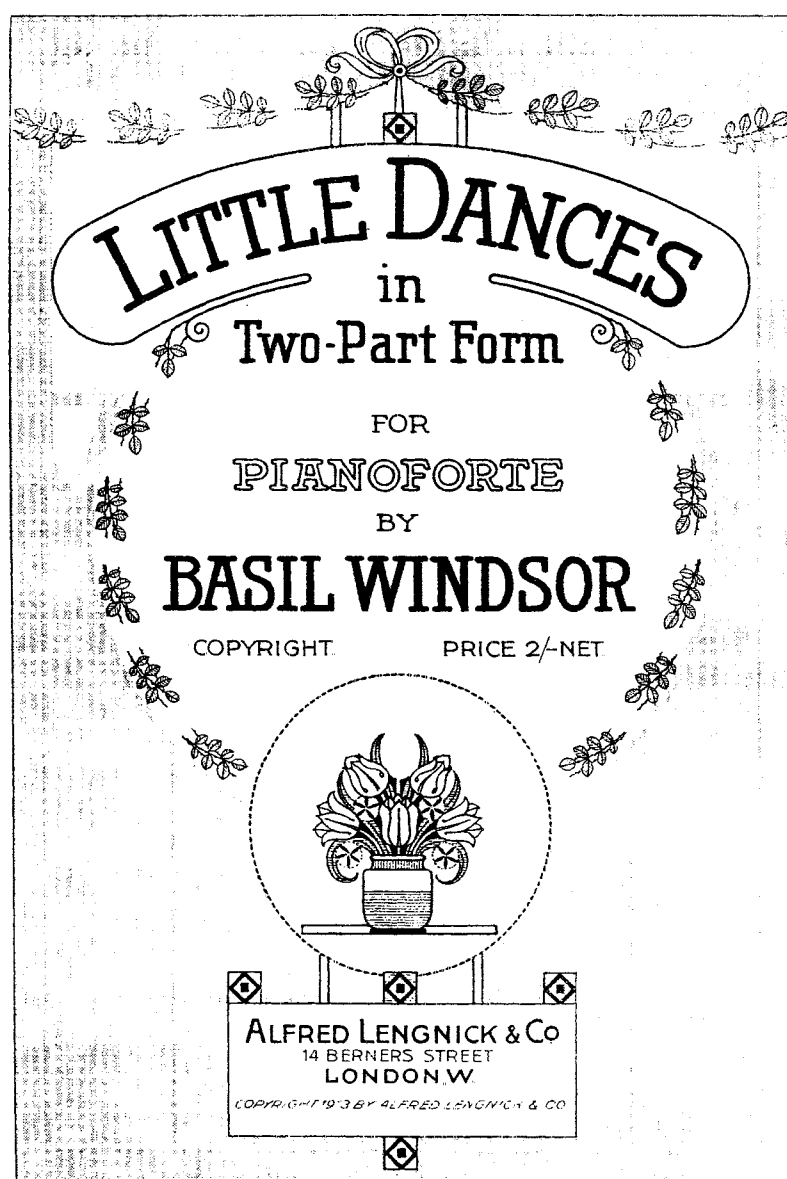


# Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 34

Number 1

Spring 2004

# *Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society*

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Cover illustration: Frontispiece for *Little Dances* by Basil Windsor (1913)  
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# Saddleworth Historical Society

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*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.*

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.

## *John Gordon Parry*

Gordon died in hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004, at the age of 85, after suffering a stroke. Born in Heywood he was only two when the family moved to Oldham. After two jobs in industry he took up teaching and came to Saddleworth School, where he also became Head of the Evening Centre.

The Historical Society evolved from a W.E.A class in local history, which met at the Centre and Gordon was a founder-member. It was through Gordon that the new-born Society was able to hold meetings and lectures in the School Library or Staff Room. This arrangement continued for many years until the Gallery development in the Saddleworth Museum.

Gordon's involvement included productions of the Newsletter for the quarterly Bulletin, which in the early days was run off and collated by a small team of Committee members. He was also our 'artist in residence' at social events with his excellent design and decorative skills. He had found an old violin, taught himself to play and, at our soirées, joined the harmony of the 'Museum Pieces'. In later years his deafness prompted him to set up his own P.A. system for lectures in the Museum Gallery. At Saddleworth Museum he organised the early volunteer kiosk management and was seen in costume on Textile Working Days.

Seen regularly out and about with the dogs, Gordon was actively involved in many aspects of Saddleworth life. He was a founder-member of the Saddleworth Forum at the Civic Hall, he was active in the Pedestrians, the Gardening Club, Art Club and with music generally. At 75 he had taken up computing with his own E-mail address. An active and inspiring life indeed!

Our deepest sympathy goes to Anne, his sons Ian and John, with their wives Paula and Fiona and to Phoebe, his grand-daughter.

*Jim Carr*

*Chairman*

## *Biography of a Saddleworth Worthy*

### *The Late Mr John Byrom*

**1802 – 1873**

### *Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne-Saddleworth*

*This interesting biography of John Byrom was forwarded to the editor for publication by Mrs Elsie Broadbent, who had been given the piece by Mr John Cleverley. John Byrom was born in Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, in 1802 and became manager of Waterside Mill in Greenfield. As the biography reveals, he was an immensely inventive and industrious polymath, of the kind unique to the period of the industrial revolution. Apart from the innovations in engineering documented in the biography, Byrom also supervised the building of The Nook in Greenfield, the private residence of the Richard Buckley. The account of the house and grounds provides a vivid insight into their appearance in the mid-nineteenth century.*

*Neil Barrow has also pointed out Byrom's important links with the development of the Greenfield Industrial and Benevolent Society, founded in 1857, the first in Saddleworth. Amongst the founder members of the society was a Doctor Byrom of Waterside Mill. This was probably John, for within a month the first Treasurer had resigned and John Byrom was appointed. He held the post for three years. The photograph of Byrom (below) is taken from D. Lawton, Village Co-operation. A Jubilee Sketch of Greenfield Co-operative Society Ltd. 1856-1906. Manchester, 1906.*

*The manuscript which is reproduced here appears, from internal evidence in the original, to have been written for publication as an extended obituary in a local newspaper some weeks after Byrom's death in December 1873. It is reproduced here with the omission of the occasional recapitulations contained in the manuscript, which were clearly associated with its original publication in serial form. The editor is very grateful to Neil Barrow for help in editing the manuscript, for supplying the photograph of Byrom and the sketch of The Nook (below) and providing valuable additional information for the footnotes.*



Since the death of this remarkable and well-known local man, which took place a few weeks since, there have been frequent inquiries for a well authenticated sketch of his extraordinary career. The deceased belonged to an old and well-known Ashton family, and one of his descendents is the present host of the Commercial Inn, Melbourne Street, Stalybridge.

The late Mr John Byrom was born at Hurst, near Ashton-under-Lyne, in 1802, his father, George Byrom, being a fine, stalwart man, standing over six feet high. He was a conspicuous member of Captain Astley's (of Duckinfield) Regiment of Local Militia, a body of men something like the Rifle Volunteers of the present time. In after life he appears to have become the 'oracle of the village of Hurst', and he had considerable influence with the powers that were. When any of his neighbours got into trouble, he was the first to appeal to

for advice and assistance. On one occasion some meddling mischief-maker aggravated another man until he said something disrespectful about the king (a very serious offence in those days) for the purpose of informing against him. He was arrested on the charge, and would have been severely punished for the offence had not Mr Byrom interceded for him, and brought all the facts properly forward, which secured for the poor fellow an honourable acquittal.

John Byrom's mother was the daughter of a whitesmith, named Hawksworth, from the neighbourhood of Sheffield, and when only seven years of age her mother died, leaving her and a brother. Her father, who had enlisted as a soldier, and had been bought off nineteen times by his friends previous to his marriage, on being left a widower again enlisted in the artillery, and was sent away (taking his two young children with him) to Gibraltar, where they were during the whole of the time the Spanish besieged that barren rock. Many were the dangers and privations they encountered during that time, and the stories which she was in the habit of relating in her old days. It appears that during the siege she had become, although a child, so accustomed to the horrors of war that one day, when the siege was at its height, she ventured outside and seated herself quietly on a wall, unconscious of danger, when a gunner who was engaged near ran and forced her away from the exposed position. In a few minutes after he had done so the wall was blown clean away by the Spanish Artillery. She saw the first red hot shot fired by Captain Elliott, the inventor.

The house in which her father, and her sister, and herself resided was blown down and they had to take shelter in a cave in the rocks, which strange retreat was not very secure, as one day, when the two children were in the cave alone, a Spanish bombshell dropped in, which, however, did not explode, or they would have both been blown to atoms. They were put to great straits at times for food during the siege. On one occasion, after having been without food for several days, during which time they had not seen their father, he came into the cave with a dead hen in his hand, which he skinned, cut a leg off, and had commenced to broil it, when the bugle sounded, and he was compelled to leave them with the leg half-cooked. John seems to have had great affection for her. She resided with him for some time previous to her death, which took place some thirty years since, and she was interred at St Paul's, Staley. She brought home with her a piece of one of the Spanish bomb-boats,

which was blown to pieces and burned by the English. From this relic Mr Byrom made a lather box, leaving several bullet marks intact, which is still in possession of his widow. The subject of our sketch appears to have anticipated the Lucifer match makers, as some 40 years ago, when the process of making light by old flint and steel was in vogue, he constructed a fire pump (whether he was the inventor or not, we are not aware), by which he could make a light instantaneously. It was much like a boy's popgun, consisting of a brass barrel bored accurately nearly through, with a ramrod, at the end of which is fixed a piece of brown paper prepared with saltpetre. This is rammed smartly up, which causes the paper to light by the concussion of air, from which the old brimstone matches could be lighted. He, however, seems to have occasionally had recourse to other novel methods of obtaining light, as on a certain dark winter's morning, on getting out of bed, he found that he had no touch paper prepared. This tested his inventive powers, which soon got him out of difficulty. He took his shot gun, and rammed some powder and paper down the barrel, and then discharged the gun behind the door in one corner of the house, nearly frightening some of his neighbours out of their wits with the explosion. The experiment, however, answered his purpose, as he lighted a match from the burning paper.

In continuation of the remarks concerning Mr John Byrom which appeared in last week's issue, it may be said that he displayed, early in life, those peculiar traits of character which afterwards developed themselves as being remarkably precise in all his transactions. He had a place for everything, and he always put everything he possessed in its place. When a boy he was employed in a brickyard to carry bricks from the moulder's stool. At this time it appears to have been the custom to make bricks to order, as he often told in after life of having carried the bricks of which Mr Bayley's house in High-street, Stalybridge, is built, and that Mr Joseph Bayley frequently visited the brickyard to see how they were going on with them, and that Mr Bayley gave him threepence nearly every time he came for carrying them so nicely. About this time his father appears to have died. His mother was soon afterwards married again to a man named Siddall, who was a cotton rover at Mr Chapman's Mill, Hurst Brook, where Mr Byrom was sent to work, and after a time, in consequence of Mr Chapman pulling the roving frames down to replace them with a more modern machine, named jack frames, his step-father was thrown out of work. He removed with his family (which had now become very numerous, both parents having a number of children) to Messrs.



Adshead's Staley Mill, Millbrook. As the subject of this paper grew up to manhood, the Adsheads, seeing that he had superior abilities, took him as an apprentice, which was the custom at the time in cotton mills, for some of three or four years to learn overlooking. After a time the Adsheads let the Staley Mill<sup>1</sup> to the Howards and Buckleys, and removed to their new mills in Stalybridge, Byrom remaining at Stayley Mill, although the Adsheads made him several good offers to go with them, which he declined. He appears, however, to have started one or two pairs of their first spinning mules. On the Buckleys leaving Millbrook to start their new place at Greenfield<sup>2</sup>, Byrom went with them as manager, which situation he held for a period of 38 years, and until his death, which event took place in December, 1873. The Buckleys had the greatest confidence in him as a manager, as they frequently left the concern entirely in his hands for a fortnight at a time. He would appear to have been married during the time he was in the employ of the Adsheads to a Miss Jane Saxon<sup>3</sup>, of Micklehurst, as the names of Mr Aaron Adshead and Miss Watts, sister to the present Sir James Watts, of Manchester, who afterwards became Mrs Aaron Adshead, are on the marriage certificate. The event took place at the Stockport Old Church in 1828. They had twelve children, nine of whom grew to be men and women. Mr Byrom, although a strict disciplinarian both at home and in the mill, was very fond of his children. Whenever any of them distinguished themselves at school, or in any other way, his admiration of them knew no bounds.

When very young, he seems to have had the makings of a true genius in him, as he afterwards proved himself. When about five years of age he bought a small saw with the first penny he was master of, which he fixed in the handle of a walking-stick. In after life he frequently carried it about with him up to the last. Should he have been in want of a saw when out in the woods, he would draw this one from the handle of his stick, and replace it when he had done using it. When he was first married, he, in order to increase his income, began to do little jobs at home in an evening, and for want of better appliances he constructed some kind of machine to answer the purpose of a lathe. This he connected with

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<sup>1</sup> James Adshead had built the mill in 1815 and left in the late 1820s having built the larger Staley New Mills. See I. Haynes, *Stalybridge Cotton Mills*, Neil Richardson, Radcliffe, 1990, p.25.

<sup>2</sup> Waterside Mill, built in 1836 by Frederic and Richard Buckley. John Byrom seems to have moved to Saddleworth slightly earlier, perhaps to supervise the building and fitting out of the mill. The Church Rate book shows him living at The Nook in 1835.

<sup>3</sup> She was born c1804 and the census shows her living at Nook Lodge with her daughter, Eliza in 1881.

his wife's reel, which she turned in order to turn his lathe. At about the same period he constructed several small steam engines, one of which he often carried about with him, the engine in one jacket pocket and the boiler in the other, which he could connect by a common quill, and set to work on a table by putting a hot tally-heater under the boiler. Others he worked by steam generated in a tea kettle over the fire. Some of these engines were shown in different exhibitions and sold. It would seem that he courted difficulties than otherwise for the sake of mastering them. Whenever he came across anything that puzzled other people, he was sure to take it up and struggle with it until he had mastered it; and although he made many improvements which other people would have patented and thereby raised themselves to opulence, he was content to remain in obscurity, and allow others to reap the benefit of his superior skill; and he consoled himself with the idea that a good master deserved a good servant. He made several improvements in the machinery of the mill, which were kept secret for years, and which, if they had been made known, would have benefited thousands of working men – amongst others, and a very important one it was, a motion for shaping cops on the spinning mules, which assisted the hand-spinner considerably, such like motions not being much known then. He kept entirely to their own mill for many years. Before he went off to Greenfield Adsheads had a spinning mule which nobody in their mill could make work properly. As a last resort Byrom was sent for, and in a very short time made such alterations on the faller as answered every purpose. Old Mr Wilkinson, who at that time was making machines at Copley, consequently the best authority on such matters in the neighbourhood, afterwards examined it, and declared that any other man would have patented it.

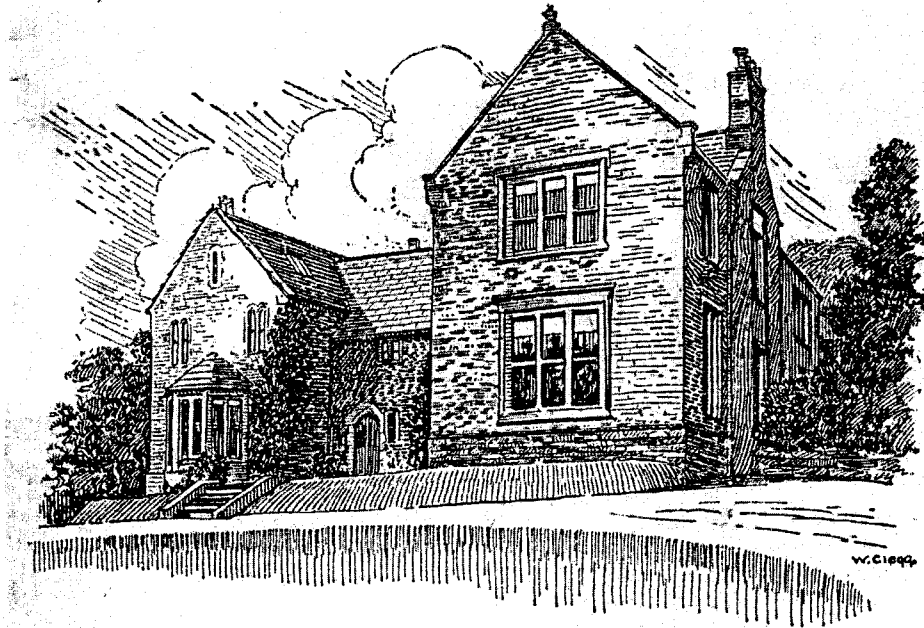
Several of Byrom's relations were roller coverers, in fact, for several generations the roller covering had been done by some member of the family at Messrs Bayley's Mills, Stalybridge, and other places, and some forty years ago, Byrom constructed a small tool for cutting the leathers, and so accurately will it cut them that the joints of the rollers can scarcely be seen, so that yarn spun with these rollers is much leveller than most others, besides effecting a great saving in the leather. This tool has never been allowed out of their own family, even up to the present time. Messrs Buckley's Mill at Greenfield is turned partly by a steam engine and partly by water wheel. The water wheel it seems at one time, put them to considerable inconvenience, on account of turning the machinery irregular (*sic*), to remedy

which Mr Byrom constructed a machine by which the engineer could regulate it by turning the handle fixed to a wheel in the engine-house, and to which is connected an indicator with a dial attached, which shows the number of inches of water passing on to the wheel at all times. This dial is most elaborately got up, having Neptune for water, Hercules for strength, Saturn for time, Dianah the Goddess of the Chase, painted on it. He had also a contrivance fixed to another dial inside the mill, which registers the number of revolutions of the main shaft, which has enabled him to keep a regular daily account of the speed at which the whole of the machinery in the mill has worked during the last 20 or 30 years.

These kinds of contrivances may have been in use at other places, but whether or no, nearly all those mentioned were invented and constructed by Mr Byrom himself. Not only did he make them but generally formed his own tools to work with. Amongst other tools he made a machine for cutting teeth in brass wheels, with which he could cut with the greatest accuracy. He was in the habit of cutting large numbers of wheels. Amongst others he cut a number of small wheels which he fixed in a walking-stick something in the form of the wheels in a gas meter. He attached a small shaft to them, at the end of this shaft he fastened an iron plate one foot diameter. This plate he would bowl before him on the road, the wheels registering the number of yards he travelled. By this means he was able to tell exactly the distances from his house, or from almost any one given place to another in the neighbourhood. When he did not wish to measure he could unscrew the iron plate, which was very light, and put it into his pocket. Byrom, it would seem, when at Adshead's, was both blacksmith, mechanic and joiner, besides being overlooker, and did all his work without having any great provision for carrying it out, but his ingenuity appears to have aided him under all kinds of difficulties. Not having a convenient place to fix a lathe he fixed one behind one of the mules, and when he was about to use it he would bring a wheel which he had cut into two, place it on a shaft belonging to the mill with two small bolts, and set to work. He could turn any kind of article he required, either wood or iron with it.

As we have before stated Byrom was a strict disciplinarian, in fact some people considered him too much so, but if he was a little strict there is nothing surprising in that when it is considered the school he was educated in. Factory people in his younger days were very different to what they are now. In fact the whole system has undergone a great change. As

an illustration of what a man in his position had to contend with on one occasion when Stalybridge Wakes was over, and the people went to their work on the Thursday morning, at a certain mill a number of the spinners were not satisfied but wanted another day's play. They went to the engineer and asked if he could not so arrange matters as to stop the engine for the day. After cogitating a short time he told them he had hit upon a plan by which he could stop the mill for one day at any rate; the master coming down soon after and inquiring what was the matter the engineer told him that do as he would he could not get the steam up, and on being asked how he accounted for it he said the boiler had not been emptied for three months, and the water that was in it had been boiled until all the strength had gone out of it, and would not generate steam. This story appears to have answered, as the water was ordered to be run out directly.



THE NOOK.

It would appear that in addition to managing the machinery, workpeople, etc inside the mill, [Byrom] at times took a turn outside. At the time he went to work for the Buckleys, at Greenfield, not only was the mill a new one, but the surrounding land was an uncultivated plot, except growing a little stunted grass, such as is commonly found at the edge of moorland. Since the time mentioned, under his direction, it has assumed a very different, and, in fact, a very pleasant aspect. A number of nice commodious and neat cottages have been built, with all the necessary roads, fences, etc, near to the mill, and, in addition to these,

'The Nook', a good substantial hall, in which Mr Richard Buckley has lived for some time, has been erected on the hill side adjacent, with beautifully laid-out grounds attached, the whole of which, except the architecture of the noble hall, has been carried out under the supervision of Mr Byrom<sup>4</sup>. There are a number of serpentine and other winding walks, which display considerable taste. There is also a nice little croquet ground, which has been formed partly from the bed of the river, which winds its meandering course close to the establishment, making it look a very paradise. All the roads look so regular in ascent and descent, that we were induced to inquire (Byrom not being either a practical surveyor or landscape gardener) what kind of instrument he had used in bringing the thing about, when an instrument, as queer as it was ingeniously constructed, was shown to us. It consisted of an ordinary spirit level, with a curiously-formed tube over the top of it, on a swivel, but how he managed to take accurate levels, which no doubt he did, would puzzle a great many practical men. The iron gates and stiles have the mark of a real genius stamped on them at every turn.

On examining the inside of Byrom's house, it was clearly demonstrated that he spent few idle hours, but that he was continually cultivating his great skill and ingenuity in every imaginary way. In order to dispense with the old fashioned bellows for blowing the fire, he had constructed a small fan, with a long iron pipe attached. At the end of the fan was a small wheel, so that the instrument could be held to the fire with one hand, whilst the wheel could be turned by a handle with the other, and so much force could be applied, if necessary, as would blow the embers right up the chimney. He also seems to have noticed the inconvenience experienced in toasting bread in having to take the bread from the fire for the purpose of turning it round. He made a toasting fork which, when one side was sufficiently done, by moving the handle a few inches, which acted on an ingeniously-contrived half-wheel, would turn the bread round to toast the other side. In fact, nearly every article in the house bears the trace of his master mind. In a sitting-room upstairs is a study for an antiquarian. Amongst other things is an oak clock case, beautifully carved, with his own hand. Under the face is carved, in bold relief, J. T. Byrom, and the words *Edaf Rerum* on the door; two hawks on the wing, a sailor with a cudgel in his hand, and a fox and a small

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<sup>4</sup> The original cottage dating from the 1750s had the east wing added in the 1850s and then the west wing in the 1870s. The architect was probably George Shaw.

bird. The door has a glazed panel at the bottom, through which is seen a swan, in brass, at the end of the pendulum, the sides of the case being supported with strong wood pillars. The works of the clock are old-fashioned brass ones, and at the time he bought them there was but one hand to, which, however, he soon remedied by putting an additional hand to, as well as the necessary works to turn it. Near to this clock is a carved oak buffet, with bold wood pillars in front, the cupboards and drawers being in a curiously formed recess, beautifully inlaid with holly, box and ebony woods. There is also a carved oak looking-glass frame, a number of carved oak chairs, a large pair of goat's horns, presented to Mr Byrom by Mr Edward Shepley, of Stalybridge, who brought them from Egypt, highly polished. There are snuff boxes made from ramshorns, drinking horns etc, all elaborately mounted, nearly every one having J. B. worked on them in some form or another. A snuff box, curiously made in wood, representing an old farmer with a long coat, small pieces of silver being fastened down the front for buttons. The coat has to be opened in some mysterious manner to obtain a look inside the box; but what is the most surprising part about this carving is that he is said to have done it all with an ordinary pocket knife. A knife box, with the figure of an owl carved upon it being really a creditable piece of workmanship. There are spectacle cases in iron and other metals which also display the skill of a real genius.

It is a fact which has been often demonstrated that the world never knows anything of its best men in consequence of the retiring habits of the true genius. They hide their talents through their own temerity. Had Mr Byrom pushed himself forward he would, no doubt, have died an honourable and esteemed genius, and the world would have reaped the benefit of his great inventive skill and ingenuity, instead of passing out of the world all but unknown. During the whole of his career he would seem to have led a sort of neutral life, so to speak, although at times he mixed in company and took a social class at a week end. He seldom interfered in politics in any way. He was a churchman, and since his employer, Mr Buckley, commenced building the new church at Greenfield<sup>5</sup> he has often expressed his admiration both of Mr Buckley, for his noble gift, and the building itself. For some time

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<sup>5</sup> St Mary's Church, Greenfield, the last church to be built by the Saddleworth architect George Shaw. The foundation stone was laid in 1873 and it opened for service on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1874. The building of the church was underwritten by Richard Buckley. See N. Barrow, M. Buckley, A. Petford and J. Sanders, *Saddleworth Villages*. Saddleworth: Saddleworth Historical Society, 2003, p.129.

previous to his death it was observed by his friends that he had begun to show symptoms of breaking up in constitution, although he persisted in going to the mill to within a short time before his death. When he could attend to his work no longer he appeared to have an impression that it was unnecessary to live longer. He expressed a desire to see different members of his family, and shortly afterwards drew away as composedly as if going to sleep.

It would appear that when not specially engaged in work, [Byrom] often took a ramble away from home, and mixed in company, and partook of the social glass. Many years ago, old George Smith, of Copley, near Stalybridge, and Byrom often went out together. To use the old man's words, they went many a hundred miles together – sometimes to Ashton, on a Saturday evening, and when they had rambled about for a time, they always went into some public house to have their quiet glass. Their first and greatest object was to get into a company where the conversation was likely to be to their tastes, and at times they succeeded in picking up a little information on mechanics and figures. If they happened to drop in to a company of managers, engineers etc, which was often the case, the conversation was sure to take a turn to suit them. Smith it seems was much better at figures than Byrom, but Smith's opinion of him to this day is that there was not a man that could beat Byrom on the slide rule, by which he made all his calculations, and most accurate they always were.

However, on one of these Saturday night visits to Ashton, they stumbled across a number of men who appeared to know a good deal about steam engines, as the whole time they were in, the room was occupied with talking about such things. Neither Byrom nor Smith took any part in it until they were about to leave, when Byrom startled the company by telling them that he knew a man who had a steam engine that he could work with the breath from his mouth. Many were the winks and nods which passed from one to another, for the purpose of expressing their doubts about such an article being in existence. However, to finish up, Byrom agreed to convince them of the truth of his story, by producing the man and the engine the Saturday night following, in the same as they were sat in. On their way home the two friends were suggesting to each other how this business must be done, as they did not intend the man to whom the engine was to be shown to know that either of them had had any hand in making it. At length Byrom said he would engage a man named Mortimer, a shoemaker, of Millbrook, who is yet well known, to exhibit it, because he

thought he knew as little about a steam engine as anybody he could think of, although 'Morty' as he was generally called, did know something about a water-wheel, having been timed by one when he was a race-runner, and wore a tin-hat to cut the wind when he ran. Steps were immediately taken to get Morty into the way of working this small engine, and after a good deal of drilling, he succeeded in putting it together and setting it to work, although he was dreadfully bothered at first. When the Saturday for action came, Morty was ready and waiting before the others had finished their work. However, they arrived in Ashton in good time, and they found a large company waiting to see the little wonder, as they afterwards called it. Byrom at once introduced Morty as the man who was about to exhibit and perform, who, on finding himself the centre of so much attraction, and of such importance, was quite elated, and amused and surprised his two friends. After the introduction, Morty very quietly drew the engine from his waistcoat pocket and placed it on the table, with as much consequence as if he was about to show that he had discovered the long sought for perpetual motion. Nearly every man present left his seat to examine it. They were thus occupied for some time, nearly every one asking Morty some question, any of which would have nonplussed Morty, had he not been prepared for such an emergency beforehand; but to all he gave the same answer, and that was that he had brought it there for their inspection, at the request of his two friends, and they now saw it. One man asked if the rim of the fly wheel had not been made from a brass stair rod; another if the small projecting tube was not a gun nipple, etc, but all to no purpose, as Morty had not only been told not to answer any questions, but because he knew nothing about it.

When they had looked the engine over, they naturally wanted to see it put into motion. This part being, as Morty knew well, the best part of the performance, [he] held back as long as he could, but ultimately pulling something from his pocket, which he covered in his hand as if to make the thing more of a mystery, he quietly placed it on the gun nipple and blew a long breath of air into it, at the same time slyly touching the fly-wheel with his hand, set the engine in motion, to the no small astonishment of the audience. It was kept going for some time in order to show that there was no deception in the matter. When the demonstration was over Morty became quite a hero, and everybody was wanting to treat him, whilst Byrom and Smith looked quietly on, all but unnoticed, one person observing how strange it was that such an uncouth-looking man could produce such wonders; in answer to which another said



that he had often heard of diamonds found on dung hills but that was the first he had known any approach to the worth of the saying. All agreed that the engine was as perfect as any that could possibly be made, every part being in such fine proportion. On the way home Morty was so far intoxicated with his success, and the drink he had imbibed so unexpectedly, that Byrom and Smith had hard work to convince him that he was not the only man of importance out of the three.

## *A Light History of Saddleworth*

*The following text is an edited version of a manuscript which was made available for publication in the Bulletin by Mr John Cleverley in 1996. The manuscript consists of notes for a pamphlet on the history of Saddleworth by members of Saddleworth Historical Society at what appears to be an early point in its history. The society was formed in 1966 and although the manuscript is not dated, it would appear to have been produced in the late 1960s or the early 1970s. The tone of the proposed pamphlet was to have been 'light and readable, also amusing' and the text was to be illustrated, with a frontispiece consisting of a drawing of Pots and Pans. In the event the projected publication seems never to have been realised but the notes provide an interesting insight into aspects of Saddleworth history and also into the discussion within the society, at this point, about what such a history could or should contain.*

*The sub-committee involved in the production of the pamphlet are listed as: Mrs Jackson, Mrs Wood, Mrs Valentine, Mrs Hopkinson, Mr Doubleday, Mr Jim Whitehead, and Mr John Cleverley acting as liason'. Chapter headings are given below in the form proposed in the discussion which the manuscript records.*

### *High Days and Holidays*

Mrs Jackson illustrated the way in which people used to have opening ceremonies, complete with groaning tables, and bands to play, whilst two or three hundred people sat down to a formidable banquet. Mrs Jackson illustrated this by reading a description of one such ceremony held at the opening of Castleshaw Waterworks:

*Castleshaw Waterworks, May 1882*

There was an interesting ceremony held at Castleshaw, the cutting of the first sods for the new waterworks.

Upon the return of the party to the wooden buildings a luncheon was given. The room was tastefully decorated with banners. The woodwork was covered over with glazed calico.

Food plentifully displayed on the tables, and at the end a small fountain, amongst some ferns, was playing, giving a refreshing coolness to the place. A large assembly of guests sat down at the tables and enjoyed their meal from the following menu:

*Soup*

Turtle or spring

*Fish*

Salmon or fillet of Sole

*Entrée*

*Main Course*

Bonne Turkey; boiled Turkey  
Boiled Chickens; Roast Chickens  
Capons  
Tongues  
Lamb  
Roulade of Beef; Pressed Beef  
York Ham  
Spring Pie  
Ducklings  
Mayonnaise of Lobster  
Dressed Crab

*Sweets*

Madeira Jelly  
Orange Jelly

Champagne Jelly  
Macedoine Jelly  
Fine Cream  
Strawberry Cream  
Apricot Cream  
Chocolate Cream  
Compote of Fruits

During the luncheon the Police Band played a number of selections.

Saddleworth people did really make a thing of this type of occasion, going to great lengths and great trouble to make sure that those taking part really enjoyed themselves. Usually, at these occasions, there were bands playing, Oldham Police Band is mentioned two or three times.

Another interesting ceremony, which involved people enjoying themselves, was the custom which has now dropped out, of sign hanging. Every time a landlord changed at an inn, the sign would be hung, presumably with his name, or her name, on and in many cases 150-200 people would sit down to high tea and free beer and spirits, and so inaugurate the landlord's first day.

### *Vanishing Customs*

May Day was quite an occasion, when the horses were all dressed, no doubt with bobbing plumes and silver bells.

The interesting fact of different districts of Saddleworth having different days or weeks to celebrate their Wakes, and late in the Nineteenth Century the Council circularised all the districts to try and get them to conform to one single week. This, of course, meant that everybody agreed except Castleshaw and somewhere else. The Rush Cart ceremonies were

quite well known, and obviously well attended. Quite a spectacle of those days, the man, of course, sitting on top with a copper kettle, and having it filled with beer at every pub they passed. Kedlock carts were made by the children as a small form of rush cart, perhaps out of another flower, and there was a rhyme for this.

Harvest times were great occasions, no doubt with festivities, perhaps after Harvest Festivals. Hay harvest, especially, was gathered in by the famous fleets of mowers, who toured the valleys offering their services, usually Irishmen who followed the sun across Lancashire and Yorkshire. Saddleworth would be a pretty late place to have its harvest.

Another long gone custom, which might well arouse interest today, is that known as Laddering, whereby a man who was cruel to his wife, or an adulterer, was strapped onto a ladder and dragged by a gang of men through a local dam or stream. I presume he was paraded round the village and had abuse and shouts hurled at him from all sides.

## *Crafts*

The weavers' craft needs no introduction. The many stone weavers' cottages, or loom houses, throughout the district testify to the widespread nature of this craft and, of course, over half of the tradesmen in Britain were weavers about 1800 and it seems that Saddleworth had more than its share. Perhaps because of its situation on the streams where water-powered mills could prepare the wool for the weaver to use. Wool came in great quantities from far afield, perhaps on the canal boats, after the pack horses had stopped coming over. Over a million pounds of wool were brought from Shropshire about 1800. However, the weavers went through very hard times indeed after 1820. The golden age of weaving was over and the looms, which had been above practically every house in the district, stopped their clatter, and just the odd one kept on. What happened to the poor weavers is a mystery. Did they leave the district, go down to Manchester, or abroad even? Did their wives have to go out looking after the new cotton looms that were spreading so rapidly through the district? It is a fact that many of the looms were left silent for many, many years, perhaps 50 years. But here and there people did keep up their skill at the craft. Even when the

windows had been covered in with fresh stone to block out the light. Mr Battye tells a story about his father, in his spare time as a hobby, making cottage rugs in Chenille, a sort of wool type of finish. Peg rugs, of course, had been popular but these cottage rugs were made by some weavers as a hobby, and they were able to sell them and add to their income. At this time, Mr Battye said, the loom rooms, weaving rooms, were real 'calling' shops where several men would gather to help the owner, and they would tell the tale as they helped him to make the pieces, perhaps doing odd jobs around the loom house; not being paid for it, but just to help for an evening and because of the interest that this old craft brought out.

Another of Saddleworth's famous crafts, of course, is that of the Backstone man. We have a Backstone man in the Parish Registers as early as 1757 and there were two licensed in Delph. The Backstone was a form of firebrick really, a stone that would stand great heat and was put in the fire and scones and bread baked on it. There was not much iron, it would be expensive and so the backstone was used from early times. With the iron range spreading towards the end of the Nineteenth Century, with its iron shelf to cook on, doomed the Backstone man, and we still see a photograph in one of Ammon Wrigley's books [*Songs of a Moorland Parish, Ed.*] of one of the last craftsmen of the trade.

There would be many crafts in Saddleworth, of course, such as hat makers and felt-makers. A countrywide trade that would be practiced in Saddleworth was the brewing of ale, and home brewed has always been famous. Besides the ordinary inn, there were ale houses, known as hush houses, at practically every street corner.

## ***Sports and Pastimes***

*[A variety of games and pastimes are simply listed at the start of this section]*

Not long ago the Cinema arrived, and the silent films, with their piano accompaniment, brought many laughs to people on the older side today. One person recounted how, at Uppermill, they used to creep in under the door-keeper's eye, whilst he was reading his evening paper. He would go into the house, thinking there were not many people in there,

and it would be crowded, of course, mostly with children who had crept in underneath his rather somnolent gaze. He could give a leathering and a belt with his cloak or gloves, and it has been known that one used to send for boys to come to his home, where he would give them six of the best.

One attraction which drew very large crowds, were the schools of tossing. These were mostly Oldhamers coming into Saddleworth to escape the vigilance of the police, but there was one famous school up near Dowry castle at Denshaw, where the people used to walk miles, probably on a Sunday, to spend the afternoon gambling. Great sums of money were turned over at these schools.

Courting, at any age, will be an interesting pastime, and to escort the girls home from church, of course going the long way home, was one of the favourites. Taking girls to dances was another, and the dances themselves were very famous. No doubt there would be small bands, probably originating in the days of the fiddler, when Sir Roger de Coverley was first danced. One dance was called Jack's the Lad, and this is known amongst the older people of our area. This was a form of Hornpipe; people danced it in two lines and their actions were supposed to be those of making and weaving the cloth.

## *Transport*

Amongst interesting transport events would be the famous balloonist, who crashed at Scouthead about the turn of the Century, and dashed his brains out against a pub wall. There were air crashes in the days of aircraft as well, two at least: a fighter which crashed on the moors and one other [plane], and we did have a doodlebug pass over the district in December 1944, which crashed at Abbeyhills in Oldham. Some of the soldiers home on leave heard this strange noise in the sky, which they had already heard in North West Europe and were able to identify it, including the silence of the machine before it crashed.

Amongst crashes, of course, there were one or two famous railway crashes, one in 1923 happened at about 11.00 in the morning and all the mills had to stop working because the

staff left to see the crash, which was level with the great sidings at Diggle. An interesting story, which gave rise to a lot of rumour at the time, was that a male passenger and a female passenger in the first class, who were fatally injured, had a hundred pounds in gold each on their persons, and the suggestion was, of course, that they were running away.

Transport leads one to think of notable visitors who passed through. Charles Dickens went through Saddleworth by trap. Princess Victoria, of course, called at the Bell Inn. John Wesley preached at Delph when the villagers were favourable to him, and refrained from clodding him. Churchill went through during the war and the Queen Mother, about ten years ago, had a magnificent railway train with all her entourage, and spent the night in Diggle Sidings, as it was then, the remains of the Delph Donkey line. The Duke of Gloucester used to come regularly before the war, shooting. Helen Keller visited, and our last most important visitor was Mr Wallace of the Maud report who came to Saddleworth, rather gallantly, to face the wrath of the villagers when they found the Commission was going to split Saddleworth.



## *The Election of the Saddleworth Guardians Part Two*

Transcribed by Dannie Wright

*As noted in the previous number of the Bulletin, the date of the report on the election of the Saddleworth Guardians described in these articles from The Saddleworth Reporter has not been precisely identified, although it is clear from this document that the year was 1892.*

### *Number Two: Mr Samuel Robinson*

Mr Samuel Robinson, of Uppermill, is a well known and a successful dyer. His father and grandfather were dyers before him, and the family name is one amongst the most respected in Saddleworth. Mr Samuel Robinson himself is a very popular man, and his personality is so strong that whether he stands upon his native heath, or in marts, where men of the world do congregate, he is not likely to be overlooked as an insignificant individual. His mother was a descendant of the Radcliffes of Cross, one of the most ancient families in the district, and his father was also well connected. The subject was born in 1840 at Spring Meadow House, Uppermill, where he resides today. He received his education in the village school, and at a comparatively early age joined his father at the dye works, and in time succeeded to the business. In 1889 he was elected on the Saddleworth Board of Guardians when he was seventh on the list. In 1890 he was re-elected, this time being fifth on the poll, and last year as well as this year, he has been second. Evidently the electors like him the more they see him. To be able to understand him one requires to know him thoroughly. He is one of those men who improve upon acquaintance. He has been a Freemason seventeen years and is liked by his Masonic brethren with whom he comes in contact. In 1867 he married Miss Kilner of Hanley, and of that marriage there are two children, a boy and a girl, Mrs Robinson, however, died in 1877.

## *Eli Smith and Basil Windsor*

*There was insufficient space in the last number of the Bulletin to publish as much of the material on Eli Smith, alias Basil Windsor, as we would have liked. Some further documents from the archive are therefore reproduced below. These consist of Eli Smith/Basil Windsor's published music, including 'Our Mother Church: A Song of Re-Union for Ex-Choristers' (below) which, as the title page indicates, was first performed at the Annual Festival of the National Federation of Cathedral Old Chorister's Associations, held in Manchester in 1931.*

### "OUR MOTHER CHURCH"

*A Song of Re-Union for Ex-Choristers.*

---

First Sung at the  
Annual Festival of the  
National Federation of  
Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

---

Held in MANCHESTER,  
JUNE 5th, 6th & 7th, 1931.

---

Dedicated to the Ex-Choristers of Manchester Cathedral  
by the composer, BASIL WINDSOR, Ex-Chorister  
of Manchester Cathedral (1892-1896).

BORN 1880

In

Sunny

Italy

By

*Tarantelle*

Basil Windsor

J.B.O.

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# The Hill of Sleep

Words (Revised) by  
AMMON WRIGLEY  
(By permission)

Heights Church, Saddleworth, Built 1765-8.  
Altitude, 1,060 feet above sea level.

Music by  
BASIL WINDSOR

Slowly, and with reverence

In my green pul-pit of the hills, Like some old preach-er  
dear, I stand and wel-come to their rest The worn and wear-y  
here. At God's own gate-way to the skies They wait their call on  
high, For 'neath the grey and let-ter'd stone The lov'd of Heaven lie.

2  
Here sleep together, as they lived,  
The folk from dale and hill;  
The homely neighbours of the lane  
In death are neighbours still;  
About their graves the pleasant earth  
Is blest with joyous things;  
The flower-fields around them blow;  
The lark above them sings.

3  
Mourn not the dead, for in the night,  
Like wind in summer grass,  
I hear o'er vault and lowly mound  
The feet of angels pass.  
And be ye sure, while here I stand  
In my fair field of sleep,  
Like the Good Shepherd in His fold,  
My faithful watch I'll keep.

All Rights strictly reserved by Basil Windsor, 182 Coppice Street, Oldham, Lancashire, from whom copies may be obtained, or through any music dealer.

B. W. 1

Price Twopence

# WHEN CHILDREN PLAY



MINIATURE  
SUITE

FOR THE  
PIANOFORTE

BY

## BASIL WINDSOR

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243, LAVENDER HILL  
LONDON, S.W.11.

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## *Eli Smith and Basil Windsor: A Correction*

In the Winter 2003 Issue of the Bulletin it was incorrectly stated that my cousin Joan Barnes' Mother was the daughter of Eli Smith. Eli Smith did not have any children. Both my cousin Joan's Mother and my Father were the children of James Smith, Eli Smith's brother. We hope that this clears up any misunderstanding that has occurred when my cousin kindly donated the music and other material some of which were featured in that Bulletin, and which came into her possession on the death of her Mother, my Aunt.

Sheila Frances Matthews nee Smith

## *The Co-operative Movement in Saddleworth: Call for Articles and Other Material*

We plan to publish a future number of the Bulletin devoted to the history of the Co-operative Movement and the Co-operative Society in Saddleworth. Society members are therefore invited to submit articles, photographs and documents associated with the subject of the Co-op in Saddleworth to the editor, with the assurance that they will be returned after use for publication in the Bulletin. Please feel free to contact the editor to discuss the projected number and any ideas or material you think may be relevant.

**SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (W.E.A.)**

**FLOWER AND BIRD WALKS IN JULY 2004**

Anne Parry will once again hold 2 walks in July. Further details in the next bulletin.

**INDUSTRY AND ARCHITECTURE IN A PENNINE PARISH  
SADDLEWORTH 1800 - 2000.**

We are holding a short course consisting of one evening and a full day in May 2004

The speakers will be Alan Petford, Michael Buckley, Neil Barrow and Michael Fox

The course will be fully illustrated.

Venue: Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill

Wednesday, 12th May, 7 to 9.30 pm

Saturday 15th May, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

The full fee for the course will be £19.50

The concessionary fee will be £15.50 (retired over 60 and students)

Please fill in the booking form below and send cheque payable to Saddleworth W.E.A.  
to Mrs D. Latimer, Windynook, 1 Lane, Thornley Lane, Grotton, Saddleworth OL4 5RH  
Telephone 0161 633 3205

There may be some places available nearer the date if you feel unable to book in advance.  
Please enquire by telephone in May.

---

**SADDLEWORTH W.E.A.**

**1 EVENING AND DAY SCHOOL**

**INDUSTRY AND ARCHITECTURE IN A PENNINE PARISH; SADDLEWORTH 1800-2000**

**SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM, HIGH ST., UPPERMILL**

**WEDNESDAY 12th MAY, 7 TO 9.30 PM**

**SATURDAY 15th MAY 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM**

Names of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Contact address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed: £ \_\_\_\_\_

covering No. \_\_\_\_\_ full fee

No. \_\_\_\_\_ concessionary fee

Send to Mrs D. Latimer, Windynook, 1 Lane, Thornley Lane, Grotton, Saddleworth OL4 5RH  
before 1st May 2004

## SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2004

.....

The red is on the rowan, where the throstle takes its  
fill;  
The starlings flock the meadows on the edge of the  
hill;  
The lark is in the heavens, the hare is on the  
lawn,  
And I'm across the windlands with my face to the  
dawn.

The Green Roads. Ammon Wrigley.

### RECENT SOCIETY LECTURES.

.....

Sources for Saddleworth History: Saturday 7th February, 04. This was an occasion for Neil Barrow & Mike Buckley to provide a capital slide show showing a selection of the archives which have contributed to the history of Saddleworth. Including slides of the two volumes of John Radcliffe's Parish Registers of St. Chad, Saddleworth. 1613-1751 and 1751-1800 printed in 1887 and 1891, Saddleworth Sketches by Joseph Bradbury printed 1871., Chapelry and Church of Saddleworth, printed 1915 by A.J. Howcroft in commemoration of the 700th Anniversary of Saddleworth Church, Chapelry & Church and Tales of a Pennine People by A.J. Howcroft, printed 1922. Mike Buckley presented his own well researched family tree illustrating the correct procedure to adopt in carrying out this study of family history. Neil Barrow displayed a collection of deeds, maps and photographs from the Archives and members were invited to the Archive Room to inspect some of the contents.

Heiresses, Pious Widows and Royal Confidantes - 400 Years of Formidable Women at Temple Newsam. On Tuesday the 16th March, 04, the Curator, James Lomax, gave a captivating lecture upon Temple Newsam a Tudor-Jacobean Yorkshire Country House. The 400 years of formidable women flashed by as we viewed some of the 184 pictures adorning the long corridors and passages of this great mansion near Leeds.

On Thursday the 1st April, 04, Michael Fox gave a lecture on Seaside Pleasure - The Coastal resorts of Lancashire from the 18th to the 20th Centuries, which was both entertaining and informative regarding the industrious entrepreneurs who created these ever so popular holiday resorts mainly for the working population on this Lancashire coast line with its fine sands.

### FORTHCOMING LECTURE.

Wednesday 5th May, 04 at the Museum 7.30 pm.

'In the Name of God, Amen' - The Saddleworth Probate Documents from the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. Saddleworth WEA Group.



## SOCIETY COACH TRIP.

---

The traditional Society Coach Trip will take place on Saturday the 11th September, 2004, and the venues we are to visit are as follows:

Please complete the booking slip and forward to Mrs. W. Murray, as soon as possible.

The Imperial War Museum- North, at Salford Quays.  
The URBIS Museum, Corporation Street. Manchester.

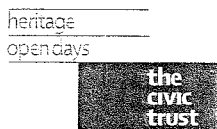
Full details are contained in the booking slip at the end of the Bulletin.

## LOGO FOR SOCIETY

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It has been suggested at a Committee Meeting that it would be a good idea for the Saddleworth Historical Society to adopt a logo for display upon our literature, quarterly bulletins and many of our publications. The membership are, therefore, invited to come forward with ideas and designs for this new logo to grace our future history publications which are presented to the general public. The designs should be forwarded to our Chairman, Mr. Jim Carr, 5 The Meadows, Uppermill, Saddleworth. OL3 6JZ

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## Heritage Open Days 2004 10-13 September

Further details from :-  
Mr. Jim Carr.

Tel: 01457 87 3612

Get involved and be part of the event!  
Open doors - open eyes - open minds!

### SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY.

Thursday 13th May, 04. 7.30 pm. Saddleworth Museum.  
'Victoria Baths - Past, Present and Future'. Illustrated talk by Gill Wright,  
Project Manager, Victoria Baths Trust.

Sunday 23rd May, 04. Meet 1.30 pm White Hart Inn, Lydgate, 'Heritage Walk: Lydgate,  
Quick, Roughtown. Led by Michael Buckley and Alan Petford.

Thursday 24th June, 04. 7.30 pm. Cross Keys Barn, Uppermill.  
'The Restoration of Saddleworth Churchyard'. Illustrated talk by Michael Buckley  
Followed by a tour of the old Graveyard.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust apply to the Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. Lorna Gartside, Hollingreave Farm,  
Holly Grove, Dobcross, Saddleworth.  
Tel No. 01457 87 3195

£5.00 Single Membership and £7.00 Family Membership per year.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM.

.....

Coffee Mornings and Boutique.

2nd Wednesday each month.

Farmers' Market.

2nd Sunday each month.

Spring Draw.

Sunday 28th March, 04

Coach Trip to the Lakes.

Wednesday 28th April, 04

Plant Sale.

Sunday 16th May, 04

Friends AGM

Tuesday 1st June, 04

Ladies Choir Concert.

Friday 18th June, 04

Presented by The Trinity Singers.

Beer Festival.

Friday & Saturday 3rd and 4th Sept. 04

Sunday Lunch.

17th October, 04

Antiques Valuation.

Thursday 21st October, 04

#### ART EXHIBITIONS

Pauline Place Paintings.

20th March - 18th April, 04

Northern Lights.

24th April - 23rd May, 04

Saddleworth Group of Artists.

29th May - 25th June, 04

Jeff Beaumont Paintings.

3rd July - 1st August, 04

#### CHANGING EXHIBITIONS.

.....

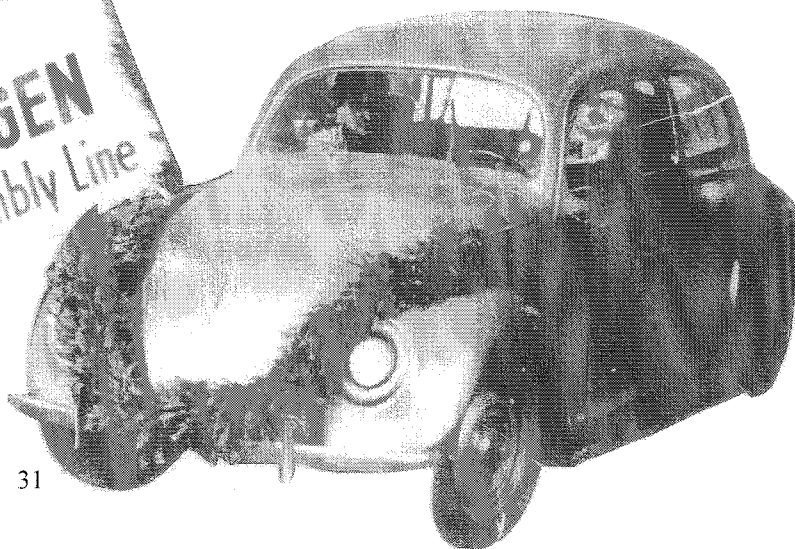
**IVAN HIRST - THE SADDLEWORTH MAN WHO SAVED THE BEETLE.**

3rd April to 26th September, 2004 Saddleworth Museum.

.....

An exciting Exhibition has been organised at the Museum in the form of the Volkswagen car rescued from Germany's defeat in World War 11 by Major Ivan Hirst, a Saddleworth Historical Society member, who recommissioned the production lines of the Beetle at Wolfsburg in Germany, providing employment for 6000 German workers during this critical period at the end of the war. Geoff Woodhead has produced an excellent biographical booklet on the life and times of Ivan Hirst which will be on sale at the Museum.  
01457 87 4093

The 1000<sup>th</sup> VOLKSWAGEN  
built during MARCH 1946 coming from Assembly Line





# IVAN HIRST

*The Saddleworth Man Who  
Saved The Beetle*

**E x h i b i t i o n**

## **Saddleworth Museum**

**3rd April to 26th Sept 2004**

**Opening times:**

**Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm**

**Sunday 12 noon to 5pm**

**Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery, High Street,  
Uppermill, Saddleworth, Oldham OL3 6HS**

**Tel: 01457 874093**

## MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

.....

The Saddleworth Villages book has continued to attract sales interest into its second print which provides an outstanding success for this Society publication and is still on sale to members at an advantageous price of £13.95. Free Delivery in Saddleworth. See our Publications List.

New members who have joined the Society since the publication of the Winter Bulletin are :-

Mrs. H. Clayton, Springhead.

Mr. Keith Taylor, Dobcross.

Mr. Malcom J. Seville, Todmorden.

Mrs. Doreen May Bradley our member from Kenilworth is hoping to get in touch with any Whitehead relative who is descended from her family. Her father James Whitehead had five sisters Hannah, Elizabeth, Alice, Mary and Ada and a brother Joseph. Joseph understood to be a professional cricketer and died aged 30 years. Hannah married Thomas Coghlan, two children, May and Percy, Elizabeth, the eldest married Albert Kershaw, two sons, Fred and Ratcliffe, Alice married Will Goddard lived in London - no children, Ada, Spinster, Mary married Herbert Davies - no children. Mrs. Bradley's grandfathers were mainly James, and their occupations were carpenters, joiners and coffin makers. Her brother Hedley is now 87 and Doreen is 82. Father's family lived in Turf Pit Lane, Moorside Mrs. Bradley's address is, 31 Tulip Tree Ave., Kenilworth, Warwks. CV8 2BU

Unfortunately, in this Bulletin we have to report a number of members deaths which have taken place these last few months.

Mr. William Bradley, Kenilworth.

Mr. J. Collier, Grotton.

Mr. A.D. Buckley, Lymm.

Mrs. Mary Betterton, Doncaster. A granddaughter of Ammon Wrigley.

Mr. Gordon Ashworth, Lancaster.

Mrs. Charlotte Meadowcroft, Aylesbury. Charlotte reached the grand age of 101 and died last December.

Mrs. Catherine Hepworth, Ashton-U-Lyne, who engaged the Jazz Bands for Fund Raising at the Museum for many years.

Mr. J. Gordon Parry, Grasscroft, whose obituary is contained in this Bulletin.

Condolences have been sent to all the families at this very sad time.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS. 2004

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

Membership Enquiries: Mrs. E. Broadbent,  
SHS Hon. Membership Secretary,  
Pastures Farm Flat,  
Back o'th' Low Road,  
Strinesdale,  
Saddleworth.

J. Hindle.

OL4 3SG

0161 785 8268

## Current Society Publications

### Books

*Saddleworth Villages*, illustrated with sketches by Geoff Toms, text by Saddleworth Historical Society Members. Price to Society members £13.95 to Society Members.

*Saddleworth From the Air* by Professor Barri Jones. £12.50

*Saddleworth 1914-18: The Experience of a Pennine Community During the Great War* by K. W. Mitchinson. Soft back £5.00, hard back £10.00

*Cherry Valley Chronicles: Letters From Thomas Buckley and Family – Immigrants to Cherry Valley and Milburry, Massachusetts, USA, to His Son Ralph Buckley and Family, of Dobcross and Delph in 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 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 landscape. £1.20 each.

1. *Delph, Heights and Grange*
2. *Uppermill*
3. *Greenfield*
4. *Huddersfield Narrow Canal*
5. *Grasscroft*
6. *Denshaw*

7. *Delph*
8. *Lydgate and Grotton*
9. *Dobcross*
10. *Diggle*
11. *Castleshaw*

### Maps and Plans

Ordnance Survey Maps  
Lees  
Oldham East  
Lydgate

Churchyard Plan: The Old Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £1.80

Churchyard Plan: The Lower Graveyard at Saddleworth Church. £3.00

Street Guide to Saddleworth: An A2 Comprehensive Street Map of the Area. £1.20

## **Microfiche**

Delph Wesleyan Chapel: Baptisms  
Wrigley Mill

## **Pamphlets**

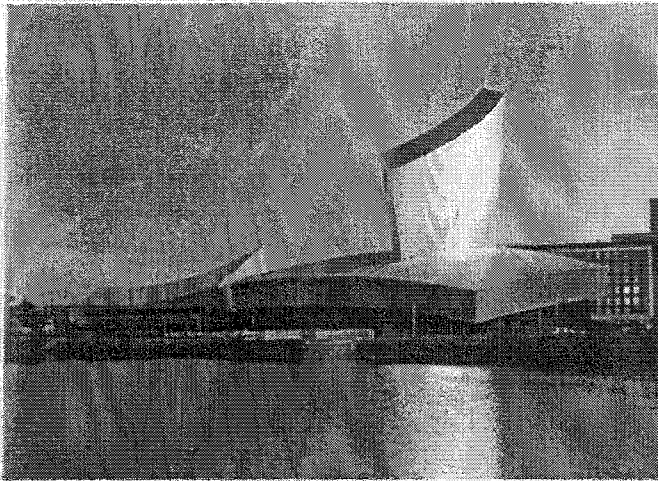
*An Address to the Various Classes of Men in Saddleworth: Shewing the Necessity of Supporting the Plan Laid Down for Augmenting the Price of Labour in the Woollen Manufactory, Describing the Distressed Situation of the Parish in 1795* by Daniel Nield. £0.75

Items are available at the Saddleworth Museum and at local bookshops, or by post, adding 20% for postage and packing, from the Society's Publications Officer: Mr Graham Griffiths, 6 Slackcote, Delph, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL3 6AT

# *SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

## *AUTUMN COACH TRIP SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 04*

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THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH  
SALFORD QUAYS.

THE URBIS MUSEUM, CORPORATION ST.  
MANCHESTER.

The Imperial War Museum North, Salford. The N.W. Visitor Attraction of the Year 2003

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This most talked about new museum is about people - young, old, near, far, yesterday, today. About how their lives are shaped by war and conflict. About everyone. It looks at war in a new way. The building is the first in the U.K. by the international architect Daniel Libeskind. It is located at the Quays, Manchester's new water-front leisure destination. There should be time to explore the area and have lunch before moving on to central Manchester for a visit to URBIS the Museum about living in cities.

Coach leaving Uppermill Museum at 9.30 am. Price..... £6.00

Please return booking slip to Mrs. Wendy Murray,  
134 Oldham Road, Denshaw, Saddleworth. OL3 5RP Before the 12th August, 2004  
tel no. 01457 874493

Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.

SHS AUTUMN COACH TRIP - SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER, 04  
THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH, SALFORD QUAYS.  
THE URBIS MUSEUM. CORPORATION ST., MANCHESTER

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Mrs. W. Murray,  
134 Oldham Road,  
Denshaw,  
Saddleworth.  
OL3 5RP

No. of seats ..... Adults .....

Coach leaving Uppermill at 9.30 am. £6.....

Names of persons .....

Address .....

Tel No.....

.....Post Code .....

I enclose cheque in the sum of :.....

Made out to Saddleworth Historical Society, before 12th August, 2004

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