

Saddleshworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 34

Number 4

Winter 2004

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

Volume 34

Number 4

Winter 2004

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting	Jim Carr	1
Sarah Broadbent's Father's School	Albert Broadbent	6
Two Patriots	Geoff Toms	18
Saddleworth at Christmas	Paul Fryer	23
New Coins for 2005	Jim Carr	28
Letters		30
Saddleworth Historical Society Newsletter		35

Cover illustration: A member of the Patriot Class of locomotive passing close to Hollin Hall Grove, Grasscroft, heading for Leeds. By Geoff Toms.

© 2004 Saddleworth Historical Society and individual contributors

Saddleworth Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 505074

Chairman	Jim Carr	01457 873 612
Vice-Chairman	Stanley Broadbent	0161 785 8268
Hon. Secretary	Neil Barrow	01457 876 381
Hon. Treasurer	Dorothy Latimer	0161 633 3205
Hon. Archivist	Alan Petford	01422 202 758
Hon. Editor	Nick Cox <i>8 St Mary's Gate, Uppermill, Saddleworth OL3 6AT</i>	01457 875 557
Hon. Membership Secretary	Elsie Broadbent <i>Pastures Farm Flat, Back o'th' Low Road, Strinesdale, Saddleworth OL4 3SG</i>	0161 785 8268
Newsletter Editor	Jack Hindle <i>Kirkdale, Rumbles Lane, Delph, Saddleworth OL3 5EL</i>	01457 874 200
Publications Officer	Graham Griffiths	01457 870 159
Family History Group	Jean Sanders	01457 873 157
Internet Site Manager	Mike Buckley <i>mikebuckley@saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk</i>	01457 820 015

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. There are links to other Saddleworth Web sites.

The Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Saddleworth Historical Society on Thursday 9th December 2004

Jim Carr

This is my fifteenth Annual Report and, when I was elected Chairman sixteen years ago, it was supposed to be for one year, as discussed in committee at that time. That did not work and then a five year span was mooted. I tried to resign or retire three times but now in 2004 I have succeeded!

The year has again been a very busy and successful period marked by the hard work of your committee and others. Stanley Broadbent, our Vice-Chairman reports as follows:

The 2004 *Saddleworth Street Guide* was finally printed during May this year and included 32 in-fills which were collated together and included into the Villages of Saddleworth, from Sam Road in Diggle to Strawberry Lane down Stockport Road, Lydgate, our wide acres were presented in map form for Taylor and Clifton, to the Uppermill Printer's satisfaction. 2000 copies of the *Street Guide* have been produced and are now selling very well indeed. The Museum, Saddleworth Motors Ltd (Rick Whyman's Garage in Uppermill), Estate Agents, and other venues in Saddleworth and Oldham, are the best selling points with many repeat orders, not forgetting our members who have purchased dozens of copies and all to the Society's benefit.

The Beer Festival held at the Museum during September was mainly organised by Richard Hotchkis, Jack Hindle and their Committee of helpers and proved to be a great success, on the Friday night earning a record sum. Saturday was much quieter, but the whole event was worthwhile contributing funds to the Museum. On Friday night the music was provided by the Pennine Jazz Band and Saturday's entertainment was with the Café Society Jazz Band. Once again our friends from CAMRA supplied a welcome hand in the selection of our well-flavoured local beers and helped to staff the bar. Our grateful thanks should also be recorded to the landlords of the various hostelrys who subscribed to the programme for this year's Festival of Beer.

Stanley's wife Elsie has again worked very hard and this shows in her report as membership secretary:

Once again membership of the Society remains at a healthy figure and now includes Mrs Gillian Gladstone from Paris, France, bringing the overseas membership to a total of 33.

Various back copies of the Bulletins are provided for members with a special interest and new members, Mr and Mrs R. Lewis from Bramhall, have an ancestor, William Hawker, who worked on the building of the Chew Valley Reservoir and I have been able to provide them with Bulletins containing the four excellent articles by Kevin W. Lawton which were published in 1989 and 1990.

In September I was very pleased to met one of our overseas members, Miss Susan Francis of Randwick, Australia, at the Museum on Heritage Open Day. Her visit to England was to bring up-to-date her family tree researches on the Lees Family. Michael Buckley and Neil Barrow were able to assist Miss Francis in her quest with modern technology utilising their lap-top computers to provide additional genealogical information.

Correspondence has been maintained with members who require information and new members joining this year include: Mrs H. Clayton, Springhead; Mr Keith Taylor, Dobcross; Mr Malcolm J. Seville, Todmorden; Mrs Pamela J. Bennett, Delph; Mr and Mrs Victor Stubley, Delph; Mrs Gillian Gladstone, France; Mrs Linda Houston, Huddersfield; Mrs J. Walsh, Denshaw; Mr and Mrs R. T. V. Lewis, Bramhall; Mr Derek Legg, Diggle; and Mrs Ann Davis.

Unfortunately, I have to record the deaths of several of our members, condolences were forwarded on behalf of the Society to all of the bereaved families: Dr George Read, Friezland; Mr William Bradley, Kenilworth; Mr J. Collier, Grotton; Mrs Mary Betterton, Doncaster; Mr Gordon Ashworth, Lancaster; Mr A. D. Buckley, Lymm; Mrs Charlotte Meadowcroft, Aylesbury, Mrs Catherine Hepworth, Ashton-under-Lyne; Mr George Parry, Grasscroft; Mr Peter W. Holme, Grasscroft.

Neil Barrow continues to provide an excellent service to the committee and the society as a whole as Secretary. One of the main tasks of the Secretary is to prepare the Lecture Programme. In the past there have been difficulties in attracting speakers from outside the area. For 2004-5 we have been able to obtain a mix of speakers both from within Saddleworth and the Society and also historians from elsewhere. And we have also achieved a mix of subjects which we hope have been of interest. It was decided to arrange The Bernard Barnes Lecture for a Saturday afternoon to give members from outside the area the opportunity to attend. The Secretary would welcome comments on whether this is a good idea and also suggestions for future speakers.

The Society is making progress on the next publication: an edition of James Butterworth's *History of Saddleworth* originally published in 1828. It is hoped that it will be ready by Spring 2005.

Nick Cox is our Honorary Editor, whose main responsibility is the production of the Quarterly Bulletin. This continues with articles of a very high standard of contributions from members and others. However the Editor is very keen to encourage contributions from members who may not feel they have sufficient material for a full article: short pieces, photographs and other materials of historical interest are always welcome. The Editor is very grateful for the help with the Bulletin provided by Elsie and Stanley Broadbent, who liaise with the Oldham Corporation printers, and to Elsie and Dorothy Latimer for their work in distributing the Bulletin, often on a tight timescale. We now have W. E. A., Museum and Civic Trust news which records the wide range of interests and activities in Saddleworth. The Newsletter, which comes with the Bulletin, is produced by Jack Hindle, again with the help of Elsie Broadbent, with his usual introduction of poetic quotations. He makes particular reference to the Annual trip to the Imperial War Museum North and Urbis:

A small but intrepid band of members set out for Salford Quays on 11th September. Shortly after entering the Museum Arthur Burgess and Jack Hindle were seen to be staggering more than usual. Christine Bowman relieved the situation by explaining that the floor was specially designed to illustrate the ups and downs of modern warfare... we didn't argue.

A novel touch in the Café were the wartime dishes made available... some of us stayed with the Eccles Cakes. We then moved to the Urbis Museum on a splendid site in central Manchester. Here the exciting style of the exterior was somewhat diminished by the strangeness of the interior. To be fair, the elevator and the restaurant were really quite good.

Graham Griffiths, the Society's busy Publications Officer says it has been an exceptional year with the sales of the new *Saddleworth Villages* exceeding a thousand. Copies have been posted to all parts of the globe. Thanks are due to all for their unstinting efforts. Additionally Stanley Broadbent worked hard to produce the new *Saddleworth Street Guide*, which Elsie has marketed exceptionally throughout the district. Both are due our gratitude. For the rest, sales have continued slowly throughout the year and we hope that everyone who has made a purchase will enjoy their new publication(s). We look forward to the reprinting of James Butterworth's *History of Saddleworth* that Neil has in hand. A reprint of the Delph/Heights Local Interest Trail will soon be needed.

Storage of publications has been discussed and most of our material is kept by committee members and others in their own homes. Suitable places for storage are being explored at Tanner's mill and at local churches.

Similar problems are found in the storage and maintenance of an Archive under the watchful eye of Alan Petford, the Society's Archivist. As a memorial to our colleagues John Farrow, Bryan Jackson and Maurice Dennett it was decided to publish an Index and to update and further conserve our Archive. This is being done by purchasing new boxes and folders, at a cost of £1,588 and as an asset this expenditure would be written off over a period. Christ Hunwick, Archivist at Manchester Cathedral had inspected the Archives, tested humidity and specifically the acidity of the boxes etc. Cyril Formby, a conservator, had also inspected items such as the Howcroft collection and had given estimates of the cost of conservation. Much material has now been conserved and the 'Shaw Uppermill' map is next, along with a Holy Bible.

The Society's Website has had problems recently, needing to be updated and the solution to our use of Ordnance Survey maps of the area found. Alan Hague of Morecambe has volunteered to undertake a review and Trevor Betterton will be asked to take charge of a project putting old Bulletins on CD for sale to members seeking back copies. Jean Sanders made this proposal as she continues her work with the Family History Group. She represented us at the Yorkshire Day event, selling copies of the *Saddleworth Villages* book. Michael Buckley keeps up his work with this group and the website, ably assisted by Victor Khadem, especially in his work on the restoration of Saddleworth Churchyard. A Local Interest Trail of the Churchyard is planned with illustrations by Geoff Toms, who has also submitted a range of letter headings for the Society's logo. The Family History Group also organised our response to the Heritage Open Day in September.

Our Honorary Treasurer, Dorothy Latimer, has worked with conscientious professionalism on your behalf and has proved a valuable asset to the Society and in my own work during the year.

Finally I summarise other local and community issues we have dealt with in 2004: Wind Farms, Blue Plaques, Ancient Trees, the Ramsden/Stonehouse Memorial, valuation and insurance of the Platt Cup, cast-iron milestones, Greater Manchester County Record Office, the Museum's 'Ivan Hirst' exhibition, Civic Trust Awards, The Archaeology Handbook, St Mary's Parish Hall Greenfield, the Unitary Development Plan, our microphone and speaker, footpath diversions, the use of learned journals and publications we purchase, further links with Saddleworth Museum with a welcome to our new curator Peter Fox.

My personal thanks go to all who have made it a smooth year and all those years since I became Chairman. I hope I shall still maintain a connection with Committee in my previous role representing Archaeology.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT Y/E 31.10. 2004
after adjustments for debtors, creditors, transfers to stock and assets

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Publication Sales	8700	Opening Stock	12440
		Publication purchases	5384
		less closing stock	(11700)
		cost price of publication sales	6124
Membership fees	3755	Lecture programme & fees	324
Donations	308	Bulletin costs net of sales	2363
Street Guide Adverts	820	Refreshments	21
Gift Aid tax refund	685	Affiliation fees	1604
		Web site	189
		Post, stationery, photocopying	396
		Insurance	577
		Archive books	152
		Archive improvements	780
		Social trip	46
Bank interest after £50 transfer to B Barnes account	938	Surplus for year	2630
	<u>15206</u>		<u>15206</u>

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31.10. 2004

<u>Accumulated Fund</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
Balance b/f	44628	Equipment b/f	1988
Surplus for year	2630	Purchased this year	---- 1988
Exceptional stock write off	(5964)	Depreciation b/f	1988
Balance c/fwd	<u>41294</u>	" this year	--- (1988)
		Net assets	nil
Creditors	641	Debtors	771
Bernard Barnes Fund		Stock of publications at cost	17788
Balance b/f	1313	Stock write offs(cumulative)	(6088)
Notional interest	<u>50</u>	Exceptional stock write-off	(5964)
	<u>43298</u>	Bank - Current a/c	5504
		Premium Plus a/c	31287
			<u>36791</u>
			<u>43298</u>

Sarah Broadbent's Father's School

Albert Broadbent

Preamble

A long time ago my youngest daughter Sarah left our village school and was enrolled in Reception at Wyndham Comprehensive School, Egremont. It was barely a decade old and her two older sisters were already there.

At some point the children were given the subject of 'my father's school.' A well known old timer. This requires some research by the child with the father. Clearly, fathers differ widely. They range from the wildly enthusiastic through the majority of couldn't-care-the-lessers to the positive anti-co-operators. Let's say I have always been a willing co-operator, with reservations, perhaps depending on the teacher.

Rather than be interrogated, I decided I would write a paper about my own school and present my efforts to Sarah for her benefit.

In his article relating to his school days in Uppermill Lee Street Church of England School, Mr Fox reminded me of my own period at Uppermill Council School, and of the account I wrote for Sarah, many years later. I have revised this and I hope that it may be of interest. It is a sobering thought that from me starting school to Michael Fox leaving spans about two generations.

Sarah Broadbent's Father's School

He started school in the autumn of 1923 at the Saddleworth Uppermill Council School at Brownhill Vale, High Street, Uppermill in the West Riding of York. The education authority was the County and based in Wakefield.

He was taken by his maternal grandfather who was the only volunteer and accompanied by his cousin Alice Grimshaw, a pupil of, already, four years. He was delivered into the capable and experienced hands of Leah Hudson, Infants' Teacher, and when he realised that the old man had left he proceeded to disrupt the class with an outburst of temper, tears and misbehaviour. Cousin Alice was urgently summoned and she had to sit with him until noon.

He went home for dinner (lunch) believing that he had 'been to school'. When he discovered that there was more to come the performance started over again! From that day to this he has firmly opposed State-imposed compulsory education.

He was an only child and his mother was a teacher at the other village school, the Church school on Lee Street (St Chad's). His hopes that he may go to his mother's school were dashed at an early stage. She had always believed, and she had very good reasons, that a child should not attend the school at which his/her parent taught. It was not a matter of favouritism, it was something more serious and I think she was right.

S. U. C. S. was set in the north end of the Tame valley near the confluence where the Tame is joined by its important tributary Diggle brook¹. This is a most complex and interesting setting for the student of post-Industrial Revolution history: rivers, roads, canals and railways.

The village was Uppermill and it still is! When Sarah's dad was at school, Uppermill was truly rural. Now it's part of Manchester! The school is now a sprawling 'comprehensive' which submerges the tiny village school from which it expanded. Sarah's father's school was opened in 1911, so when he began there it was only twelve years old. Strange, Wyndham was twelve years old when Sarah started there!

S. U. C. S. was 'modern'. It had seven classrooms along three sides of the assembly hall, the fourth side of which consisted of staff rooms, store rooms, cloak rooms, all on ground floor level. It was in one of these rooms where extra curricular activities were conducted: HMIS, medical examinations, the school dentist (more about him later!), serious discipline matters, etc. were served and otherwise the Headmaster was welcome to his office and the teachers to their common room. When the Head stood on his platform to address the school he was looking, roughly, North East and behind him, hanging on the wall, were portraits of Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary.

Everything was quite well planned and convenient. Main entrances east and west, Girls and Boys, as were the cloak rooms except that, although there were hand wash basins and roller towels, the toilets, water-flushed, outside, at the extreme east and west of the boys and girls 'playgrounds' boundary walls were well isolated. The 'now wash your hands please rule' was not yet the fashion! Infants, both sexes, used the girls toilets.

¹ The Tame joins the Goyt at Stockport to become the mighty Mersey.

When Sarah's dad started at S. U. C. S. the teachers were:

Leah Hudson: 'Reception' 1st and 2nd classes

Alice Whitehead: Stds. 1 and 2.

Lucy Brierly: Stds. 3 and 4.

Claud S. Ibberson Headmaster: Stds. 5 and 6.

There was another teacher, Miss Gregory and I am not quite sure where she fits in. she may have been one of the additional staff who resulted from 'Centralisation'. Whilst I am certain of teachers' names my memory is not 100% reliable on their specific functions and the class levels.

To confuse the situation there was the decision made in the late '20s to 'centralise' Saddleworth elementary education.

Peripatetics

We had two. At the North West and North East corners of the school, respectively, were two large rooms, purpose-built originally, suitably furnished as for 'Cookery' (girls!) and 'Woodwork' (boys). Try that on today!

When S. U. C. S. was 'Centralised' although two new class rooms were built, one at each end of the school, the woodwork room, which was, anyway, used only about twice a week, was furnished with laboratory benches, gas points, sinks and water services etc. to enable elementary science to be taught.

The Cookery and Woodwork teachers were Miss Smith and Mr Horsefall. Both travelled from Huddersfield. She rode a big motor bike and she would have sorted out any present day jobs in no time. Although the children knew the names of the other teachers we never knew those of Miss S. or Mr Horsefall.

School Hours

8.45am to 11.45am and 1.15 to 3.45 pm. At about 9 am teachers having marked their registers, Claud Sidebottom Ibberson, ex Great War Army Captain (he had, I believe, suspended his career in his early years to serve his country), first class golfer, freemason and the most conscientious teacher and headmaster who ever carried a regulation cane², which he invariably did, left his class and mounted the 18 inch high platform which stood against the long side of the hall. This platform was, I guess, about twelve feet square and it held the Headmaster's official desk and chair. It also boasted a gramophone!

C. S. I.'s gramophone was an old banger even in those days. A wind-up job of course with a horn 72 RPM and steel needles. He had a small collection of records and I believe they were all marches. The H.M. would leave his class, mount his platform and we all heard music start up, well scratch up really, Old Comrades, Stars and Stripes or perhaps Colonel Bogey. It was the signal for the teachers to march-in their respective classes, infants leading. When the School was assembled in the three sides of a rectangle, the Headmaster stopped the gramophone and he led morning prayers. A hymn would be sung with Miss Hudson at the piano. Orders of the day followed and C.S.I. dismissed the parade when classes were marched back to their classrooms in the order in which they came in.

A sad little aspect of these morning assemblages which puzzled us at the time but which I never forgot was the one boy who never joined in. Nor was he allowed to remain in the class room. He was banished, with a book to read, to the west corridor outside the aforementioned Cookery classroom where he stared at us through the glass upper half of the door. A year or two later I understood; he was one of a large family of Catholics and there were very few of those in Saddleworth in those days. Their nearest church was in Mossley and it was a clerical decision made there. No responsibilities lay with the education authorities.

The Assembly Hall was lofty, well lit with natural light and well ventilated by windows which could be operated by an arrangement of handles and operating rods. It had block floors around and around the walls it was furnished with cupboards about 30 inches high which were surmounted by display cases containing specimens of natural history from minerals to birds eggs.

² In nearby Oldham, a different Education Authority, it was the leather strap

Artificial lighting throughout the school was by gas, the nearest towns had not yet extended their electrical mains. There was central heating from a coke fired boiler³ tended by Jones, the caretaker. These were the days before the unions had given cleaners more power than Headteachers. Jones used to vent the radiators with his little square key he kept for that purpose, and our hero seeing this done once, tried the same trick with his finger nails (Jones must have left the screw slack) and the result was a minor flood in the hall!

Teachers in 1923 were 'C.A.s' – certificated assistants, and 'U.As' – uncertified assistants. This situation was resolved after the war when the Government took measures to increase the number of qualified assistants. This is one of the important differences in the schooling system in Michael Fox's account of his own experiences nearly a generation and a half later.

Health and Safety

In Leah Hudson's infants class when I was there I had a desk-mate, a young man, who could, on request, produce for the amusement and amazement of his contemporaries, the little pets which lived in his hair. Pediculosis, lice, running about on the desk! So I lost no time in reporting this exciting experience to my parents. My mother, of course, referred the matter to Miss Hudson; 'My God Annie. I'll separate them.'

My parents were not surprised, my mother, who taught at St Chad's, did on occasion suffer as did all teachers. Other small hazards included ring worms and the much dreaded, highly contagious disease Impetigo. The W.R.C.C. nurse visited regularly; the 'Nit-Nurse' they called her. She also attended on the less frequent visits by the doctor.

Worst of all was the dentist! None of your namby-pamby, high speed, wind-turbine-water-cooled drills; this drill was pedal driven and *very* slow. Hence it was 'lumpy' and very irregular in action. They used the needle for extractions but not, in those days, for drilling. IT WAS HELL. When, on one occasion, I told my present dentist he was incredulous.

Medical Officer Visits

³ This was large bore thermo-syphon, not like a modern pumped system.

I think these were on an annual basis. I think every child was seen and examined. By their very nature medical examinations were less memorable than were those of a dentist!

School Closures on Health Grounds

I think this would refer to:

1. Non-medical grounds, drains, building or structural, staff/teachers sickness, union disputes, loss of drinking water supply.
2. Health, medical, *disease* amongst children, epidemics.

When I was about one year and ten months I contracted diphtheria. My mother, who was then teaching at St Johns Roughtown, was required by the Authorities to stay away from school; she shared my isolation and looked after me in the sitting room at The Old Manor House, 73 High Street, Uppermill. The same room in which I was born and where, in the fullness of time, my Holden grandparents James Hadfield and Alice Ann, died.

I cannot remember that there was ever a mass closure of schools in Saddleworth but there were some individual closures. One, which shall be nameless, I do remember was shut for 'stoving'. This meant that rooms had to be closed with doors and windows shut and sealed with sticky tape. Then sulphur candles were placed in various parts and corners of the room, lit and the operator made a hasty exit and shut and sealed the door. This operator, a well known local character and council employee, started to light the candles. However, he began at the wrong end of the classroom so he was soon choking and unable to make his exit! He was rescued by his attendant mates.

Safety

S.U.C.S. was, I reckon, a very safe place for children. In the first place, it was all on one level. Compared with Waterloo in Oldham, where I completed my last two years, this was, I think four storeys. The staircases, with concrete stairs, were dangerous, especially since many children in those days wore clogs.

Safety measures were taken in the lab. when this came after centralisation as they had been in the 'woodwork' room and in Miss Smith's 'cookery' room.

The danger spots at S.U.C.S. was the exit from the school drive on to High Street and this was covered by a teacher at 'home time'. Traffic in the 1920s was, of course, nothing compared with today. Fire drill was carried out under the command of The Head with military efficiency and I guess this was a Statutory requirement. However, you cannot cater 100% for fools and one boy got his head stuck in the iron railings at the front of the school yard.

Extra Mural Input to the Educational Function

At the time I was at S.U.C.S. the teetotal/temperance movements and various other social reform movements were flourishing. Amongst them was the Wesley Guild and its Junior Guild of which I was a member at Uppermill Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School. My mother was the first (I believe) Senior Warden and Norah Edwards (Moore and Edward, Printers, Uppermill) was Warden of the Junior Guild which they were instrumental in establishing. Also there was The Band of Hope Union. I believe there was a branch at the Wesleyans which was superseded by the Wesley Guilds. For some years, I can be no more definite than that, lectures were delivered on behalf of B. of H. It may have been one per year, I don't know. I attach certificates (below) which have survived and are black and white copies but, in fact, they are very attractive to a child being in parti-coloured presentation in the style, perhaps, of the medieval illuminator: or perhaps not! But I certainly do remember the lecturer, Mr Burton, and in hind-sight his skills in demonstrations, quite interesting, which convinced me that alcohol had very deleterious effects on the food we eat!

S.U.C.S. and the Craft: 337 and St John

Every year, for, I imagine, some reason special to Candour, 337 celebrated St John, the Hospitaller. This demanded something rather more than the monthly blow-out which was put on at the Lodge premises in Brownhill Vale. So, the S.U.C.S. premises were hired and the catering was in the hands of Café Monico, Union Street, Oldham, which was at that time considered one of the leading caterers in the district. Important visitors, Provincial Officers etc, were invited, one such person I, as a child with big ears, remember, was an official of S.U.D. Council. They dined in the school hall, class rooms were used by catering staff for preparation of meals, which I think were cooked elsewhere, and a bar was set up. I presume a licence would have to be granted for the occasion. Everything was cleared up for school the following day. There was the odd cork or metal cap which some lucky child might find as a sort of trophy. One thing which could not be instantly removed was the smell of strong drink which I guess would not have gained the approval of George E. Burton of the B. of H. U. who may have condemned such in that very class room.

Centralisation

I should think that I would be about ten years old when S.U.C.S. was 'centralised'. This meant that children were sent to the central school in Brownhill Vale. Two new classrooms had been built and, I think, there were four new appointments. Two were local, Ethel Ayres (Dobcross) and Rupert Bradbury (Dobcross or Diggle, I am not sure). The others were Miss Exley and Mr Ferneough. The three latter were all graduates, I'm not sure about Miss Eyres. Her father had been Head at Dobcross who had in fact taught my father – in the days of 'half-timers'! At the age of twelve, children could opt to take a job. This included a 'trade'. Hutchinsom and Hollingworth, the loom works at Dobcross took many of them including my father who lived next door to the old police station in Wool road. Others, including girls, would go into the mill, shops, farms. Alternatively it would be school morning, work afternoon, and the following week it was work morning and school afternoon!

The most fortunate, and to my knowledge they were always girls, were selected, by the school, as potential future teachers. My mother, who attended Uppermill Wesleyan school, in The Square, became a pupil teacher along with contemporaries including Alice Dearnley, Elsie Heggibottom, Annie Beatrice Platt whilst the Congregational church across the Tame near Moorgate street also had a school. Thus, there were in my days two School Streets. Post War the Wesleyan School Street was abolished and it became a short continuation of Church Road and houses were re-numbered. I have my mother's documents relating to her contract with the School Managers. A copy was lodged with the SHS Archivist some years ago.

'When we think of Saddleworth we think of villages' – I quote the *Saddleworth Villages* book published in 2003. Eight villages, each one with its C. of E. and 'Council' or 'Board' schools, as older generations sometimes referred to them. The nearest Roman Catholic Church and school was in Mossley.

There were 'private schools' in Saddleworth, in my day they were, I think, mainly of the pre. or prep. Type. The Misses Heginbottom had a school in Pickhill, I remember, which is referred to in the SHS Bulletin. Mss Ann and Elizabeth Bradbury of Uppermill had a private school at one time and I believe there was a P.S. at Wharmton Towers. I have no doubt there were others, whilst earlier there would be 'dame schools' – memories of Samuel Laycock and Bolton's Yard!

I never understood 'centralisation' and I still don't. Were children just moved at perhaps eleven or was there some form of selection? I suspect the latter. Anyway, these children were required to travel from all over Saddleworth, mainly by bus services which were at that time only just getting organised in the district. In Saddleworth winter conditions this could be very hard. Numbers of children had always travelled to school in Oldham, mainly to Hulme Grammar and Oldham Municipal Secondary, which both had good reputations. They were mainly scholarship winners, although quite a number of them were private fee payers. I quite remember that Hulme Grammar charged 'six guineas a term'. A number of children attended Waterloo 'Higher Standard Centre' in Oldham which had a good reputation under a Head with ditto, but it was a 'Central School'. A fair number of Uppermill students attended and for my last two years at full-time education I found myself at Waterloo, during which period we (mother, father and self) moved to live in Oldham. I think education was in a state of flux then; I think it always has been and always will be because in the hands of politicians it is a gift, a political tool.

A Trinity of Saints Remembered (extracted)

His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools

Wakefield was the administration centre for W.R.C.C. Education Department. Her Majesty's Inspectors were and are based in London, in mother's day it was the Board of Education, established in 1899. The 1944 Education Act abolished it and The Ministry of Education was established.

The functions of the Inspectors in the field were not changed fundamentally. That is, they assess standards and trends and advise the Secretaries of State on the performance of the system.

I well remember the visits of H.M.I. to Uppermill Council school and I am sure that Mother and the rest of the teachers did too! I cannot remember if the visits were annual but I rather think that they were. I think that it was always the same team since I have never forgotten their names: Mr Taylor (Senior Inspector), Mr Jay and Mr Bessie; when we came to Cumbria in 1959 The Director of Education for the County was one Gordon Bessie and the name is not that common and I often wonder if there is some connection.

I believe they usually stayed at the Red Lion, Bottom a' t' Moor/Huddersfield Road. Their centre was Uppermill C.S. and they were on good terms with C. S. Ibberson the Headmaster, who was a member of Lodge 337 and also of Saddleworth Golf Club [see above]. So, it was rumoured they

brought their aprons and clubs and they were well entertained; I suspect they enjoyed their visits to Saddleworth, which the teachers as a whole did not!

The Saturday morning of their departure was devoted to a meeting held at Uppermill C. S. and teachers absented themselves at Mr Taylor's displeasure. I heard and remembered all these things as a child whenever mother's teaching colleagues got together. They really dreaded H.M.I. visits and I have heard mother tell it so often how Taylor's winding up speech (he was, doubtless, a bully) always reminded them, all the teachers from Saddleworth's schools, 'if you can't do your job, get out'.

A written testimonial for my mother, of 7 May 1921 by Alfred Holt, Head Teacher of St Johns, refers to 'her skill and capacity in the treatment of Upper class sewing', which was singled out for special comment after a visit by three Inspectors for two days. This is interesting, it infers that they hunted in packs, for two days.

How many schools were there in Saddleworth in 1921? Did length of stay by Inspectors depend upon numbers of pupils or teachers, or size of classes?

How did Inspectors travel around Saddleworth? By car? It is possible although few people had cars in 1921. There were cabs for public use and horse-drawn vehicles would still predominate.

Yorkshire Band of Hope Union
PRESIDENT,
LADY FISHER-SMITH

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

AWARDED TO

Alice Mary Grimshaw.

for Excellence in Reporting
a Lecture on
"The Hygiene of Food and Drink"

Date 24 NOV. 1924

<i>A. Bailey</i>	<i>E. Whitehead</i>
	Chairman.
<i>Geo. C. Burton</i>	<i>Edw. J. Damp</i>
Hon. Secretary.	Hon. Treasurer.
<i>Geo. C. Burton</i>	<i>A. Crabtree</i>
School Lecturer.	Gen. Secretary.

OFFICE:
35, ALBION PLACE,
LEEDS.

Yorkshire Band of Hope Union
PRESIDENT,
LADY FISHER-SMITH, J.P.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

AWARDED TO

Albert Broadbent

for Excellence in Reporting
a Lecture on
"The Hygiene of Food and Drink"

Date 11 JULY 1927

Geo. E. Burton

SCHOOL LECTURER

A. Crabtree

SCHOOL LECTURER
AND
GENERAL SECRETARY.

OFFICE:
35, ALBION PLACE,
LEEDS.

Two Patriots

Geoff Toms

As a long-standing enthusiast for all things steam I became more than a little interested whilst flicking quickly through the eagerly-awaited pages of *Steam Days Magazine* (November 2004). Suddenly I stopped. Then immediately I was transported back to Saddleworth, some fifty years or more previously, when steam locomotives were never more enjoyed than in such superior surroundings as Grasscroft, Greenfield or even Diggle. It was in the magazine that I spotted a photograph of a particular locomotive, from a class LMS design, my favourites above all others: The Patriots. My interest in these was largely due to my familiarity with them whilst in the Saddleworth area.

Nowhere did I ever hear them in their glory more than when roaring around the tight bend below Roughtown, thence to hug the side of the valley as they approached High Grove, crossed the bridge between the mill buildings of M'Cardells, where the sound would ricochet up High Grove Road as they continued to grapple with the gradient, climbing on up the straight to Greenfield Box and Greenfield Station, heading for Stanedge. No sound was ever more characteristic of the LMS Derby design than those never rebuilt Patriots.

Looking further into the magazine article, it became apparent this was no straightforward account of steam engines. The photograph against the title was 5500 Patriot itself, leader of this locomotive class, covered with poppies. The title of this most enlightening article was 'Railwaymen Remembered'. Rather than locomotives, it concerned three men employed by the LNWR. For members of SHS two are of particular interest and are, in their way, part of Saddleworth's history. These were two soldiers of the 1914-18 War who were awarded the Victoria Cross. For this they were honoured by the LNWR company who fixed their names to two locomotives: Claughton Class number 2035 in 1922, then placed on 6015 in 1926; and 1097 in 1922, then placed on 6018 in 1926. In the mid-nineteen thirties, as both men continued to be railway employees, their names were affixed to LMS Patriots 5536 and 5537.

One of these two men, Ernest Sykes, could claim a glancing contact with Saddleworth. The other, Wilfred Wood, could have no such claim but may well, like the engine which bore his name, have

slipped across the border from Lancashire and Cheshire to travel the rails of this corner of Yorkshire as engine driver.

Ernest Sykes was born at Quick View in Saddleworth or Mossley on 4th April 1885⁴. In his earlier working life he was a platelayer or ganger on the Micklehurst length. This was known by some as the 'New Line', which left the 'Old Line' at Stalybridge. From there it continued via Staly and Millbrook, Micklehurst, Friezland and Uppermill, thence meeting the 'Old Line' again at Diggle.

In the 1914-18 conflict Ernest Sykes enlisted⁵ into the 7th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). Whilst at Gallipolis he received a severe injury to his foot. He was then posted back to England. Once passed fit again he was placed to serve with the 27th Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. On 19th April 1917, at Arras, he was awarded the Victoria Cross for deeds of gallantry. In the LNWR Roll of Honour Memorial Book presented to relatives of those employees lost serving (more LNWR men joined up than from any other railway company) the citation beneath the Victoria Cross Awards for Sykes, E. begins: 'For most conspicuous bravery and devotion...'

On his return to Mossley, after the award of the VC, he was greeted on his arrival at the railway station to be greeted by a series of loud explosions – fog signals placed on the rails by his workmates. Then he was presented with a gold watch by the Mayor at a ceremony in the Market Square, where huge crowds gathered. An interesting photograph in *Steam Days* shows him with family, friends and the Mayor after the ceremony⁶.

A rather later photograph, which is most fascinating, has him on the footplate of an LNWR Claughton locomotive standing at Stalybridge. The straight name, easily discernible, reads Private E. Sykes, VC, he was now Passenger Guard Sykes (one is left to speculate about how often he waved his flag or blew his whistle at Diggle, Saddleworth or Greenfield stations).

⁴ Mossley was created a borough and received its Charter of Incorporation on March 13th 1885. It had acquired the Roughtown area of Quickmere where the Sykes' lived. This now became, and still is, the Yorkshire ward. The area further retained its Yorkshire identity by remaining in the Colne Valley constituency. The family moved to Stalybridge where Ernest went to school and started work. It could rightly be claimed he was from Saddleworth *and* from Mossley [Neil Barrow].

⁵ Sykes was now living at 3 Bank Street, near to Mossley station with his wife Alice and his two sons. He was working as a platelayer for the LNWR.

⁶ There are photographs of the occasion and also of Sykes receiving his VC from George V at www.tameside.gov.uk/leisure/new/bp_30.htm

In 1949 he was laid to rest with honour at Woodfield Cemetery, Lockwood, Huddersfield. Today some interesting memorabilia relating to Sykes and the period of the presentation can be seen in The Earnest Sykes Room at the George Lawton Hall in Mossley. This includes a replica curved nameplate, as affixed to the 5537 locomotive.

Wilfred Wood had no such close connection with Saddleworth, although the locomotive which bore his name certainly did. It is in Saddleworth that I first saw it as LMS Patriot 5536 (the LNWR Claughton being before my time). Wood was born in Stockport, Cheshire. He began employment as a cleaner at the LNWR locomotive depot. He also received The Victoria Cross for 'conspicuous bravery and initiative... beyond praise', as the Roll of Honour Memorial Book notes. He also had his name given to an LMWR locomotive. After the conflict he rose to become fireman and ultimately engine driver at Newton Heath (Manchester) locomotive depot, from which shed he could easily have ventured along Saddleworth rails. A fine photograph accompanies the account in *Steam Days* showing Wilfred Wood, oil can in hand, about to lubricate the lead bearing of the coupling rod. The locomotive, named and clearly visible is 'Private W. Wood VC'. He died in 1982 at Hazel Grove after finishing his railway career at Longsight.

Today two curved name plates adorn a wall at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, the museum of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the regiment of both men. Interestingly, both locomotives were allocated to Preston throughout almost all of the 1940s. Today both names are together again finally, one wonders where the other two plates are (each locomotive would originally have had two), these would now be worth many thousands of pounds.

Only two locomotives carried names of honoured VC holders in LMS days, could there be a better reason for this honour than for helping others in distress?

If any readers would like to read the article on which Geoff Tom's account is based contact:

Steam Days

Red gauntlet Publications

PO Box 2471

Bournemouth

Dorset

BH7 7WF

Telephone/fax: 01202 304 849

Email: re.gauntlet@btconnect.com



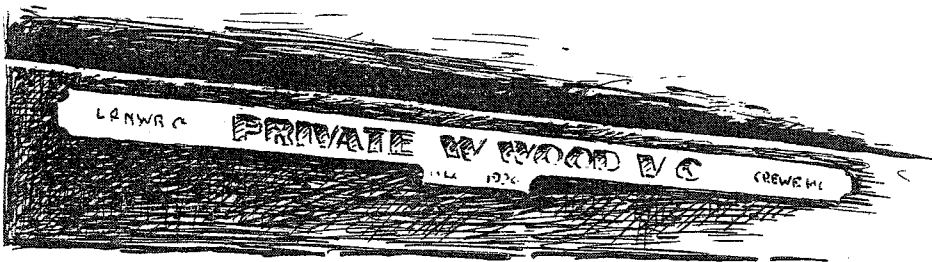
Another possible source for back issues of the magazine is:

N. Wissenden
95 Chew Valley Road
Greenfield

My thanks to Neil Barrow for his assistance and to Denise Armitage of Hepworth.



The curved nameplate as fixed to Patriot 5537 seen regularly by the author in Saddleworth.



The straight nameplate design as fixed to LNWR Claughton locomotives



A member of the Patriot class of locomotives passing close to Hollin Hall, High Grove Grasscroft heading for Leeds.

Saddleworth at Christmas

Paul Fryer

I am currently researching how Christmas was celebrated in Saddleworth, so I thought these events from our past that occurred on Christmas Eve might be interesting to read around the Festive season.

- 1861 A boxing match was planned at Denshaw, but police from Oldham, Crompton and Saddleworth went to the village. Twenty or thirty boxing men turned up, but seeing the police left quickly
- 1873 A grand concert of the Friarmere Cricket club at the Co-operative Hall, Delph. Artists included: vocalists Miss Lydia Vernon and Miss Dow of Manchester Cathedral, and comic Tom Burley, whose comic songs included 'Frenchman's Courtship' and 'Run 'em in'. The finale was Miss Vernon's rendering of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'. The concert ended with the National Anthem
- 1877 150 navvies and their wives attended a party at the Moorcock Inn, organised by their employers. Despite the rough looking nature of many of the men, Grace was said and respected and there was an absence of oaths. There were loyal toasts and wishes that the enterprise in the Greenfield Valleys [the building of the reservoirs] would be a success. Dancing followed, with the music being provided by the Greenfield String Band.
- 1878 A group of Dobcross Conservatives met at the King's Head Inn (The Swan) and had an excellent supper.
- 1885 Members of the Saddleworth United Permanent Benefit Building Society (Uppermill and Delph) held their annual supper at the Hare and Hounds. After supper entertainment was provided by the Saddleworth Quartette Party.
- 1886 The Friarmere and Delph Mission Church choirs were treated to a supper. Eighty members attended. Mr H Davis sang the 'Bay of Biscay', while Mr Lawrence rendered 'Farm Yard'. The glee party performed 'The Hardy Norsemen' and 'Who Will o'er the Downs'.

- 1886 A fire was discovered in the 'dancing shed' of Water's Lake, near Delph, a building used in the summer as a pleasure place. A piano, valued at £30, was destroyed. Water being plentiful, and many willing hands, meant the fire was put out quickly. Unfortunately the owner, Joseph Beesley, was not insured.
- 1887 Eighty eight members of the United Counties Association of Change Ringers rang at Saddleworth Church a peal of Kent Treble Bob Majors, consisting of 5120 changes, in 2 hours and 58 minutes.
- 1894 The Committee of Highmoor Cricket Club met at the Three Crowns for supper.
- 1901 The directors and friends of the Greenfield Refreshment House Company met in the pavilion. After supper there was singing and dancing, with Mr L. Whitehead presiding.
- 1904 The workpeople of Messrs Kenworthy's Mill, Uppermill held their annual party at the Odd Fellows Hall.
- 1904 The wedding of Edith Buckley and A. Sutton of Bolton at Heights Church. The presents included a pair of pictures from the Mechanics Institute Dramatic Society, of which Edith was a prominent member. 300 guests were invited to the reception at the Albion Hall, Delph.
- 1906 The 3 Greenfield Bands turned out with carol singers from Diggle and Delph to usher in Christmas Day with song. Amongst the carols were 'Christmas Awake', 'Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Hark the Herald Angels'.
- 1908 James McGuckin of Markwood, New Delph, died when he fell down a hole which lighted the cellar to his home. He had gone out for Christmas Eve and when he did not return home his wife and son searched for him. The ground near the grate was rough, and he was found with his feet protruding from the hole. Dr Stonehouse said at the inquest that his neck had been dislocated causing instant death. When Mrs McGuckin said that there had never been a grate over the hole, the coroner said sharply she had better ask the landlord to provide one immediately.

- 1909 John Buckley enjoyed a night out with friends but became drunk and was arrested after using 'objectionable language' in Uppermill. At his later trial he was let off with a caution.
- 1911 A special Christmas service at Delph Independent Church. The Choir sang 'Lift Up Your Hearts', 'God so Loved' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. Mr W. Farrand gave 'My Hope is in the Everlasting', while there was a duet of 'Silent Night' by the Misses N. Hinchliffe and D. Booth.
- 1913 Sarah Comer, a young married gypsy, was charged at Saddleworth Police Court with stealing half a sovereign from Gertrude Grove of Hill Crest, Dobcross. Gertrude bought 12 yards of lace from Sarah on Saturday December 20th. The half sovereign was made in payment, but Sarah said she had no change and would return. She didn't. on being arrested she said that she had been given the coin. Sarah had two children, and was again pregnant, and her defence said that this was her first offence, and that up to then she had led a respectable life. Sarah was fined five shillings and costs.
- 1915 A social at Wrigley Mill Wesleyan School to raise funds to provide uniforms for the girl guides. A monologue, 'The Distracted Mother and the Childless Wife' was given by Gladys Castle and Edith Gartside. The patriotic dialogue, 'Britannia's Levee' was enacted.
- 1916 A musical service was held at Uppermill Congregational Church. Mr H. Pearson sang the recit 'Comfort ye' and the air 'Every Valley', Miss Booth sang 'Leads Kindly Light', Mr W. Noble sang 'The Trumpet Shall Sound' and the choir sang 'Arise Shine'. Julius Radcliffe, the organist, played the solos, 'Prelude' (Rachmaninoff) and 'La Serenata' (Braga).
- 1919 A dance at Springhead Conservative Club. Mr T. Buckley was the MC, and Mr J. W. Rigg the accompanist. Miss A. Smith of Mossley entertained with songs.
- 1921 A party at Delph Independent School, with recitations from the Misses L. Hunt and A. Bell, concerted items from the Pierrot Troupe, and a sketch, 'The Matrimonial Agency'.
- 1931 A social at Springhead Congregational Sunday School with 140 present. The room was decorated with bunting and everyone wore paper caps. Party games and dancing was enjoyed until midnight. C. Henry's dance band provided the music.

- 1933 The choir of Springhead Congregational Church sang the cantata: 'The New Bom King'. The soloists were: Ethel Schofield (soprano), Mabel Fielding (contralto), Mr R. Seville (tenor) and Mr P. Dyson (bass). Mr G. Buckley (choirmaster) conducted, and Mr H. Buckley accompanied.
- 1938 100 of the poorest children of the district were given a Christmas party at Lees Pavilion, organised by Grotton Residents Association. Tea was served, games played and carols sung. Santa arrived and gave each child a bag of fruit, a bag of toffees and a new penny.
- 1940 Cllr Ben Dransfield ('Old Ben'), elected unopposed to Saddleworth Council since 1914, was knocked down and killed on his way home from a council meeting in Uppermill. He had been in public service 47 years and was 'father of the council'.
- 1942 Many who had left the village, for various reasons, returned and had a reunion at a whist drive and dance in Springhead Congregational School. Pte L. Ripley conducted the drive, and the evening finished with the singing of carols.
- 1942 Cinderella Ball at the Mechanics Hall, Uppermill. Miss Uppermill 1943 was chosen, with 12 girls competing. Mrs Elsie Butterworth was the winner.
- 1944 After the carol service at Delph Methodist Church, members of the choir and Sunday School performed a Nativity Play: 'The Prince of Peace'. The cast included Lilian Sykes as Mary and Norris Watson as Joseph.
- 1945 A party at the Austerlands Institute. There was a whist competition, and then after supper, a concert. At a late hour sleigh bells could be heard. Then the lights went out. When the room was lit up again, Santa had arrived to the delight of the children. Carols ended the evening.
- 1954 A number of motorists had a narrow escape when cars skidded on the road over the bridge at Greenfield Station where water running down from the hillside had partly frozen. A tanker crashed into the wall demolishing several feet of it.

- 1958 A hula hoop contest at a whist drive and dance was organised by Springhead Congregational Church. The contestants were so good at the hula hoop that they were still continuing long after the scheduled end of the competition, so they were all given a prize.
- 1961 Members of Delph Youth club went carol singing, ending up outside the vicarage on Huddersfield Road at 3 am, they then continued around the village until dawn. Just a few hours later some of them turned up at St Hilda's for Holy Communion.
- 1963 Ken Deighton of Saddleworth Round Table presented the residents of the newly opened Hopkinson Close old folks home with a new 21 inch TV.
- 1968 Heavy snow ruined the Christmas eve of the men of the West Riding Highways Depot at Delph. With the exception of a 6-hour break on Christmas Day, salting operations continued until Boxing Day morning.

Sources

Oldham Standard

28 Dec 1861, 25 Dec 1886, 29 Dec 1887, 31 Dec 1887, 27 Dec 1906, 26 Dec 1908, 28 Dec 1908, 209 Dec 1910, 26 Dec 1913, 30 Dec 1915, 27 Dec 1919, 30 Dec 1931, 30 Dec 1933, 30 Dec 1938, 21 Dec 1940.

Oldham Chronicle

29 Dec 1877, 28 Dec 1878, 2 Jan 1886, 29 Dec 1894, 31 Dec 1904, 1 Jan 1910, 30 Dec 1911, 30 Dec 1916, 31 Dec 1921, 2 Jan 1943, 29 Dec 1945, 29 Dec 1954, 1 Jan 1959.

Oldham and District Weekly Chronicle

28 Dec 1963, 6 Jan 1968

Saddleworth Express

1 Jan 1887

Saddleworth and Mossley Chronicle

30 Dec 1961

New Coins for 2005

Jim Carr

The Royal Mint has produced five new coin reverse designs for the coming year:

50 pence. This celebrates Samuel Johnson, one of the most important writers of the Eighteenth Century. He was born in Lichfield on 18th September 1709 and his father kept a bookshop which led to Samuel's lifelong love of books. He was a great scholar and entered Oxford but left when money became short and took up teaching. In 1738 he moved to London and in 1746 began his *Dictionary of the English Language* which was published in 1755 – 40,000 words with nearly 114,000 quotations. He died in 1784 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Appropriately, the coin shows how 'Fifty' and 'Pence' are defined in the *Dictionary*.

£1. Between 2004 and 2007 the one pound coin has been distinguished by the design of a different U.K. bridge each year. 2004 had the Forth Rail Bridge and 2005 has the Menai Bridge. The bridge took almost seven years in construction and was opened on 30th January 1826 as the largest suspension bridge in the world. Designed by the renowned engineer Thomas Telford, it joins the island of Anglesey with mainland Wales. Telford died on 2nd September 1834 and is also buried in Westminster Abbey. Telford in Shropshire is named after him.

£2. This coin reminds us of events in 1605 and the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. A group of traitors conspired to blow up King James I. They were Guy (or Guido) Fawkes, Robert Catesby, Thomas Winter, Thomas Percy, John Wright and Robert Keyes. They planned to blow up Parliament at its opening ceremony on 5th November but had smuggled explosives into the cellar for some months. An anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, telling him not to go to Parliament that day, gave the plot away. A search at midnight on the 4th discovered Fawkes surrounded by barrels of gunpowder. The rest became the tradition of bonfires, effigies and fireworks.

£5. On the reverse of this coin we see the Battle of Trafalgar and H.M.S. Victory engaging the French and Spanish with the dates 1808-2005. Cape Trafalgar was the nearest point of land where the fighting took place on 23rd October 1805. The British Fleet was commanded by Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson and the allied French and Spanish fleet by the French Admiral Villeneuve. It was

one of the most decisive battles ever fought at sea and the British victory ended France's maritime power and won back British naval supremacy.

£5. Celebrating the same event which was unfortunately Nelson's last battle, the reverse shows the admiral himself with the inscription HORATIO NELSON 1805-2005. He was born on 29th September 1758, son of a parish priest. In March 1771 at just thirteen he joined H.M.S. *Raisonnable* under the command of his uncle Captain Maurice Suckling. He quickly learned 'the ropes', on 5th April 1777, after passing his lieutenant's tests, he rose to Post Captain at twenty. In his many battles he suffered personal injury, losing sight in his right eye at Corsica in 1794 and his right arm in July 1791 at Tenerife. He died at Trafalgar and, already famous for battles at the Nile and Copenhagen, became a national hero.

J.C.C. (with information from the Royal Mint)

Letters

Some comments on Saddleworth Villages

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the book *Saddleworth Villages* which I enjoyed very much. However, I would like to make the following comments:

In the chapter on Diggle, I was surprised that there was no reference to Diggle Mill which, over a period of around a hundred years, was a major employer in the area. It was built about 1840 by Bradbury Building Firm and afterwards acquired by Lawton's of Micklehurst. Lawtons had 'By Appointment' for Baby Flannel and they had three mills: Micklehurst, Wright Mill at Roaches and Diggle Mill. Diggle Mill had one of the biggest water wheels in England and was the first mill in the country to be lit by electricity. Originally access from Marsh Head was via an old road over the fields which came out into Dicken Lane and then across the river into the Avenue approach – near the Statue of Jephtha. My uncle (George H. Kennerley) was Carder there and my father worked there and we lived in one of the cottages. Lawtons ceased trading in the Spring of 1939.

The stone to build the mill was quarried from the top of the hill above White Well Spring (the finest water right in Saddleworth, we were told). You can still see where the trolley tramway came down the hillside and there is still a flat roadway by the statue. I learned a lot of the history from Ned Day, who farmed at Top Farm. He worked in the finishing and his mother could remember the mill being built. Uncle George had a photograph of the water wheel. There is a photograph of the wheel and the mill in *Bygone Saddleworth* by Michael and Peter Fox.

Top Farm, Outpost and Marsh Head are lovely examples of weavers houses. Marsh Head is in the form of an E.

There is a reference on a map to Mitchell Mill, Diggle. This was pulled down after World War II, but I did a couple of sketches of it in 1943. It was near to a modern terrace of houses (Ainsbrook Terrace) known locally as Smokey Villas because of its proximity to the Tunnel entrance in the days of steam trains. Near the terrace is a path leading to Harrop Green which was known as a giggle gaggle.

The mill near Kilngreen was originally a paper mill but was owned by Henry Smith and Co Ltd who called it Ceramyl Works and they made sizing for the dye works and gums and glues form stamps, envelopes and industrial glues. I worked there during the war as a junior secretary. Campoflex started there in the old laundry and afterwards moved to Diggle Mill. Campoflex came from Teddington.

On page 92 of the book there is a reference to High Grove House. There was also a Grove School there (my grandma was born there in 1868). There is a reference to Wright and nearby was Wright Mill, Roaches – a picture is in *Bygone Saddleworth* by Michael and Peter Fox.

I was interested to read about Quickwood, Roughtown and the Kenworthy building St George's Mossley, as there is a marble plaque near the font commemorating a child of theirs who died. My Uncle Thomas Wyatt was a descendent of the Kenworthys, and his cousins had Quick Edge Farm, Lydgate (they were called Yates).

My grandma was married at Roughtown Church in 1891 by John Maxwell and my father was born in Dane Street – his birth certificate is registered at Saddleworth. There is a sub-office in Dane Street according to the certificate. I was born in Carr Hill Road but my birth certificate is Mossley Lancs.

James Butterworth's book of 1830 *Parochial Chapelry of Saddleworth* says that Saddleworth goes as far as Brook Bottom close by the village of Mossley. I believe that most of Mossley village was up by Mossley Carr above and around the church. The George Hotel was a coaching inn.

My grandma always pronounced Saddleworth as Sathelorth and referred to Dobcross as Woods and she said her mother and grandmother always called it Woods and never Dobcross. If you go up Woods Lane towards Lark Hill to Delph you go over the Cock Lod. Presumably it was a Fighting Cock Loft at one time.

After World War II I worked at St Chad's Saddleworth UDC and I was shown a Chinese Cabinet (similar to one I have seen at Chatsworth) which was in the Old Rating Office Attic. I have often wondered what happened to it. The Rating Officer Norman Eastwood showed it to me.

The Pennine Way path originally came over Slades and across by White Well Spring in the front of Diggle Mill Cottages, then down the side of the Mill, up the side of Top Farm front meadow and up

over Billy Ground. During the war it was diverted over Upperwood and Wessenden. This was because the 1000 sheep on the moors came down to the Diggle valley and ate the crops which had been planted for the Wartime Food.

I do hope you will produce more books of Saddleworth and do not mind my comments. There were other inns in the Diggle area, notably The Globe at the top of Stanedge – an old coaching inn, and the Preston Arms – up Press Brow from Sam Road up to the modern A62.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Ivy Grayshon

Saddleworth Art Group / Group of Artists

In the current issue of the Bulletin for Autumn 2004, you show a picture of a studio in Spring Street and Mr Carr modelling. I wonder if he is the same Mr Carr I knew when I attended evening classes at Oldham Art School. The Mr Carr I knew lived in Grasscroft. Ellis Shaw was in the same class – his brother was Deputy Clerk of Saddleworth UDC.

Regarding Figure 3, Uppermill Square, Whitsuntide, I attended every Whit Friday with Kilngreen from 1935 to 1950, and I do not recall one on a Sunday.

I still paint under my maiden name 'Ivy Kennerley' and have many sketches and drawings of Saddleworth. With the scanner, I have been able to make use of them for Greeting Cards to friends in Diggle.

The illustration of Lawton's letterhead and the Hutchinson Hollingworth advert will find a welcome spot in my family history archives. My father was foreman over the milling and boring after the Second World War at the loom works. He originally trained in cotton and was Deputy Spinning Overlooker at Egmont in Mossley. When the cotton went slump he went in the woollen with his brother at Diggle Mill. For a time he was foreman at Warth Mill over the winding but went on munitions during the war.

Mrs I Grayshon

Further to the article 'Saddleworth Art Group' in the current (Autumn 2004) Bulletin asking for contact with any readers who were involved in the old days, you are obviously looking for further articles on the history of the Group; which incidentally is called the Saddleworth Group of Artists as the members did not want to be known as 'SAG'.

You will see from the enclosed (below) that, should you wish to know more of the Group's activities in the old days you could find all the answers from its Archives, which are in the Saddleworth Historical Society's Archive Room.

The oldest surviving member, incidentally, is Les Barrow, 15 Valley New Road, Royton, OL2 6BP, who joined very shortly after its inception.

SGA's latest venture was in Tournon, France and the first instalment can be viewed at the www.idp.org website.

Yours sincerely

Cliff Moorhouse

Gallery displays group's archives

SADDLEWORTH Museum has been presented with the archives of an arts group celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Many of the early works by members of Saddleworth Arts Group, on display at the anniversary exhibition being staged at the museum gallery, were provided by keen supporter Christine Barrow.

The group's first studio, which it used until 1979, is now Christine's lounge.

She is pictured outside her home with (from left) Mr Matthew Richardson, the museum curator, Mr Andy Clark, group president, and Mr Cliff Moorhouse, the group's secretary.

L.S Lowry was just one of many prominent artists to visit Saddleworth Art Group's exhibitions.

Others who held weekend schools were Ruskin Spear, Josef Herman and James Fittion.



Appeals

Saddleshworth Historical Society Publications: Storage

Over the years the society had built up a stock of publications. These are stored in various members' houses. We are looking for a suitable place to keep all the publications together. Do you have any ideas or suggestions? We need to find somewhere dry, that is accessible and costs very little. Please contact Graham Griffiths, with suggestions (01457 870 159). We estimate that the current stock would fill about four or five wardrobes!

Photographs of Chew Valley in the 1950s

Roy Bardsley is undertaking research on the pedigree herd of cattle held at Greenfield Farm. He would like to hear from anyone who has photographs of Chew Valley, taken during, or prior to, the 1950s before the construction of the reservoir. Mr Bardsley is particularly interested in photographs which show the pasture land which was lost after the flooding of the valley and, of course, any photographs of the cattle themselves. Telephone Roy Bardsley on 01457 878 768.

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2004

.....

I'll go out to top of Stanedge, where the sheep tracks
cross.
I'll leave the teeming town roads, the bustle and the
dross.
You may walk on people's heads, you may tread upon
their toes,
But, I'll be over Warcock where the green road goes.

From The Green Roads, Ammon Wrigley.

The resignation of Jim Carr marks the end of a most productive reign by an excellent Chairman. Historically he was faultless a true Roman who enjoyed the advantages of Castleshaw Fort to the full and led us at all times in our historical progress from the front. Sixteen years of Saddleworth Local History have passed swiftly by during his tenure of office and we have achieved many publication ambitions, the Saddleworth Villages book published last year being a classic example of the width of his vision for the Society.

Living in Uppermill he was always on hand at the Museum to chair our Committee meetings and lead us through our deliberations to a successful conclusion and then on to our next project for the full benefit of our Society.

A handsome tribute must be paid to Jim Carr for his sterling sixteen year service as our Chairman together with his position on the Saddleworth Parish Council's Conservation & Planning Committee watching over the vernacular listed buildings of Saddleworth .

He has also led the Heritage Walks around our villages to view the Saddleworth sights of interest.

Jim's valuable contacts with Manchester University have always been used giving maximum advantage to the Society.

An imposing figure on the platform he has introduced us to a succession and rich array of speakers over the past years.

However, Jim is to remain on the Committee as our Archaeological Advisor.

The appointment of Michael Buckley as the Chairman for the Historical Society is to be most welcome and his wide experience in the History of Saddleworth will be of inestimable value. We wish him well in the future and trust he will enjoy his term of office with the Society having achieved this favourable situation by dint of a willing appetite for the study of History in its entirety.

SOCIETY LECTURES.

On Saturday the 27th November, 04, The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture was given in the Ebenezer Chapel, Uppermill, by Dr. Robert Poole. The subject 'Samuel Bamford - The Radical', was well received by a knowledgeable audience.

The Annual General Meeting was successfully held on the 9th December, 04, and the Chairman's Report will be found at the beginning of the Bulletin.

The next lecture is on Wednesday, 9th February, 05. 7.30 pm at the Museum, Uppermill, has a fascinating title 'Luke Allott won the sack race Saddleworth in 1881' will be given by Neil Barrow.

Wednesday 23rd March, 05. 7.30 pm. at the Museum, Uppermill,
The Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture Halifax: The Evolution of a Pennine Townscape
to be presented by Dr. John A. Hargreaves.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM. HIGH STREET, UPPERMILL.

2nd Sunday each month. 9.00 am-2.00 pm FARMERS MARKETS.
9th January 2005 13th February, 2005

2nd Wednesday each month FRIENDS COFFEE MORNINGS.
10.00 am. to 1.00 pm 12th January -9th February - 9th March, 13th April, 2005

Half Term Boredom Buster - Childrens creative activities.
1.00 pm to 3.00 pm 15th February, 22nd March, 31st March, 31st May,
26th July and 23rd August, (all Tuesdays)

Art Gallery Exhibitions.

8th January, - 6th February, 05 Oldham Sixth Form College.
Large-scale oils along with multi-media collages.

12th February - 13th March, 05 Janet Wilson, See forthcoming press release for details.

10.15 am each Friday. £2.50 per session. (small
babies 50p)
(Not school holidays) BOOM TING
An introduction to music and rhythm for babies and
small children. Lorna Mottram. 01457 810616

Museum Opening Hours..... Winter opening. 1.00 pm. - 5.00 pm Monday - Saturday
12 noon - 5.00 pm. Sunday.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST

- Forthcoming lectures and events. 7.30 pm. at the Museum, High Street, Uppermill.
- Thursday 20th January, 05 'What and How we do What we do'
Illustrated talk by Dr. T. Flanagan,
Executive Director of Environmental Services OMBC
- Thursday 17th March, 05 'The work of the Countryside Service in Saddleworth'
Illustrated talk by Richard Hadfield,
Senior Countryside Ranger.

To join the Civic Trust please apply to The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Lorna Gartside,
Hollingreave Farm, Holly Grove, Dobcross, Saddleworth OL3 5JQ. Tel: 01457 873195

SHS MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

Since the publication of the Autumn Bulletin we are pleased to welcome eight new members and we hope they find a wealth of interest in belonging to the Society.

Mrs. Gillian Gladstone, Paris, France.	Mr. & Mrs. R.T.V. Lewis, Bramhall.
Mrs. Linda Houston, Huddersfield.	Mrs. J. Walsh, Denshaw.
Mrs. Anne Davies, Uppermill.	Mr. Chris Marcus, Shaw.
Mrs. P.M. Holliday, Uppermill.	

Following on the item in the Chairman's Report concerning the ancestor of Mr. & Mrs. R.T.V. Lewis, William Hawker, who worked on the building of the Chew Valley Reservoir it has also become known that a long standing member from Grotton, Mr. John Hodges was researching his family tree and it was discovered that he and Mrs. Lewis (nee Hawker) have a common ancestor, namely William Hawker.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005

It was decided at the AGM that the Annual Subscriptions should remain unchanged for the benefit of the membership for 2005. A subscription form is enclosed for your personal use and we should be glad to receive your payment at your earliest convenience. Your membership is greatly valued by the Society

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.	
	Australia & New Zealand...	£15.00 Sterling.	

Membership Secretary. Mrs. E. Broadbent, Pastures Farm Flat, Back o'th' Low Road,
Strinesdale, Saddleworth, Yorks. OL4 3SG. UK
0161 785 8268

J. Hindle. Dec, 04

Current Society Publications: Membership Prices

Books

Saddleworth Villages, illustrated with sketches by Geoff Toms, text by Saddleworth Historical Society Members. Price to Society member £14.95.

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 Milbury, 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. <i>Delph, Heights and Grange</i> | 7. <i>Delph</i> |
| 2. <i>Uppermill</i> | 8. <i>Lydgate and Grotton</i> |
| 3. <i>Greenfield</i> | 9. <i>Dobcross</i> |
| 4. <i>Huddersfield Narrow Canal</i> | 10. <i>Diggle</i> |
| 5. <i>Grasscroft</i> | 11. <i>Castleshaw</i> |
| 6. <i>Denshaw</i> | |

Maps and Plans

Ordnance Survey Maps £14.95 each

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, recently up-dated, an A2 Comprehensive Street Map of the Area. £2.00

Microfiche

Delph Wesleyan Chapel: Baptisms £5.00

Wrigley Mill £4.00

Pamphlets

An Address to the Various Classes of Men in Saddleworth: Showing 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 Neild. £0.75

Items are available from the Society's Publications Officer, Graham Griffiths: 6 Slackcote, Delph, Saddleworth, OL3 5TW.

Please send a cheque payable to Saddleworth Historical Society to cover the cost. If you live outside Saddleworth please add 20% to cover the cost of postage, etc within the U.K. Prices for postage overseas are available on request.

Alternatively these publications are available from many local shops and from Saddleworth Museum Shop.

Saddleworth Branch Courses JANUARY 2005

Secretary: Mrs. K. Walls Tel: 01457 876276
All courses held at Saddleworth School, Uppermill
7.15pm to 9.15pm Enrol at first class



THE LITERATURE OF UNCLE SAM

From Melville to Updike

Tutor: Lynda Belshaw

Starts: Monday 10th January 2005

10 meetings: 8 before and 2 after Easter

HISTORY THROUGH MAPS

Tutor: Alan Petford

Starts: Tuesday 11th January 2005

10 meetings: 8 before & 2 after Easter

EGYPTOLOGY PEASANTS, SCRIBE & PRIEST

Tutor: Victor Blunden

Starts: Thursday 13th January 2005

10 meetings: 8 before & 2 after Easter