond Wrigley's workshops, along behind the Wellington Inn into the back entrance of the Hartley brothers' Windowcraft studios, in whose canteen corridor we would sit until the all-clear signal was given. We were all well disciplined and were kept busy continuing with our lessons. (It was these two Hartley brothers who devised the nationally adopted safety vehicle-lamp invisible from the air, for use in the blackout).

One fresh sunny day we were playing in the Avenue when we saw in the distance a Spitfire, swooping down over Dobcross into the far end of the valley, and as it sped towards us over Uppermill and the meadows, we wildly danced up and down waving our arms and watched the pilot waggling the plane's wings before he passed right over us. We could clearly see him waving to us through the Perspex as he flashed over. Was he perhaps a Saddleworth lad?

Roy Wilson lived across the road from us with his sister and family. Cowboys and Indians palled from time to time and we invented a much more absorbing pastime. The idea was to push the buggy or trolley with Joe, Roy's sister's infant son within it to the top of Beech avenue, and take it in turns to aim it with consummate skill to arrive dead centre of the earth bank which formed the boundary with Ernest's lower field, at the bottom of the incline some 40

yards or more away. The adjudicator was young Joe himself, who according to the rules had to be still intact in the pram at the end of the operation. His decision was usually final, - for our failure (and I guess success too) generally brought a wrathful Dorothy hotfoot to rescue her bairn, and an early bath for Roy.

It was normal for the children in the houses around to be sent on errands up to Mr Green's bungalow on Carr Lane to fetch 'Will's Woodies' and other 'ciggies' which he stocked to sell to customers from the houses around. Smoking by ladies had become fashionable, even if their visiting the pub wasn't! Stockings weren't available during the war, and I remember how on 'dressing up' occasions, ladies stained their legs, and drew a thin line down the back to suggest a seam. It's surprising how early in life a young lad pays attention!

On moonless nights, it was pitch black outside. Not a peep of light was allowed to escape from any window and the gruff shout; "Get that light out" from the ARP patrol would be heard if someone transgressed. Curtains were drawn and carefully tucked in at the sides, and care was taken when opening an outside door to ensure that no light showed.

Our next-door neighbour Mr Rothery was a member of the Home Guard. He worked in Oldham and fulfilled his duties in the evening and at weekend. He would tell us of the scrapes they got into; on one occasion with a group of them hanging on in the back, a three tonner whined its way up to Ashway Gap, where I think they had their headquarters. The driver, carried away a bit with his responsibilities, took the bend too fast and failed to stop at the head of the ornate steps in the grounds. Brakes hard on, the lorry slithered off the drive, and shook rattled and rolled down the flight of steps to an ignominious stop at the bottom. An event worthy of a scene in Dad's Army!

And the winters! No central heating then; and the coal ration had to be carefully spent. It came on a horse drawn wagon. The coalmen were dour, taciturn and grimy with coal dust. They wore leathern aprons across their front and knees, and black heavy leather metal studded waistcoats, and caps with a flap down the back, like a golfing cap worn back to front, to protect their necks. They would steadily plod in turn down our path, bent almost double under the great sacks they shouldered to the coal 'cellar', where with a flick of the shoulder they would heft the hundredweight onto the small heap at their feet, then already turning away they would snatch up the hessian sack, now emptied, to - just as steadily - plod back.

We never had a fire in the 'front room'; in fact the use of that room was merely as a passageway through to the stairs, to go up to the bedroom or the toilet. I remember how when bed time grew nigh my brother and I would leave the safe haven of the warm living room, banished once the door closed behind us, to a different, unlit world for the journey. The street lights no longer shone, and so had ceased providing borrowed light into the houses. So we negotiated the smothering black of the front room and up the stairs accompanied all around by almost tangible 'ghosts' of our own imaginings.

Much of the baking in winter was done in the fireside oven to save on gas; and that's when the oven wasn't being used to dry the washing.

The cold within the house in the dead of winter treated us to icicles which stretched down the inside of the bedroom windows, fully top to bottom, - from the moisture of our breath. Hook a fingernail under the bottom edge, and you could ease the whole of the long strand of ice off the glass. Heavy frosts also gave Mum the problem of dealing with the frozen toilet, as the cold crept its way through the inside of the house during the night. Shivers were our dressing companion in winter: we kids found the best way to avoid getting cold when getting dressed was to do it under the bed covers!

I recall 'Uncle Sidney' (really my Dad's cousin) visiting his sister Mary Howard, before being drafted to the Far East. He looked immaculate in his 'Sam Browns'. Both he and his brother Roy served with the Chindits in the Far East fighting in the jungle; Roy never returned.

We had to stay with our Gran in Lake Terrace Greenfield for some time, because Dad served for a while as a Military Policeman in Belfast during its Blitz, and Mum, - wanting to be near because of the exposed role he had on a motor bike in the inferno, - went to stay with Sam Robinson's sister, Phyllis who lived there.

It was from this time that the memory of the deep heavy drone of the high bombers, and the accompanying vibration and dancing of the sash windows remains clear to this day. As we cowered beneath the dining room table with Gran fussing us like a mother hen, I remember the rattling reaching a crescendo until the pane cracked. The next day sticky brown paper criss-crossed all the window panes in the house!

Each week we set forth from school to "Dig for Victory" for a couple of hours. The procession took us shouldering arms (spades and forks) down Greenbridge Lane, past the Tennis Club to our school allotment by the viaduct, and hard by the Chew. There we heartily dug and sowed and reaped, - not so much for victory, but more for the school canteen.

One of my schoolmates was Charlie Buckley from up Kinders. One day in class as the teacher was calling the register he clogged up the corridor and entered the classroom late again. With a cheerful smile he proffered a small wrapped gift saying "Happy birthday Aunty Mary". Miss Buckley took the gift from him, thanked him, rebuked him for late arrival, asked him to hold out his hand, and gave him a hearty thwack with the new tawse he'd just given her, and sent Charlie crestfallen to his desk.

And the rations! The quantities we were allocated may by now be forgotten, but not the knowledge that a growing lad always seemed to be ravenous, - and quite prepared to devour the dry bread and water offered as a discouragement for eating between meals. Catch a youngster doing that nowadays. I remember the bread ration on my plate, and having the margarine, which I spread on, - then scraped off again! And 'a little sniff of cheese and a big bite of bread'! It was long after the war that I learned that Mrs Harrison of Chew Valley Road sacrificed her sugar ration throughout the war so that my brother, John and I could have extra.

John remembers that the time came when it was decreed that children of over certain sizes could have extra coupons that they may get the appropriate clothing. The older school children had the task of doing the measuring, and whilst I, being rather over lengthened for my years had no problem. John being stockier needed the wisdom of Eric Harrison to pull and stretch his sock over the measuring line so that he qualified.

Like many other people in Saddleworth we had refugees staying with us. The ones from Manchester came and went, but the ones from Bradford remained friends for many years. It must have been a bit of a squeeze, because the two bed-roomed house wasn't all that big. The Bradford accent was a revelation to us and we remember our puzzlement when young Arnold said "Eee, but yer mother's a good coke". Some of the refugees who stayed with other families remained in the valleys, by now well embedded into the community.

One day (was it to mark VE day?) the children were assembled in the school hall and the headmaster told us all that the American people had sent us a gift. Tea-chests full of sweetened cocoa powder were ladled into great paper-twist cones, - one to each child, and one by one we filed out to receive a cone and an orange.

Around this time I had trouble with my throat and the doctor set the date to deal with it. Mum had prepared me for the big day, and I kneeled on the sofa in the front room watching out for the nurse. At last she appeared on her bike and parked it at our gate and Mum let her in. A few minutes later Doctor Stone arrived and the chitchat changed into efficient action. I can't remember what I could have been thinking, but I know I hadn't any foreknowledge of what was to occur. In a trice the table was prepared, a blanket and pillowcase arrived out of nowhere, I was lifted onto it as out of the corner of my eye I saw a stopper being drawn from a bottle, and the contents poured into a wad of lint. The sickly smell hit me before the strong arms of the nurse restrained my twisting from the smothering action as the doctor 'chloroformed' me! They had both gone when I awoke in bed with as company in a jar on a tray by the bed, my tonsils. And a throat a sight sorer than it had been before.

And then came the day I was playing Kick out Can in the schoolyard, when Roy Wilson ran up to me and said "Trevor, you're wanted at the gate". I turned round and saw a solitary soldier with kitbag standing at the edge of the playground on Arthur's Lane. Not recognising the man I declined to go, but Roy took me by the arm and said "Come on Trevor, it's your Dad". The soldier had been away so long his lad didn't know him. But at least this Dad came back!

John and I would wander Pots and Pans more or less oblivious to the meaning of the war, and I recall an incident I can't place accurately in time. Standing on Alderman we watched as a transport aircraft flew low with its loading doors open as a man cast bunches of chaff out into the air. It snaked slowly down spiralling and dancing and twinkling in the sunlight, to settle on the heather, as we ran gleefully gathering armsful of the stuff, unaware that this was then a means of interfering with radar.

Then there was the spell in the Fever Hospital at West Hulme. Our neighbour, Mrs Taylor had very kindly (I wonder how!) obtained a large quantity of eggs – even in the country an egg was a rare experience then – and she sent them to the hospital to help me in my recovery. I know she did, because Irma Krebb, the Ward Sister, told me of Mrs Taylor's generosity when I emerged from my fever, and that as I had been indisposed at the time, the ward-full of children had very much appreciated them. That made me feel so much better.

And oh the shame of VE day! As on every birthday, anniversary and high day the mums of Beech Avenue (and some from Lower Carr Lane with children) pooled their resources. But this time it was to be the best. Out came the bunting and the Union flags. All the mothers baked and baked, and the older kids, led I guess by June Wyres, and Jean Booth and Norma Taylor organised a 'show'. Well, Beech Avenue was a bit short of lads, and Roy knew better anyway, so Trevor and John were roped in! I was sweet on Norma, and John on both Madeleine Donellan and Elaine Wildman, anyway, and would have jumped through hoops for them, so when brothers Butterworth were inveigled into joining the show - even to the dance routines - they didn't resist effectively enough.

The day was gorgeous and the show which took place on Capper's lawn was voted a huge success, - especially by the Gang (Roy Wyres, Eric Harrison, Snowy White, Peter Compson, and Frank Hallam) all of them lads on the inside of what Trevor felt he was on the outside of - and is it any wonder!. They'd been alerted by Roy, and had in true Red Indian fashion crawled on their bellies to a position of concealment on the other side of the garden wall, from which to watch the display.

No amount of persuasion could have got me to don pixie costume for VJ day when the time came to celebrate that occasion!! Oh the many years it took to live it down!

Despite the over-flying, Greenfield suffered only two errant bombs, one up the hill below Dick Clough, and the other almost designed to lower the morale of an English community; just near the cricket field boundary. At least it missed the crease!

And as we grew older and more informed we looked back and recognised how fortunate we had been; so near and yet so far. Not for us down in the embrace of the valleys the terror and devastation which was occurring just a short distance away; the hills even dulled the noise and the flashes for us. Nor any of the memories of the continual nightly passage overhead of the raids on London the people down in Sussex recall. How lucky we were in comparison.

Long after the war when I worked in a bank in the Square at Dobcross, a much older friend and colleague who acted as my 'guard' regaled me with tales of his adventures on the Meat Run in Saddleworth during the war when he delivered meat illegally slaughtered at the far end of the valley, to those in the know. I dare not pin point the place, but them as knows, knows.

And of the occasions he had to stumble in the dark along the hillside above the old Roman road by the church and Knowl Top, because the local Bobbies were alerted to the occasion, but he never got caught; and such as we never even knew that it was happening.

Was it from after the war that I remember the errands to the chip shop, with our own ceramic bowl; the hot pea man who came round with his steaming wares in insulated containers (similar to ice cream tubs) in a cart pulled by a donkey; the French onion sellers on their bikes with the onions hanging from the handlebars and cross bar; and the lady who walked from (was it really Denshaw?), with her crumpets for sale door to door, carried in a great wicker basket, hooked on her arm and rested on her tummy.

There was Virol; concentrated orange juice that poured like treacle; Fennings Fever Cure; Ipecacuana Wine that wasn't wine at all; Senna Pods infusing a glass of water overnight and making us move at speed the next day (just because we confessed we hadn't 'been'); Cod Liver Oil and Malt; Carters Little Liver Pills; Andrews Liver Salts, and Scotts Emulsion - all proffered on the context of making us healthy, and taken like a punishment.

All long gone!

Beech Avenue, 1939-1945

The occupants of the 20 houses then were:

2	Clark	1	Hill
4	Booth	3	Roland
6	?	5	Warburton
8	Howard	7	Rothery
10	Warld	9	Butterworth
12	Donnellan	11	Ball
14	Capper	13	Baron
16	Henshaw	15	Gavin?
18	Broadbent	17	Cox
20	Hughes	19	Taylor

Can anyone complete the picture?

(Mr Butterworth has kindly sent two contemporary photographs. These are reproduced on the next page.)

Beech Avenue Ladies



Back row, l. to r: Mrs Maude Ball, Mrs Betty Butterworth, Mrs Flo Taylor.
 Front row, l. to r: Mrs Walton, Mrs Rowland, ?not remembered, Mrs Capper., Mrs Hughes,
 Mrs Henshaw, Mrs Gavin.

The Beech Avenue community on VE Day



From the left:
 John Butterworth, Mr Capper, Betty Bamforth, Roy Wyres, Mr Hughes holding Katherine Howard) Madeleine Donellan, Trevor Butterworth, Mary Howard, Betty Butterworth (at back), Norma Taylor, George Wrigley (at front), Mrs Donellan, Mrs Lees and AN Other at back Jean Booth, Julia Taylor, Joe Ward (at front), Mrs Wrigley holding Malcolm, Tony Howard (front), Mrs Hughes, June Wyres, Enid Booth, Kathleen Wildman (née Capper) holding Elaine, Mrs Taylor, Roy Wilson.

Saddleworth And Uppermill: A Wartime Memory

Jim Murray

I well recall the dull thud of bombs and the acrid smell of smouldering wool. When the "Green" ("All Clear") went after a German raid, we all came out of the cellar of our house at Central Fire Station, Nelson Street, Bradford where my father was twenty-two years a Fire Officer after serving in the Royal Artillery in France in the Great War. After the German air Raid on the evening of 31st August 1940, in which Rawson Market and surrounding buildings suffered considerable damage, the decision was taken to send me to "Aunt Flo's" [a friend of my mother] at Saddleworth¹ away from the bombs. As a seven year old I had no idea what Saddleworth or Lancashire was, but it promised to be something of an adventure ... a reflection on the times when it was felt safe to send a young lad alone on such a journey.

I travelled with sandwiches, suitcase and gas mask but have no recollection of the Trans-Pennine train journey except the grim tunnel outside Huddersfield station. Aunt Flo's house at Uppermill turned out to be second on the left over the canal bridge on the road to Greenfield. [I returned there recently and was still able to recognise it after more than half a century!] The pretty garden behind the house dropped steeply to the canal and across the road up the bank towards the railway where we collected bilberries. No bilberries in Bradford! Aunt Flo was a tall kindly lady who spoke in (to me) strange accent promising that on Friday she would give me "something that tasted like banana". What a thrill! Wartime rationing meant that butter, eggs etc. were scarce and tropical fruits unobtainable. I grew up not knowing what a banana was and after the war I found the taste of real butter unpalatable. These were the days of ration books, dried egg, powdered milk and 'utility' clothing. Friday couldn't come soon enough. The treat turned out to be a concoction of mashed apple and condensed milk. I found it delicious!

My second treat was a visit to the cinema at Uppermill.² I had never been to a cinema before. Curiously, I have no memory of the event. What I do remember is walking down Uppermill main street towards the conspicuous railway viaduct to the cinema and buying our reserved seats for the performance. I don't remember the film, but do recall the tickets and being impressed by the (excise?) stamp on them. That excise stamp was to a seven year old as much a wonder as the imposing Saddleworth viaduct.

With the receding bombing threat I returned to Bradford to eventual 11-plus, grammar school, university and National Service. Uppermill and Aunt Flo (with her Lancashire accent in Yorkshire) always remained a pleasant childhood memory.

Fifty years on, I came to Saddleworth and was surprised to find myself at Binn Green looking out over the stunningly beautiful Yeoman Hey reservoir. The 1881 census had revealed that my maternal grandfather Hughie Bums ("engine driver", aged 23) had lived at 18 Binn Green, Greenfield with his wife Isabella (née Carton, aged 20) and their three sons Hugh (aged 3), Nicholas (aged 2), and John (aged 3 months). There were nine other people in the household and a female servant. Binn Green was not a street, as I had imagined when reading the Census, but had been a camp where the Irish navvies lived during the construction of Yeoman Hey reservoir. This was a monument to Hughie's labour. He was born at Dudley in Staffordshire,

settled in the Leeds Road area of Bradford, and travelled the country on construction work (including the Settle - Carlisle Railway). His son John Bums, born at Greenfield, served in the Royal Army Service Corps and died on active service in Salonika on the last day of the Great War 1914-1918. The family received this sad news in Bradford on Christmas Eve. He was recommended for a Serbian decoration.

Notes:

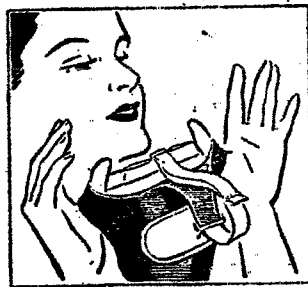
1. The former Urban District of Saddleworth covers an area of Yorkshire of some 18,000 acres on the western slopes of the Pennines forming a salient projecting into the neighbouring county of Lancashire. Much of the land is uninhabited high moorland with settlements in the deep valley bottoms. Uppermill and Greenfield are among these. Culturally and historically Saddleworth is part of the ancient West Riding of Yorkshire. In 1974 for administrative purposes it was included in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.

2. The Saddleworth and Mossley Reporter (13th May 1913) announced that the Milnsbridge Picture Palace Co. was to open a new picture theatre in a building fronting the main street of Uppermill. Mr A. Tinker was to be General Manager and "...the balcony is beautifully carpeted and the whole theatre will be lighted by electricity from a dynamo installed in the base...." The projectionist was 'Happy Jack'. The Uppermill Picture Palace closed in April 1959 (victim of TV) when it became part of the Saddleworth Motor Company, after providing family entertainment for 47 years. It was owned by Mr Bob Plummer who had run the cinema since 1929.

(The writer wishes to thank the Staff of Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery and Honorary Archivist Mr M. Dennett for help and encouragement).

HITLER WILL SEND NO WARNING

PRACTISE PUTTING ON YOUR GAS MASK



1. Hold your breath. (To breathe in gas may be fatal.)
2. Hold mask in front of face, thumbs inside straps.
3. Thrust chin well forward into mask. Pull straps as far over head as they will go.
4. Run finger round face-piece taking care head-straps are not twisted.

MAKE SURE IT FITS

See that the rubber fits snugly at sides of jaw and under chin. The head-straps should be adjusted to hold the mask firmly. To test for fit, hold a piece of paper to end of mask and breathe in. The paper should stick.



Saddleworth War Charities

Clara Shaw

During World War II, most parts of the country organized charities to raise money to send parcels to prisoners of war. In Saddleworth, Lord Rhodes set up this organization, and there were branches in the Saddleworth villages, each being responsible for their own money matters. A joint meeting was held each month in Uppermill to report.

Each branch allocated 40% of their monthly receipts to the general fund and Lord Rhodes took it in person to the London HQ of the Red Cross. We in Delph also paid to the Red Cross the cost of sending prisoner of war parcels which we could not send direct to the prisoners.

We raised money in all kinds of ways; but our greatest problems were:

- Shortage of men to do the hard work.
- Difficulties in obtaining food for whist drives, tea parties and all the various money raising events.
- Black-out and other regulations.

One prisoner of war came to our last function. He went on the platform and told us what happened when they received their parcels. The contents of each parcel (be it sardines or chocolate) had to be opened and put in a large bowl and mixed up. They could not say they had not received them, but they were not very palatable.

We made an average of £10 per week for the six years of war, which now seems very little, but at that time it was like running a business. Wages would be about £3.10s (£3.50) a week.

Our numbers were all very active. These were some of the activities:

- We knitted garments for the forces – wool provided by the Red Cross.
- We sent postal orders twice a year to all the Delph men and women serving in HM forces.
- We held whist drives (with supper) on alternate weeks, and whist drives and dances in the Mechanics Institute on some Saturdays.
- We organized several Rose Queen processions for which we had to apply for police permission to hold street collections.

The Rose Queen was no easy matter, as we needed to find clothing coupons for the elected Queen's dresses, and we could not afford flowers for her retinue, so I made them with paper d'oyleys and with wild flowers gathered by the children.

These Rose Queen days each made about £80, and it took two of us to carry the money to the bank. It was mostly in coppers.

Our committee members working in local factories did excellent work collecting each week. I was secretary, and Nora Wood was Treasurer.

Here are a few further items which may not have come to your notice.

There was a Home Guard base on Knott Hill, Delph.

The Air Raid Wardens' post was in the cellar of no. 23, King Street, Delph (Mr Hardie's shop). This was not the HQ of the Special Constabulary, but they often called in. Mr R.S. Ainscough and Mr Emrys Hughes were two of them.

(See pages 23-26 for more information about the Home Guard.)

The Busy Bees

(See the cover illustration.) The Museum has a good archive of press cuttings and other material relating to this wartime charity. Do any readers have personal recollections? If so, the Editor would be very pleased to hear from you.

Food Rationing

Adults in wartime Britain were rationed to the following amounts of food each week.

- 3 pints milk
- 2 oz butter
- 4 oz margarine
- 8 oz sugar
- 4 oz bacon
- 2 oz cheese
- 1 shilling's worth of meat
- 4 oz cooking fat
- 1 egg

Some of these quantities varied over the period of rationing. Jam, tinned foods and dried fruit (when available) were rationed on the 'points' system. At times, part of the meat ration had to be taken as corned beef. Bread was never rationed.

Based on: <http://www.whispersfromwalmington.com/rationing.htm>

The Home Guard in Saddleworth

The following is a listing, taken from the official document issued by the West Riding County Council at the outbreak of war, of the various Home Guard and related installations and facilities in Saddleworth.

24

SADDLEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Report Centre.

Lee Fields, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 154.
Alternative Centre—Council Offices, Springfield. Tel. Main 4151.
Officer-in-Charge—G. H. Booth, Council Offices, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 333.

Wardens Service.

Head Wardens—

J. Hood, Ten Trees, Oldham Road, Grasscroft. Tel. Main 4001 (day).
W. A. Whitehead, Sunnyside, Dobcross. Tel. Saddleworth 220.

Wardens' Posts.

Dentist's Shop, 76, High Street, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 436. Adapted Post.
Cottage, Spurn Lane, Diggle, near Oldham. Tel. Saddleworth 172. Adapted Post.
Barber's Shop, The Square, Dobcross. Tel. Saddleworth 265. Adapted Post.
Hardie's Shop, King Street, Delph. Tel. Delph 313. Adapted Post.
Council Storehouse, Rochdale Road, Denshaw. Tel. Delph 312. Adapted Post.
1077, Huddersfield Road, Scouthead. Tel. Main 5301. Adapted Post.
Greenfield Liberal Club, Chew Valley Road, Greenfield. Tel. Saddleworth 435. Adapted Post.
12, Mossley Road, Grasscroft. Tel. Saddleworth 434. Adapted Post.
Council Offices, Cooper Street, Springhead. Tel. Main 4151. Adapted Post.
107, Heywood Lane, Scouthead, near Oldham. Tel. Main 3108. Adapted Post.
Church School, Lydgate, near Grasscroft. Tel. Saddleworth 324. Adapted Post.
Wooden Hut, Thornlea, near Springhead. Tel. Main 5380. Adapted Post.
Station Road, Grotton, near Springhead. Tel. Main 5300. Adapted Post.

Warning System.

Situation of Sirens—

Hutchinson and Hollingworth, Ltd., Diggle—Steam.
*Rome Mills, Springhead—Electric.
Fletcher and Sons, Greenfield Mill, Greenfield—Steam.
*Report Centre, Saddleworth—5 h.p. Carter Electric.

R. Byrom (Delph) Ltd., Slackcote Mills, Denshaw—Steam
*Reform Club, Delph—5 h.p. Carter Electric.

*Wellington Mills, Greenfield—5 h.p. Carter Electric.

*Measurements Ltd., Dobcross—5 h.p. Carter Electric.

* On remote control from Police Station.

Casualty Services.

(a) First Aid Party Service.

Depôts—

Council Offices, Springhead. Tel. Oldham Main 1368.

Liberal Club, Greenfield. Tel. Saddleworth 451.

Co-op. Basement, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 453.

Commandant—A. Wild, Amar, 25, Coverhill Road, Grotton, near Oldham.

(b) First Aid Post Service.

First Aid Post, Oddfellows' Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 437.

Medical Officer-in-Charge—Dr. P. B. Wood, 113, High Street Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 47.

Mobile First Aid Post, 43, High Street, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 41.

Medical Officer-in-Charge—Dr. J. Loftus, Ladcastle, Dobcross Tel. Saddleworth 16.

(c) Ambulance Service.

Ambulance Officer—W. Bridge, Marsh Lee, Diggle. Tel. Saddleworth 196.

Garage—Wellington Garage, Greenfield. Tel. Saddleworth 849

Ambulances—Sunbeam KY 1624, Rover DT 2250, Austin AUB 451.

First Aid Party Cars—Morris BWC 277, Chrysler AUA 705
Morris CUA 68.

Sitting Case Car—Triumph DFY 500.

Mobile Unit—Morris YG 4273.

(d) First Aid Point Service.

Non-upgraded—

Mr. Townrow, Under Lane, Grotton, Springhead.

Miss Mellor, Oldham Road, Springhead.

Mrs. Greenwood, Huddersfield Road, Scouthead.

Mrs. Redfern, Platting Road, Grasscroft.

Dr. Stone, Jubilee Terrace, Nook Hospital, Greenfield.

New Council Houses, Denshaw Road.

Dunfries Avenue, Denshaw.

Nurse Cook, Moor Crescent, Diggle.

Brierfield, Dobcross.

Home Guard Casualty Collecting Points.

Boarshurst Band Club, Greenfield.

Oddfellows' Hall, Uppermill.

Mechanics' Institute, Delph.
 Junction Inn Tea Rooms, Denshaw.
 T.A. Drill Hall, Springhead.

Emergency Hospitals.

Deanhouse County Institution. Tel. Holmfirth 10.
 *Huddersfield St. Luke's Hospital. Tel. Milnsbridge 381.
 Oldham Royal Infirmary. Tel. Oldham 3828.
 Area to be served—Whole.

* Possesses gas cleansing unit.

Rescue and Decontamination Services.

Depôt—Cleansing Station, St. Chads, Uppermill, Tel. Saddleworth, 49.
 Rescue Party and Decontamination Commandant—B. Castle.
 Team Leader for Reinforcement Purposes—J. E. Hyslop, 27,
 Clifton Road, Huddersfield. Tel. Huddersfield 4170.
 Technical Adviser—B. Castle, Council Offices, Saddleworth,
 Tel. Saddleworth 333.

Washes available for Cleansing of Vehicles.

Club House, Greenfield. Tel. Saddleworth 17.
 Owners—R. Fletcher and Son, Ltd.
 Buckley and Greenfield. Tel. Saddleworth 31.
 Owners—Buckley and Co.
 Gatehead Mill, Delph. Tel. Delph 216.
 Owners—Cluens and Atherton.
 H. M. Hobson, Greenfield. Tel. Main 4697.
 Owner—H. M. Hobson.

Decontamination of Clothing.

Laundries available for Decontamination of Civilian and Protective Clothing.
 Protective and Civilian Clothing—
 Joseph Clare, Ltd., Frenches Dyeworks, Greenfield. Tel.
 Saddleworth 114.

Information Bureau.

Council Offices, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 333-4.
 Officer-in-Charge—T. Nuttall (Clerk).

Salvage of Property and Removal of Debris.

Salvage Records Officer—C. Mallalieu, Council Offices, Uppermill. Tel. Saddleworth 333.

Messenger Service.

Headquarters—Co-operative Hall, Uppermill.
 Commandant—T. Partington, St. Mary's Drive, Greenfield.

Social and Training Centre.

The Co-operative Hall, Uppermill.

Rendezvous for Incoming Reinforcements.

Police Box, Cowlersley.

Incendiary Bomb Training Hut.

Delph Road, Uppermill.

Women's Voluntary Service.

Office—Lower Carr, Diggle. Tel. Saddleworth 180.
Centre Leader—Miss E. Thorn.

Feeding and Shelter Centres.

St. Chad's Parochial Hall, Uppermill. (First line.) Accommodation 80.
Congregational Sunday School, Radcliffe Street, Springhead. (First line.) Accommodation 100.
Methodist Sunday School, off High Street, Uppermill. (First line.) Accommodation 60.
Council School, Greenfield. (First line.) Accommodation 125.
Methodist Sunday School, Greenfield. (First line.) Accommodation 70.
Wrigley Mill Sunday School, Diggle. (First line.) Accommodation 80.
Mechanics' Institute, Delph. (First line.) Accommodation 175.
Conservative Club, Springhead. (Supplementary.) Accommodation 56.

Medical Rest Centre.

Ebenezer Sunday School, Uppermill. Beds 10.

Dorsetshire Naturalists' Union

The 360th Meeting

WILL BE HELD AT

Greenfield for Saddleworth

and District, including Chew Valley, Ashway
Gap, Ravenstones, Sail Bark and Gulliver Moor

ON

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, 1931.

THE VEGETATION. - Dr. T. W. Woodhead writes: The route traversed during this excursion provides an excellent opportunity for studying the moorland associations which have been so fully described by W. G. Smith and C. E. Moss. On the slopes, degenerate *Quercus sessiliflora* woodland with heath ground flora; also relics of considerable plantations of pine, which illustrate well the injurious effects of exposure in this area to trees in isolated plantations. Ascending the shaley slopes, covered with hair-grass, mat-grass, ling and bracken (the latter often forming extensive and extending carpets), we pass over a scree of grit débris from the beds above, crossing edges of bilberry with a considerable admixture of cowberry, and eventually reach the summit plateau where is one of the finest examples of cottongrass peat moss. Here all stages of degeneration may be studied: bilberry replacing the cottongrass over the drying peat, with here and there extensive patches of cloudberry. Rushbeds are frequent, but sphagnum bogs are of small extent, with a delicate network of cranberry stems trailing over the surface. Where the peat has been cut through by streamlets, remains of trees—chiefly birch—may often be seen at the base, the last remains of the boreal forest of the plateau.

MOSESSES AND HEPATICS. - Mr. H. C. Broome writes: The best ground for Bryophytes is at Greenfield and in the sheltered cloughs which occur among the hills. The rarer Mosses recorded in the Flora of West Yorkshire may be regarded as now extinct, and only the more common species are to be found. *Catharinaea crispa* is common in the sandy detritus by the sides of streams. The dominant Moss on the peat is *Orthodontium gracile* var. *heterocarpum*, which covers the hills with a felt-like carpet and here fruits freely. *Diselium nudum* was collected some years ago in fine condition at Ram's Clough near Grains Bar, but has not been seen recently. The Hepatic Flora is more interesting, and attention may be drawn to the various forms of *Lophozia atlantica* found in the district. Dick Clough should be visited if only to see *Aplozia riparia* forma *potamophila*, which chokes the mountain stream there. The large antheridia on the male plants are very noticeable even under the pocket lens. *Chiloscyphus polyanthus* var. *fragilis* is also found in this stream. *Aplozia caespiticia* was discovered in the district a few years ago, but the plant is very rare, and only a small patch of it has been found. *Aplozia pumila* var. *rivularis* has been collected at Ram's Clough, but I doubt it still being there. It has also been collected near Marsden. A number of other Hepatics may be looked for in damp ground and in the numerous mountain streams and other likely places.

LICHENS. - Mr. W. E. L. Wattam writes: The area chosen for investigation will yield the typical species which survive the smoky conditions in the vicinity of the industrial areas within the S.W. Yorks. valleys. The following are some of the species which have been noted, viz.: *Evernia furfuracea* f. *ceratea* Cromb., *Cetraria glauca* Ach., *Parmelia saxatilis* Ach., *P. physodes* Ach., *Candelariella vitellina* Müll-Arg., *Lecanora muralis* Schaer, *L. varia* Ach., *L. conizaea* Nyl., *L. Polytropa* Schaer, *Bæomyces rufus* D.C., *Cladina sylvatica* Nyl., *Cladonia Pyxidat* Fr., *C. fimbriata* Fr., *C. gracilis* Willd. and vars., *C. coccifera* Willd., and vars., *Lecidia gratulosa* Schaer, *L. uliginosa* Ach., *L. contigua* Fr., *L. lithophila* Ach., and *Bilimbia sabuletorum* B. and R.

VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY. - Mr. F. J. Stubbs writes; -

Mammals. - Saddleworth is not rich in species of vertebrates, and the date of the excursion is rather early for some of the migrants. Among mammals the Alpine Hare is the most interesting. It was introduced about 1881, and is now abundant on most of the moors, especially on the rocky slopes. At this season some of the animals will still be in their white winter pelage, conspicuous from a great distance when squatting motionless; when detected (and every white spot on the moor is worth scrutiny) these individuals generally allow a close approach. The Lesser Shrew is the common and perhaps the only species on the hills; the Water Shrew occurs, but is rare, and worth looking for.

Birds. - On the same ground as the Alpine Hare are several noteworthy moorland birds. The Red Grouse is abundant, but not much in evidence in April. The Ring Ouzel is variable, sometimes common, in some years almost absent. In the small rocky treeless cloughs, the Missel Thrush breeds, sometimes building its nest on almost level ground, or on a rocky ledge. When the song is heard in such surroundings it is very easily mistaken for that of the Ring Ouzel; both birds on fine evenings may sing until it is dark. In spite of the hostility of the keepers, the Merlin nests annually in several places, generally in a bed of bracken. A pair is sure to be present halfway up Chew Valley, and the birds will probably be seen, here or elsewhere. It is too early for nests. The Twite is rather more common on other moorlands nearer Oldham, but is almost sure to be seen. Stockdoves breed in the rocky cliffs, or in buildings, but are easily mistaken for Domestic Pigeons; the voice is the safest guide. Along the streams and the banks of reservoirs the Common Sandpiper is conspicuous in summer. The Dunlin nests in the area, but is unlikely to be seen except on the wet flat summits above the 1500 feet line, and is rare on the moor south of Chew Valley. Here the Dunlin has as companion the Golden Plover, not quite so restricted in range. On all the higher moors the Curlew breeds and in spring and summer is a noticeable bird. Near Chew Wells Reservoir there is a colony of hundreds of Black-headed Gulls.

Mr. F. Allen has also communicated a short list of birds, and among those not mentioned above are Long-Eared Owl, Wheatear and Dipper.

ENTOMOLOGY. - Mr. Harry Britten writes: - Work in this district has been more or less of a spasmodic nature, but many interesting insects have been taken on these few visits. Many interesting species of moths have been reported from time to time, and the cases of *Solenobia inconspicuellae* Staint. are to be found on the gritstone rocks. Coleoptera have been taken more or less casually, but such species as *Aphodius constans* Duft., *capponum* Gyll. and *putridus* Hbst., are to be found in sheep dung, while moss in the swiftly-running streams contain Helms, Riolus and Linnius species, and will well repay attention, as many other species in various genera will probably be found in this situation. The Hemiptera have been little worked, but many species of Corisia are common in the ponds, and would well repay a little attention. The handsome Aphid, *Macrosiphioiella tanacetaria* Kalt. is to be found on Tansy in the cottage gardens, whilst *Myzus vaccini* Theob. occurs on the Cowberry which flourishes in this district. Hymenoptera should be represented by *Pratobombus lapponicus* F., visiting the flowers of the Bilberry, and several species of Andrena should be met with. Diptera are generally in abundance, and many good species have been taken, the larvæ of the large and handsome crane-fly, *Pedicia rivosa* Lat., can generally be seen in the roadside ditches, and especially in cattle drinking troughs fed by small streams from the hillsides. Neuroptera are represented by *Ischmura elegans* Lind., *Agrion puella* L., *Pyrhosoma nymphula* Sulz., and *Enallagma cyathigerum* Charp. Many species of Mayflies and Stoneflies occur in the district, and several Caddisflies; these groups would well repay attention.

This is the second part of this brochure, which has been supplied by Bruce Langridge, Oldham Local Studies Library. The first part was published in the Autumn 2000 issue of the Bulletin. This is not a true facsimile, but is derived from a computer-scanned copy, as parts of the original are in too small a font to reproduce satisfactorily from photocopy.

Readers with Internet access may like to compare these notes with the listings in The Postcode Plants Database Web site at <http://fff.nhm.ac.uk/> This lists fauna as well as flora; the postcode for Saddleworth Moor is OL3, or OL4 for the lower areas.

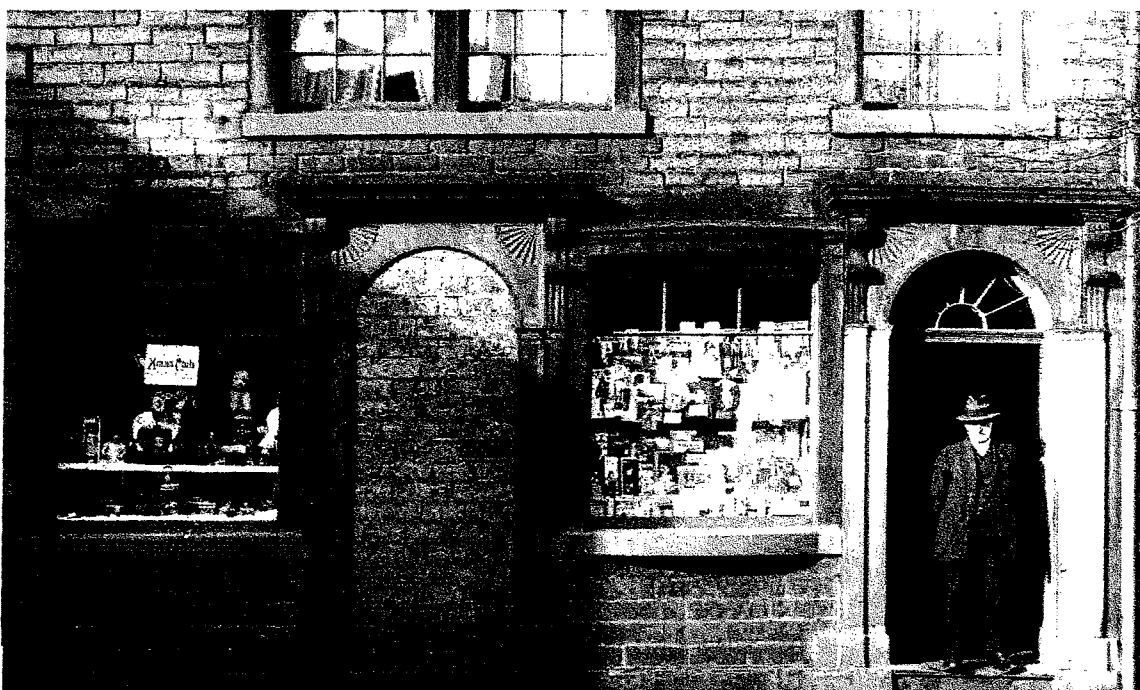
Letters

The Old Manor House

From Albert Broadbent, Rimmon, Braystones Road, Beckermat, Cumbria CA21 2XX

About eighteen months ago I was able to pay a flying visit to Uppermill to see what was going on at The Old Manor House, High Street. Restoration was in progress; the front wall had been cleared of the results of "modernisation". The paper shop had gone and the builders and monumental masons were at work.

Having been asked my business I produced two photographs which greatly interested the mason. These photos show the frontage as in 1928 and 1934.



The Old Manor House (now 72 High Street, Uppermill) ca. 1928. James Hadfield Holden, newsagent was Mr Broadbent's grandfather. Mr Broadbent was born in the bedroom behind the first floor double window.

In October this year my daughter in Manchester again took me to Uppermill and we saw the transformation of number 73 High Street. It looks very good and the forecourt looks more like it was before the road improvements of about 1928.

There had always been a bottleneck at the Conservative Club wall where New Street joined High Street. There is no footpath. The Conservative Club front wall was moved back several feet to enable one to be laid. At the same time the forecourt of no.73 was covered with tarmac laid over the original stone flags. As matter of interest, despite the narrow road the largest motor vehicle in the country, at that time, Marston's Haulage Scammel used High Street on a

number of occasions, I saw it myself as a young lad. I believe journeys were made between Yorkshire and Liverpool as David Brown of Huddersfield made gears for ships' engines.

Beneath the Old Manor House forecourt was the coal store, two marvellous barrel vaults. The coal was delivered by the cart load and had to be wheelbarrowed through a cellar passage into what was the kitchen of the Manor House, now the Conservative Club. There was a large cellar with a big fire place, a large fire basket with heavy bars and arrangements overhead for roasting spits. There were, I think, three smaller cellars, including a wine cellar for all the requirements of what would be in its day a fair sized household.

The mason, Mr Barraclough, showed us inside the building and the re-design and re-construction which were in full swing. He pointed out several features which had been covered or plastered over, including a bricked up outside-looking window, and he agreed with me on matters which indicated that the nature of the development of this range of buildings was piecemeal over the years, including the houses which face south west, looking down St. Mary's Gate.

The biggest surprise was the left hand door, now the entrance to the dentist's surgery. In my day that doorway was blocked up with stone blocks similar to the rest of the building. The right hand door was, of course, the entrance to the paper shop to the left and forward, up a sloping passage into the living accommodation. I remember, once, when as a child I was in there alone, the grownups being in the shop. There was suddenly a lot of noise - shouting followed by thunder of hooves in the sloping passage, and in no time the living room and kitchen of Old Manor House were full of cattle with myself trapped at the far end. I don't know whose cows they were, but those who had driven them up High Street didn't appear to be in much of a hurry to get them out! I wonder how often you see cattle being driven up the High Street today!

The alterations included re-opening the left hand door. The stones were taken away and there it was! The original door complete with its original Regency seven light fanlight. I understand the door and its fanlight were taken away for restoration before it was re-installed for modern use!

When there was a paper shop there, the inside wall was plastered without any indication at all that behind the plaster was the original door.

Having seen the results of the frontage restoration, I think it can be said that it has been very successful. It is not easy to restore and preserve for future generations whilst at the same time justifying retention of a subject by change of use in an economic way. It would have been nice e.g. to have retained the slabbed-up windows as a history lesson on occupiers' reaction to the Window Tax, but it was not feasible. It is still an important feature of this building that the blocked up "taking-in doors" on the south-west front remain as rare if not unique in that there were four in vertical-line. An indication, I suggest, of the amount of work which was being done in the cottage wool industry in which I imagine was perhaps the "industrial wing" of this interesting range, which I think, grew around the Manor House built by John Buckley at the end the 18th century. I can remember that the words Manor House were set on the left and right hand gateposts respectively. The actual lettering was in faded gold; was it I wonder gold leaf? I would hardly think that it was original, they were there I am sure up to the war.

To conclude I would like to ask for information if anyone can help, please:

CURRENT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Books

SADDLEWORTH FROM THE AIR. By Professor Barri Jones. £12.75

SADDLEWORTH 1914 -1919: The experience of a Pennine community during the Great War. By K. W. Mitchinson. Soft backed £5.00 Hard backed £10.00

CHERRY VALLEY CHRONICLES: Letters from Thomas Buckley and family - immigrants to Cherry Valley and Milbury, Massachusetts, USA, to his son Ralph Buckley and family, of Dobcross and Delph, Saddleworth. Transcribed by Maurice Dennett. £5.00

PASSAGE THROUGH TIME: A history of Saddleworth roads and track-ways. By Bernard Barnes. £5.95

WITH AMMON WRIGLEY IN SADDLEWORTH. By Sam Seville, Son-in-law and companion of the Saddleworth writer and poet. £2.95

THE SADDLEWORTH STORY: A collection of historical essays. (WEA Publication.) £2.00

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL: A compendium of articles from the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin on the construction of the Canal. £3.60

Local Interest Trails.

Walks around Saddleworth: Illustrated with notes on local history and landscapes. 90p each (except No. 11)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. DELPH, HEIGHTS AND GRANGE | 6. DENSHAW |
| 2. UPPERMILL | 7. DELPH |
| 3. GREENFIELD | 8. LYDGATE AND GROTTON |
| 4. HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL | 9. DOBCROSS |
| 5. GRASSCROFT | 11. CASTLESHAW (£1.30) |

Maps

STREET GUIDE TO SADDLEWORTH: An A2 comprehensive Street Map of the area. £1.20

COUNTRYSIDE GUIDES: Large scale maps of the district showing public footpaths, amenities and features of special interest: with notes on the local and natural history of Saddleworth.
Saddleworth North £2.40. Saddleworth South *Out of print*

CHURCHYARD PLAN: A plan of the Old Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £1.80

LOWER GRAVEYARD PLAN, Saddleworth Church. £3.00

Pamphlets

ADDRESS TO THE VARIOUS CLASSES OF MEN IN SADDLEWORTH: Shewing the necessity of supporting the Plan laid down for augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory: Describing the Distressed Situation of the Parish in 1795. By Daniel Nield. £0.75

Items are available at the Saddleworth Museum and at local bookshops, or by post from the Society's Publications Officer, Mr B.E. Jackson, 7 Slackcote, Delph, Oldham OL3 5TW (Tel: 01457 874530). Please make cheques payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and add 20% postage and packing for delivery outside Saddleworth

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2000

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"It's good to be in Saddleworth
When it's snowing o'er the moors
And a rough old Northern Winter
Whirls the drifts about the doors;
That's the time for beef and puddings,
Warm mulled ale and hearty fare."

Ammon Wrigley.

On Wednesday evening the 6th December, 00, the Annual General Meeting and your Chairman's report were cordially received, all the Officers, including the Secretary and Treasurer being warmly thanked for their yearly duties. Jim Carr, then gave a pleasurable slide lecture on Israel, visiting all the sites of our scripture class lessons with much colour and archaeological detail.

Forthcoming Lectures: 7.30 p.m. The Museum, Uppermill,
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The first lecture of the New Year will be :

Recent Developments in Roman Archaeology. Jackie Renshaw.	Thursday 15th February, 01
The Torrs Industrial Trail & New Mills Heritage Centre. Dr. Derek Brumhead.	Thursday 29th March, 01
The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society. John Marsden.	Thursday 26th April, 01

Saddleworth, Australia is now within the New Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council and to maintain their connection with Saddleworth Parish Council have presented one of the original flags flown when the Olympic torch passed through their Saddleworth on the 13th July, 2000, wending its way to the Sydney Olympics. A most complimentary gesture, much appreciated locally, after the splendid Olympic Year of 2000.

Great news for Society members, David Chadderton and Ken Booth. The Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust £10,100 towards two books. David Chadderton has edited and prepared for publication 'Prehistoric Saddleworth & Adjacent Areas,' by Dr. Pat Stonehouse and 'Roman Saddleworth,' by Ken Booth. These should be available during April or May 2001. A series of lectures on the rich archaeological history of Saddleworth will be given in the district as part of the Lottery grant.

Forthcoming Events at the Museum

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Coffee Mornings & Boutique
Farmers' Markets.
A Donkey Derby.
Trip to Skipton Market.
The Well-Dressing Villages.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Every 2nd Sunday of the month.
Friday 2nd March, 01
Wednesday 4th April, 01
A date is still to be fixed.

The Skipton Trip booking forms and Donkey Derby tickets available from the Museum, 874093

The Spring Draw will be made on Saturday 31st March, 01

Exhibitions.

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Saddleworth Volunteers World War 1
World War 11 - The Home Front.

Current Exhibition.
Current Exhibition.

Spring Bloomers.

From 24th February, 01, running until
16th September, 01
An Exhibition of intimate apparel
presented in the best possible taste.

Art Exhibitions.

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Oldham Camera Club.
Alyson Leach.
Keith Taylor.

10th February - 3rd March
10th March - 31st March.
7th April - 28th April.

Other Events.

Children's Activity Days
20th and 21st February, 01 1 - 3 p.m.

Textile Working Days

Sundays 15th April, 27th May and 1st July,

CIVIC TRUST PROGRAMME.... 7.30 p.m. Museum

Restoration of Methven Castle, Perthshire by
Kenneth Murdoch, Architect and owner.

Thursday, 1st March, 01

Heritage Walk - Delph - John Smith, author of
Saddleworth Buildings book.

Sunday, 6th May, 01
Time and meeting place to be arranged.

Heritage Walk - Uppermill & Dobcross.
John Smith.

Sunday 13th May, 01
Time and meeting place to be arranged.

Stonewalling in Saddleworth by Brian Hough,
local farmer at Wharmton.

Wednesday 6th June, 01

Summer Trip - Architecture in the Calder Valley
with Alan Petford.

Saturday 30th June, 01
Time and meeting place to be arranged.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the publication of the last Bulletin.

Miss Ruth Ingham, Perth.	Mrs. Christine Jepson, Austerlands.
Mrs. E. Lord, Lees.	Mr. R.S. Pruddah, Newport, Wales.
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Foreman, Isle of Wight.	Mrs. Jeanne A. Dunn, Delaware, U.S.A.
Mrs. Shelia Heywood, Chadderton.	Mrs. Carolyn Schofield, North Carolina.
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Darlington, New York.	

Miss Ruth Ingham informs us that her father Gordon Thomas Ingham and her uncle Arthur are sons of Clarence Ingham. born at Uppermill in 1890 to John Ingham and Ann Bradbury. Her father's old address book contained photographs, one being a drama group outside Saddleworth Church where her grandfather learned the organ and in later life he became a music teacher after graduating from the London Royal Academy of Music. Ruth has commenced a Genealogical Studies course and is compiling a biography of her grandfather's life, i.e. school attended etc. If this stirs the memory of any member please contact Ruth Ingham, at 8 Wallace Place, Perth, PH1 2PA.

Geoff Toms 'Up Yonder', article in the last Bulletin has engendered quite a lot of interest and a number of people whose families were mentioned came forward for copies. Amongst those being Mrs. E. Lord from Thomas Street, Lees, who has joined the Society thus reviving the name of Harold Lord who was such an early influence upon Geoff Toms

Another letter from Mrs. Janet Foreman of Sea View, I.O.W., recalls her visit to Globe Farm, at Delph, she is researching the descendents of Joseph Johnson b1822 in Saddleworth, who married Mally Howarth and consequently lived in Burnley Lane, Oldham.

A recent telephone call from Mrs. Susan Darlington of Merrick, New York, to join the Society for her husband Ian, who was born in Uppermill and after living in the United States for fifteen years still remembers Saddleworth well. His parents, Ken and Joyce live in Wellmeadow Lane, Uppermill and visit their family in America regularly.

Mrs. Jeanne A. Dunn of Wilmington, Delaware. U.S.A., is a descendent of the Wrigleys of Broadhead and we are hoping to obtain more information from her regarding her research.

Mr. R.S. Pruddah of Newport, Gwent, has Bradbury ancestors in Saddleworth and particularly wishes to trace Eli of Saddleworth who married Hannah Ritson in Bristol in 1813

An email contact has been established with Mike Buckley by Carolyn Schofield, 223 E. Maine Ave., Bessemer City, North Carolina.28016, U.S.A., No doubt another subject for our Family History Section.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Fortunately the Society are able to maintain the same subscription rates for the year 2001. The subscriptions being detailed as follows and this year for the first time Society members will be able to make a Gift Aid Declaration which will be of great benefit to the Society.

Family Membership.....	£12.00	Single Membership	£10.00
Reired Membership	8.00	Student Membership	8.00
(Single & Family)			

GIFT AID

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We are enclosing a Gift Aid Declaration form, which when signed by a member, enables the Historical Society to reclaim the tax on your membership subscription/donations, increasing the value of your payment by almost a third, providing you are a UK tax payer. Please sign and return the form as this is your way to increase your subscription with no extra cost to yourself. We can claim the tax relief on all payments by UK tax payers made after the 6th April 2000. providing we receive your signed declaration.

May we thank you for continued support to the Society which is most valued.

SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.

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New Course: **LOOKING AT BIRDS** Tutor: **ANNE PARRY**
 6 weeks commencing Tuesday 27th February, 2001 from 1 to 3 p.m.
 Satellite Centre, Wellington Road, Greenfield. Enrol at the first class.
 Please wear warm clothes and suitable footwear as we shall be outdoors for part of this course. Tel. 0161 633 3205 for further details.

In the last Bulletin we asked if anyone would like to take on the job of Secretary of the Saddleworth W.E.A. Branch as Mrs. Dorothy Latimer was retiring.

We can now announce that Mr. Ian Stubbs of Denshaw is to take over this duty from Mrs. Latimer in September, 2001, and that Mrs. Latimer will continue as Branch Treasurer.

The W.E.A. now make an appeal to all high tech, state of the art fanatics with their internet, scanners, camcorders, digital cameras etc., and old fashioned film projectors and screens gathering dust and cluttering up the attic or back bedroom.

The W.E.A. can find a good home for an automatic slide projector and a 5 foot screen and give them a new lease of life serving the W.E.A. classes. They already have one screen and projector, but when two classes fall on the same night cannot provide equipment for both classes.

If you have either or both and are willing to donate or sell them, at a reasonable price, please contact Mrs. D.I. Latimer on 0161 633 3205.

J. Hindle. Jan.01