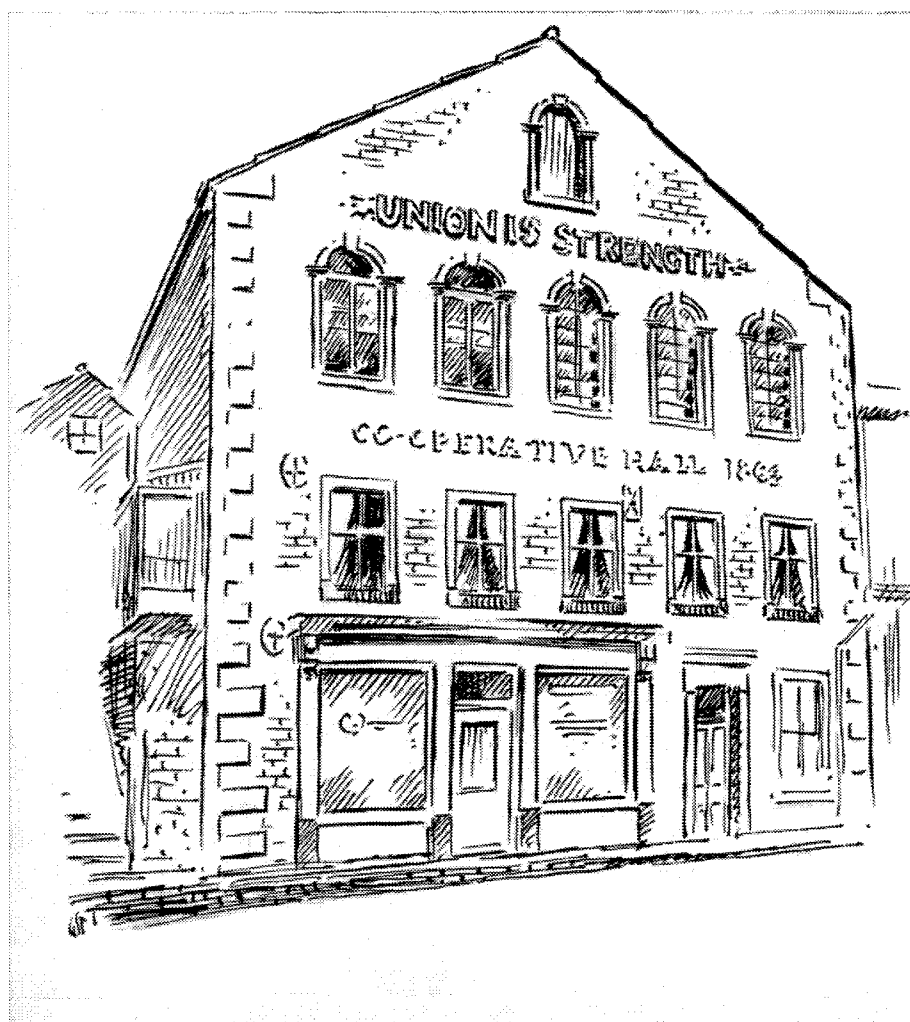


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 36

Number 1

Spring 2006

Saddleshworth Historical Society

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The *Bulletin* aims to reflect and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of Saddleshworth. 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 Saddleshworth's borders, but should have some connection with the district.

The Society's Web site is at:

<http://www.saddleshworth-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 Saddleshworth place names, a reference map of Saddleshworth, and a bibliography of Saddleshworth publications are included. There are links to other Saddleshworth Web sites.

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: The Delph Co-operative Hall, Millgate, sketched by Geoff Toms:
Saddleworth Villages p19.

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting Thursday 10th December 2005

2005 has been another successful and eventful year for the Society.

As usual we have had a very full and interesting programme of lectures and events for which we owe a great debt of gratitude to our secretary Neil Barrow. Each year Neil manages to put together a programme which is a blend of local, topical and general interest. In all cases the lectures have been excellent, well illustrated and well attended.

In February we had an entertaining exploration of Saddleworth in the 1880s by Neil in his talk "Luke Allot won the sack race in 1881". This was based on photographs from the Society's and Museum archives. It was followed in March by the Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture, by John Hargreaves on the History of Halifax and a lively talk in May on Cricket in Saddleworth by Peter Davies.

In June we held a Day school on Denshaw History. This was organised jointly with the Saddleworth WEA. A series of lectures by Alan Petford, Neil Barrow, Mike Fox and myself was followed by project work on the make up of the Denshaw population in 1881. The new Village Hall at Denshaw made an excellent venue and the next day a heritage walk round the village, organised by the Saddleworth Civic Trust, illustrated on the ground many of the themes brought out during the lectures.

For the Summer Trip once again we are indebted to Alan Petford for leading the visit to Lancaster. Alan's extensive knowledge of the history of the town made for a very interesting day.

Christ Church, Friezland marked their 150th anniversary this year and as part of the celebrations Alan gave a talk on the life and work of the church's architect George Shaw. Shaw is increasingly being recognised as a figure of regional and not just local importance and gets several mentions in the new version of Pevsner's work on South Lancashire.

In the last two months we have also had three more excellent lectures. The first, was on the Archives at Manchester Cathedral, by Chris Hunwick, the cathedral archivist. This was followed by an enthusiastic talk on Tameside Museums by Emma Varnam of Tameside MBC and then a double act by Neil Barrow and Alan Petford on an exploration of two model villages in the Wirral Peninsular, the works of the Lever Brothers and of Joseph Hirst, a Yorkshire industrialist.

The Society also took part in several local events over the summer. We participated in a joint exhibition between local Historical and Civic Societies held in Spindles Shopping Centre and a very successful Family History Day at Gallery Oldham. During Heritage Open Week Jim Carr conducted guided tours round the Fortlet at Castleshaw, which were a success despite the inclement weather.

Sales of Publications continue at steady rate. Our last Festival publication *Saddleworth Villages* continues to sell well and we will soon be coming to an end of the 2000 copies we printed in 2003. A reprint is planned in the New Year. Sales of

this popular book represent a major income stream for the Society. The Butterworth *History of Saddleworth* reprint is now with the printers. We have had a healthy number of advance orders, including a large number of requests for the de luxe leather bound edition.

Other future books planned are a Saddleworth Festival publication in 2007 which will be a reprinted and enlarged edition of the successful 1980s *Saddleworth Surveyed*. Next year we also plan a book on the Old Churchyard at Saddleworth Church as well as an updated edition of the Delph, Heights and Grange Local Interest Trail.

Work continues on conservation work within the archives. We were excited to discover a sixteenth century bible in the collection. This was identified as the Geneva edition, sometimes known as the "breeches" bible. It appears to have been owned by a Saddleworth family at least as far back as the 1690s. The bible has now been carefully restored. Other restoration work has been centred on the 1890 First Series 25 inch maps of the Parish. New boxes of acid free cardboard have been purchased to house the entire collection and better shelving is planned in the New Year which should provide better conditions for the archive and a little more space.

The Family History Group continues to thrive. Membership is now about eighty with the majority of members subscribers to the Internet based email list. An enormous amount of help has been given to members at home and abroad in tracing their Saddleworth ancestry via the Internet. Often members are descended from the same families so a lot of duplication of effort is being avoided by cross-fertilisation of research and ideas. Cheryl Westlorton who lies in Sussex very successfully acts as secretary of the group, despite the geographic separation.

The project work of the group is also progressing well. Work is advanced in transcribing all Saddleworth Baptism records for both Established and Non-Conformists churches up to 1837. This is being done in collaboration with members of the Oldham Branch of the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society who have recently completed a similar exercise on Saddleworth Burial Records. The transcription of the Monumental Inscriptions in the Old Churchyard at Saddleworth Church is now complete and the index nearly finalised. As has already been indicated, we plan to publish this soon. Victor Khadem has taken a leading role in this project and we were delighted that he was awarded the prestigious Lord Rhodes Prize by Saddleworth Parish Council for his work on the restoration of the Old Churchyard at Saddleworth Church.

Next summer a Family History weekend of talks and events is planned which it is hoped will enable members of the Society from near and far to meet together to share their knowledge and, in the case of overseas members, to get to know the district. The Society is increasingly concerned at the number of diversion orders now taken place in relation to historic footpaths in Saddleworth. We registered an objection against the diversion of an historic footpath in Diggle earlier in the year and we have given evidence at the resulting public enquiry into the diversion.

Total membership of the Society for the present year is 511 paid-up members which includes 30 overseas members; 17 from the USA and Canada, 8 from Australia and

New Zealand and the others from France, Norway, Italy and Germany. We have enrolled 41 new members during the year.

The following members have died during the last year: Mrs Eva Turner, Lydgate; Mr Roland Asquith, Dobcross; Mr Harold Charlesworth, Uppermill; Mr John B. Howcroft, Greenfield; Mrs Leonard Kidd; Greenfield; Miss Edith Ormerod, Clarksfield, and Mrs Esther Shaw Lawn, California. We extend our sincere condolences to their families.

Finally, I wish to place on record my thanks to all the committee for their hard work and support during the year. I would particularly like to thank Dorothy Latimer for her continued excellent work as treasurer. Dorothy has indicated that she wishes to retire from this post at the end of next year so we would welcome a volunteer who would be interested in taking over this important job. Also our thanks go to Nick Cox, the Bulletin editor, for his sterling efforts. Nick also has indicated that he wishes to stand down from this role due to pressure of work and family commitments, so again we would be pleased to hear from anyone that feels they would be able to take on this important task.

That brings me to the end of this address. I wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a successful and prosperous New Year.

Mike Buckley
8th December 2005

THE WHEATSHEAF.

 GREENFIELD
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
LIMITED.

The Educational Committee have much pleasure in announcing that they have arranged for our Members to pay

 **A VISIT** 
TO THE

C.W.S. Biscuit & Sweets Manufactory,
AT LOWER CRUMPSALL, ON
SADDLEWORTH WAKES WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 24th, 1898.

The train will leave Greenfield Station at 1-6 p.m. On arrival at Exchange Station the journey to Crumpsall will be made by 'Buses. After inspecting the Works, where the making of a great variety of Fancy Biscuits and Sweets will be shown in actual operation, the party will be conveyed back to Balloon Street, where an excellent

SANDWICH TEA

will be served in the C.W.S. Dining Rooms.

TICKETS, 2s. 6d. EACH,

including railway fare, 'bus fare, and tea.

An early application for Tickets is desirable, to enable the Committee to make proper provision beforehand for the comfort of our Members.

A WAKES OUTING TO A BISCUIT FACTORY

By members of Greenfield Co-operative Society – Wakes -
August 1898

Peter Fox

This is an account of one of a number of outings by the Greenfield Co-operative Society recorded in *The Wheatsheaf* to various works operated by the Co-operative Societies. In this case apart from admiring the success of the co-operative movement it encompassed the pleasure in not just viewing the product being made but enjoying tasting it as it was to the biscuit and sweet factory at Crumpsall. The occasion of the trip was the annual Saddleworth Wakes holiday and no doubt all were dressed in their 'Sunday' best for the occasion.

OUR TRIP TO CRUMPSALL – The trip to Crumpsall Works on Wakes Wednesday afternoon proved a very enjoyable affair all through. Some 236 persons made quite a show as they mustered at Greenfield Station. Within about three minutes of one o' clock the train was well on its journey and on arriving at Balloon Street eight buses were in readiness to carry us to Crumpsall. As the weather was fine, and we had ample time, a detour was made along Rochdale Road, past Queen's Park, and down to the Co-operative Wholesale Society Works, where the party was met and shown over the Works devoted to Biscuits, Sweets, & etc. Accompanying the party were Messrs J. Hill, J. E.W. Shaw, Thomas Worth, F. R. Mills, S. Priestley, J. Bottomley, and C. R. Walton, members of the Educational and General Committees; Mr D. Holden, the Manager; and Mr David Lawton, Secretary. The friends were conducted through a bewildering maze of rooms, where the various processes required in making biscuits and sweets were to be seen in full operation. The ladies watched with eager interest the filling of the draw-plate of one of the ovens with a large batch of fancy bread, and were also much interested in the rolling, kneading, and stamping machines making the biscuits. Naturally the youngsters present were attracted by the sweet making, and were nothing loth to avail themselves of a chance of sampling the choice confections which were being produced in that department. Something like two tons of sugar, we were told, is being used up in this department every day, and one wondered whoever would eat all the fancy sweets and toffees that were stored away in innumerable boxes and bottles ready for sale to the Societies. Space failed us, so we cannot describe all that was going on, and the bustle and noise made detailed description almost out of the question, but our friends saw enough to give them a good idea of what can be done for them at Crumpsall. The return journey to Balloon Street was made along Bury New Road. We passed a good many fine new houses with gardens and tress and flowers, as we had plenty of time and fair weather, this drive was greatly enjoyed. On arriving at Balloon Street we had a good tea in evidence, and Mr T. E. Moorhouse J.P., one of the Directors of the Wholesale Society, joined us. After tea, Mr David Lawton moved a vote of thanks to the C.W.S. Board for their kind permission to visit Crumpsall and the excellent tea provided. He said: We have had a capital object lesson in Productive Co-operation this afternoon, and have been much interested in what we have seen. Besides the Works just visited, the Wholesale had many others, nearly all of which were growing rapidly, and paying well. He looked forward with hope to the growth of Co-operative production, until one day all the workers should be engaged in working for themselves and their fellows, and reap together the fruits of

their toil. Mr Dan Holden, the Manager seconded the motion remarked that he had one or two things to say respecting Crumpsall fancy cake. It was too "thodden" and not attractive enough. He had tried it, but the customers preferred a lighter and smarter looking article. The best biscuits at Crumpsall were not up to standard. They ought to be made richer, and, if need be, charged for at a higher rate. He was glad he could say a good word for the preserves. These were really first-class-the best on the market, in his opinion. He hoped next year they would be privileged to visit the Jam Works at Middleton, and they were all satisfied with their outing that afternoon, for if they were not then the Committee could never hope to satisfy them (A lady's voice here interrupted, "But we are satisfied." Laughter and cheers.) The motion was carried with heart applause. Mr T. E. Moorhouse, J.P., acknowledged the vote on behalf of the C.W.S. Board, and said he was pleased to see such a gathering of Greenfield friends. Mr Holden and himself were very old friends, and they could talk to each other straight. Some changes had recently been made at the Works, and others, as they had seen for themselves, were now being made, with a view to bringing their plant to a still higher state of perfection, and he thought that now if his friend Mr. Holden would try Crumpsall cake again he would find it all that he desired. Speaking of the C.W.S. as a whole, he thought they never had brighter prospects than at present. Last quarter the turnover very nearly reached three millions and the profit amounted to £60,000. Nearly all their productive works were growing rapidly and making fair profits, and their tea trade had grown until now the C.W.S. packed and sold about 1/17th of the tea consumed in this country. They were heartily welcome to all they had got that afternoon. He hoped the visit would result in greater loyalty, and that the ladies especially would see that they spent their money as far as possible on Co-operatively-made goods (Cheers.) The party then dispensed to view the sights of Manchester, and returned home greatly pleased with this pleasant ending to the Wakes of 1898.

Reference

The Wheatsheaf – A Monthly Co-operative Record, Greenfield Co-operative Society Limited. SHS Archives H/UE/Gf.

WHAT DO YOU WANT

BETTER THAN

Crumpsall



Biscuits

MADE BY THE

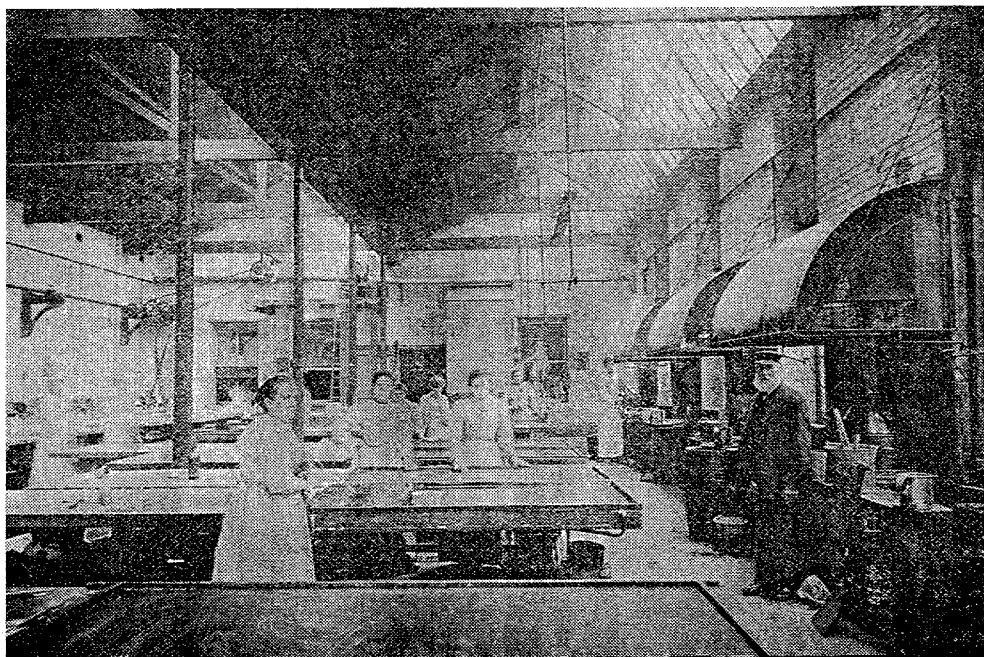
Co-operative Wholesale Society?

UNEQUALLED IN QUALITY
AND PRICE.

Alphabet.	Family.
American Cracker.	Kindergarten.
Amusement.	Parisian Sandwich.
Anchor.	Primrose.
Animal.	Ratatia.
Café à la Crème.	Royal.
Café Noir.	Sponge Rusk.
Cape.	Vanilla Pod.
Cornish Cream.	Vanola Nut.
Daisy.	Cream Crackers.
Dessert Rusk.	&c., &c., &c.

ONE TRIAL WILL CONVINCE OF THEIR EXCELLENCE.

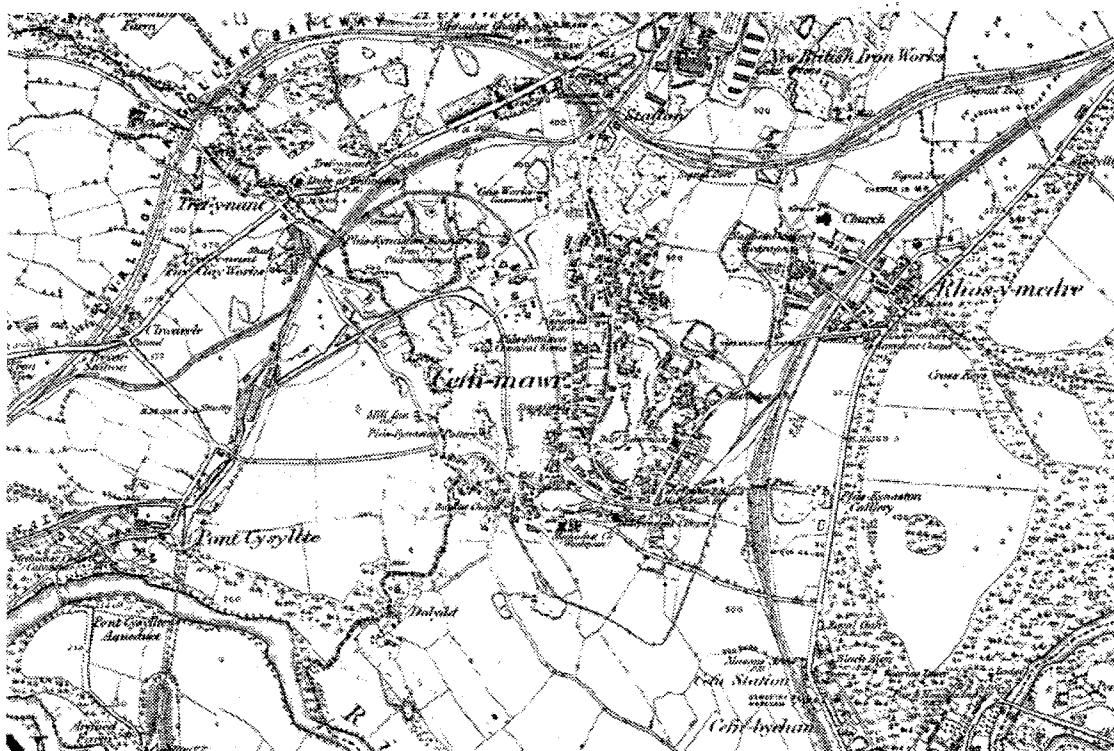
Advert for the Crumpsall Biscuit Factory showing the delightful selection of biscuits that they produced. *The Wheatsheaf* 1898



BOILED SWEETS FACTORY.



Margaret Llewelyn Davies



Cefn Mawr OS c1880

A Plate Layer's Wife

Sarah Wrigley

notes by Neil Barrow

A PLATE-LAYER'S WIFE

BY MRS. WRIGLEY

I go back to the age of six, when I remember well falling in the canal, and was nearly drowned had it not been for my Sunday-school teacher. Strange to say my father saved her from being drowned in the very same place when he was a young man.

I was born in Cefn Mawr (Wales), April 17th, 1858. My father was a shoemaker, and worked for his brother Jonathan Jones. He made the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynn's wellington boots. It was all hard work in those days. My father's earnings was 12s. per week, and there was five children. My mother went out day sewing for 1s. a day, when she could have work. I being the older one had to look after the other children. When mother was at home I had to go out and gather coal and cinders to make a fire, and walk two miles to a pit bank to pick coals, and carry it in a basket on my head. I also had to go two miles to a farmhouse for buttermilk; we could have as much as we could carry for 2d., ten to twelve quarts it was mostly. Our food then was potatoes and bacon, red herrings and bread and milk. There was no such thing as tea for the children in those days.

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It is rare to find an autobiography of an ordinary member of the working class in Saddleworth in the nineteenth century. Earlier Joseph Bentley had recorded his life, as did Ammon Wrigley, born some three years after Sarah. Morgan Brierley's ¹ life appears in his daughter's memoir and a trawl of the local newspapers will reveal more accounts. But none of these men are ordinary: each achieved some prominence and this is the prime reason why their lives were published. In contrast, uniquely perhaps, Sarah Wrigley is, a woman and ordinary. She simply calls herself a platelayer's wife, and does not even reveal her own Christian name.

¹ Bentley, J. *Gems of Biography during Infancy, Boyhood and Youth*, nd, Wrigley, A. *Rakings Up*, 1949, Brierley, H. *Morgan Brierley: A Memoir* 1900.

A PLATE-LAYER'S WIFE

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Clear water we had to carry on our heads from some spring well. I remember one time my mother had been out sewing all day from eight to eight, and I had gone to bed with the others, as my father said I could. But when mother came in there was no clean water for breakfast, so she made me get out of bed and go through a wood for some clean water. I am not saying what my other sister said, but she thought my mother very cruel. At that time I went out cleaning the floors and back-yards on a Saturday for a penny a time, and a piece of bread and butter. I also carried dinners and suppers to the iron forge for twopence a week.

Some of the happiest days of my childhood were when my mother packed us off with food for the day with other children, and to take the clothes to wash. Then, by the River Dee, we would take a bucket full of coal and get a few boulder stones and make a fire to boil the clothes in the bucket, and rinse them in the river, for there was plenty of water and we hadn't to carry it. Then, while the clothes was drying we had a good romp. We would take the babies with us as well, for there was plenty fields for them to pick the little daisies, and the older ones looked after the little ones. Some of our parents would come down to see if we was all right, and then we would fold the clothes and go home singing and rejoicing that we had had a good washing day and a good play.

All this was when I was about eight years old. When I was about nine, the Vicar of the Church

However a reading of her story shows just how remarkable were her childhood experiences, her poverty being even worse than Brierley or Wrigley. But Sarah Wrigley's life was probably no different to thousands of other unrecorded lives and so it is fortunate that Margaret Llewelyn Davies, of the Women's Co-operative Guild promoted a project to encourage ordinary women to write down their *Life as we have known it*.

The Guild had been founded in 1883 with the aim of promoting the benefits of co-operation and improving the condition of women. Davies became the General Secretary in 1889 at the age of twenty-eight. Under her leadership the Guild expanded rapidly, eventually to a peak of 1513 branches and 72,000 members in 1933, twelve years after she had left office.

asked if I would go to be with his children and take them out. There was another servant, but I did not stay long, for we were rationed with our food and everything was locked up. My mother was glad for me to go out for food alone.

I had been at home a few days when the doctor's wife came to our house and said a lady and gentleman wanted a little nurse for their child, to go back with them to Hazel Grove, near Stockport. My little bundle of clothes was packed up and I went in full glee with them. Instead of being a nurse I had to be a servant-of-all-work, having to get up at six in the morning, turn a room out and get it ready for breakfast. My biggest trouble was I could not light the fire, and my master was very cross and would tell me to stand away, and give me a good box on my ears. That was my first experience of service life. I fretted very much for my home. Humble as it was, it was home. Not able to read or write, I could not let my parents know, until a kind old lady in the village wrote to my parents to fetch me home from the hardships I endured. I had no wages at this place, only a few clothes.

My next situation was on a farm where they kept 150 milking cows, near to Oswestry. It was there where I learnt to milk and make cheese and butter. I was very happy there looking after the calves, ducks, hens and chickens, and gathering the eggs. My wage was 2/6 per month. I stayed there until I was twelve years old. Then I went

Davies, the daughter of a progressive Anglican clergyman was the dominant figure in the Guild running it from her father's vicarage in Kirby Lonsdale. Her strong character was successful in ensuring the policy that meetings discussed only serious issues and did not engage in social chit chat. As leader of what was probably the largest women's lobby group she had some success both within the co-operative movement in gaining acceptance of a minimum wage for female employees and nationally in securing maternity benefits (**and** paid to the mother). She lent the support of the Guild to the non-militant National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which had wider objectives in securing women's rights than simply the vote. Davies' leadership has been described as matriarchal², ironically so, as she

² A critical biography is Blaszk, B.J. Margaret Llewelyn Davies: A Study in Female Leadership. Journal of Co-operative Studies vol 31:3 1999. See also Webb, C. *The Woman with the Basket*. Manchester 1927.

A PLATE-LAYER'S WIFE

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to another farm in Marple, where I was very comfortable and happy. My wages there was 3/- per month. I had five cows to milk morning and night, clean the shippens out, take the cows to the field and churn the butter in the afternoon, and four little children to look after while my mistress was busy in the shop. It was in the time of the great flood at Marple in 1871.

My third situation was in Oldham in 1872, at a Temperance Hotel. I was then fourteen years old. Seeing as I could not read or write, my master and mistress took an interest in me and paid for my education at the night school for two years. He also helped me at night with my lessons. They proved a father and mother to me. I was with them until I was nineteen years old, and I have a great deal to be thankful for in their kindness. They have passed away now, but I see their sons very often. My wage was 16/- per month, and was raised to 20/- per month before I left.

I had a little holiday at home, and got another place at Dobcross, Saddleworth, for a little more money. It was a big house and I worked very hard from morning till night. There was a big family and I did all the washing. I was not allowed out only on Sunday afternoon and one Sunday night a month. When a girl can go out and have a little freedom her work does not feel half the trouble to her. It was one Sunday afternoon at school I first saw my husband, and when my mistress got to know, she stopped me going

never married and with her middle class background and education at Girton College, Cambridge, she was quite different from the ordinary membership. This was, in fact, small compared to its potential and many women were put off by the tone of the meetings and the progressive stance on such issues as divorce reform. However despite her inclinations to promote her own views the account of Sarah Wrigley in *Life As We Have Known It*³ seems genuinely to be her own, without editing or inference: her ungrammatical use of "was" has not been corrected.

Where there Women's Guilds attached to the Saddleworth societies? No mention of them is made in the official histories. But the Guild's Annual Report reveals that a Delph branch was founded in 1897. It had sixty-five members and met weekly at the Primitive Methodist chapel. The Secretary was Mrs Hinchcliffe. However within two years membership had fallen to just twenty-five. Miss Bertha Moorehouse had

³ Davies M L (ed), *Life As We Have Known It* by Co-operative Working Women. 1931.

now taken over as Secretary and by 1904, when the Annual Report stops giving individual branch information, membership had fallen still further to eighteen. At Greenfield a branch was formed in 1911 but it too must have experienced difficulties as, in 1926, it is mentioned as having just reformed that year⁴.

Notes

p 56 Cefn Mawr, seven miles south of Wrexham, had rapidly industrialised during the early nineteenth century. It was part of the industrial belt of north east Wales where quarrying, mining and chemicals were major industries. Cefn Mawr, served by the Llangollen canal, sat above the still rural Dee valley and Wynnstay Park, the stately home of the Wynn family. In contrast the village was dominated and polluted by foundries, fireclay, iron and chemical works.

Her father was probably the Edward Jones, a bootmaker, living with his wife in nearby Rhuabon in 1881 in the same street as his elder bother Jonathan, still a shoemaker.

p 59 There were three temperance hotels in Oldham in 1871. Robert Allen kept the one in Coronation Street, at Mumps and employed Mary Jones aged eleven as a nurse.

p 60 This was Woods House, Dobcross, the home of James and Betty Hollingworth. Now the managing director of the Dobcross Loom Works, he had risen from a poor background starting his working life as a carpenter. When his partner John Hutchinson retired and the limited company was formed in 1874 it was valued at £45,000 and now employed over two hundred men.

Sarah does not mention an Elizabeth Jones, also born in Cefn Mawr working as an under nurse at Oakleigh, Dobcross the home of Thomas Walter Harrop Garstang, a doctor. She is presumably Sarah's nineteen year old sister ?

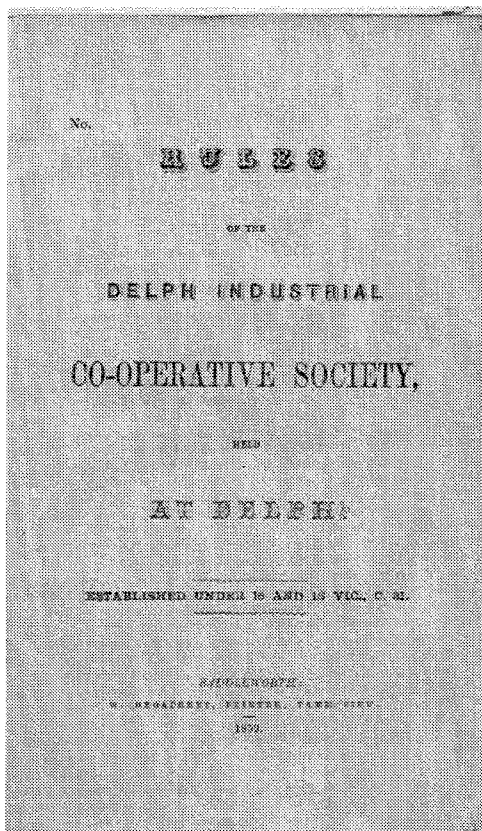
Her husband was James Wrigley, two years her junior. He was probably the James Wrigley,⁵ a felt hatter, living at Hillend, Delph with his aunt, brothers and sister in 1881. Despite her life Sarah seems to have been able to maintain links with her family and the couple went back to Wales for Christmas 1883 and they were married, soon after at Rhosymedre parish church. Their witnesses, both Jones, presumably relatives, lived on the same street in Rhuabon, as her father⁶.

This article will be concluded in the Summer Bulletin.

⁴ The Guild has kindly checked their records but have no information of any Saddleworth branches. The Guild branch, with weekly meetings, at Greenfield in 1926 had Mrs I Hewkin as president. (Greenfield Co-operative Society Seventieth Anniversary Souvenir blotter). A run of Annual Reports of the Guild is held at the National Co-operative Archive, Manchester.

⁵ His age corresponds with his marriage certificate and also one of their sons, George works as a felt hatter and bears his grandfather's name. Another is called Lewis, as is this James' younger brother.

⁶ Marriage certificate 27th December 1883 and 1881 census.



Page from Delph Co-op rulebook
1859 M/GX/UE/Dp



Cover of Jubilee Fete programme
1906 M/GX/UE/Gf



Grasscroft -3
Shop and hall of former Grasscroft society (near left)

No.129
M/P/Gc

Saddleworth Archives: the Cooperative Societies

Neil Barrow

The first Saddleworth society was founded at Greenfield in 1856 and was quickly followed by societies at Delph 1859, Junction (Denshaw) 1857, Diggle 1863, Dobcross 1860, Grasscroft 1858, Uppermill 1860 and Mossley 1856. During the next century and more the societies were a major part of the everyday life of most Saddleworth people, not simply for shopping but as educational, social, welfare and political institutions. It is therefore surprising that the Archives collection is relatively small.

There are some thirty items under the heading M/GX/UE and also some photographs at M/P/UE. The earliest item is the Rule Book of the Delph Industrial and Co-operative Society dated 1859. Other formal documents include the Annual Reports for the Uppermill Society 1904-12 and 1976. There is also the members' share ledger for the years 1872-1900. An indication of the everyday business can be got from the "goods received" book of the Uppermill society 1884-1887 and a small collection of receipts, letters and price lists of the Junction Society 1860-1875, which show them using the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) as major suppliers. A major figure in the CWS, a Board member for over thirty years, was TE Moorehouse (1854-1922). A native of Holmfirth, the long serving Chairman of the Delph Society, he was also a local councillor and was proposed as a parliamentary candidate along with Victor Grayson in 1906⁷. The Archives has copies of his biographies from *The Wheatsheaf* and the *Dictionary of Labour Biography*. *The Wheatsheaf* was a Co-operative magazine given free to members with a section inserted by the local Society. The Archives have the first edition, 1896 and a run to 1906 for the Greenfield society. It contains not only formal information about dividend rates and payments and accounts but also adverts for the various departments (for household furnishings "members can be accompanied to the Warehouse in Manchester by our buyer" and announcements and reports of social events, such as the annual tea party and lectures.

The societies were active in the provision of housing⁸ and the Archives contain plans for the Uppermill society for (unbuilt) housing at Marsland as well as for shop premises. Despite their enthusiasm for education and promoting the Co-operative ethos only two societies have published histories. The Greenfield published useful, informative books for both their jubilee in 1906 and the centenary in 1956. The Dobcross society produced a pamphlet for their jubilee in 1910 as did the Diggle society in 1913 when a souvenir pamphlet was produced for their jubilee celebrations and opening of the new shop at Weakey. For the other societies the major sources of information are the local newspapers with their coverage of events, meetings, dividends and obituaries of members.

Outside of Saddleworth the remaining records of the Societies are held at the Oldham Local Studies Centre and for the Mossley society, which is commemorated with a blue plaque at its Arundel St. site, at the Tameside Local Studies Centre. The major

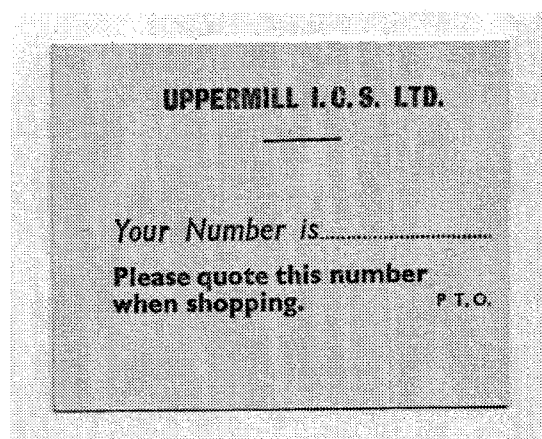
⁷ Clark, D *Victor Grayson: Labour's Lost Leader* 1985 p16.

⁸ see Barrow, N et al *Saddleworth Villages* 2003 p21-23 & 123-124.

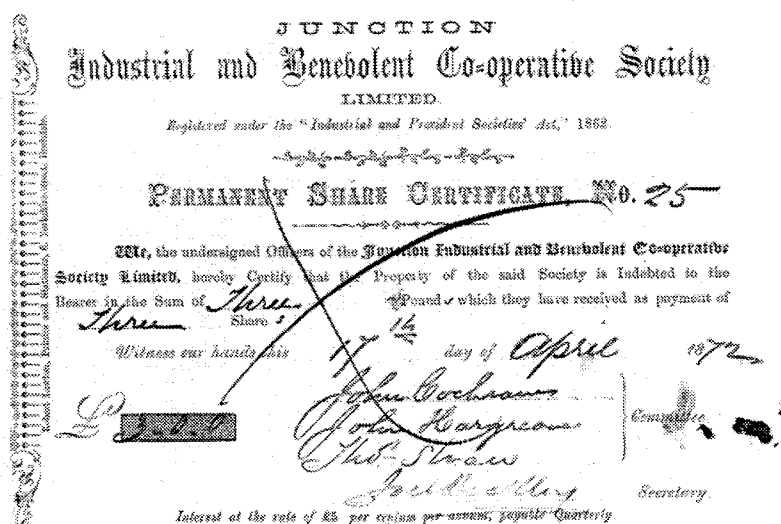
co-operative archive and library the National Co-operative Archive, at the Co-operative College in Manchester has no unique items from the Saddleworth societies but does have runs of the *Co-operative News*, which contains reports of local meetings and events as do the local newspapers. The first society to disappear was the Grasscroft society, which merged with Greenfield in 1934. After a wave of mergers in the 1960s the remaining Uppermill society lost its identity in 1980. The collection at Oldham holds the official records held by four societies passed over from the successor society, the North West Pioneers Co-operative Society. These consist of the minute books of the societies of Delph 1927-44, Grasscroft 1858-1933, Greenfield 1857-1966 and Uppermill 1867-73 & 1879-1946, along with, for Greenfield, runs of balance sheets and subcommittee minutes. In 1959 the Mossley Industrial Society merged with Ashton and their records, comprising mainly of the minute books, 1859-1958, are held at Tameside Local Studies Centre.



Grasscroft ICS 1/- token

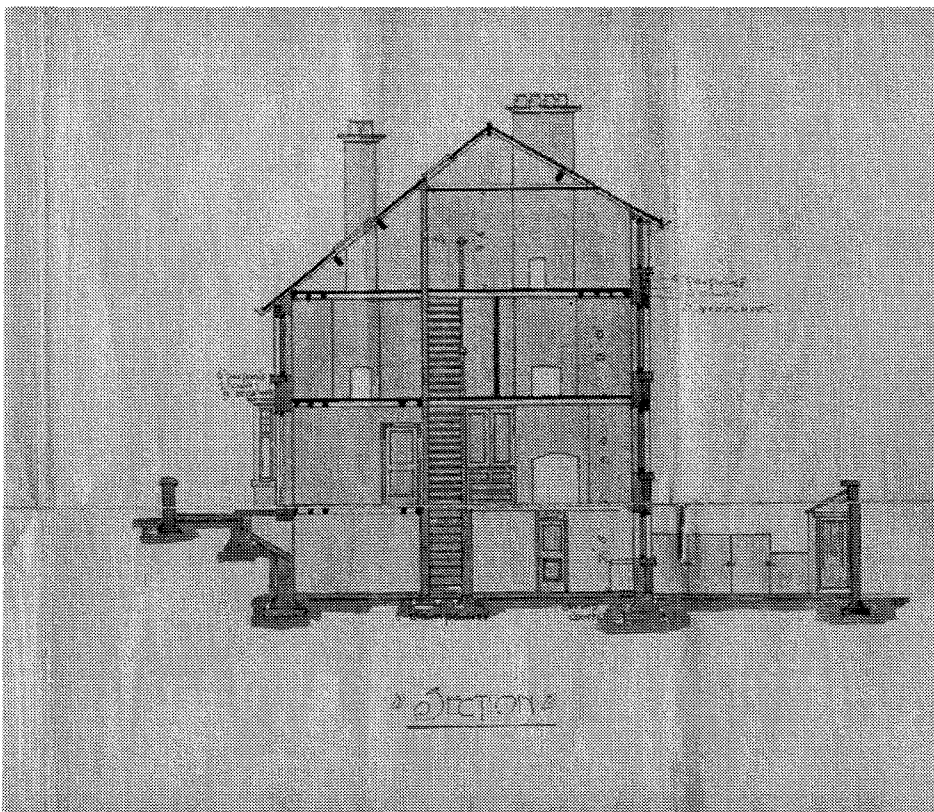
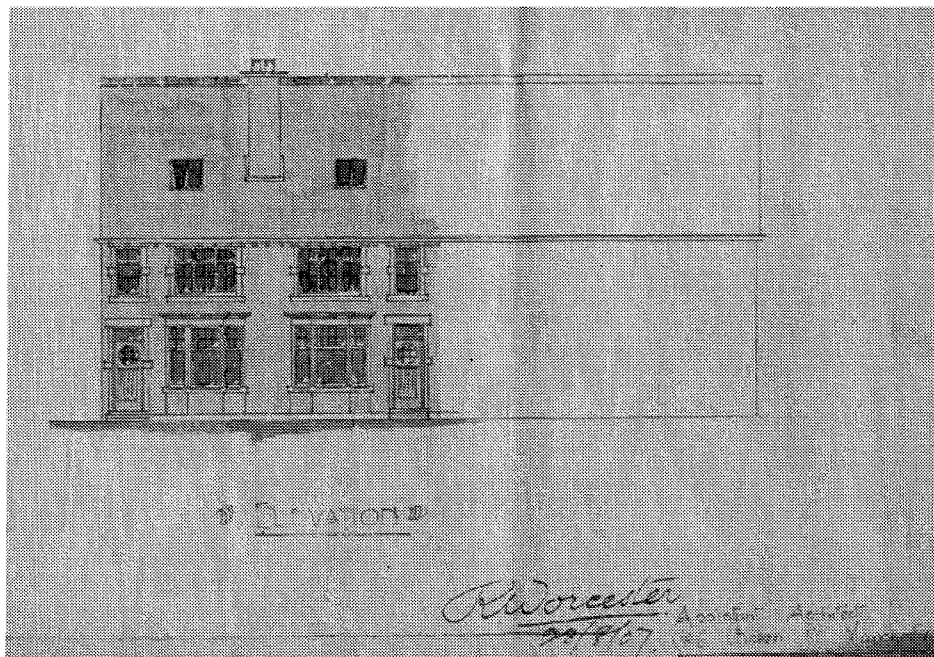


Uppermill ICS membership card c1960s



Junction Co-op share certificate 1872

M/GX/UE/Dn



taken from Plans for Cottages at Marsland 1906 [original in colour] M/GX/UE/Um

LETTERS

Dear editor,

I wonder whether any of your readers have heard of the Frank Lord Convalescent Home in Delph? My mother was evacuated as a child to this establishment from one of the Westwood Park Scattered Homes (Coldhurst 1), on Oldham Edge, on the outbreak of war in 1939. She always remembered this as a happy episode and, I believe she returned to work with the Lords at a later period before joining the RAMC as a nurse.

I would be interested if anyone has any information about the institution, especially the location and the background of Frank Lord.

Kind regards

Bill Stout

bill.stout@btopenworld.com

Day School Springhead: the Building of a Community

Saturday June 10th 2006
10.00 – 4.30

at the Congregational Church
Radcliffe St Springhead

Although the name Springhead does not appear until the nineteenth the area, as a part of Quickmere, has a history from medieval times. Through a series of illustrated talks this day school will investigate the change and development of the area. The scattered hamlets and farms of the moortops were the main settlements but during the Industrial Revolution the mills in the valley bottom caused an expansion of housing for the growing population. The textile industry both, wool and cotton, has established the character of the Springhead of today. The Day School will trace this development with illustrations of what still remains and what has gone, as well as with accounts of the people and families who have made its history.



Please reserve places at £12 each.

Total £

Please make cheques out to Saddleworth Historical Society

Name

Address

Telephone / email

Please return to: M Buckley, 10 The Square, Dobcross, Saddleworth OL3 5AA

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2006

Come out, the Spring is roaming,
We'll follow to the hills,
And see her spilling coltsfoot
And dropping daffodils;
She's laughing o'er the meadows
With the wind of the south,
And flinging joyous music
Into the skylark's mouth.

Come Out, the Spring is Roaming.
Ammon Wrigley.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY 1966 - 2006

This year is very special because 40 years have passed since the Saddleworth Historical Society was formed and commenced to hold lectures at Saddleworth School, Uppermill, later moving to the prestigious gallery at Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery. The anniversary will be celebrated with a first class dinner in Saddleworth surroundings at The White Hart Inn, Lydgate, on Friday the 20th October, 2006 and you are cordially invited to attend supporting the various speakers extolling the Society's activities over this very long and productive period. On the day afterwards Saturday the 21st October, 06, during the afternoon a Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture will be presented at the Museum, by a notable speaker, followed on Sunday the 22nd October, 06, with a conducted walk around a Saddleworth village explaining its history and vernacular architecture. If any member knows of a past member who would wish to attend this historic event could they please inform Mrs. Elsie Broadbent, on 0161 785 8268 giving their full name and address and telephone number. A booking form is at the rear of the bulletin and we would be pleased to receive a reply by the 31st July, 06.

DAY SCHOOL - SPRINGHEAD THE BUILDING OF A COMMUNITY

Another event is to be organised at the Congregational Church, Radcliffe Street, Springhead, Saddleworth - Saturday 10th June, 2006, Commencing at 10.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. with a series of illustrated talks this Day School will investigate the change and development of the area with illustrations of what still remains and what has gone as well as with accounts of the people and families who have made its history. The lectures will be given by Neil Barrow, Mike Buckley, Peter Fox and Alan Petford and we can look forward to a very interesting day.

A booking slip is enclosed for your attention and your support of this local effort would be most helpful. Please return your application form as soon as possible.

A FAMILY HISTORY Weekend is being arranged inviting Overseas Members and UK Members to this event which may be suitable for your family tree researches or a social attraction giving you the opportunity to meet and involve yourself with other members of the Society in congenial surroundings conducting Historical investigations into the Society's & Museum Archives.

Saturday 8th July, 06	Day School on Saddleworth Family History Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill.
9.30 a.m. Coffee	10.00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions.
10.15 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	LECTURES.
12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Lunch Break (Provide your own lunch - plenty of places in Uppermill.
2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	LECTURES & WORKSHOP SESSION
4.30 p.m.	CLOSE

Lecture details to follow, but will include:

Worked example of tracing a Saddleworth Family illustrating records available.
Saddleworth Historical Society & Museum Archives.
Saddleworth Church Records.
Saddleworth Families - an overview.

Saturday Evening 8th July, 06 DENSCHAW VILLAGE HALL

8.00 p.m. Reception, Social Occasion, Buffet & Bar.
A small charge to cover the cost of food.

SUNDAY 9th JULY, 2006 GUIDED WALK
Venue and meeting place yet to be decided to be announced
Saturday evening. Tour round Saddleworth visiting main
villages, churches and explaining geography.

LUNCHTIME FINISH - LUNCH AT VARIOUS PUBS, not formally
organised, but will suggest a few suitable venues.
UK Members cordially invited - please contact Mr. Brian Kenworthy, 20 Main Street, Greetham,
Oakham, Leics. LE15 7NL. Tel. No. 01572 812026. email - bandpkenworthy@aol.com

SOCIETY COACH TRIP - SATURDAY 15th JULY, 2006

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This year's Summer Coach Trip is to the Shropshire County Town of Shrewsbury, sitting splendidly upon the banks of the beautiful River Severn complete with classic bridge crossings and fine 18th Century half timbered buildings adorning the intriguing alleys and byeways for example the Lion Hotel an old posting-house with Henry V11's house and the Unicorn in Wyle Cop. The castle of pink sandstone was converted by Telford into a private dwelling now occupied by the Corporation. The Abbey Church, by the English bridge is mainly late Norman and Early English.

The coach will leave Uppermill Square, near the turning circle at 8.30 a.m.
Price is £14.00 per person, Cheques made out to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to Mr. Michael Fox, no later than the 30th June, 2006. See booking slip.
Any queries to Mr. Keith Taylor 01457 87 9345

LECTURE BY MR. MICHAEL FOX AT THE MUSEUM 16th MARCH, 06

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Michael Fox gave an excellent talk on 'Governing a Saddleworth Village: The Uppermill Local Board 1868-1895' and using extracts from the Minute Books of the Uppermill Local Board he painted a detailed picture of how Uppermill was governed in the Victorian period. Standards of public health have changed in the village since those days: pigs are no longer kept in pub yards and rubbish is not thrown into the river.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM.

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Coffee Morning & Boutique.	2nd Wednesday of each month 10-30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Farmers' Markets.	2nd Sunday of each month.
Friends of the Museum AGM	Tuesday 6th June, 2006. 7.30 p.m.
Model Railway Exhibition.	Saturday & Sunday 17th and 18th June, 06
Beer Festival.	Friday & Saturday 1st and 2nd September, 06

ART GALLERY

Toni Rigby.	17th June - 9th July, 2006
Saddleworth Group of Artists.	15th July - 12th August, 2006
Journess de Peinture.	5th August - 12th August, 2006
Chameleon Group	18th August - 17th September, 2006

Secretary & Treasurer.

.....

Delia O'Kane and Janet Benson have occupied the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends of the Museum for 15 years and now wish to resign. The Friends are urgently in need of two public spirited people who would be willing to take over these duties.

We should be extremely grateful if anyone wishes to help and your first contact would be to Mr. Peter Fox, Curator of the Museum on 01457 87 4093.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST.

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Forthcoming Events : Thursday 15th June, 2006 Summer Coach Trip
Kendal - visit to Abbey Hall Art Gallery.

Thursday 29th June, 2006 7.30 pm Saddleworth Museum
Maintenance & History Over The Centuries of Manchester
Cathedral. Chris Hunwick, Archivist at the Cathedral and
Alan Petford.

Sunday 23rd July, 2006 9.00a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Saddleworth Civic Trust Flea Market. Contact David Harrison
Telephone 01457 87 5855 To assist or book a table - as soon as
possible.

To join the Civic Trust apply to Mrs. Lorna Gartside on 01457 87 3195

MEMBERSHIP SECTION

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Our congratulations must be extended to Mrs. Jean Tennant of Moorside, who has represented the West Pennine Bridleways Association in our Society for many years. During April she received an MBE from the Queen at Buckingham Palace for services to the environment and to the community in Oldham. Mrs. Tennant is a former lecturer in accounts at Rochdale College and serves as treasurer of Sport & Recreation Oldham, which represents the views of sports clubs and forwards their concerns in co-operation with the council.

We welcome nine new members who have joined the Society since the publication of the Winter Bulletin and they are as follows:-

Mrs. Susan Clifford, Reading.	Mr. Norman Winstanley, Boston, Lincs.
Mr. Peter Higgins, Diggle.	Mrs. Jean Bates, Ipswich.
Mrs. Vivienne Beasley, Eccleshall, Staffs.	Dr. John Felton, Doncaster.
Mr. Philip M. Dennett, Bristol..	Mr. & Mrs. D. Heginbottom, Singapore.

Mrs. Susan Clifford informs us that her grandmother was born at The Shaws, Uppermill, and Great Aunt Buckley lived there until the age of 94, when John & Nell Buckley took up residence. A family relationship has been established and with Michael Buckley, our Chairman, who is also a cousin.

Dr. John Felton has been enrolled into the Society by his father Eddie W. Felton one time resident of Greenfield and very well known to our members.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Philip M. Dennett of Bristol, the son of Maurice Dennett, our onetime, much appreciated Curator of the Museum, whose good works in the Archives are a lasting legacy to his memory.

Mr. & Mrs. D. Heginbottom from Singapore and previously Storrington, West Sussex, have started their family tree and discovered an illustrious connection with one of St. Chad's Church foremost figures the Reverend John Heginbottom M.A. (Oxon). We are intending to forward information regarding the colourful career of this prominent Saddleworth cleric who enlivened the atmosphere of Saddleworth during his days.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2006

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We are enclosing with this Bulletin a 'reminder' for members who have not yet paid their Annual Subscription and we hope they will give this matter their prompt attention and assist the Society.

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

OVERSEAS - email A second form of Overseas Membership is available using the Pay Pal system, email only for the sum of 15 dollars. Members taking advantage of this subscription will receive the Bulletin and other communications only by email. Please see seperate form.

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JAMES BUTTERWORTH BOOK HISTORY OF SADDLEWORTH.

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After much delay the book is now at its final stage and we trust will be available in the near future. The Society's apologies are due for the inconvenience caused to our reading public, but hope for their continued forbearance in these unfortunate circumstances and look forward to the publication.

SPONSOR A TILE FOR THE MUSEUM

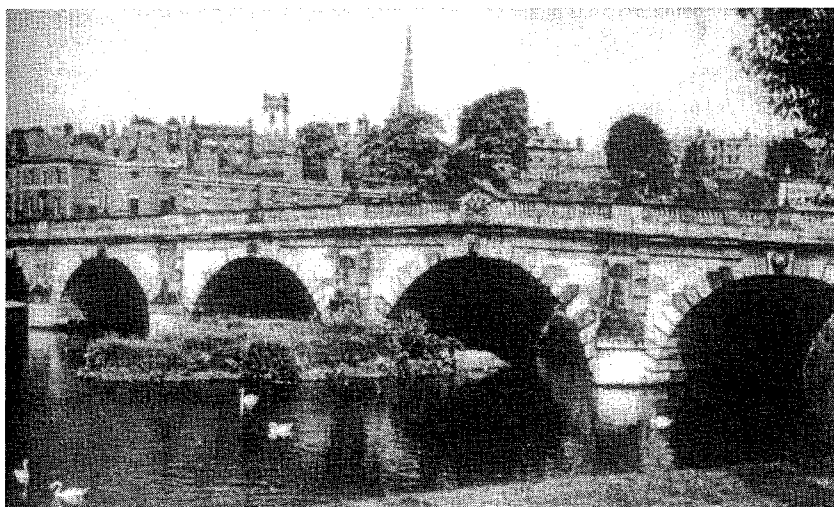
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The Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery are proposing to answer the need for the Gallery area to be recarpeted at a cost of over £2000.00 and we feel that our Society members will wish to be associated with the campaign currently running at the Museum to sponsor a carpet tile at £3.00 each. Please join us in supporting this major effort by giving generously and making your cheque payable to The Saddleworth Museum, and returning to Mr. Peter Fox, Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery, High Street, Uppermill, Saddleworth. Yorks. OL3 6HS. We thank you most kindly for giving your attention to this worthy cause.

We regret having to announce the following obituaries of our members who will be greatly missed.

Mr. John Brierley from Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield, was an enthusiastic member of our Society and attended many meetings in Uppermill. His family tree was quite extensive and included the famous Morgan Brierley. Condolences have been forwarded to Mrs. Brierley and family.

Sadly Mr. Harry Meadowcroft died on the 27th of March, 06, he and his wife Margaret have been members for many years and were very much involved with family trees. A few years ago the Society established his relationship on his mother's side with the Victorian heiress of the Coutts Banking Firm - Angela Burdett Coutts - Burdett being one of the Meadowcrofts family names and ancestors. Our sympathy has been extended to Margaret and family in Loughborough.



The bridge over the River Severn, Shrewsbury

Reece Winstone

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer coach trip – Saturday 15th July

SHREWSBURY

- The coach will leave the bus turning circle opposite the police station on High Street, Uppermill at 8.30 a.m.
- The expected arrival back in Uppermill is at 7.00 p.m.

Contact for queries: Keith Taylor 01457 87 9345



On a compact site in a loop of the River Severn, Shrewsbury is famous for its large number of Tudor half-timbered buildings. Several old churches, a castle, the remnants of a Benedictine abbey, a restored sixteenth-century market hall and riverside walks and parks add to its character.

There are two major museums. The Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery has comprehensive displays of the social and natural history of the area; it also incorporates much material from the nearby Roman city of Viroconium (Wroxeter). The Shropshire Regimental Museum is located in the castle, which was restored in the late eighteenth-century by the famous civil engineer, Thomas Telford. The Abbey is also well worth a visit.

A plan of the town will be provided, along with details of the main sites of interest. While there will be no formal programme, Alan Petford is to provide a tour of some of the town's rich and varied heritage of churches. In addition, a guided walk around the town centre is provided by the local authority. This leaves from the main Square at 3.00 p.m. and lasts ninety minutes. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre by the Music Hall, price £3.00

There is an abundance of places to eat in Shrewsbury.

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All Names _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

_____ Post Code _____

No. of seats required: _____ £14.00 per seat

I enclose a cheque for £_____, made payable to 'Saddleworth Historical Society'

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 30TH JUNE TO:
Michael Fox, 4, West Mount, Greenfield, Saddleworth, OL3 7LF.**

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

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Tickets are now available for the 40th Anniversary Weekend which will be celebrated on the 20th, 21st and 22nd October, 2006. A first class dinner at the White Hart Inn, Lydgate, Saddleworth on Friday the 20th October, 2006, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. A Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture at the Musum, Uppermill on Saturday the 21st October 06, 2.00 p.m., and a Conducted Walk around a Saddleworth Village on Sunday the 22nd October, 06. Time to be arranged. Price of dinner... £25.00 per person

Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to :-
Mrs. E. Broadbent,
Pastures Farm Flat,
Back o'th' Low Road,
Strinesdale,
Saddleworth,
Yorks. Tel. No. 0161 785 8268
OL4 3SG

.....

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 40th ANNIVERSARY2006.....

Dinner at The White Hart Inn, Lydgate..... No. of people _____ @ £25.00 per person

Names

Address

.....

..... PostCode

Tel. No.

Seating arrangements if desired.
Names of friends.

.....

Lecture at the Museum, Sat. 21st Oct.06

Names

Conducted Walk Sunday 22nd Oct.06.

Names

PLEASE RETURN BY THE 31st JULY, 2006

