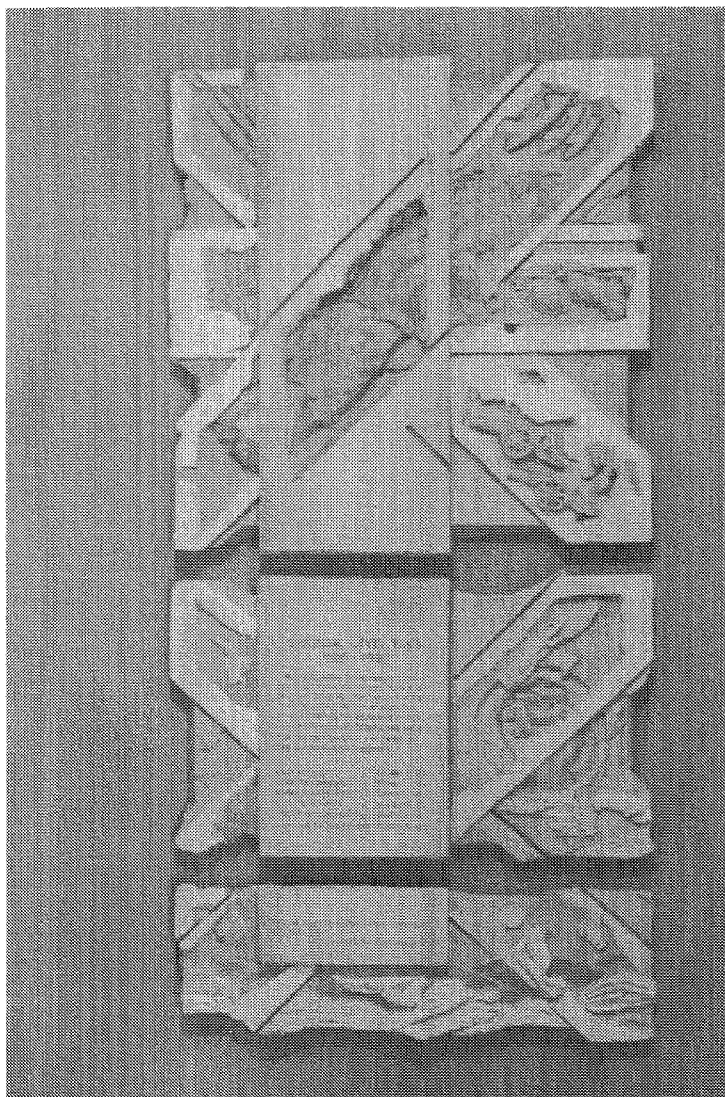


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 36

Number 4

Winter 2006

Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover illustration: Preliminary Sketch for Oldham Memorial by Jim Robison recently
donated to *Oldham Local Studies and Archives*.

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Saddleworth Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 505074

Chairman	Mike Buckley	01457 820 015
Vice-Chairman	Stanley Broadbent	0161 785 8268
Hon. Secretary	Alan Schofield	0161 338 6555
Hon. Treasurer	Neil Barrow	01457 876 381
Hon. Archivist	Alan Petford	01422 202 758
Hon. Editor	Roger Ivens <i>Oldham Local Studies & Archives, 84 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DN</i>	0161 770 4654
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
	Alison Wild	01457 834 579
Internet Site Manager	Alan Hague <i>webmaster@saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk</i>	

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.

Address by Cllr Mike Buckley, Chairman of Saddleworth Historical Society on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations 21st October 2006

Mr Mayor, Madam Mayoress, Madam Chairman, Honoured Guests, Ladies & Gentleman,

It's a daunting task to try to do justice to the forty years of achievement of this Society. What began in 1966 as a small group of people who had enjoyed a night school class on Saddleworth history and wanted to continue their interest has now grown into a Society with nearly 500 members, many from Saddleworth, many from other parts of the UK and a growing number from overseas. Fuelled by the growth in the Internet we now boast members from all parts of the US, from Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Spain, France, Italy; the list is growing all the time. Our membership may be dispersed and not all can attend the Society's meetings and events but all are united by a common interest – Saddleworth's rich and varied past.

My own involvement with the Society stretches back to the late 1970s. I regret that I missed those exciting early years when the Society took so many pioneering steps forward. But I remember reading an announcement in the *Oldham Chronicle* towards the end of 1966 that a group of people had called a public meeting to discuss the formation of a new historical society. Unfortunately, I could not attend as I had then just started a University degree course in London.

The 60s were heady days, days in which Saddleworth went through a renaissance, emerging from the post war years of austerity and post-industrial decline to become the vibrant cultural community it is today. That decade of rebirth and achievement in Saddleworth saw the establishment of the Saddleworth Museum, The Saddleworth Festival of the Arts, the Saddleworth Civic Trust as well as The Saddleworth Historical Society.

One man in particular stands out as a driving force in all these achievements and I would like to take the opportunity tonight to pay tribute to the many and continued contributions of our Patron, Roger Tanner. Without Roger's influence, Saddleworth would be a much poorer place. Thank you Roger.

The idea for a Society came out of a WEA Class headed by Bill Connors and founder members of the Society included David Chadderton, Anne Parry, Margaret Bagley John Cleverley and a young thirteen year-old Alan Petford. I am delighted to see so many of them here tonight still very much alive and kicking!

In its early years the Society spent some time gathering together sources of Saddleworth history and I believe the archive started as a suitcase containing historic documents given to the Society. Ken and Barbara Booth joined the Society in 1970 and Ken tells me that when he took over as Treasurer in 1971 funds stood at £50 and membership at about fifty. Another early recruit was Bernard Barnes and Bernard more than anyone set the Society on the course it has followed ever since: - a Society dedicated to research and publication and one that aspires to rank with the best in terms of academic standards and professionalism.

But the activities of the Society have not all been confined to learned research, the need to raise funds to support publications and project work in the early days led to the formation of a social sub-committee and throughout the seventies the Society was famous for its grand fund raising events. An annual costume ball became a regular feature in the Saddleworth calendar and each year the committee aimed to better the previous year's efforts by staging ever more lavish events. Victorian Evenings were followed by Roman and Viking Nights; a St Agatha's Eve Medieval Feast by a 20s Jazz Festival; Egyptian and Wild West Evenings by Merrie England - and the odd barbeque and barn dance were thrown in for good measure. I am told many new members joined the Society just for social events.

The funds were put to good use. In 1971 the quarterly Bulletin started under the capable editorship of Bernard Barnes. Now in its 36th year of continuous publication and under the guidance of a succession of five excellent editors, it has maintained a consistently high standard of articles on a wide and diverse range of subjects from oral accounts of life in Victorian Saddleworth to prehistoric archaeology; from industrial history to landscape studies; from vernacular architecture to family history. It's a veritable treasure trove of information on all aspects of the history of our Pennine parish.

1972 saw the publication by the Society of a monograph on George Shaw, local architect and antiquarian, by Col G.B.Howcroft. This was the start of what has been a long series of successful publications. It was followed by the first two of the Local Interest Trails in 1973 and in 1975 *Saddleworth Heritage* a lavishly produced book of drawings by artist Geldart with historical commentaries by Bernard Barnes was a joint publication with the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts.

Since then the Society has produced a prestigious publication for every successive Saddleworth Festival. In 1979 *The Saddleworth-America Connection*; 1983 *Saddleworth Surveyed*, a book of historic maps of the Township; 1987, *Saddleworth Buildings*, a seminal work on Saddleworth vernacular architecture by John Smith; 1991 *Cherry Valley Chronicles*; 1995 *Saddleworth 1914-1919* by Bill Mitchinson; 1999 *Saddleworth From the Air* and in 2003 *Saddleworth Villages*, a best seller lavishly illustrated by artist Geoff Toms.

Other successful publications over the years have been *Passage through Time, Saddleworth Roads and Trackways: a History* by Bernard Barnes, *With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth* by Ammon Wrigley's son-in-law Sam Seville and, jointly with Lydgate PCC, *A History of St Anne's, Lydgate*, by Rev Pat Airne, former archivist of the Society and Vicar of Lydgate.

Tomorrow we launch the latest venture, a reprint of Butterworth's famous *History of Saddleworth*, last published in 1828. How many Historical Societies can claim such an impressive publication record?

The 70s was also a time of frenzied project activity. Volunteers from the Industrial Archaeology Group restored the Transhipment Warehouse at Woolroad and several digs took place on the wild moorland above Stanedge. The early history group also excavated the Roman Road near Austerlands.

Throughout the last forty years the Society has maintained an annual programme of lectures and organised summer trips. Some of the trips were out of the ordinary to say the least. On several occasions members of the Society travelled to their destination on vintage Crossley buses organised by Society member Mike Howarth. Other

memorable trips were the trips by charter train organised by Barbara Booth. On these occasions a special train of three carriages was laid on to take the members to York, North Wales and the Lake District.

Day Schools on all subjects have taken place over the years with guest lecturers and lecturers from the Society, guided walks have been a regular event, often based on our Local Interest Trails. In 1977 David Chadderton led the first of a number of Saddleworth Boundary walks tackling an arduous twenty-nine miles of moorland to complete a circuit of Saddleworth in sixteen hours. The White Rose Society has repeated this feat in recent years; not in a single day though, but over a weekend. In those days it seems walkers were made of sterner stuff.

The work of the Society has evolved. The Society was one of the first in Saddleworth to launch an internet web-site and we now receive daily email enquiries about Saddleworth and Saddleworth families from all parts of the globe. The internet has spawned a word wide interest in family history and the Society now also has an active Family History Group of nearly one hundred members. As well as helping each other with their researches the group has undertaken project work transcribing and indexed local baptism, marriage and burial registers as well as gravestone inscriptions from local churchyards. This year we held a family history reunion when members from all over the UK, and North America were able to meet for the first time having corresponded with each other via the Society's email list.

A catalogue of the Society's achievements over the last forty years could go on and on. But what of the future? The Society has a large membership, we are relatively well off financially. This now permits us to tackle bigger and more ambitious projects. Several more publications are in the pipeline and there is no shortage of good ideas that we plan to pursue in the near future. I have no doubt the Society will continue to break new ground in discovering the wealth of history that lies behind this district we all love so much.

Finally, it is impossible to thank all those who have helped build the Society to what it is today and who through their dedication and hard work have contributed so much to its success. There are those, sadly, who are no longer with us and I would like to finish by remembering them and the good times we had together.

Please join me in drinking a toast to absent friends.

Photographic mysteries of Saddleworth



This photograph is believed to be of Dobcross school. Can anyone confirm this and provide information about date and pupils' names?

Saddleworth Men in the Spanish Civil War

**Edmund and Ruth Frow, Freda Millett, Jennifer Clark and
Neil Barrow¹**

The Spanish general election in mid-February 1936 had produced a small majority for the Popular Front, a loose coalition of the Left ranging from Liberals to Communists and with trade union support. They had defeated another coalition the National Front, supported by the Catholic Church and the army. The election had only "succeeded" in confirming two polarised Spains. After the election a minority government was formed by Aranza with Popular Front support. A parliamentary system had, however only recently been re-established in Spain, in 1931, after years of military dictatorship and groups with little respect for parliamentary politics took the initiative. The country was immediately seriously disrupted by violent militants: on the Left aiming to provoke revolution and on the Right military intervention. Indeed the planning of a military coup was well under way and had been agreed by early March when General Franco had been effectively exiled to a post in the Canaries.

Months of uncontrolled violence continued and in June, with political murders now occurring daily, Franco warned the government of the army's intention to intervene. On July 11th a chartered plane left Croydon airport bound for Las Palmas. There it would collect Franco and take him to Morocco where he would seize command of the Army of Africa. The next day, in Madrid, Sotelo, the leader of the parliamentary opposition, was murdered by a member of the state police force. Now unity amongst the Nationalists was established and the date for the uprising set for July 17th. The Nationalists withdrew from the Cortes and the chartered plane set off for Las Palmas. The uprising successfully took place in Morocco and southern Spain. The Nationalists, the army supported by the civil guard, the Fascist Falange party, the monarchists and the Roman Catholic church immediately controlled a large part of the country and the Spanish Civil war had begun.

By October the offensive to take Madrid was ready. The Nationalists were now receiving active military support from Nazi Germany despite their signing the Non-intervention Pact. The Soviet Union now also broke the Pact and gave support to the Republic not only with arms, but via Comintern, the organization for international socialism, which it controlled. It was Comintern which organised the International Brigades in which the Saddleworth men served. Foreign volunteers already, in Spain

¹ This article has been compiled from the researches of the first four named. It brings together the files on the Saddleworth men, and others, held at the Working Class Movement Library, Salford, the article on Clem Beckett in the *Dictionary of Labour Biography* and the material gathered for the exhibitions at the Oldham Local Studies and Archives in 1986 and 2006. The (simplified) account of the War relies upon Thomas, H. *The Spanish Civil War* and Beevor, A. *Battle for Spain: The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939*.

were transferred into the newly formed Brigades and Communist Parties nationally were set the task of recruiting and organising the despatch of volunteers. Clem Beckett, from Austerlands had been in Spain since October, as one of the earliest men to volunteer and he had been assigned work using his mechanic's skills. He was glad of the opportunity to become more directly involved in the fighting. Albert Charlesworth, from Delph had responded to an advert in the *Manchester Evening News* in December. He was sent to London where he joined a group of about thirty men who were sent on to Paris, the main Comintern centre. They travelled by coach to Figueras, in Spain and then onto the base of the recently formed British battalion of the XV International Brigade at Albecete. Little is known of the two other Saddleworth volunteers, Joseph Buckley of Uppermill and William Jackson of Springhead but they seem to have been early volunteers. Buckley arrived in Spain on December 15th and Jackson who had a lower IB number probably a little earlier². At Albecete military training began, Charlesworth recalls, at first without weapons and after they arrived, without ammunition. Beckett with his mechanic's expertise became a machine-gun instructor for the twenty-year old guns supplied to the Battalion. By January 1937 some 450 British volunteers had arrived and joined the British battalion. Although perhaps only a third were Communists they provided the commanding officers and political commissars. The Brigades were intended to be a new type of democratic army. The role of the commissars, an imitation of the Soviet army that the Republicans had adopted, was to liaise between the command and the men. In practice they participated in military decisions and reported back to the party head office in London. Beckett, although a longstanding party member met with their disapproval: in a report back to London he was denounced as politically confused and a man who gave voice to dissident elements against the leadership³. A comrade later recalled: "Beckett was very outspoken and critical at the (sometimes) too casual approach to military proficiency. Evidently an inaccurate report was made to the base command and Beckett was arrested and taken into custody."⁴ Beckett's qualities were, however, recognised and he was selected as leader of a machine-gun section.

On February 6th the Nationalist offensive began the battle of Jarama with the objective of cutting the Madrid-Valencia road and thereby preventing supplies reaching the capital. The offensive rapidly gained ground and the British battalion was ordered into battle. On February 12th, within their first hour under fire, the British endured some of the fiercest of the fighting attempting to hold the high ground against experienced regulars of the Army of Africa. No 3 company, on the left flank, was becoming outflanked and Clem Beckett was killed, manning his light-machine-gun, bravely attempting to cover his comrades' withdrawal. The ancient machine gun had jammed. Years later a surviving Brigadier recalled: "...the order came to advance up the hill to occupy the top of the valley, you see. By then the enemy had started attacking and they knew which direction they [we] were going. ...We were bombed on the way by aircraft. We reached the top of the valley...and we slowly advanced along this plateau on the top and eventually we were able to look right down into the valley below and could see the Fascist positions. And by then battle had started and we had advanced partly down the hill to the side and we were in a very bad position

² I am grateful to Richard Baxell for providing this information.

³ Buchanan, T *Britain and the Spanish Civil War* p132

⁴ The unknown (Scottish?) writer's reminiscences are in the Clem Beckett file at the Working Class Library, Salford.

indeed and we were attacked on the left and in front and within a matter of an hour half the battalion had been killed or wounded. It was then that I saw that Caudwell had been killed and the other lad...called Clem. The two of them worked together on a Chatto machine gun and they were covering the battalion's retreat. Half of them were through when their machine gun jammed."⁵

On their first day in action the British had suffered extremely high casualties, some 225 out of a force of 600.

Death stalked the olive trees

Picking his men

His leaden finger beckoned

Again and again.⁶

Fighting continued but within a week a stalemate had been reached: the Nationalists had advanced but the Republicans had kept the Valencia road. Trenches were dug and the front established. Here the Battalion would stay, in the line, until June. Albert Charlesworth had been injured, in the arm, by an exploding shell on the second day of fighting and spent a fortnight in hospital in Madrid. He then returned to the trenches with the rest of the British battalion and here on this static front line they remained until June. Before doing so, he recalled, he had taken a look around Madrid. Despite being fired at near the front line in the outskirts he found "...Life went on pretty much as normal although there wasn't much food about as things were in short supply." He even went to see a Laurel and Hardy film in a bombed cinema "which had a dome on the top with a big shell hole in it, which had been covered with tarpaulin to keep the light out."

In July 1937 they were fighting again in the offensive at Brunete to the north-west of Madrid. The initial advance on July 6th had the benefit of surprise but had slowed by the end of the first day. The next day, the Nationalist reinforcements arrived and by July 13th the offensive was over and the Republicans had dug in to defend the few miles they had gained. Albert Charlesworth recalled the attack by the British Battalion on July 7th to capture Villanueva de la Canada: it was at night time and the defenders had used villagers as a human shield to help their escape. The British stopped firing but, in the light of dawn, they were sickened to find the corpses of many of the villagers. The next day the Battalion, now some 330 men, was ordered to take the Nationalists positions on the high ground to the south. This was to be named "Mosquito Ridge". As the men left the village they were bombed by German Junkers and shelled by artillery. With little cover on the burning hot plain and exposed to bombing and machine guns, the Battalion suffered huge casualties, leaving only forty men still fit for action. Albert Charlesworth, received an eye wound. He was now

⁵ Frank Graham quoted in Frow E & R, entry for Clem Beckett in Bellamy, JM & Saville J *Dictionary of Labour Biography* vol IX.

⁶ Lines from a poem by John Lepper a British volunteer quoted by Thomas.

acting as a runner for Jock Cunningham, the regimental commander and recalled the action at "Mosquito Ridge". It was so named because of the incessant buzzing of bullets in the hot air and was never taken. The men had been further demoralised by, once again, heavy casualties, poor support, a shortage of ammunition and water. These surviving men were now ordered to return to the line. This order was questioned, finally accepted by the men but rescinded by the high command. William Jackson from Springhead, had been in Spain since November 1936 and is likely to have been at Brunete. If so he was fortunate to have survived, as he was a stretcher bearer and the casualty rate amongst these men was even higher than amongst the infantry.

The Battle of Brunete was a political decision by the communist dominated Negrin government which had achieved office only two weeks before. The Republicans committed the largest force yet seen in the war along with most of their aircraft, tanks and artillery in support. The result was a gain of some four miles. Although trumpeted as a victory, Brunete had lost the Republicans some 25,000 casualties against the Nationalists 17,000⁷. Additionally they had lost 80% of their armoured force and more than one third of the aircraft, which, although they had proved to be inferior, would be increasingly difficult to replace due to the success of the Italian supported Nationalist blockade.

The war was one year old and the failure of Brunete brought a serious questioning of the situation within the Battalion. Morale had been damaged by heavy casualties: even the political commissars believed the Battalion had, too often, been placed in the most dangerous positions. Numbers were so the depleted that merger with the American Battalion, itself having been merged into a single Battalion, was considered. Factors outside the Battalions control were critical. Equipment was poor, politicised military strategy demanded victories to boost morale both in Spain and internationally and local units were expected to carry out orders, which because of poor communications bore no relation to the realities of the situation on the ground. Now, in the trenches, in a period of military inactivity, scapegoats were wrongly sought at Battalion level. The military and political leaders were recalled back to party headquarters in London on "extended leave". Possibly to improve morale men, like Albert Charlesworth, were allowed back home. During October he spent his time giving talks at WEA meetings and in December he shared a platform with Stafford Cripps at a Spanish Aid Committee meeting at the Co-op Hall in King Street, Oldham.

Albert Charlesworth returned to Spain in January 1938. The French had closed their border and Charlesworth had to make a hazardous clandestine journey over the high Pyrenees at night. Joe Buckley probably also had been on leave as he, too, spoke of the journey across the Pyrenees although making light of it, as he was used to the Saddleworth moors in Winter. They then rejoined the Battalion at the Battle of Teruel, which had begun with a Republican offensive on December 15th. Excluded by political considerations, the British had not taken part in the offensive but when the

⁷ These are Beevor's figures, Thomas has 25,000 Republican and 10,000 Nationalist deaths.

Nationalist counter attack gained momentum they were called into action. The Battalion had been strengthened by 350 new volunteers, when it joined battle on January 19th. If conditions at Brunete had been appallingly extreme they were matched at Teruel, but in reverse. Temperatures were below freezing, supplies were cut off by blizzards, vehicles froze, thousands died from exposure and more suffered amputations from frostbite. Fighting continued for a month until the Republicans were forced to retreat. Again they had suffered serious losses of men and equipment. The last phase of International Brigade involvement was now beginning. Outside Spain real support for the Republic was rapidly deteriorating as the British, French and even the Soviet Union looked to protect their future security.

The Nationalist offensive launched in March had cut the Republic in two and the British were part of the forces retreating towards Catalonia. It was during this retreat that William Jackson was killed in April at Gandesa near the River Ebro where the Republicans had finally established a front. Here the British Battalion, their depleted ranks made up by Spanish conscripts, would see their last action. The republican offensive commenced successfully with a night crossing of the Ebro on July 24th and an advance of some twenty-five miles towards Gandesa. The British suffered heavy casualties in the failed attempt to capture "Hill 481" in front of the town. The offensive was contained and the troops dug in. Ordered not to concede ground, a prolonged retreat now followed with the Republicans suffering, in the intense Summer heat, from the Nationalists' vastly superior air and artillery power. Albert Charlesworth had missed the battle. Conditions, including a severe lack of food, had undermined his health and he was sent to hospital in Barcelona.

In Britain, Chamberlain's government had continued to press for withdrawal of foreign troops and even before the start of the battle the Non-Intervention Committee had agreed to this, on July 5th. But neither the Republicans nor the Nationalists immediately agreed, the latter not until mid-August and then with delaying conditions. On September 21st the Republican government announced to the League of Nations that it would unconditionally repatriate foreign troops, (now in fact less than 10,000 and so of no strategy importance). The following day the British, who had not been informed of this announcement, were sent into battle. In this last engagement, attempting to hold "Hill 401", enduring repeated artillery barrages, the remaining 106 men suffered fifty-eight casualties.

Some 2,300 Britons had served in Spain. 305 men were finally repatriated arriving home to a heroes' welcome at Victoria Station in London on December but as Albert Charlesworth remembered a quiet return to Manchester and home. Four young Saddleworth men had experienced war. Clem Beckett and William Jackson along with 524 others did not return. Joe Buckley and Albert Charlesworth had but a short respite before they returned to war with the rest of their generation.

CLEM BECKETT



Clement Henry Beckett was born at Top o' th' Meadows in Austerlands in 1906 the third of five children of Alfred & Henrietta Beckett (nee Pryce). His father, an iron worker, did not return to the family after serving in the army in World War I, leaving his wife to bring up the children, Herbert, Clem, Elsie, Mary and Hilda. Clem attended Waterhead Council School, Brideoak Street and gained a scholarship to secondary school. He did not take this up and went to Roundthorn Continuation School, leaving at the age of thirteen to take a job as a half-timer at Platt Brothers. He worked at Platt Brothers as an apprentice card fitter, but left this for an apprenticeship with Frank Boardman, a blacksmith with premises on Glodwick Road. Here he joined the blacksmiths' union and came under the influence of Socialist ideas and in 1924 he joined the Young Communist League.

He was a keen rugby player but his overriding passion was for motor-cycles. From the age of fourteen he bought up old bikes and raced them, illegally, on the roads around the district. Speedway or dirt track racing arrived in Britain in 1928 with tracks opening locally first at Audenshaw and soon after, at Belle Vue and White City in Manchester. Clem eagerly took up the sport and his success enabled him to turn professional. Known as "Dare Devil" he was one of the most brilliant riders seen on the track in the early years of speedway. He was chosen to represent England and at the White City in August 1928, riding his Douglas machine, he beat Drew McQueen of Scotland before a crowd of 30,000. In March 1929, with two partners he opened the Sheffield track taking the golden helmet before 15,000 spectators. He rode for Belle Vue, toured in Europe with them. In 1930 he inaugurated the "Wall of Death" ride in Sheffield. In 1929 he visited France, Germany, Denmark, the Balkans and Turkey giving displays and instruction sessions. His success brought Clem a good income but he remained aware of the commercial exploitation of the riders. He had been for some time a member of the Communist British Workers' Sports Association, which, locally, would organise the Kinder Trespass and now he formed

the Dirt Track Riders' Association to press for better wages and conditions. In 1931 he published two articles in the *Daily Worker* entitled *Bleeding the Men who risk their Lives on the Dirt Track* commenting "The Auto-Cycle Union governing body is composed of several old fogies in various stages of Anno Domini, most of whom have forgotten what a motor-cycle is like." This led to him being banned from racing.

He then had a spell working at Ford's at Dagenham, but his outspoken views in a non-union firm led to him being sacked after eight months. He was able to return to speedway as he was invited to join the British delegation of a Workers' Sports Association visit to the Soviet Union. Speedway was a new sport there and Clem was received enthusiastically, so much so that he was asked to stay on a further four months after the main delegation had returned to England. Returning to Oldham, Clem decided to leave the family home at 17 Swinton Street, Glodwick. With some friends he bought Nicks Motor Cycle Depot at 169 Oldham Road and carried on a modestly successful business. In 1935 he married Leda Tynsen, a Danish woman whom he had met on one of his tours and a committed communist. They had no children.

A commemorative meeting was held for Clem at the Coliseum, Ardwick Green, Manchester on May Day 1937. His widow, Leda was one of the speakers. So was David Springhall, the political commissar who had reported Clem. The politically confused and dissident man, he now lauded as a dead working class hero.

SYBIL THORNDIKE
WILL SPEAK AT A
MEMORIAL MEETING
(under the auspices of the Manchester Spanish Aid Committee)
IN MEMORY OF
CLEM BECKETT
and other Manchester men, members of the International Brigade, who gave their lives in Spain fighting in the cause of Democracy.

In the **COLISEUM, Ardwick Green,**
(transferred from Co-op. Hall, Downing St.)
On **SUNDAY, MAY 2nd, at 7-30 p.m.**

OTHER SPEAKERS:

D. F. SPRINGHALL
One of the International Brigade Leaders—just back from Spain.

E. A. Gower **William Rust**
Chairman, Borough Labour Party Communist Party

Fred Bloor
Borough Labour Party

Mrs. Lida Beckett **Rev. Stanley Mossop**
Chairman: Councillor Harry Frankland
Labour Party

SALUTE THE HEROES OF SPAIN!
They have not died in vain. They have saved World Democracy from Fascist barbarism.

JOSEPH BUCKLEY



Joseph Buckley was from Uppermill and well known locally for his outgoing personality. He was a motor driver by trade. When he came home in December 1938 he was reluctant to talk of the horrors of Spain. He enlisted in 1939 the Second World War and was taken prisoner by the Germans and held for four years. Joe Buckley died in Saddleworth in his fifties.

ALBERT CHARLESWORTH



Albert Charlesworth was born in Delph in 1915. His father, Lewis, came from Lockwood, near Huddersfield and had married Edith Lee in Saddleworth in 1913. He had been a regular soldier and so was called up immediately in 1914. Albert, Harry and Lewis had been born before he was killed in October 1917 at the third Battle of Ypres serving with the Manchester Regiment.

Albert attended the local school and later Hulme Grammar School. He then went to work as an engineering apprentice at Hirst's Measurements factory, Dobcross.

Albert was from a politically conscious family. His mother took him, whilst still a toddler, to Labour Party dances at the Mechanics' Hall in Delph and to the Labour Club afterwards for a potato pie supper. As a youth he became actively involved: "...I went to the Labour Club every day without fail. Whenever elections came around I was involved in doing whatever I could – addressing envelopes, canvassing, anything whatsoever."

Albert Charlesworth was repatriated in December 1937 and on his return to England found work in an engineering factory in Grantham. He felt that the experience had hardened his leftist views but he did not, then, join the Communist Party. When war broke out he volunteered for the RAF as a pilot. Stationed in India, flying supplies into Burma, he became known as the "Red Baron" in recognition of his International Brigade past. He attended the opening of the Oldham War Memorial in February 1986 with the one other living survivor, Charles Armitage of Chadderton. His mother and brothers were, then, still living on Delph Lane, Delph. Albert Charlesworth died in Grantham in 1998.



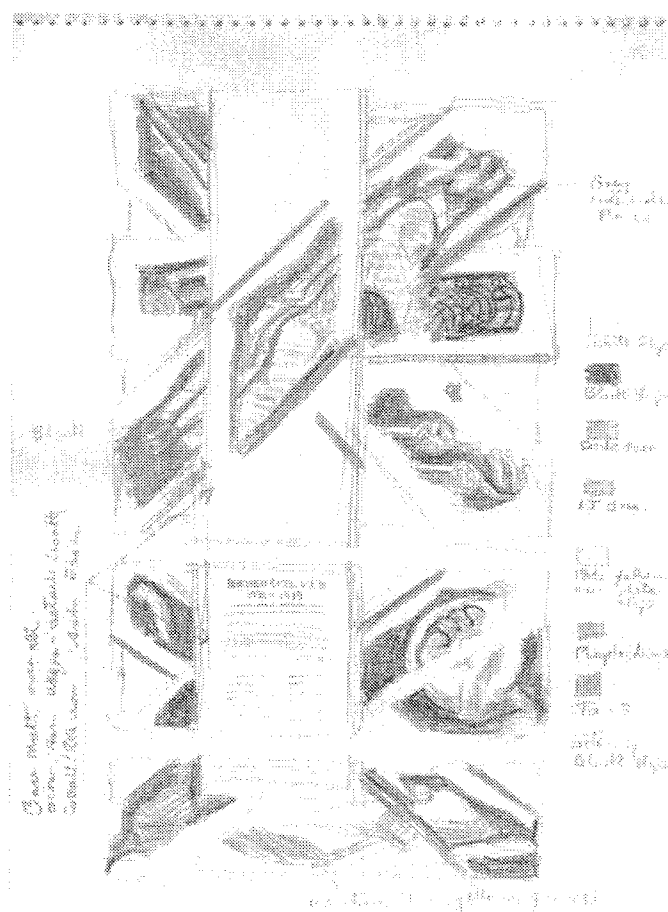
Albert Charlesworth's exit permit 1938

Working Class Movement Library, Salford

WILLIAM JACKSON



William Jackson, known as Billie, lived on Jackson Street, Springhead. His father was a tramcar driver. Billie sold oil-cloth on Glodwick market. He was a member of the Oldham Young Communist League and went to Spain in November 1936. When he was killed in April 1938 he was 21 years old.



Jim Robison: Preliminary sketch for Oldham Memorial Oldham Local Studies and Archives

Christmas in Saddleworth

Paul Fryer

Here is another selection of events from Christmas past.

1886

Dec 11 - Mr. C W Cave, organist of the Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross, gave a grand concert at the Mechanics Institute, Delph. Artistes included, Mrs. Dixon, soprano, of the Yorkshire concerts; the Huddersfield Orphans Prize Quartette; and Albert Roberts, the Royal Welsh harpist. The pieces given by Roberts included, 'Selection of Welsh Airs' and 'The Bells of Aberdovy'. Songs from Mrs. Dixon included, 'All Hallowe'en' and 'Chime on, Sweet Bells'. Mr. Cave himself gave the solo fantasia, 'Scotch Airs'.

Dec 23 - the annual children's concert at the Mechanics Hall, Uppermill, in connection with the Uppermill Church School. Nearly 300 parents, friends and children turned up. The concert opened with the school song, which was rather appropriate for its moorland location - 'When the Stormy Winds do Blow'. Dumb bell exercises and action songs were performed by the infants. Songs included, 'Please Give me a Penny, Sir' and 'Dem Golden Slippers'. A hat was passed round to raise money to give the children a treat the next day, with 15s raised. The entertainment ended with the popular dialogue, 'Dick Whittington and his Cat' the cast of which included a real cat.

Christmas Eve - at about 7 pm a fire was discovered in the dancing shed of Water's Lake, near Delph. It was a building that was used in the summer as a 'pleasure palace'. The wooden floor was found to be on fire, and a piano valued at £30 was destroyed in the flames. The fire was caused by over-heating apparatus. There was a plentiful supply of water and helpers, so fortunately the fire was put out easily. Unfortunately the owner, Joseph Beesley, was not insured.

Christmas Eve - the Friarmere and Delph Mission Church choir was treated to a supper. Eighty members attended. Entertainment was given by Mr. H Davies singing, 'The Bay of Biscay', Mr. H Buckley who gave a rendition of the comic song 'Dog Tray', and Mr. Lawrence who rendered the song 'Farm Yard'. 'The Hardy Norseman' and 'Who Will o'er the Downs' were given by the glee party.

1906

Dec 15 - Boarshurst Brass Band gave a performance of the drama 'A Lancashire Weaver Lad' by Ben Brierley, in the Mechanics Hall, Uppermill.

Dec 18 - Greenfield Wesleyan Guild put on a recital of 'A Christmas Carol' by W Livingstone Eccles.

Dec 22 - a Dickensian recital at the Mechanics Institute, Delph, organised by the Institute committee, and given by Ernest Cattrell, with lantern illustrations.

Christmas Eve - the monthly meeting of Saddleworth Council, at which Dr. Ramsden reported the general health of the area was not good. The severe weather after the hot summer had left people susceptible to illness. The chief cause was influenza. There had been an unusually large number of infectious cases, particularly scarlet fever. Diphtheria was still prevalent, especially in Denshaw, where there had been four cases in one house, resulting in one death.

Christmas Day - Borashurst School social at the Co-operative Hall, Greenfield; Springhead Congregational School breakfast party.

Boxing Day - wedding at Christ Church, Denshaw, of Edith Dyson of Wham Farm to Fred Hardcastle of Marsh Farm. The bride wore a dove coloured dress and a white hat trimmed with orange blossoms. Over 200 guests attended the reception at the Co-operative Hall.

Dec 28 - Greenfield Mill Company employees' annual party at the Co-operative Hall; Greenfield Wesleyan Sunday School annual Christmas party.

Dec 29 - dance held in the Mechanics Institute, Delph, under the auspices of the Orphans' Rest and National Arms Lodge of Oddfellows; annual Sunday School tea party held at Shelderslow.

Dec 30 - Canon George Venables died aged 85 years. He had been Vicar Of Christ Church, Friezland, for 11 years before leaving Saddleworth in 1869.

New Year's Eve - the watch night services were well attended despite the bad weather. The Greenfield bands turned out, and they played until dawn on New Year's Day. The Rev. and Mrs. Edwards gave the young men and women of their classes at Delph Independent School a party. A supper was served at 8 pm, and then there was singing, dancing, and games until 1 am.

1956

Dec 15 - over 100 over 70s assembled in Dobcross Congregational School for a turkey tea. There was a concert with artistes including, Mr. R Seville, Cedric Beaumont, and Mrs. Summersgill with Mr. A Platt accompanist. The first children's

party organised by the Greenfield Cricket, Bowling and Tennis Club. Children welcomed the arrival of Santa (Joe Thompson).

Dec 19 - babies in Greenfield Methodist Sunday School enjoyed the Children's Clinic annual Christmas party. Santa put in a timely appearance, and each baby received a gift. The guests were provided with sandwiches, jellies, cakes and tea.

Dec 23/30 - a Nativity play was held at St. Hilda's Church by members of the Sunday School. The chancel of the church made a reverent setting. The prologue, which was written by the producer, Mrs. A Lawton, showed a sad orphan girl (Eileen Bailey) wandering into a strange church and meeting a lonely old woman (Anne Parfitt). A friendship develops and both receive faith and hope from the Christmas story. The central parts were played by Pat Kelly (Mary), Hazel Winterbottom (Gabriel) and Anne Copeland (Joseph).

Boxing Day - known as the 'Stormy Petrel' of Saddleworth Council during his 26 years of service on it, Irvine Charlesworth, 60, of Diggle died. He had been chairman of the council twice, in 1939 and 1952. A Labour councillor, he introduced the Chairman's Ball to aid War Charities.

Boxing Night - the Blue Ball, organised by the Delph and Denshaw Conservative Association, was held at the Co-operative Hall, Denshaw. Bert Pearson's trio provided the music. The traditional cascade of 100 blue balloons hanging from the ceiling was brought down at midnight.

Dec 29 - at the Farrars Arms Cllr. Hopkinson cut a ribbon and declared a new bar open. A large gathering turned up to witness the ceremony.

Dec 29 - a farewell party was held at the Nudge Inn, Dobcross, with the pub closing on New Year's Eve, after 150 years of service. An ornamental clock, presented to the licensee, Ada Holt, at the farewell party, showed midnight on New Year's Eve. A minute later, on New Year's Day 1957, The Nudger was no more. By the time there was not a drop of pumpable beer left in the cellar, and not a bottle left on the shelf.

There was an unusual location for a carol service in 1956 - the upstairs room of The Hanging Gate, Diggle. However, the vicar of Saddleworth, the Rev. R E Rogers, said there was nothing strange about it being an inn. After all the Christmas story had begun in one. He said the story that had begun in an inn in Palestine had not ended there. Churches might often appear to be empty on Sunday, but Christianity had survived and strengthened for 2000 years.

A polio outbreak in December 1956 caused the cancellation of a party, prize giving and carol service at St. Mary's School, Greenfield. A seven year old boy and a seven

year old girl were taken to hospital. By December 18th there had been six polio cases confirmed in Saddleworth.

Saddleworth had a white Christmas in 1956, with snow falling on high ground on Christmas Day, and a high wind created drifts on a number of roads.

1986

Dec 21 - there was a standing room only when a united carol service with Wrigley Mill Methodists was held at Kilngreen Church.

Dec 27 - the Lordsmere Longsword team of morris dancers performed around Saddleworth. At noon they were in Saddleworth Museum car park, moving onto the Junction Inn, Denshaw, the Bull, Delph, and the Swan Dobcross, ending at the Diggle Hotel. At Diggle the team met up with a group of Christmas mummers, who were also touring with a seasonal play. At 7:30 pm the morris dancers began the second leg of their tour, going via the Cross Keys, Uppermill and the Navigation, Dobcross, to Diggle Band Club to meet up with the mummers again.

Six nights of carol singing by pupils of Saddleworth School raised £544 for the Children's Society.

The run up to Christmas 1986 saw heavy snow, with four inches falling in just one hour on December 18. The Nont Sarah's and Isle of Skye roads were blocked overnight.

References:

Oldham Chronicle: 20/12/06; 26/12/06; 04/01/07; 15/12/56; 18/12/56; 22/12/56; 27/12/56; 28/12/56; 29/12/56; 01/01/57; 02/01/57; 16/12/86; 19/12/86; 22/12/86; 23/12/86; 30/12/86; 31/12/86

Oldham Standard: 29/12/1886; 18/12/06; 19/12/06; 20/12/06; 27/12/06; 18/12/06

Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter: 18/12/1886; 01/01/1887; 29/12/06; 21/12/56; 04/01/57

Saddleworth Express: 01/01/1887

Saddleworth News from *The Times* I

Howard Lambert

The Times newspaper, dating from 1785 is a very fruitful but largely untapped source of information on Saddleworth. Some, such as the two which follow, were reprinted from local newspapers but thought to be of national interest. They illuminate the social, political and economic history of Saddleworth. The subjects covered include bankruptcies, Chartism, social; unrest, elections fires, murders and attempted murders, trials and executions.

EXTENSIVE COMBINATION OF WORKMEN IN SADDLEWORTH.

(From the *Manchester Herald*.)

A combination of the workmen employed in the woollen manufacture, in the large and populous district of Saddleworth, is at present in existence, which promises in its effects to be highly detrimental to the prosperity of that hitherto flourishing township. It appears, that some time ago, a few of the master manufacturers, taking advantage of a temporary stagnation of trade, began to pay their workpeople in kind instead of currency, in consequence of which the latter formed themselves into a union, and raised a fund for the purpose of prosecuting those masters who were guilty of such illegal proceedings. So far, the thing was good, and was encouraged by a number of the respectable manufacturers and other inhabitants. But this state of things did not long continue. A number of designing persons from a neighbouring township came amongst them, and represented how formidable they might render themselves to their employers, if they became masters of a considerable fund. In consequence of this mischievous advice, they formed themselves into a union, for the purpose, as they express it, of equalizing wages—began to hold lodges, or secret meetings, in different parts of the township, and bound themselves by a secret oath to abide by the rules of the society, and not leave it on any account whatever. These proceedings were carried on for some time unknown to the manufacturers; but the fund having increased to upwards of 1,000*l.*, they began to exult in the success of their plan, and no longer made a secret of their intentions. In short, a more complete system of organization could not have been formed; and to such an extent has it been carried, that, as we have been credibly informed, there is scarcely a public-house or shop in the whole township which has not subscribed to the union, in order to preserve their business. Their employers, alarmed at the attitude which this combination of the workmen had assumed, immediately formed a union amongst themselves to counteract its effects, and came to a resolution not to employ any men who continued in the union. The natural consequence of this is, that the men sooner than renounce the union, have left their employment, and nearly the whole manufacture of the place is in a complete state of stagnation. The baneful effects of the combination begin already to display themselves, and numerous cases arising out of it are brought forward for the decision of the magistrates, who sit once a fortnight, alternately, at Dobcross and Higher Mill.

On Wednesday week the following magistrates met at Dobcross:—The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Saddleworth; James Buckley, Esq. of Olive Hill; and J. Entwistle, Esq., of Foxholes, near Rochdale. After disposing of a number of game informations,

A man of the name of *Amos Platt* appeared before the Bench, on a summons for neglect of work.

Mr. J. D. Whitehead, of Oak View, stated, that he engaged the defendant, on Monday last, to work for him; that he left his employment the same day, and on being remonstrated with, refused to return.

Platt, in his defence, acknowledged that he had left his work, but stated that he had done so in consequence of some persons threatening to take away his life if he continued in that situation, which belonged to a person who was in the "union," and had a large family to maintain.

The man, on being questioned as to who the persons were who had menaced him, professed entire ignorance of them, and was very reluctant in making any communication on the subject.

The magistrates then asked Mr. Whitehead if it was his wish that Platt should return to his employment, or be committed for neglect.

Mr. Whitehead said, he should prefer the former manner of proceeding, and would, to the utmost of his power, protect the defendant from any violence; but if he refused, he (Mr. Whitehead) must press for a commitment, as it was high time that some check should be put upon the proceedings of the union. Mr. Whitehead further stated, that a boy in his employment had been nearly killed by a number of men, who had assaulted him in the lanes, because the father of the lad had not joined the union.

Platt was then ordered by the magistrates to return to his work, otherwise he would be committed to prison for a month, which, after considerable hesitation, he at length consented to, and left the room evidently much dissatisfied with the decision of the bench.

The Overseer of Saddleworth appeared upon a summons which had been taken out against him by a person of the name of Winterbottom.

The complainant stated that he was out of employment, had a large family to maintain, and on making application for relief, had been refused.

The overseer, in reply, said, that Winterbottom belonged to the union, and might have employment if he chose to relinquish that association: this being the case, he did not consider himself authorized to grant any relief.

Mr. Lawton, of Delph, appeared on behalf of the complainant, and contended that the overseer was bound either to grant relief or find the man employment.

To a question put from the Bench,

Mr. Lawton acknowledged that the union had employed him to appear for the complainant.

Mr. Entwistle expressed himself in very strong terms of disapprobation of the conduct of the union, which, in his opinion, amounted to a conspiracy; and said, that in his capacity of magistrate, he should set his face against every thing which emanated from such societies, until he was convinced of their legality. The magistrates then signified to the overseer their approbation of his conduct, and refused to grant an order.

We understand that a person entered the room after the magistrates had retired, who had been assaulted in a most brutal manner by some individuals, whom, it is expected, he will be able to identify, in which case they will be prosecuted for a conspiracy; and should they be convicted, no doubt the example will have a beneficial effect upon others, and ultimately put a stop to these disgraceful proceedings.

The Times 17th November 1828

(From the *Manchester Guardian*.)

We have this week the painful task of recording two attempts at assassination, in Mosley and the neighbourhood, though fortunately both of them were unsuccessful. The first of these diabolical attempts was directed against the life of Mr. Charles Kershaw, of Mosley, one of the 62 spinners whose workmen have joined the general turn-out, and was made under the following circumstances:—It appears that Mr. Kershaw has been for some time past in the habit of sitting in his kitchen on winter evenings, and, on such occasions, he almost invariably occupied a chair placed in a particular situation on one side of the fire-place. In that situation he was sitting on the evening of Friday the 14th instant, and several other members of his family were in the kitchen; when, about a quarter past eight o'clock, a gun or pistol was fired through the back window of the kitchen, and had evidently been aimed at the spot where Mr. Kershaw generally sat. The greater part of the charge, however (consisting apparently of six pistol bullets), struck against one of the wooden stanchions of the window, which was shivered to pieces, but appeared to have had the effect of diverting the bullets a little out of the direction in which the piece was aimed. They then passed through a stout linen blind, through Mr. Kershaw's hat, which one of his children had placed on the window bottom a few minutes before, and some of them through a quantity of clothes which were hung on a maiden before the fire. By these various obstacles the force of some of the bullets was so much weakened, that they dropped on the floor before reaching the point where Mr. Kershaw sat, and which was about eight yards from the window; whilst the others were turned completely out of their course; and Mr. Kershaw and his family escaped wholly unhurt. On examining the back of the premises, traces were found of two men, who appeared to have lain down for some time close under a wall about four feet high, which stands at a distance of three yards from the window; and on the top of this wall the gun or pistol appears to have been rested at the moment when it was discharged. The second attempt to which we have referred was made on Sunday evening, at Quick, in Saddleworth, about a mile from Mr. Kershaw's house. At an early hour on that evening (we believe about half-past 8 o'clock), a labouring man named Jesse Heap was passing along a foot-road through a field, when he saw a man apparently dressed in a great coat, standing near the road. When he had got within a few yards of him, the man, without saying a word, fired at him, apparently with a large pistol. Heap, though wholly unhurt, was so much terrified by this sudden attack, that he dropped upon the ground; and the man, probably thinking that he had effected his purpose, ran off across the field. Heap then ventured to get up, and proceeded to the place to which he was going; but not venturing to return alone he prevailed upon two men to accompany him. When near the spot where he was fired at, they saw a man whom Heap pronounced to be the man who had shot at him; but, whether it was that the men who were with him did not feel much confidence in his accuracy, or that the three did not like to encounter a man supposed to be armed with a pistol, we do not know; but certain it is, that they made no attempt to seize him. As it is believed that no person could have any adequate motive for attempting the life of a man like Heap, who has nothing whatever to do with the turn-out of spinners, it is generally supposed that the shot was intended for Mr. Hilton, a cotton-spinner, to whose house the foot-road leads on which Heap was walking at the time, and who so far resembles Heap in person and gait, as to be easily mistaken for him in the dark.

The Times 25th January 1831

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER WINTER 2006
.....

When the throstle sings in Tunstead Clough,
Then over the hills, hey O,
For who can sit by the hearthstone when
The winds of the springtime blow,
Then O for a mate with a merry heart,
A light and a laughing song,
A swinging tramp on a moorland road,
When the April days are long.

Springtime, Ammon Wrigley.
The Wind Among the Heather.

'MAPPING SADDLEWORTH: An Enlarged and Revised Collection of
Historic Maps of the Township.'
.....

This year is the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts which will be celebrated by the Saddleworth Historical Society with the publication of a new book 'MAPPING SADDLEWORTH: AN ENLARGED AND REVISED COLLECTION OF HISTORIC MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP' in colour.

For your information an order form is enclosed, but unfortunately this will not be a subscribers copy as stated in our last bulletin. The book launch is on Sunday 3rd June, 2007, at 2.30 pm., in the Museum when Alan Petford will deliver a lecture on the subject matter of the book. The price of the book is £18.00 and if posted an extra £5.00 is required.

Cheques made out to Saddleworth Historical Society.

SUMMER COACH TRIP 14th July, 2007. Leaving Saddleworth Museum 9.30 a.m.
.....

The DERWENT VALLEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE SATURDAY 14th JULY, 2007
Cost... £15.00 each.

To explore the Industrial Archaeology of the Cromford area, one of the earliest cotton spinning sites in the country. Visiting Morley Church to view the late mediaeval glass which has the richest collection of mediaeval stained glass in the region.

Alan Petford will be the guide to Cromford on this occasion.

Contact for queries Mrs. D. Latimer. 0161 633 3205

A booking form is enclosed for your attention.

SUMMER GUIDED WALKS PROGRAMME

We introduce a challenging new venture for our members with a programme of Guided Walks around Saddleworth. Saddleworth's rich heritage provides the ideal background to while away a couple of hours amid the beautiful Pennine Hills and Vales. You are all invited to join our volunteer guides to discover the fascinating history that has shaped the Saddleworth of today.

The walks follow roads and paths in a circular route for 2/3 miles lasting about 2½ hours unless, specified in the walk details. It is essential to wear stout footwear.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and in the interest of safety please do not bring a dog.

There is no charge for taking part in these walks.

Booking not necessary but a contact telephone number is given for additional information if required.

Wednesday 13th June, 2007 **DIGGLE HAMLETS.** 1.45 pm
Meet Alan Petford at Sam Road, Car Park, Diggle, to discover the development of the roads, canal and rail networks and what the buildings tell us about the lifestyle and trades of the inhabitants. Tel. No. 01422 202758

Sunday 24th June, 2007 **AROUND SADDLEWORTH CHURCH** 1.45 pm
Meet Mike Buckley at the top of Church Road, Uppermill, near the Cross Keys Pub, Uppermill, to discover the history of the Parish Church of St. Chads and early settlements that have developed around this religious centre. Tel. No. 01457 820015

Wednesday 11th July, 2007 **THE VILLAGE OF DELPH.** 1.45 pm
Meet Neil Barrow at the Old Mechanics Car Park, Delph, to discover the development of this industrial settlement. Tel. No. 01457 876381

Sunday 29th July, 2007 **CASTLESHAW** 1.45 pm
Meet Jim Carr at the Out Door Centre, Castleshaw to learn more about the Roman Forts and Road. Tel. No. 01457 873612,

Sunday 5th August 2007 **AMMON WRIGLEY** 1.45 pm
Meet Dorothy Latimer on Wham Lane, off Delph Road, Delph, for a 5 mile walk visiting places associated with the local poet and historian Ammon Wrigley. This walk will last 3½ hours and will include some rough and steep paths.
Tel. No. 0161 633 3205

Wednesday 29th August, 2007 **TRACKS OF STANEGE** 1.45 pm
Meet Mike Buckley at the Car Park, Castleshaw Outdoor Centre, to explore tracks ancient and modern over Stanage.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES AT THE MUSEUM UPPERMILL

Thursday 3rd May, 07
7.30 pm

Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture.
The Historic Landscape of Saddleworth.
Stephen Moorhouse.

Wednesday 9th May, 07
7.30 pm

The Saddleworth Men Behind The Medals 11
Ian McKinnes.

Sunday 3rd June, 07
2.30 p.m. at the Museum

Book Launch & Lecture.
A Saddleworth Festival of the Arts Event.

'Mapping Saddleworth; An Enlarged and
Revised Collection of Historic Maps of the
Township'
Alan Petford.

Saturday & Sunday 22/23rd September, 07

**LOCAL HISTORY FAIR & HISTORY
EXHIBITION.**

Details to be announced later.

PAST LECTURES

On the 14th March, 07, Neil Barrow, our Treasurer, delivered a lecture on The Development of Springhead when during the nineteenth century Springhead was a hive of industry with a host of Cotton Mills providing a wealth of local employment and the mills listed below are for your interest.

Springhead Mill, off Oldham Road, Springhead.	1844-1870
Shelderslow Mill, Cooper St., Springhead.	1823-1891
Springbank Mill, Ashmond St., Springhead.	1860-1937
Clough Mill, Ashmond Street, Springhead.	1854-1929
Livingstone Spng. Mill, Oldham Road, Springhead.	1874-1929
Rome Mill, Walkers Lane, Springhead.	1907-1928
Radcliffe Mill, Radcliffe St., Springhead.	1806-1915
Phoenix Mill, Rhodes St., Springhead.	1822-1915
Pastures Mill, Pastures Lane, Springhead.	1808-1920
Knight Mill, Stonebreaks, Springhead,	1845-1860

A word of praise is well deserved for this informative and detailed lecture.

The Scattered Homes

Freda Millett, one of our members and local author gave an excellent and very well illustrated talk on 'The Scattered Homes', which featured the Scattered Homes in Hollins Road, Oldham, Turf Lane, Royton, & Westwood Park Workhouse, Boundary Park, Oldham, and dealt in detail with the full responsibility of caring for children without parents to provide a proper homelife for their upbringing. It was an insight into this worthwhile task which does not attract the publicity it deserves. The pictures of the children told their own story and a very well attended audience showed their appreciation of the lectures quality and concern.

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM, HIGH STREET, UPPERMILL.

2nd Sunday each month. 9.00 am-2.00 pm . Farmers Market.
 2nd Wednesday each month 10.00 am-1.00 pm Friends Coffee Morning
 Sunday 20th May, 07 11.00 am to 3.30 pm Friends Plant Sale. Free entry.
 Monday 4th June. 11.00 am-3.30 pm Bonhams Valuation Day - Festival Event
 Tuesday 5th June. 10.00 am-3.30 pm Canalside Quilters, Festival Week.
 Free.

Wednesday 6th June. 10.00 am-1.00 pm. Special Friends Coffee Morning Festival
 Fancy cakes and biscuits.

Tuesdays 9.30 am-12.30 pm Canalside Quilting Group
 This group meets every Tuesday in the
 Gallery and welcomes new members.
 Annual £10.00 and £2.50 per week

23/24th June, Saturday & Sunday MODEL RAILWAY WEEKEND

ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS.

Hulme Grammar Tutors. Display of work by art teachers first time shown in
 28 April - 27th May, 07 Saddleworth. relief and intaglio prints, oil and acrylic
 paintings and ceramic pieces.

2nd June - 1st July, 07 Saddleworth Group of Artists - specially mounted for the
 Arts Festival.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS.

BOUNDARIES. This Exhibition done in collaboration with Saddleworth Historical
 Society who will be launching the 'Mapping Book' on the 3rd June, 07
 will present the opportunity to show some of the maps from the
 Archives. Looking at boundaries, why they exist and why we get
 so passionate about them. Including a contribution by the local
 White Rose Society.

IN YOUR PRAM

This new exhibition of photographs, quotations and anecdotes show memories of pushing
 prams or even being pushed in a pram.

THE DELPH DONKEY A Local railway

AMMON WRIGLEY -

60 years since the death of Ammon Wrigley and this
 exhibition looks at his life and displays many items contained
 in the Museum's collection.

SADDLEWORTH'S THE STAR

What other films apart from Yanks have been filmed in the Saddleworth area, Brassed Off
 for one but what is the connection between Brief Encounter and Oldham ?

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS - Monday to Saturday 10.00 am- 4.30 pm.
 Sunday 12 noon - 4.00 pm

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST 7.30 pm. Saddleworth Museum

Thursday 10th May, 07 The Work & Projects of the Yorkshire & Humber
 Assoc. of Civic Societies

Peter Cooper Chairman of YHACS

Saturday 9th June, 07 HALF DAY HERITAGE WALK
 Guided Walk by Alan Petford & Mike Buckley
 In Conjunction with the Saddleworth Festival.
 Details later.

Thursday 21st June, 07 Depart 8.45 am. from Uppermill Square,
 Summer Coach Trip
 Renishaw Hall & Gardens, Derbyshire.
 Details later.

Thursday 5th July, 07 Work of the Wakefield Civic Society & Modernisation
 of the National Civic Trust.
 Kevin Trickett, President of the WCS.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust telephone Mrs. Lorna Gartside on 01457 87 3157

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

Nine new members have joined the Society since the publication of our last Bulletin and we hope they enjoy their membership.

Miss Joan Kenworthy, Bishop Auckland.
Mr. Lees Firth, Grasscroft.
Miss Julia Whitehead, Walsall.
Mrs. Judith M. Wrigley, nee Farrand)
Bridlington.)

Mrs. Alison O'Brien, Greenfield
Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Phipps, Kingswinford.
Mrs. Maureen Burns, Uppermill,
Mrs. Judith M.M. Harrison, Heckmondwike.

One of our Society members, Mr. Roy Blower of Grasscroft, has received a great honour from Her Majesty the Queen at Manchester Cathedral when he was presented with specially minted Maundy Money for his services to the church and the community. He most regularly attends St. Annes Church, Lydgate and he was accompanied by his sister Mrs. Joan Holt. It was the first time the service had been held in Manchester Cathedral on Maundy Thursday the 5th April, 2007

We have received a good response to membership subscriptions since the renewal slip was enclosed with our last bulletin, but a few members are outstanding and we take the liberty of enclosing a reminder and trust a cheque will be forwarded at your convenience. Very many thanks for your continued membership.

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

Cheques made payable to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to
Mrs. E. Broadbent, Pastures Farm Flat, Back'oth' Low Road, Strinesdale, Saddleworth,
Yorks. OL4 3SG

April, 2007 J.Hindle.

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We are sorry to report the death of one of our long serving members Mrs. Amelia Hill, formerly of Lydgate, who will be fondly remembered in the Society. Condolences have been sent to her family.

J. Hindle. April, 07

Current Society Publications

Books

The Saddleworth-America Connection: Anne Parry £5.00

A History of Saddleworth: James Butterworth

A facsimile reprint of this 1828 book with a modern introduction by Robert Poole
£12.50 hardback

Saddleworth from the Air: Barri Jones £12.50

Saddleworth 1914-1919: K W Mitchinson £5.00 softback
£10.00 hardback (low stock)

Cherry Valley Chronicles: Letters from Thomas Buckley & family – Immigrants to Cherry Valley & Milbury MA, USA to his son Ralph Buckley & family of Dobcross & Delph in Saddleworth: transcribed Maurice Dennett £5.00

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