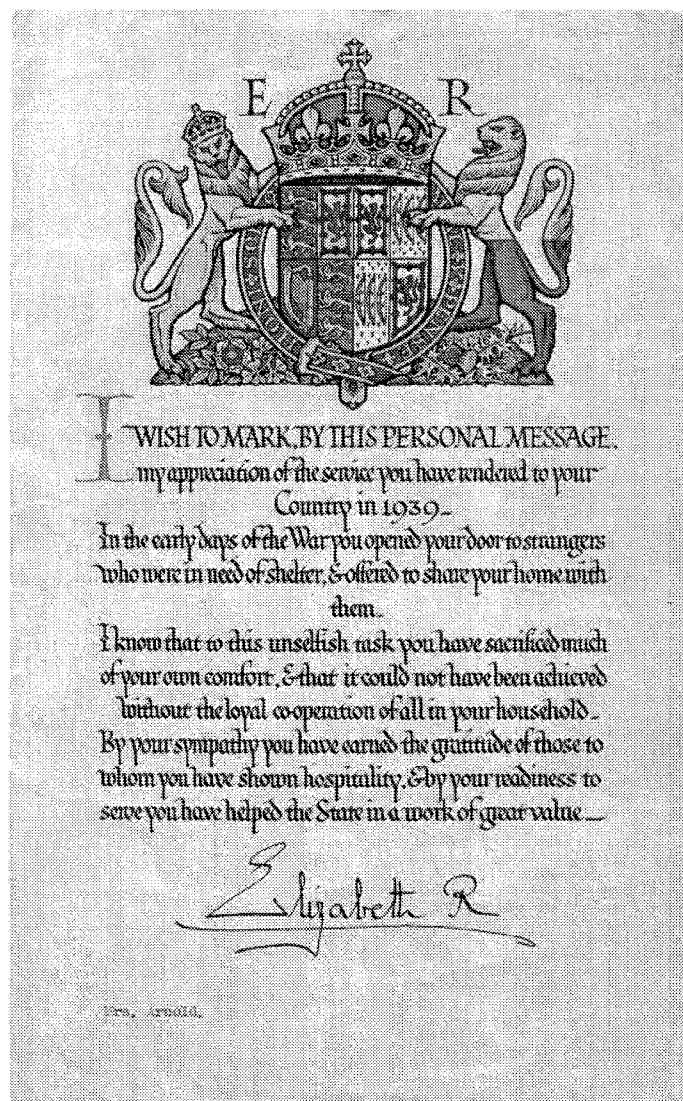


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 37

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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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The Suffragettes in Oldham and District, 1905-1910 Paul Fryer	1
Saddleworth News from <i>The Times</i> Howard Lambert	7
The Home Front in Saddleworth - 1 Peter Fox	9
Private Lewis Charlesworth Susan Smith	13
Death in the Old Workhouse at Knarr Barn Roger Ivens	15
Saddleworth Historical Society Newsletter	19

Cover illustration: The certificate received by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold from the Queen for their dedication and service they had rendered in helping these child evacuees

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Saddleworth Historical Society

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

The Society's Web site is at:

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

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

The Suffragettes in Oldham and District, 1905-1910

Paul Fryer

The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), commonly known as the Suffragettes to distinguish themselves from the more moderate Suffragists, was founded in October 1903 at the Pankhurst family home in Manchester. Its aim was to gain the franchise for women in order to push forward social reform, as well as being desirable in its own right. Though regarded as radical and dangerous their demands only stretched to wanting the Parliamentary vote on the same restricted basis as men. What made the Suffragettes different was their motto – 'deeds not words'.

The two established political parties, the Liberals and Conservatives, opposed votes for women, believing that women would vote on emotion rather than reason. However, there were large factions in both parties in favour of votes for women and they were lobbying hard for change in the years before World War One. Of course women already had the right to vote in council elections, with no evidence of 'irrational' behaviour. Though Keir Hardie, the first leader of the fledgling Labour Party, was a strong advocate of women's suffrage, his enthusiasm did not always stretch across the whole of the Socialist movement. For example, despite the Salford HQ of the Independent Labour Party (ILP) being named Pankhurst Hall (named after Emmeline's late husband), neither Emmeline nor her daughters were allowed to join the branch!

On Tuesday 18th April 1905 Oldham was to host a key meeting in the story of the Suffragettes. The meeting itself, organised by the Oldham Trades and Labour Council, was nothing special in terms of what was said, its significance lay in who was in the audience. The main speaker was Christabel Pankhurst, the eldest of the sisters and then regarded as their best public speaker, with her good looks and charisma she always attracted large crowds. Though involved in the early acts of disruption and violence, Christabel soon found that 'exile' in Paris was much preferable to imprisonment, hunger strikes and force-feeding.

Christabel went through the history of attempts to widen the franchise, and made her demand that women should get the vote on the same basis as men. Recognising the make-up of the audience, the second speaker, Teresa Billington, emphasised that once women had the vote on an equal basis, they could then fight shoulder to shoulder with men to extend the franchise still further to the working class (Teresa Billington was a Socialist who was soon to break with the Pankhursts over tactics).

John Robert Clynes, Secretary of the Trades Council, moved a resolution supporting the campaign for the women's franchise. This passed overwhelmingly by the trade unionists of Oldham, with the exception of a Mr F a Lees. He argued that women were best suited to looking after the house and bringing up children, rather than interfering with politics. His was a minority view.

WORKING-MEN AND WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Hersedge-street, in connection with the Oldham Trades and Labour Council for the purpose of discussing the question of the franchise for women. Mr. Jas. Fitton, chairman of the Trades Council, presided over a good attendance, and the meeting was addressed by Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss Teresa Billington, of the Women's Social and Political Union, Manchester.

The CHAIRMAN said that that was the first time such a meeting under the auspices of the Trades Council had been held in Oldham. It was an injustice not to allow the same political freedom to women as men got.

MISS PANKHURST then briefly gave a history of the attempts to get the franchise for women. Last year a decision was come to to go to the trades councils and unions in the country and get their support, which the women's suffrage movement had not had before. The great reform Act of 1832 brought working men into the sphere of politics by giving them votes. Naturally the women wanted to share with the men that franchise. A Bill was introduced later into Parliament by her father, and it passed the House and went into Committee, but the Liberal Government vetoed it out. Many Bills were introduced, with the same result, in later years. Women's franchise was the

Oldham Evening Chronicle
19th April 1905

Of more long-term importance than the resolution was the attendance at the meeting of Annie Kenney. Born in 1879 in Springhead she went to the meeting with three of her sisters. From that moment Annie had found her purpose in life, and Christabel soon spotted her potential. Former mill-girl Annie was able to speak to working-class women in a more effective way than any of the middle-class Pankhursts. Within a short time Annie Kenney from Saddleworth would become as famous (or infamous) a public figure as any of the Pankhursts.

What sealed Annie's place in Suffragette history was the historic Free Trade Hall meeting in Manchester on 13th October 1905. It was a Liberal hustings in anticipation of the forthcoming General Election, and was addressed by Sir Edward Grey and then Oldham MP Winston Churchill. Annie and Christabel Pankhurst went to the meeting and tried to raise the issue of votes for women. They were ejected by stewards and then arrested when they tried to hold their own meeting outside the Hall. The reaction of the people of Oldham was mainly sympathetic. Just two days after their arrest, on a Sunday evening, a large crowd assembled at the gates of Alexandra Park to protest at the two women's imprisonment. Isaac Crabtree, a leading activist in the local Labourer movement, spoke of the deep claim that Christabel and Annie had to the support of working women, for whom they had worked so hard and long, and sacrificed so much, even to the risk of their reputations. Adela Pankhurst, the youngest of the sisters, also spoke at the meeting. The meeting passed a resolution condemning the Liberal Party for not answering 'the legitimate question of our fellow townswoman, Miss Annie Kenney' and the brutal treatment of Christabel and Annie by the stewards.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADVOCATES SENT TO GAOL.

DISTURBANCE AT MANCHESTER LIBERAL MEETING.

AN OLDHAM WOMAN IMPLICATED.

An uproar was caused at the Liberal meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Friday night by advocates of women's suffrage which resulted in the arrest of Miss Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of the late Mr. Pankhurst, a well known Socialist barrister, who herself has become known through her attempts to seek admission to the English Bar, and a Miss Annie Kenney, of Oldham, who is stated to be Miss Pankhurst's senior in years. At the close of Sir Edward Grey's address Miss Kenney stepped on the bench whereon she had been sitting and attempted to make a speech. Immediately parts of the audience began to shout her down, while others demanded that she should be heard. A Mr. Bowick, who was with the ladies unfurled a white flag, bearing the words "Votes for women." Several stewards attempted in vain to silence Miss Kenney, and Miss Pankhurst, seeing that the moment was inappropriate, tried to persuade her to desist. Miss Kenney, however, was determined to have her say, and it was not until Lord Durham had been called on that she desisted.

At a later stage when a vote of thanks was being moved, Miss Pankhurst rose, and despite all appeals for order argued the case for women's suffrage. Both she and Miss Kenney were removed from the hall by the police. Outside the hall Miss Kenney proceeded to address a few people who gathered round the two ladies. The police then arrested the pair for disorderly conduct, but at the Town Hall they were admitted to bail.

At the City Police Court to-day (Saturday) Miss Pankhurst and Kenney were charged firstly with disorderly behaviour in the street, and secondly with obstructing the footpath and carriage way in South-street. Miss Pankhurst was further charged with assaulting the police.

Mr. Bell, solicitor to the Corporation, told that the defendants had evidently gone to the Free Trade Hall with the firm intention of creating a disturbance. The defendants seemed to have had a number of questions to put to the speakers, and for that purpose one or both of them mounted on a seat in the body of the hall and yelled and shrieked to the utmost of their ability, so he was informed. They were asked to desist by, among others, the Chief Constable, who was present.

Miss Pankhurst was fined 10s. 6d. and costs, or seven days, for the assault, and both defendants were fined 5s. and costs for obstruction.

Each of them declined to pay, and the Chairman said the two sentences of seven days would run concurrently. The defendants were then removed below by the police.

Oldham Evening Chronicle
14th October 1905

Annie Kenney was released the day after from Strangeways Prison, and she was presented with a bouquet by representatives of Oldham's Socialists. There was a further bouquet for Christabel Pankhurst when she was released on Friday 20th October, this time Annie doing the presenting. However, Oldham was not prepared to leave it there. On Thursday 26th October a meeting was held at the Temperance Hall in the town centre. The Chairman, Mr F W Potter, opened by saying that the question

was not whether the arrest of Annie and Christabel was illegal – their argument was with the Liberals, not the police. Isaac Crabtree moved a resolution beginning, 'This meeting of women and men of Oldham, demands that the franchise should be granted to women on the same terms as it is to men.' Annie Kenney spoke and said she felt fully justified in her actions. Sir Edward Grey had refused to meet a deputation, so they had had no alternative but to ask him about votes for women directly in the Hall. She had then been arrested. She said she knew of many people in Oldham and Lees who were completely shocked at her and had said how awful she had been. Annie's reply to that was to ask them if they knew what a vital and burning question women's suffrage was. They who worked in the cardroom (mainly women) had as many brains as those who worked in the spinning room (mainly men). They could go to night school and achieve as much as men. She ended by promising to disrupt more meetings. Crabtree's resolution was passed.

From December 1905 the focus of politics rested on the January 1906 General Election. Annie Kenney made a contribution at the first Liberal rally at the Royal Albert Hall. She and Teresa Billington let down a nine-foot banner asking the incoming Liberal Government to give the vote to women. Locally, all of the WSPU activity was directed towards Winston Churchill's campaign, he had decided to move from Oldham to Manchester North West. The election saw the Liberals win a landslide victory, with a massive 399 MPs, including both the Oldham MPs. Labourer increased its number of seats from 2 to 29.

On 25th April 1906 Keir Hardie, the newly-elected Labourer leader, proposed a resolution in the Commons that gender should no longer be a bar to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. When it became clear that some MPs were trying to talk the resolution out some women, including Annie Kenney, began to shout from the public gallery. They demanded the MPs vote on the resolution. A banner proclaiming 'Votes for Women' was unfurled. The women were removed peacefully from the gallery. While the Liberal-supporting Oldham Chronicle gave a straightforward account of the events, the Conservative Oldham Standard headlined the story, 'Barred Out. Speaker's Stern Order. Henpecked Repudiated'. This was to be a constant label of the Suffragettes for the Standard. 'Henpecked' gave the impression of shrewish women nagging men, and gave a clear indication of the views of the Oldham Tory establishment. The Standard was quick to quote Labour MP, Philip Snowden (future MP for Saddleworth) who condemned the women for dealing a blow to the cause of Women's suffrage. It also reported that the peaceful National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had repudiated the 'henpecked'.

The Standard confirmed its attitude with a headline in its 28th July edition – 'Plea for Henpecked in Oldham'. It reported on a meeting organised by the Independent Labour Party (ILP), at which Mrs Mitchell, the leading Ashton suffragette spoke. She said that Oldham badly needed rousing out of its present apathy on the subject of votes for women. This may have been the Standard reporting events in the worst light, but there does seem to have been genuine concern in the WSPU that the town of Annie Kenney was not contributing enough to the campaign.

Annie Kenney herself continued her actions. In the same month she appeared in court along with two women after causing a disturbance outside the house of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Herbert Asquith. On being given the choice between being bound

over to keep the peace of six weeks imprisonment, all three chose prison. These and other actions by Suffragettes across the country attracted comment from the Rev Hugh Doig, the Vicar of Saddleworth. While not approving of some of their methods he did think they were badly treated. Showing his sympathies he recalled that, 'agitate, agitate, agitate', were the great Liberal watchwords of his youth, and there could be no greater Liberal campaign than 'no taxation without representation'. He pointed out that many that were now in the Liberal Government had for the past three years encouraged men not to pay their rates because a small part of them went to maintain Church schools. Wasn't that encouraging criminality? Women were clearly capable of exercising a franchise and while no condoning the more extreme acts it was clear some women were being pushed to the limit. He condemned the Government's treatment of these earnest, if misguided women.

A sign that the report in July had more than a little truth in it came in November when the WSPU clearly felt the situation in Oldham was such that they planned to launch a series of public meetings at Alexandra Park Gates, despite late autumn not being the best of times to try outdoor gatherings. Evidence that these meetings had been taking place came in a letter in the Oldham Standard of 24th November from a Miss Mitchell in reply to a letter from 'Mere Man'. She wrote that she wished 'Mere Man' had been at the Park Gates on Sunday to express his views. The speakers there would have been able to assure him that they had permission from their respective husbands to be there, and that their 'domestic duties' were being attended to in their absence.

Whatever the general lack of enthusiasm for the cause of women's suffrage in Oldham November did see a genuine public concern about the health of Annie Kenney. Rumours began to circulate the town that Annie's health was in decline while spending yet another spell in prison. A petition began to go round calling for Annie's release. Speaking at a meeting Mrs Mitchell said it was feared Annie was very ill. Alfred Emmott, Oldham's Liberal MP, was so pressurised that he immediately questioned the Home Secretary. Herbert Gladstone was able to reassure him that Annie's health was satisfactory, with no 'evidence of any disease'. He was even able to report that Annie herself had said she was very well.

Oldhamers got all the proof they needed on 16th December when a meeting was held in the town centre, and in an all-star line-up Annie spoke, along with Emmeline and Adela Pankhurst and Teresa Billington. Annie was introduced as 'the Oldham factory lass'. She began by wondering how many of the audience had come to satisfy their curiosity as to what kind of individuals the speakers were. Well, she said, they were human beings, and she hoped that by their persistency and their sufferings the public had fully made up their minds to the necessity of enfranchising women. She pointed out that 30,000 women paid trade union dues to send representatives to Parliament, and it was time they refused until that had a say in who represented them. It was because she felt for the factory women that she continued to campaign, and would never feel satisfied until hundreds of Lancashire women, in their clogs and shawls, had tramped to the House of Commons to demand votes.

HENPECKERS IN OLDHAM

MAN A FAILURE

A women's suffrage meeting was held under the auspices of the I.L.P. at St. George's Hall, Oldham, on Sunday night. Mr. Isaac Crabtree presided, and was supported by Mrs. Cobden Saunderson, Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Adela Pankhurst, and Miss Teresa Billing-top.

Miss Annie Kenney, who was introduced as the "Oldham factory lass," said she wondered how many of the audience had come to satisfy their curiosity as to what kind of individuals the speakers were. (Laughter.) Well, they were human beings, and she hoped that by their persistency and their sufferings the public had fully made up their minds to the necessity of enfranchising women. She pointed out that there were 30,000 factory women paying levies to send representatives to Parliament, and it was quite time they refused to pay their levies until they could choose who should represent them. The men were to blame for allowing the Government to do as they liked, and the men were also to blame for women going to prison. It was because she felt for the factory women, among whom she had worked, she continued the campaign, and would never feel satisfied until hundreds of Lancashire women, in their clogs and shawls, had tramped to the House of Commons to demand votes. Miss Kenney went on to give an amusing description of the deputation of henpeckers who forced themselves upon the attention of Mr. Asquith, and said they were so strong that they were able to turn the Chancellor of the Exchequer out by the back door. (Laughter.) Eventually, for their action, they served six weeks in "Holloway Hotel." (Laughter.)

Oldham Standard,
17th December 1906

In her speech, Adela Pankhurst received a warm reception, especially for her view that men had failed in the management of world affairs, and they needed women to help them. Emmeline Pankhurst said that were grateful to Oldham for Annie Kenney. But she believed there were many other women of the same character in the factories, and she appealed to them to help the movement.

REFERENCES:

OLDHAM CHRONICLE – 22/4/05, 21/10/05, 28/10/05, 28/4/06, 21/7/06, 10/11/06, 24/11/06

OLDHAM STANDARD – 22/4/05, 21/10/05, 28/4/06, 7/7/06, 28/7/06, 17/11/06, 24/11/06, 22/12/06

Saddleworth News from *The Times* II

Howard Lambert

This is the second of Howard Lambert's extracts taken from *The Times* newspaper, a fruitful but largely untapped source of information on Saddleworth. The article is taken from *The Times* (reprinted in the *Leeds Mercury*) dated 25 July 1843:

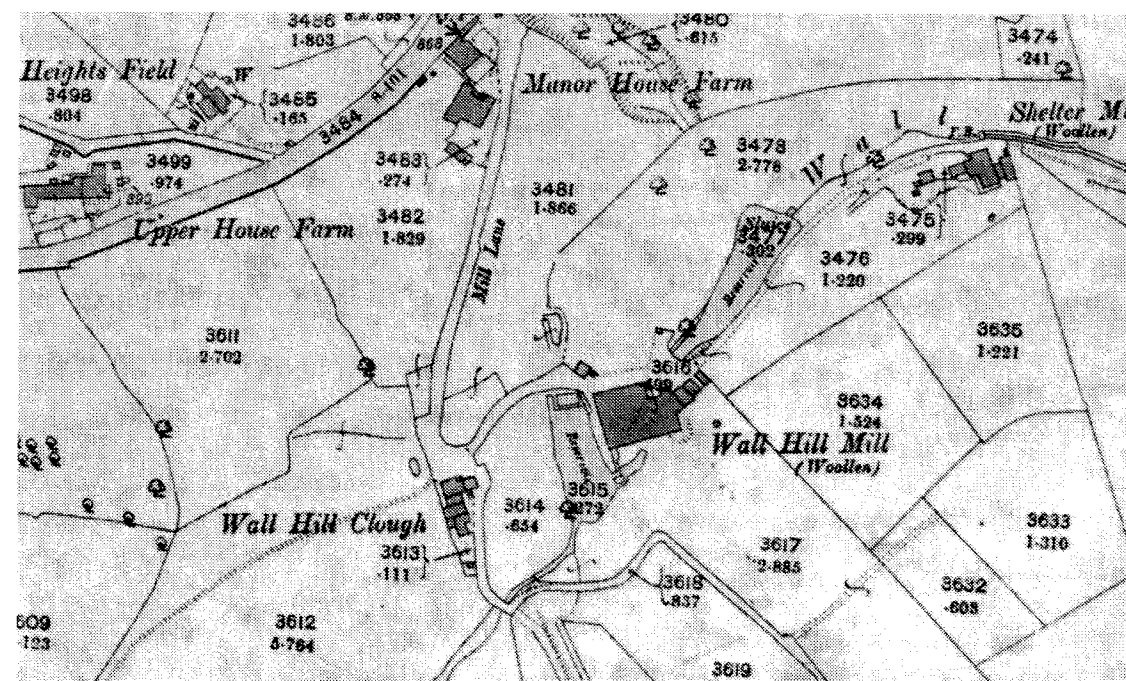
ATTEMPTED INCENDIARISM.—On Friday morning, the 14th instant, about 2 o'clock, two men, who were sleeping in a cottage on the premises of Mr. Robert Buckley's saw-mill, Wallhill, Saddleworth, were alarmed by the violent barking of the yard dog. On getting up and examining the mill, they discovered a number of planks on fire, in the open air, in the back part of the premises, but before they could procure any means of extinguishing the flames the conflagration had ceased. It was evident, however, the mill had been broken into, by the demolition of a window, but the offenders seem to have been scared away by the barking of the dog. A quantity of gunpowder for blasting was found in a window bottom; a bundle of shavings and a bottle of turpentine were met with, and near one of the steers some lucifer matches had been placed, rendering it obvious that the villains intended to set fire to and blow up the building, the consequences of which would have been awful, as two lives would probably have been lost. This shocking affair has been fully investigated by Mr. Wild, superintendent of the Oldham police; and there is little doubt it was the act of a gang of those notoriously reckless and desperate men, the union sawyers, who have manifested a strong feeling of opposition to Mr. Buckley's saw-mill, as it is turned by water power, and worked by several machines, so that only two men and a few juveniles are employed. Mr. Buckley has never had any disputes with the union sawyers, but his mill has been at work several months.—*Leeds Mercury*.

Pigot's Directory of Saddleworth, 1844, lists Robert Buckley's saw mill at Wall Hill Clough:

Buckley John & Robert, woollen manufacturers, Shaw Hall [head bank
Buckley John & Sons, woollen manufacturers, Broad-
Buckley John Bramley, dyer, Upper Mill, and dye-
wood grinder, Frenches
Buckley Joseph, shoe maker, Delph
Buckley Joseph, woollen manufacturer, Thurston Clough
Buckley Louisa, shopkeeper, Delph
Buckley Mrs. Mary, Linfitts
Buckley Mary, earthenware dealer, Shaw Hall
Buckley the Misses, Platt hill
Buckley Ralph, shopkeeper, Dobcross
Buckley Robert, saw mill, Wall-hill Clough
Buckley Robert, cow leech, Upper House
Buckley Robert, sand dealer, High Moor

The 1841 Census lists Robert Buckley as a farmer at Wallhill Clough aged 45 with 9 children (HO107/1279/3/fol8b).

The 25" Ordnance Survey Map for 1891 (270/18) shows the location of Wall Hill Clough



The Home Front in Saddleworth - 1

A Saddleworth Evacuee – Geoffrey Nelson

Peter Fox

This is the first of a series of articles that will look at aspects of the home front in Saddleworth during the Second World War. It is a period of history that so many people have living experience off and yet there is very little recorded so the main aim off these articles is certainly not to present the definitive history but I hope to prompt people to record some of these memories.

The first of these takes a look at the experiences of one evacuee who was certainly in one of the first batches of evacuees to come to the area. The declaration of war on the 3rd September 1939 was the prompt to put into place much planning that had been going on by the government in case of the declaration of hostilities. A central part of one of the civil defense plans was the evacuation of children from major towns and cities in the event of bombing raids. In September 1939 the local papers announced that that the first contingent of over 3,000 children were expected which apart from there dispatch demanded a lot of organization in the Saddleworth area, the paper included an appeal to the readers from Lord Woolton if you could spare a blanket for evacuated children (1). Though other smaller batches did come over the next few months the policy of evacuation changed.

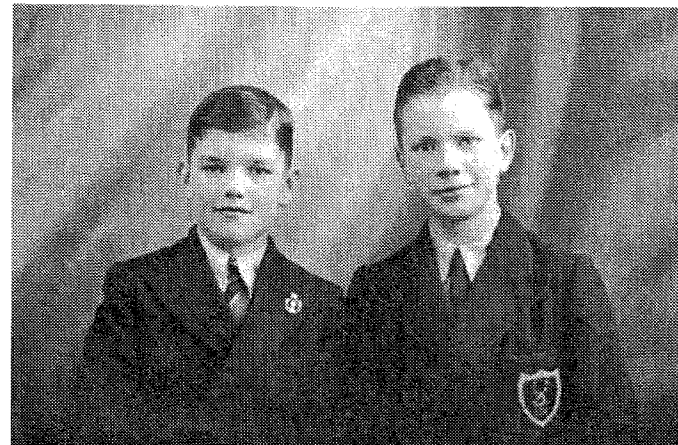
The experiences for many of these children were varied, it was a considerable shock for many of them to be taken away from their families, and be taken in by someone, in some cases brothers and sisters split between different families, thrust into a new school and not least a total change of environment from townscape to the country and what were the unknown horrors of war going to bring to the home front.

It is therefore not surprising that for many of the evacuees their memories were certainly not always happy ones, though some did adapt to the situation and in this article we present the story of Geoffrey Nelson who with his brother came to Saddleworth in probably the first batch of evacuees traveling from Bradford and arriving at Greenfield Station was to stay the duration of the war and through the circumstances happily settle with the family he was billeted with and happily settle in Saddleworth for the rest of his life.

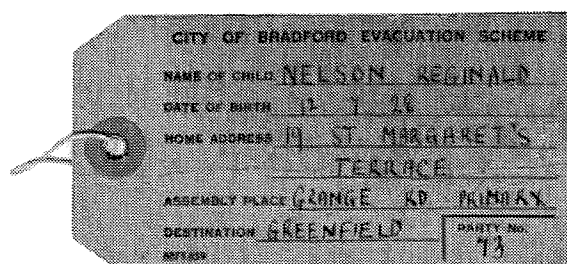
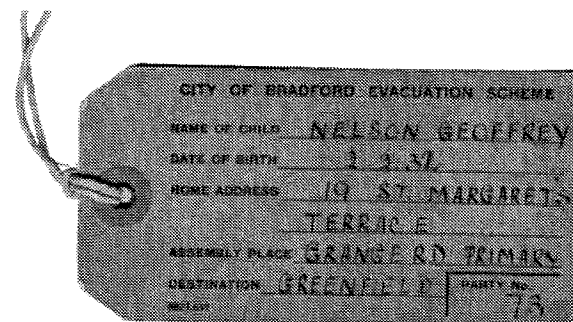
The following are the memories of the experiences in his own words of one evacuee, Geoffrey Nelson. His first steps onto Saddleworth soil were taken at Greenfield Station after getting of the train they had arrived on.

"My brother and I were evacuated at the beginning of the war from Bradford, Yorkshire to Uppermill.

A picture of Geoffrey Nelson and his brother Reginald, the school portrait with Geoffrey on the left is one of the few links they had to their previous home.



I was seven and my brother was eleven. We arrived at the Mechanics Institute, Uppermill (now the Civic Hall), with our gas-masks and a label attached to us stating our name, address and date of birth.



We were selected by the people who had volunteered to give us a home.

We went to live with a Mr. and Mrs. Arnold of Lee Street, Uppermill.

It felt very strange at first but we soon settled down as they were very kind to us and we called them Uncle Harry and Aunt Ida. I was one of the fortunate children along with my brother as they were like parents to us and we couldn't have asked for better.

During the war Uncle Harry was a warden in the A. R. P. (Air Raid Precaution) and Aunt Ida switched on the air-raid siren at the Report Center near by, the siren was situated on the roof of the Mechanics Institute.

When there was an air-raid we would sleep in their cellar, my brother in a hammock and I on a small mattress on a large tool-box.

I attended Lee Street School from 1939-1943. We carried our gas masks everywhere and regularly had 'gas mask drill' in the class room.

This photograph of Geoffrey and Reginald playing on their bike was taken on Lee Street, Uppermill.



As part of the war effort we were asked to work on the school allotments, which were across the road from the school, where we grew vegetables. Also we went thinning Swedes and haymaking at Shackleton's farm below Pots and Pans.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold had a piano so they sent me for piano lessons which I really enjoyed. It wasn't long before Mr. Joe Parker, the headmaster, was asking me to play the hymns for morning assembly, but before he made his appearance some of my friends would ask me to play "In the Mood" which was very popular at the time! The piano playing also meant that after the war from 1945-1949 I represented Ebenezer Church in the Saddleworth Sunday Schools Eisteddfods in the piano playing section and I was fortunate enough to win four times.

After school we played in the streets, as there were hardly any cars in those days, with our bowl and hoops, which consisted of a large metal hook made by Mr. Howard the

local blacksmith in School Street. My friends and I went to the local cinema, "The Palace", owned by Mr. Bob Plummer to Saturday afternoon matinees.

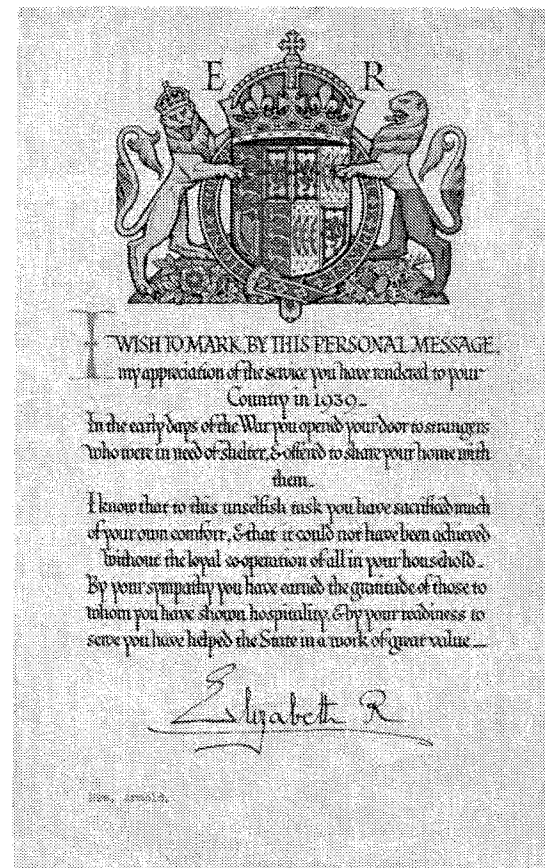
After the war we stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold as my mother had died and my father had married again.

Unfortunately, my brother died at the age of eighteen with meningitis.

I carried on living with the Arnolds until I married Bessy in 1955 and moved to a house on High Street, Uppermill.

I was thankful that I had been evacuated as Mr. and Mrs. Arnold were like a father and brother to both my brother and me. After the war ended as recognition of what they had done they received a certificate for their dedication to the war effort from the Queen."

The certificate received by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold from the Queen for their dedication and service they had rendered in helping these child evacuees.



Peter Fox – with thanks to Geoffrey Nelson for sharing his experiences. If you have any further information on any aspect of Saddleworth and the home front during the Second World War we would love to hear from you – please contact me at Saddleworth Museum by phone 01457 874093 or e-mail curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

Private Lewis Charlesworth

Sue Smith

While engaged in research for a display at Oldham Local Studies and Archives remembering the men from Oldham and District killed during the Battle of Passchendaele Sue Smith uncovered some details about Lewis Charlesworth, the father of Albert Charlesworth, one of the men from Saddleworth who fought in Spain with the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

Lewis Charlesworth was a Lance Corporal with 'A' Company 20th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, service number 163. He was reported missing in the local press on 17th November 1917:

PRIVATE LEWIS CHARLESWORTH, Delph.

Private Lewis Charlesworth is now officially reported to have been missing since Oct. 9. He has a wife and three young children. He was in the Manchester Regiment when war broke out and was one of the first contingent to cross to France. He was in the retreat of Mons and was one of the first Saddleworth men to be wounded, that being in October, 1914.

Official news of his death was reported a week later:

PRIVATE LEWIS CHARLESWORTH, Delph.

Mrs. Charlesworth, Grains' road, Delph, has received word that her husband, Private Lewis Charlesworth, was killed in action on

November 5. He was 29 years of age. He was in the Manchester Regiment when war broke out, having served for twelve years, was one of the first contingent to go to France, and has ever since been on active service except for a short time, when he was in hospital suffering from wounds. Last week Mrs. Charlesworth received word that he was among the missing and her latest letter came from his sergeant, who helped to bury him. She has three young children, the youngest being but five months old.

Lance Corporal Lewis Charlesworth is buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery, grave reference XXXIV.C.12. The inscription reads: AS WE LOVED HIM SO WE MISS HIM



Death in the Old Workhouse at Knarr Barn

Roger Ivens

The decision to build a workhouse in Saddleworth was probably in response to Knathchball's General Workhouse Act of 1723 which enabled single parishes to erect a workhouse in order to enforce labour on the able-bodied poor in return for relief. Many parishes throughout the country began to build workhouses in the late 1720s and 1730s, Oldham's, for example, was built near Greenacres Moor in 1730.

Two documents dated 1 November 1738 record the decision of the parish to erect a workhouse in Saddleworth. The first is an agreement between Hugh Kenworthy of Hill Top, yeomen, and John Bradbury of Delph Greave, yeoman, and James Savile of Strines, yeoman, overseers of the poor of Saddleworth recording the sale of land at Hilltop:

'part of two closes of land called the Over Newfield and the Lower Newfield and belonging to the belonging to the Messuage of Tenement in Saddleworth aforesaid called Hilltop wherein the said Hugh Kenworthy did then Dwell... adjoining upon the side of the King's Highway called Knarrlane in Saddleworth....in order for the Building thereupon a Workhouse'.

A further deed states

'that the said John Bradbury and James Saville and their successors for the time should at any time within the space of the next three years erect and make upon the said piece of land a workhouse with necessary conveniences thereto and in order for employing people setting and keeping to work, lodging and maintaining therein all poor people – should from time to time become chargeable to the township'.

The first mention of a workhouse in Saddleworth appears in the Register of Baptisms for 24th August 1740 suggesting the workhouse was built in 1739-40:

Benjamin, son of Thomas Brearley, Clothier, and Elizabeth, his wife, de
Work-house

Death rates at the workhouse can be traced through the Parish Registers of St Chad's Saddleworth. Those up to 1800 have been transcribed and indexed and these have been used to compile the following table:

Year	Burials	Year	Burials
1740	1	1770	4
1741	5	1771	3
1742	2	1772	5
1743	1	1773	4
1744	1	1774	5
1745	3	1775	2
1746	1	1776	2
1747	1	1777	4
1748		1778	1
1749	1	1779	5
1750		1780	2
1751	1	1781	2
1752	1	1782	
1753		1783	3
1754	1	1784	3
1755	2	1785	12
1756	5	1786	4
1757	3	1787	1
1758	1	1788	9
1759	1	1789	1
1760	2	1790	3
1761	6	1791	5
1762	7	1792	8
1763	2	1793	3
1764	1	1794	4
1765	2	1795	14
1766	5	1796	4
1767	4	1797	2
1768	5	1798	1
1769	3	1799	3
1770	4	1800	14

Three years in particular stand out for their high death rates: 1785, 1795 and 1800. What could have been the cause for these figures?

Answers can perhaps be found in the Diaries of William Rowbottom, weaver, of Burnley Lane, Chadderton who kept a diary between 1787 and 1830. The diaries reveal that the main cause was probably the failure of the harvest and the consequent shortage and expense of food leading to malnutrition. A few selections from the diary from the years 1799 and 1800 will give a flavour of the conditions experienced by many poor people

13th October 1799

Select Observations the most dismal times present to our view ever remembered the season still continues so wet and cold that the fruits of the earth are all blighted crippled or starved for a great deal of flowers and grain have never ripened or come to perfection but have withered away the same as untimely buds which sometimes bud at Cristmas roses hunnisucles and a deal of flowering srubs have perished before the fully bloomed or ripened the air is as cold as in December the earth is wet and soft as in a wet January everything as the most terrafick and gloomey appearance such as never was known before there is a deal of corn hay oats wich for lack of sun wich will never ripen this season tradition says that the year 1735 was a similar year but what must become of the poor God have mercy on us

19th March 1800

the poor in a most shocking situation a great deal are starving for bread and verey few can get anything better than barley bread barley pottage barley dumplins potatoes being so excessiveley dear that the poor cannot buy them

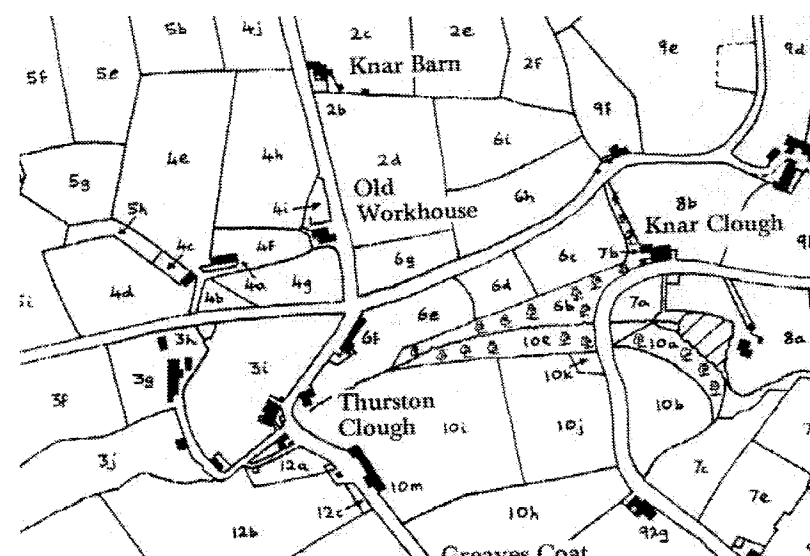
20 April 1800

nettles parliance docks green saus water cresses etc are pluced up by the poor people as a substitute for potatoes and scores of poor wretches where wandering in a forlorn state eagerly picking up any sorts of vegetables wich fell ther way

The following table shows the occurrence of burials throughout 1800:

1800	Burials
January	
February	2
March	
April	
May	4
June	2
July	
August	1
September	
October	1
November	2
December	2

This would also explain why almost half the number of deaths in the Saddleworth workhouse in 1800 occurred in May and June rather than in the winter as might have been expected.



Location of the Old workhouse at Knar Barn

A Map of the Township of Saddleworth, 1822, from a tracing by Michael Buckley

References:

Saddleworth Church Registers edited by John Radcliffe

The History of Saddleworth Workhouse by Terry Eckersley

William Rowbottom's Diaries, 1787-1830 transcribed by Roy Moses

Saddleworth Surveyed: Selected Maps of the Township, 1625-1851, edited by B Barnes, P M Buckley, J M Hunt, A J Petford

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

Passage through Time: a History of Saddleworth Roads & Trackways: Bernard Barnes £5.95

With Ammon Wrigley in Saddleworth: Sam Seville, son-in law & companion of the writer & poet £2.95

Huddersfield Narrow Canal: a Compilation of Articles from the SHS Bulletin on the Construction of the Canal £3.60

Saddleworth Local Interest Trails

Walks around Saddleworth illustrated with sketches & notes on local history & landscape. £1.20 each

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Uppermill | 3 Greenfield | 4 Huddersfield Narrow Canal |
| 5 Grasscroft | 6 Denshaw | 7 Delph |
| 8 Lydgate & Grotton | 9 Dobcross | 10 Diggle |
| | | 11 Castleshaw |

Maps & Plans

Churchyard plan: St Chads church: the old graveyard out of stock
Churchyard plan: St Chads church: the lower graveyard £3.00

Ordnance Survey 25" reprint by Godfrey reduced to ~15" to 1 mile
Lydgate 1906 £1.95

These can be ordered from Graham Griffiths, 6 Slackcote, Delph OL3 5TW. Please add 20% for post & packing. Cheques should be made out to Saddleworth Historical Society.

NLSPRG07

SADDLEWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007
.....

Like the wind among the heather,
Just as careless and as free,
Up and down this old moor parish,
Let's go tramping, you and me.

We will hear the red grouse calling
From some misty morning height,
And we'll mark across the heavens
Some strong kestrel's flight.

Ammon Wrigley,
The Wind Among the Heather

LOCAL HISTORY WEEKEND
SATURDAY 22nd and SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2007

SOUTH PENNINE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM
.....

The forum will be held in the Gallery, Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill on Saturday 22nd September, 07, 9.30 pm. until 4.30 pm. Six various Local History Societies will be presenting their own particular speciality talks and papers.

Lunch will be available in the Gallery at a modest cost.

On Sunday 23rd September, 07 a guided walk around Dobcross is arranged meeting at Churchfields in Dobcross at 10.30 am. The walk lasts approximately two hours and involves a leisurely survey of the buildings and history around Dobcross.

You will find a full programme of this weekend event at the rear of this newsletter. Please return the cut-off booking form before the 8th September, 07.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES 7.30 pm. at the MUSEUM, UPPERMILL
.....

Wednesday 3rd October, 07

Public Houses of Yorkshire.
Paul Jennings, University of Bradford.

Wednesday 31st October, 07

Workhouses in Oldham and Surrounding
Districts.
Roger Ivens, Oldham Local Studies & Archives.

PAST LECTURES 3rd June, 2007 MAPPING SADDLEWORTH

The Museum was full to capacity for the book launch of our publication 'MAPPING SADDLEWORTH: An Enlarged and Revised Collection of Historic Maps of the Township' the Society's contribution to the Saddleworth Festival of the Arts 2007 presented by Alan Petford who has to be congratulated for his lucid discourse on this welcome project his graphic account and superb slides gave this packed audience a wonderful view of Saddleworth in its historic perspective.

Bernard Barnes Memorial Lecture 3rd May, 2007

Using his vast experience and knowledge gained from years as a field archaeologist in Yorkshire, Stephen Moorhouse visited Saddleworth, illustrating and explaining significant features in our landscape. Members and guests were treated to an excellent and stimulating evening and left with ideas for further research.

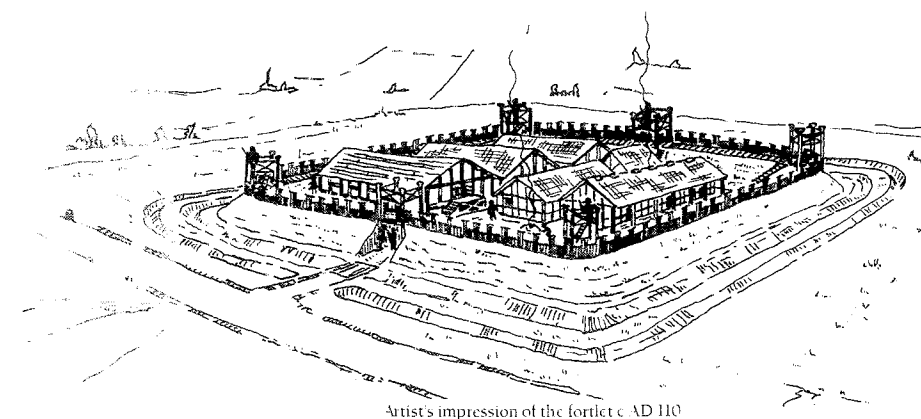
PUBLICATIONS.

The prices of the Society's publications are due to rise on the 1st September, 2007. Members who have gaps in their bookshelves should take this opportunity to buy now.

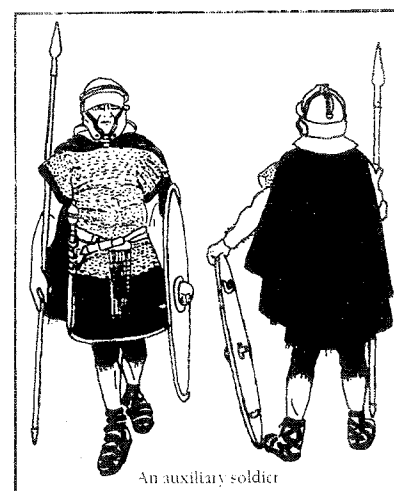
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 8th/9th September, 07. 2.00 pm

Jim Carr will be guiding walks Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th Sept. 2007 around Castleshaw Roman Forts with views of the Roman Road between the fortresses of Chester and York.

Meet at the Castleshaw Centre off Waterworks Road, Delph. Map Ref. SD9909. Turn off A62, 2 miles NE of Delph, between stonegate posts marked OCWW along Waterworks Road. Park by Castleshaw Centre. There is no charge, but the Society publications will be available for purchase. If wet, stout footwear needed.



Artist's impression of the fortlet c. AD 110



An auxiliary soldier

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM, HIGH ST. UPPERMILL.

2nd Sunday of each month. 9.00 am-2.00 pm.
2nd Wednesday of each month 10.00 am-1.00 pm

Farmers Market.
Friends Coffee Mornings.

Tuesdays 9.30am-12.30 pm.

Canalside Quilting Group
This Group meets every Tuesday in the Gallery and welcomes new members. Free to new members for the morning. And if interested can join the Group Annual £10.00 or £2.50 per week.

Tuesday 21st August, 07 1.00pm-3.00 pm

Boredom Busters. Creative activities for 4-11 year olds during all school holidays. Must to be accompanied by an adult. £3.00 per session. Refreshments available.

Friday 14th Sept.07. (excl. school holidays)

Boom Ting.
An introduction to music and rhythm for babies and small children £2.50 per session. (Small babies 50p)
Tel. 01457 810616

SADDLEWORTH BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 31st August - Saturday 1st September, 07
7.30 pm. - 11.00 pm.

Organised by the Friends of the Museum
An opportunity to try a number of real ales produced locally and regionally. Jazz Entertainment both evenings.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday 6th September - Sunday 9th Sept. 07
Thurs-Sat. 10.00am-4.40 pm /Sun.12.00-4.00 pm
Museum

As part of this national event organised by the Civic Trust the admission to the the Museum will be totally free during the 4 days. We hope to have the Textile Machinery running for a period. Thurs-Sat. 10.00 am-4.40 pm
Sunday 12.00-4.00 pm

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS.

Boundaries: This Exhibition presents some of the Historic Maps of the Township from the Archive collections of the Museum and the Historical Society. Looking at boundaries, why they exist and why we can get so passionate about them. The exhibition includes a contribution by the local Saddleworth White Rose Society.

In Your Pram: An Exhibition in collaboration between the Museum and members of the public who have contributed anecdotes, photographs and quotations, relating to memories of pushing prams or even being pushed in a pram.

ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS.

Original Paintings by Alyson Leach, Jack Grey & Gordon Clegg.

Running until the 4th August, 2007

From Earth to Spirit - An Exhibition of Paintings by Gillian Bailey & Dee Kearney.
From the 10th August until the 9th September, 07.

THE FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM

Become involved with the life of Uppermill and join the Friends of Saddleworth Museum who support the work of the Museum and Gallery.

Positive benefits exist in being a Friend of the Museum. Free admission to the Museum and Gallery at anytime, 10% discount on any purchases in the Museum Shop, regular newsletters giving information about events and exhibitions at the Museum. Meeting a friendly group who are all interested in preserving the heritage of Saddleworth. Invitations to social events for Friends and Volunteers of the Museum. Fill in a membership form and you will receive your membership card by post and will soon enjoy the full benefits.

If you are interested in voluntary work contact the curator, or require further information ring Peter Fox on 01457 874093.

SADDLEWORTH CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

7.30 pm. at the Museum, Uppermill

Thursday 13th September, 2007

Sixteen Saddleworth Buildings -
An historical and architectural survey.
Illustrated presentation by Mike Buckley.

Monday 24th September, 2007 2.00 pm

Fuller details later.
Autumn visit - Ancoats Regeneration Area -
Manchester. Half day visit and guided tour
led by Professor Michael Rose of Ancoats
Preservation Trust.

Thursday 11th October, 2007

The Work of English Heritage in the North West.
Illustrated presentation by Andrew Davison,
Team leader NW English Heritage.

To join the Saddleworth Civic Trust ring Mrs. Lorna Gartside 01457 873195

SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

This well established organisation which was founded in 1903 is a major national voluntary adult education body and the Saddleworth Branch now very urgently require a new Chairperson and additional Committee Members to help in the functioning of this valuable section of the Saddleworth community.

Please reply to the Branch Secretary Mrs. Anne Buckley on 01457 872881 or
email annebuckley@myway.com

SADDLEWORTH WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME OF COURSES FOR 2007/2008

EGYPTOLOGY: The Great Museum Collections.

Tutor: Victor Blunden.

Starting Tuesday 25th September, 2007. 10 Meetings.
7.00 pm. to 9.00 pm. Saddleworth School, Uppermill.

DEMONSTRATING WESTERN ART HISTORY

Tutor: Toni Rigby. A new ten week course outlining the history of Western Art,
including the masters of each era, from Leonardo to Emin.

Starting Tuesday 25th September, 2007. 10 Meetings
1.00 pm. to 3.00 pm. Lee Street Centre, Uppermill.

BEGINNERS' GENEALOGY WITH COMPUTERS

Tutors: Anne Buckley and Jean Sanders.

A short course to introduce ways of tracing and presenting a family tree. Computer skills are not needed but the course will attempt to improve searching the internet and offer suggestions of how to present the completed family tree.

Starting Tuesday 8th January, 2008 7 meetings.
7.00 pm. to 9.00 pm. Saddleworth School.

THE KENWORTHY LECTURE & A.G.M.

Saddleworth Museum, Uppermill. Friday 14th September, 07 at 7.30 pm.

MAPPING SADDLEWORTH - Presented by Alan Petford also present Michael Buckley and David Harrison. Admission Free. Cheese and Wine.

Further details from the Branch Secretary Mrs. Anne Buckley, 01457 872881

MEMBERSHIP SECTION.

We extend a welcome to sixteen new members to the Society and trust they will enjoy their membership keeping abreast of the rich local history story of our Saddleworth Parish.

Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Widd, Shaw.	Mrs. Ruth Pauline Hutton, Harrogate.
Mrs. G. Roberts, Barry, Wales.	Mr. Adrian Broadbent, Huddersfield.
Mr. Lance Salway, Sherborne, Dorset.	Mrs. Marian Barker, Leeds.
Dr. Marian Carey, Leicester.	Mrs. E. Needle, Uppermill.
Mr. Roy Whittaker, Newcastle.	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Davies, Diggle.
Mr. John Widdall, Uppermill.	Mr. Charles Gamble, Glasgow.
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Blackshaw & Family, New Tame, Delph.	

There has been a good response to the reminder regarding this year's membership fees contained in the last Bulletin, but a further request is enclosed for members who have not yet paid; we shall be pleased to receive remittances as soon as possible. Very many thanks for your continued and valued support.

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

Cheques made out to Saddleworth Historical Society and forwarded to
Mrs. E. Broadbent, Hon. Membership Sec., Pastures Farm Flat, Back o'th' Low Road,
Strinesdale, Saddleworth, Yorks. OL4 3SG

A recent visit from Mr. & Mrs. Neil Lambert from Utah, America, resulted in an interview with Neil Barrow, the Archivist, who was able to furnish family history data giving rise to the fact that their particular Wrigley ancestors originated from the district of Waterhead, in Oldham. We trust that they enjoyed a pleasant holiday in the Saddleworth hills.

SOUTH PENNINE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM SATURDAY 22nd and SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 07 SADDLEWORTH, YORKS.

Local history is flourishing in the Pennines as never before. The purpose of this weekend is to provide a forum for local historians to meet each other, share enthusiasms and exchange ideas. A variety of very different projects are featured in our programme which is designed to draw attention to the diversity of approaches currently being adopted to the practice of local history in the South Pennines.

SATURDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2007
THE GALLERY, SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM, HIGH STREET, UPPERMILL.
9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

The programme consists of:

Hebden Bridge History Group. 'Premises and Participation - The Hebden Bridge Archive'.
The Midgley History Group. 'Pennine Perspectives - Approaches to writing a History of your Township'.
Huddersfield Family History Group. 'Family History in the South Pennines'.
The Marsden History Group. 'Picturing the Past - The Marsden Photographic Archive'.
Chadderton Historical Society. 'Promoting the Past - Local History across the Generations'.
Saddleworth Historical Society. 'Mapping the Past'.

There will be displays and items for sale from a variety of Local Historical & Family History Societies. Lunch will be available at a modest cost.

SUNDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2007

All those who participated on the Saturday are cordially invited to sample a little of Saddleworth's history by a guided walk around Dobcross. We will meet at Churchfields in Dobcross at 10.30 am. The walk will last approximately two hours and involve a leisurely survey of the buildings and history of Dobcross. The going underfoot will be on good surfaces.

Coffee will be available at the end of the walk.

Due to limited space it is regretted that pre-booking is required for this event. Please return to form BELOW by the 8th September, 2007.

SOUTH PENNINE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM BOOKING FORM

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

email

Tel:

Please return to Mrs. D. Latimer, Windy Nook, 1 Lane, Grotton, Saddleworth, Yorks. OL4 5RH

For Further Details: Contact Mike Buckley, mikebuckley@saddleworth.net. Tel 01457820015