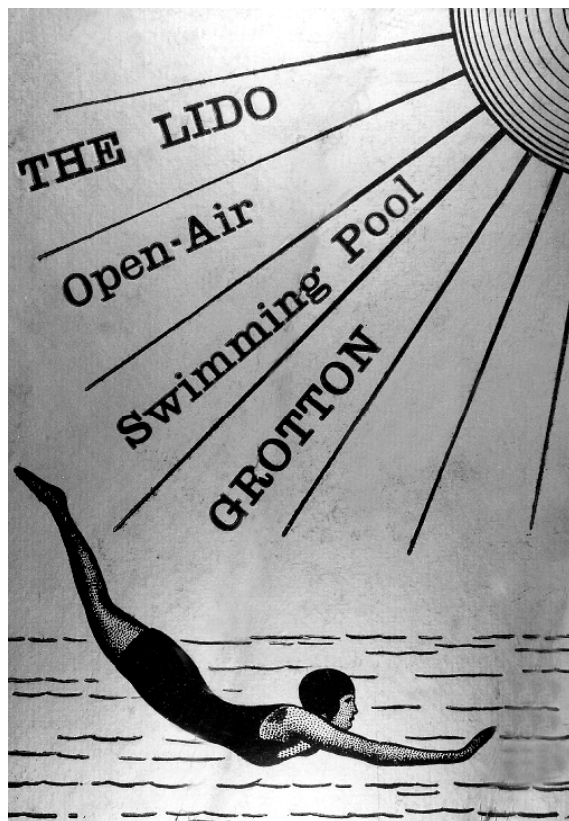


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 51

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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover Illustration:
Cover of Opening Programme, Grotton Lido, 1935
Peter Fox Collection

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GROTTON LIDO

Peter Fox

The idea for the provision of a swimming pool for the residents of Saddleworth goes back long before the construction of the Grotton Lido. In the 1890s a Public Baths Fund was established to build a swimming baths. It promoted a number of swimming galas to raise funds for the scheme. The lack of a purpose built pool was highlighted by the fact that these galas were held on a couple of mill dams or lodges which were somewhat utilitarian. For instance, in July 1892 a swimming gala was held at Bentfield Mill dam in Greenfield, and as part of the event five bands played in Uppermill Square and the Friendly societies in full regalia and cyclists in fancy dress formed a parade. But the scheme never came to fruition and in May 1915 any funds raised were presented to the Saddleworth Council.¹

The building of a Lido in Grotton finally brought a public bath to Saddleworth. Lidos were a fashion premise of the 1920s and 30s and it appears that Saddleworth was no exception. The site was in Grotton, the former site of Brookside Mill and Grotton Hollow Mill Lodge which were consequently demolished, the site becoming the location of the new Lido. The Lido was built by a local firm of builders, Whitehouse & Stubbs, who were also responsible for the housing estate that urbanised the Grotton area.

The Grotton Lido was formally opened in May 1935 by Councillor Harry Wilde, J.P. Chairman of the Springhead Council (before Springhead was amalgamated with Saddleworth). Another Councillor, Mr Hartley Bateson (a well-known local historian) spoke of the day when Grotton might take on the form of a holiday resort, this suggestion linking to the fact that there was also, at the time of opening of the Lido, a proposal for a cinema in the Grotton area.

On completion of the Grotton Lido it had the proud boast that it was believed to be the biggest open air bathing pool in the country at the time, being 75 yards in length and 25 yards wide. The depth of the pool varied with 75% being 3 feet deep and the remainder sinking from 3 feet to six feet. It was said that the new pool at the Grotton Lido could not be bettered ‘...not even by the pool at Grosvenor House, London.

The water was filtrated, sterilised, heated and chlorinated. The Lido boasted ‘clean water days’ every day due to the installation of a water purification system with the whole of the water in the pool being cleaned and filtered every eight hours this meant the total lack of a requirement for emptying and filling the pool.

The best description of the Lido and its facilities can be found in the booklet that was issued for the opening with its front cover in gold and black with a classic thirties’ sunshine design shining down on a diving figure.

The Grotton Lido

Hidden away among the little green hills beyond Oldham lies the Grotton Lido, yet another example of Lancashire enterprise. The Lido provides a happy escape from the bustle and toil of everyday life. Swimming or dancing by the pool or watching the sun sparkling in the shining cascade with a host of happy children dabbling and splashing all around it, you seem millions of miles away from the trivial round and common task, and yet you could, were it not for the grassy pleasant hills, see many a mill chimney. You are in Grotton, only half an hour’s bus ride from Manchester, and from Oldham ‘nobbut a cock’s stride,’ as the lads and lasses will tell you. You are also within three or four miles of Denton, Hyde, Ashton and Stalybridge, and the road over the Yorkshire moors takes you through various towns and villages into Huddersfield. Thus, it is that thousands of happy young men and women (no mention of children) come from a wide area to this delightful haven of health and happiness, at every available moment. The Lido is open all day and every day. If you are a swimmer the pool will delight you. It is 180 feet long and filled with

¹ *Oldham Standard and Oldham Chronicle.*

GROTTON LIDO



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 1. The Lido looking East. Childrens' Pool in the Foreground; Watershoot and High Diving Board top Right; Refreshment Tables and Umbrellas and the new Grotton Estate in the Distance.



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 2. The Lido looking west towards Woodbrook. Band Stand and Watershoot with Cafe and Changing Rooms in the Foreground.

GROTTON LIDO

pure spring water which is filtered continuously by the latest type of filter plant. Moreover, those who planned Grotton remembered that plenty of people love a swim when the sun is not shining or when there is a cold wind blowing. A special heating apparatus keeps the water up to 75 degrees [23° C] and there are usually a good many people here who are merely content to watch and this is a point up for Grotton over most outdoor swimming pools. There is a water chute and high diving board, and when you climb ashore for a rest you can lie and bask on the sun-bathing lawns and listen to an orchestra playing dreamy melodies. The happiest part of the Lido is the children's paddling pool, which is 44 feet long and varies from 2 feet to 3 feet in depth. Hundreds of kids romp and splash all day in the sun, and most parents appreciate the advantage of having the pool heated. Here the tiny tots can get accustomed to water in safe, clean and healthy surroundings. Spacious rooms are provided. These are cosy and centrally heated, and you have no need to be afraid of losing your clothes or valuables, as the safety basket locker system has been adopted. This means that you place your belongings in a wire basket, which you lock and hand to the attendant. After the first busy weekend additional dressing accommodation was provided under the Grand Stand. The Grand Stand, by the way, gives a commanding view of both the swimming pool and the Dance Floor and there are usually a good many people who are merely content to watch. The Oldham Palace Orchestra plays on the Band Stand every Tuesday and Saturday afternoon, and both afternoon and evening on Sundays. Tuesday and Saturdays are the special days for dancing. The White Star Dance Band is in attendance from 7.00pm to 10.00pm and delightfully informal dancing by the pool provides a really jolly evening. Spot competitions with attractive prizes are organised. The Café and Tea Gardens are not the least attractive features of the Lido. The gardens arranged with bright little tables under the shade of coloured umbrellas add yet another touch of glamour to this delightful spot and now you have decided to take the very first opportunity of visiting Grotton you will want to know something about the prices. Well, you will find Grotton Lido highly competitive. On Tuesdays and Saturday, you can get an all-in ticket to include bathing and dancing for the sum of five shillings [25p] and this sum must be one of the best 'Bobs Worth' in Lancashire [Grotton is firmly within the boundaries of Yorkshire] or anywhere else for that matter. On these two days separate tickets for dancing and bathing are 9d [4p] each and it is only 4d to watch. The same charges are made on Sundays, but there is of course no dancing. On all other days it is 3d [1p approx.] for spectators and 6d [2½p] to bathe on special days and 3d [1p approx.] on ordinary days, and the charge for children to watch is only 2d [1p approx.] anytime. There is also free car-parking. The promoters of Grotto Lido are to be congratulated on making a new and distinctive pleasure centre, and they can be certain that most of the visitors will return again and again. There is something very pulling about this Lido habit, especially when there is as beautiful and handy to get to as Grotton.¹

Those who wanted to visit the Lido could walk, arrive by the local buses, including those operated by Oldham Corporation, or catch the 'Delph Donkey' train on the Oldham branch line and get off at Grotton Station. The facility of a car park and free parking was an attraction to those who could afford to run a car.

The attraction, apart from its obvious facilities to enjoy as a Lido, offered many other entertainments with a band playing regularly on Tuesdays and Saturdays and the White Star Dance Band and the Oldham Palace Orchestra providing the entertainment.

There were other events organised, such as a display of the latest swimwear fashions attracting the interest of the ladies in a display provided by Hardcastle's of Oldham who were up-market ladies outfitters.

The opening of the Grotton Hotel on the 19th July 1939 noted in its opening publicity that it was opposite the Lido; its location on this site no doubt seen as an attraction to the visitors to the Lido. The publicity also commented on the fact that new houses were being built at a cost then of £395 with Grotton fast becoming a desirable place to live.

In its time the Lido made Grotton an attraction for visitors from far beyond the Saddleworth boundaries, and if all plans for developing Grotton had come to fruition the location would have looked considerably different to its present appearance.

¹ Opening Programme of the Grotton Lido.

GROTTON LIDO



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 3. A Sunny Day attracts a large crowd.



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 4. The Chidrens' Paddling Pool.

GROTTON LIDO

However, despite all this development it wasn't to provide the Lido with a firm footing for remaining open and it was only to remain open for a short time, closing just four years later in 1939. The closure of the Lido was brought about by a number of reasons, the Saddleworth weather was by no means suited to all year-round bathing, even though the pool was heated and this resulted in low admissions and hence low financial returns. The onset of the Second World War was another that contributed to its failure.

The site gradually became derelict and by the 1960s was in a sorry state and not long after this the site was cleared. In the 1970s the site was developed with a block of flats being named 'Lido House' giving us a reminder of its past history. There is however one remnant of the Lido surviving being a set of steps in the garden of one of the houses that was built on part of the site of the Lido.



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 5. The High Diving Board Proves Popular with the Youth

OPEN AIR
BATHING
-: POOL :-
Grotton - Nr. Oldham

CAFÉ IN GROUNDS

Latest Purification Plant
Water Heated to 70°
Heated Dressing Rooms
(with Latest Safety Lockers)
Main Pool 180 feet long
Children's Paddling Pool 44 feet

Opening - Easter 1935

Proprietors - WHITEHOUSE & STUBBS, GROTTON, OLDHAM. (MAn 2556)

Figure 6. Flyer advertising the Lido's Opening in 1935.

FOND MEMORIES OF DELPH VILLAGE - ELSIE SHAW: A MEMOIR

Mary Rodgers

Veteran Liberal supporter Elsie Shaw has died aged 91.

One of the borough's longest-serving Liberal politicians, former councillor Elsie Shaw, has died at the aged of 91. Mrs Shaw, who was born in Delph, passed away on Saturday at Millfield Residential Home, Huddersfield Road, Oldham, where she had lived for four years. Her funeral is at St Thomas' Church, Leesfield, next Tuesday at 1 pm.

In 1998 she was honoured for 60 years' service to her party - she joined the Young Liberals in Delph in 1938 - with a special president's medal on her retirement from civic life.

Paying tribute to her, Councillor Howard Sykes, leader of Oldham Council, said: "I have known Elsie all my political life. When I first got elected back in 1987, Elsie was one of our much respected elder statesmen who did not say a lot, but when she did you listened. She always had time for our new councillors and offered many sound words of advice that have stood the test of time and I still use today. A lifelong Liberal and battler for her constituents - if Elise Shaw was on your side you had a real terrier in your camp - 'No' was not an answer she was prepared to accept. She touched and made better the lives of many thousands of people, including me. But besides being a councillor, chairman of the Parish Council and a former mayor, she was also a mum and a grandmother and never let you forget it. On behalf of my Lib-Dem colleagues, not only in Oldham but throughout Britain, our thoughts and prayers are with her family."

She was a Liberal Democrat member of Oldham Council for 22 years and also Mayor in 1989-90. Her year of office coincided with Oldham Athletic's glory season when she travelled with the team which played at Wembley in the League Cup final.

She also served on Saddleworth Parish Council, where she was chairman in 1994, and her charity efforts for Oldham and Saddleworth raised nearly £60,000 for charities. She served on Oldham Housing Committee for 22 years, and was a member of the Greater Manchester Fire Authority and Oldham Social Services and Family Practitioner committees.

A widow with one son, Craig, and grandson, Greg, Mrs Shaw lived for the major part of her life in Lees, later moving to Hood Square at Springhead. She was renowned for her hospitality on election days, when she held open house for her party's candidates and workers, serving tea, coffee and sandwiches late into the evening. She was believed to be Oldham's longest serving school governor when she stepped down from that role in 2004 at Christ Church, Denshaw, a post which she had held for 30 years. In addition, she was a governor at Blue Coat, Delph, Springhead and Hey with Zion schools and worked for more than 20 years for the Lees Old People's Welfare Committee, and also as a volunteer for the Delph Old People's Welfare Committee, Oldham Carnival, and Christie Cancer Research.¹

Elsie Shaw was a lady I felt I had known forever, there was less than ten year's difference in her age and that of my mother and so they often enjoyed long chats, usually about Delph village, referring to one another by their maiden names, as did most friends from the village in those days. As I became more involved in work for the local community, I met her more frequently and we always got on well. I also dealt closely with Elsie (by this time Councillor Shaw) in my job as administrator at Christ Church School, Denshaw, where she was a very active governor.

Around 1998 she asked me if I would consider helping her to write an autobiography as she had such a full, interesting and fulfilling life she wanted it to be remembered. I said I would give it a try but that it would have to be done in the school holidays. Nothing was a problem to Elsie and without a further word she arrived early on the first Wednesday of the holiday complete with a bag of food for our lunch (and the rest). We sat together at the computer

¹ *Oldham Evening Chronicle*, 1 April 2009.

FOND MEMORIES OF DELPH VILLAGE

while she dictated her early memories, she had brilliant re-call and knew exactly what she wanted to say. I merely typed and punctuated. She set out the format for the first part of her book, we worked hard but not as fast as I would have wished as other memories crept in and there were many interesting exchanges about life in Delph over the years.

I have always believed that these memories should be shared but have not been able to come up with a suitable means of sharing them in a way Elsie would have wanted. After discussions with the editor, we both decided that the Bulletin was an ideal means of sharing a valuable piece of primary evidence of life in Delph Village from approximately 1920 to 1940. I am sure Elsie would have been proud for her short autobiography to appear in what is a truly Saddleworth publication, read by those, like Elsie, who love to read the history of Saddleworth and its people.

FROM CLOGS TO MAYOR

Elsie W. Shaw (née Bristow) - An Autobiography

This book is dedicated to the people who,
like myself were born and brought up
in Delph and love the village.

The first sections or chapters to be as follows:-

1. Home Life in Delph
2. Shopping
3. People and Places
4. School, Church Leisure Time
5. Politics Take Over

HOME LIFE

I was born at Hindel Terrace, Delph on August 25th 1917, the second child of Sally and Jack Bristow and the first of three daughters. When my brother Teddy, then three, was told he had a new sister he cried with disappointment as all he wanted was a fishing net! Jack Bristow was a Copper Engraver who had come to Delph to work with this his father at Lumb Mill Printworks. (now Saddleworth Business Centre). My family originally came from Bollington and had all come to Delph to make it their place of work, to begin with we all lived with my grandparents on Gartside Street, next to Delph Liberal Club (now Delph Club) however, my parents soon moved into Hindel Terrace where I was born and we they stayed until I was in my late teens. I loved living here.

I can still hear the sound of my clogs on the cobblestones going down St. Anne's Square and over the two bridges towards home and remember making sparks fly from my feet by banging my clog against the pavement edge. Hindel Terrace was known locally as Sodom, but to me it was nearer to Paradise. Memories of my early home and young life are very pleasant and I feel that I was very lucky to have such a happy family and grow up in such a lovely place as Delph.

Home life was good and my early years extremely happy. Like most Delph housewives in those days, my mother was a marvellous cook and housekeeper.

My favourite day was Wednesday, baking day, and to us children (and many more in the village) the best day of the week. I remember coming home from school at lunch time to potato pie, followed by rice pudding with apple or whimberry pie. Then after this feast, it was faces washed and back to school. Three forty-five saw school over for the day and back home, down St. Anne's Square over the two bridges, then home to more baking! On Wednesdays the table would be laden with six loaves of bread and one dozen muffins as well as cakes.

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Mary Rodgers Collection

Figure 1. Delph from Knott Hill, c.1920. The Mechanics Hall is in the centre with Hindel Terrace just visible behind. Hill End School is to the top left. Much of the Eighteenth Century Housing on Hill End Road and adjoining Hindel Terrace was demolished in the 1930s.

Tea on baking day was always cheese and onion dip followed by the remains of the fruit pie this time with custard, (what an unhealthy diet they would say today, but it didn't do me any harm and I am now well past my six score years and ten). Tins were filled with cake for the week and there were biscuits and scones as well. Mother taught us all to bake, sew and clean and we all had our own jobs to do.

Downstairs, we had a kitchen and living room. Those two rooms accommodated everything we could wish for. A piano, a lovely dining table, it's wooden top scrubbed weekly by all the girls in turn and when not in use for eating, kept covered with a burgundy chenille cloth, which matched that covering the mantle shelf. Burgundy must have been my mother's favourite colour as our sofa and four chairs were all in that colour, the whole room being reflected in the huge mirror of the sideboard on the back wall. Many homes had this type of furniture and really looked after it well as it had to last.

Hot water came from the boiler by the fire and Friday night saw each one of us bathed in turn in a tin bath by the fire in the living room. Through the week the bath was stored on a nail in the pantry. The mantelpiece was high up and on top of the burgundy cloth were big ornaments, which concealed the gas meter! Pennies for this meter were kept hidden up here, along with the insurance books and money, a safe hiding place, which we children could not reach. It was the custom in most homes to put the insurance money away for when the agent called (at the same time each week!) By putting away money like this mother, always had just enough for our needs until dad got paid again. Interspersed with the vases were family photographs of our ancestors, much the same as most village homes at the time. The kitchen contained an old set boiler and a table cupboard as well as the mangle, which came out on Monday evenings. Monday was always mother's wash day, as it was in most homes. All families seemed to have set days for doing various chores. The coal was kept in the coal-place under the stairs. A bathroom and electricity seemed quite a luxury when, during my teens the family moved to the newly built stone houses on Delph Lane. The upstairs at Hindel Terrace comprised two bedrooms (one divided to make a room for our brother). Fortunately, the rooms were big and we all lived in relative comfort. Looking back, it seems

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to me that we had everything we could wish for in what would now be considered a little home.

To provide extra income to help bring us up, mother took in washing for two families. After she had ironed these clothes it was our job to deliver the laundry and collect the 2/6d charged for the whole service. We children were given two old pence each for delivering the goods to New Delph and Grains Road. When we came back we had to 'mangle' our own week's washing to help mother and also help iron our clothes the day after.

Each day had its own jobs but our brother escaped many of chores and was allowed to read, which he always seemed to be doing. However, this must have paid off as he won a scholarship to Hulme Grammar School. We girls didn't take kindly to this at times, but Teddy did have to clean shoes. Father taught him to clean the backs well by saying 'A good soldier never looks behind him' - little did we think he'd end up bearing the rank of Major.

As well as being baking day, Wednesday was cleaning day for the girls and we had to 'do' upstairs. 'Do' was the colloquial word for cleaning and everyone in those days knew what it meant. Thursday we cleaned brasses and windows, but Friday was almost job free, apart from our bath.

Saturday was special. The morning consisted of errands for 'Aunty' Alice Broadbent, caretaker at the nearby Delph Mechanics. While she was busy cleaning up after the previous evening's event we did her errands, payment for this was 6d. and a red apple. I enjoyed shopping, there were many shops in the village then and all the shopkeepers were friendly and helpful, everyone knew each other. Out of the sixpence I got for shopping, I would buy



Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 2. Workouse Staff with Women and Girls, c.1920.

some sweets for a penny, then in the afternoon I would walk to the old Workhouse at Runninghill and share my sweets with those poor souls living in that bleak and austere hillside building. I would go there with Aunty Dorice Ingram who lived in Millgate and was attached to the Salvation Army so we would take copies of *The War Cry* to deliver to the residents. This was probably the only company some of these people had all week. This

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often upset me, it was so sad to see the plight of some of the inmates and the poor state of their clothes. I can still remember some of the faces, one was the mother of a classmate of mine which really shocked me. They wore big, shapeless cotton nightdresses like shirts and slept in iron beds set on bare floorboards. When I think of the care the elderly and infirm receive some seventy years on, I am very thankful. Perhaps this early experience had some bearing on my public service in later life. Sometimes, as a treat, we would go by bus to Saddleworth Station and walk up Brownhill Lane to Runninghill and the workhouse, I understand this is now a very select residential development, what a change, and one for the better.

Cricket was another Saturday pastime and on Summer evenings we would wander along Dale Lane after tea and sit in the fields to watch the end of the match. Days seemed so much longer then and there was always so much to do in our little village, I loved every minute of my life in Delph and took advantage of all that was on offer. Sunday was of course Church and Sunday School, but I'll talk more about that later.

SHOPPING

I said I enjoyed shopping. Shopping in Delph was easy in my young days, we had around thirty-two shops! When you think of the size of the population nowadays and the number of shops we have now, it's hard to believe that the way of life could have changed so much. When I counted up the number of shops, I realised in what outlandish places some of these shops were situated. There was even a shop in Rumbles Lane, they sold sweets and soft drinks, and another, facing Bailey Mill at the bottom of Oldham Road also selling sweets and tobacco. The shop at the top of Stoneswood Road (the end of the first block of 'Watson Row') was yet another similar shop. The row was named Watson Row because of the number of Watson families living there, all belonging to the Methodist church. A lady called Mrs. Hudson kept a shop on Dale Lane which also sold sweets and tobacco, what a lot of sweets must have been consumed in Delph! Not so good for our teeth and not many dentists around then, but it didn't seem to bother us. These shops did particularly well when there was a cricket match in the village, especially the ones in Rumbles and Dale Lane. There were also shops at Bleakhey Nook, quite a well populated hamlet in those days. What is now Saddleworth Hotel was more like a mini leisure park, it was grand as there were swing boats as well as sweets and drinks.

Half way between Delph and Denshaw there was a Co-op which was the Green Ash Branch Store of Denshaw Co-op. Branch Store sold all manner of goods and of course gave 'divi'. The population of the area was greater than it is now and Slackcote Mill was flourishing. There was also housing at Slackcote, New Tame, Oldfield and West View so the post box on the wall came in very useful. Green Ash is the first building on Delph Road, where Delph becomes Denshaw, however it is still within the Delph voting area - some strange facts in our villages.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The main village street basically consisted of shops and public houses with hardly any private housing. Starting at Delph Station we had Kershaw's sweets, tobacco and stationery, this provided a service for the workers at Lumb Mill who travelled in by bus. There were also shops at the bottom of Huddersfield Road. Coming up through Millgate we had Mr. Rhodes' hairdressers. This shop has had various uses over the years, mostly as a hairdresser but it was best known as Clark/Battye (award winning Couturier around the late 1950's to 60's period and after that back to being a hairdresser). Next came the Co-op. grocers now the home of Saddleworth Players. This was a grand shop; it had fine, polished wood counters and all the men were very smart and wore long white aprons. Butter was cut, weighed out and wrapped in greaseproof paper and sugar weighed into bluebags. There was a wonderful smell of fresh ground coffee and newly cut bacon. Around the corner in what is now the Library was greengrocery fruit and fish. This was quite an impressive shop, tiled in white and kept very

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clean, but always that distinct odour of fish of course. These were only two of the Co-operative departments within the village, all providing essential services.

Across the road at the bottom of Grains Road was Albert Henry Bradbury's butchers, one of around five in the village at the time. After Albert-Henry retired the shop became the West Riding County Library. Crossing Grains Road into King Street, the first shop on King Street was Mrs Hudson's drapers and haberdashers where you could buy bobbins of cotton, embroidery silks and all manners of lovely things, just like Aladdin's Cave to us children. Next door was Councillor Lewis Murgatroyd's Newsagents, this was kept by Lewis and his sister Janey. The shop itself was a newsagents' but it also served as waiting room for the doctors surgery. You had to sit on a hard bench surrounded by old newspapers to wait for the doctor. In winter everyone sat round a stove in the middle of the shop and when it was your turn to see the doctor you went behind the counter to his 'consulting room'. Dr. Ramsden of Dobcross 'consulted' here and he was our family doctor. Dr. Stonehouse, the last of the Ramsden dynasty of medics, died only recently and the memorial in Dobcross Square is dedicated to another member of that family. They were a legend in Saddleworth. A distinct smell of old rotting newspaper pervaded the shop but the big warm stove caused grief to the family, when the piles of old newspaper set on fire, Miss Murgatroyd got badly burned and lost nearly all her hair. However, she recovered well and worked in the shop until it closed, I can remember her green, button-through overall, soiled with newsprint all down the front.

Next down the street was the shop owned by John Roberts. He was a shoe repairer and also had a shoe shop, there was friendly rivalry between this shop and the Co-op which also sold shoes. John played the violin and his sister Polly the piano and they had a dance band with a friend called George as drummer who managed to drum all evening with his pipe in his mouth. The band was much in demand, especially for the many dances held at Delph Mechanics. Then came Brierleys' Pork shop, Mr. Brierley also sold beef and other meat products at times, but always claimed to be just a 'Pork Butcher' which in this day and age must seem very strange. I must say he made wonderful pork pies and I always remember the potato crisps they sold!

Florrie and Jack Schofield ran a confectioners shop next door to Brierleys, and they displayed all their birthday and wedding cakes in the window, a wonderful sight for us children. I remember my twenty-first birthday cake being on show in the window, it was specially done in lilac, my favourite colour. Jack could regularly be seen disappearing into the Bull at lunchtime, still wearing his white apron and we always knew the shop would be closed for a while at that time! Then came Dobsons' ironmongers, trading as Amos Dobson and Sons, Mr. Dobson also ran a decorating business run from lower down in St. Anne's Square, but orders could always be taken at the shop and I remember buying fireworks from him at Bonfire time. His sons carried on the business for many years after Amos died.

Manchester House was a beautiful Drapery shop, selling all manner of pretty things, especially well stocked at Christmas. I remember the tiny bottles of perfume and handkerchiefs on sale for presents and I always bought myself a bottle when I had enough money for a treat. It was said that everything on sale had 1/2d on the price!

The Bank was of course open and thriving then, in the days before National Westminster took over it was merely 'The District Bank, Delph' (it had previously been the National Bank). In the Square was the paper shop, however this had originally been another haberdasher owned by George Buckley of the old Delph family who lived at 'Brookfield' (Holland Close Warden's Home), they sold men's shirts, ladies underwear and lacy garments. The Swan Inn remains unchanged and its outward appearance has altered little over the years. Its cobbled frontage is still known as the Square; parts of the village remained cobbled until the war years when they were finally tarmacked over. What is now the Estate Agents was originally the Pack Horse Inn, then it changed to a clock shop owned by 'Clock Joe' and was later owned by Edgar Hardie, an electrician and upholsterer. His family still live in the village. The Chip Shop was bigger than it is today and we used to sit outside after Brownies and eat 1d worth of

FOND MEMORIES OF DELPH VILLAGE

chips. It was one of about four in the village, all doing a roaring trade. The Rose and Crown was a very popular drinking place, especially with the men. It was often flooded and barrels used to float about in the cellar after heavy rain. They say weather is worse now than it used to be, but I can remember all manner of planks and other objects floating down from Denshaw at high tide.

Over the bridge on the left was Cheethams' confectioners, which is now a private house. Two sisters, Lucy and Alice Cheetham kept the shop and lived on the premises with their father. Next door was Broadbents' high class tobacconists which did a roaring trade in my younger days. Next door to that was Tomlinsons, a private dwelling which remains today although sadly uninhabited. The next house was opened as a confectioners after Cheethams closed down. Then came the 'Dairy' - a general store kept by Mr. and Mrs. Mellor. They sold everything, sweets, tobacco and cakes etc.

Set back next door is the three storey building reputedly the oldest house in Delph. The deeds to this house state that it was built 'Before America gained Independence' and that was in the year 1776. It is also of interest that down the back of the house runs the old Roman road and Pack Horse route which was the main way through the village before the bridge and road through the village were made.

Then we had Broadbents' butchers - they had their own slaughterhouse at the back of the dairy - and next door again was another small sweet shop. I remember that on the corner was a large building, now demolished, housing a shop that sold old fashioned drapery, towels, ladies and men's underwear etc. The shop was demolished to make the footpath wider and safer for pedestrians.

On the other side of Denshaw Road was the White Lion Inn which still remains, reputedly the oldest ale house in the village. Not only did they sell fine sparkling ale but milk would be sold at night, because there was a farm attached. We could always go up there to buy an extra pint if mother ran out. The farmer was very active in the local community and many outings were organised from the pub.

Coming down the other side of King Street, occupying the site of the present Public Toilets were three cottages. In front of these lived a local character, Brierley Fielding and his two sisters. Brierley kept hens at Sandbed and when it rained the hens used to float around in their pens! Brierley had a fine handlebar moustache and grew prize winning gladiolas. Another local doctor, Dr Loftus had his surgery here, and he is well remembered for making his calls on horseback. Pickups had a printing firm next door and they also sold toys from the shop at the front. Nurse Undy, the local midwife, lodged here and when we children saw her step outside with her black bag, we all knew there was soon going to be a new arrival in the village.

Next door was one of the few private houses in the village. Then came Polly Wood's fruit and vegetable shop. After that came Clegg-Garrets' butchers and over the bridge, first on the left down the steps, was the tripe shop owned by Frank Haigh, he kept the tripe in a tin bath in the shop. Mr Haigh was a well-known local character from a large family of 'Delphers'. This shop has since been a sweet shop and a hairdresser, but we locals all remember it as the Tripe Shop. Next shop on was Shaws' selling hardware and lamp oil, lamp oil being much in demand at the time.

Then there was the Co-op Undertakers on the corner of Lawton Square. This later became a sweet shop, a tailors' shop and after changing lines many times in recent years is now the local flower shop. The Chemist has remained unchanged as the local dispensary. The premises inside are still laid out much as they were despite considerable modernisation. At one time a stone pestle and mortar on the wall defined the nature of the business. Next door was 'Talt' (Albert) Gartside's hairdressing and shaving shop, which remained a barbers for many years. Then came the Co-op butchers, they had their own slaughterhouse, behind the shop and locally known as the 'Cattleyard' (for obvious reasons). The next building housed

FOND MEMORIES OF DELPH VILLAGE

almost all the Co-op shops, you went in through the main door and to the left was the ladies wear and haberdashery, to the right shoes, and upstairs was Jimmy Tom the cobbler who would put irons on your clogs while you waited. He was a tiny man about 4ft in height with a mop of black curly hair. A lovely little man.

The Post Office hasn't changed much at all, especially outside, apart from the fact it was then the local telephone exchange! The exchange was behind what is now the counter, there were several counters then. A little old lady sat behind the counter operating the switchboard with a Victorian type telephone on the side. Some of the first numbers in Saddleworth had only two digits in the early days.

The three shops which are now dwellings and have railings around were, a sweet shop owned by Ellen Settle, Elsie Duffet's chip shop and a gent's hairdressers which also remained a barbers for many years. What is now the Craft Shop was Wrigleys' confectioners. Across on the corner of St Anne's Square was Morgan Brierley's 'High Class Grocers' and on the stand Lawtons' sweet shop. In what is now Ellingworth's Estate Agents was Johnsons' greengrocers and yet another chip shop, Wrigleys, was accommodated next door in what is now the Chinese restaurant.

The Bull's Head was kept by the Sinkinson family. On the slope running down the side of the Bull is a well and it is said that 'Anyone who hasn't drunk from this well is not a true Delpher'. Next door to the Bull was Julian Broadbent's grocers shop. This shop did a roaring trade and I remember the sacks of sugar, oats and flour which stood on the floor. We could go into the shop and weigh our own from the sacks while Julian and his sister served behind the counter. Finally, the last of the sweet shops was Chadwicks and after that was Widds shop, they sold everything - cakes, pies, groceries etc. How did they all keep going?

At the end of the village was the Mechanics Institute where all the activities of the village took place, there was roller skating on Tuesdays and Fridays, Boxing, dances at weekends and Bazaars for all causes. We had a great social life in those days. Underneath the main hall was a picture house, 'Smo Bennies' - much later this became the first home of Saddleworth Players and was known as 'The Dive'.

In addition to all these shops, each Thursday a 'Pot Stall' came to the village and set up in the square outside the Swan. He sold 'special' tea sets and people could also buy an odd pot or plate if they wished. The Pot Man could be heard shouting through the village, and always gathered a fair crowd around him at the stall.

EDUCATION WORSHIP AND LEISURE

My early education was at Delph Methodist day school on Gartside Street. Delph had two Primary Schools, or Elementary Schools as they were called in those days, the other being St. Thomas' Church School only yards away on Church Street. Next there was Hillend, which was where the older children went when they were in the Junior classes. The headmaster was Mr Harold Gledhill who was very well respected, but strict as well. I had a very happy life at school, my brother Teddy was already there and as I told you earlier, he enjoyed studying and passed his exam to go the Hulme Grammar School. When it was my turn to sit for the scholarship, the Headmaster persuaded my parents to let me sit the exam, I had to go to another school to take the exam and I was very pleased with myself when I passed. However, like many other children who were successful I was unable to take up my place because we had only one wage coming in at home and my parents could not afford to pay for two of us. So it was Uppermill Secondary for me (Saddleworth School as it is now). I was as happy here as I had been at Delph and still remember many of the teachers well, one in particular Miss Ayres I think was remembered by most of the pupils she had taught. If you learned your Shakespeare very well you were in favour with her, so most of us tried really hard in order to keep in her good books

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Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 3. Cottrell's Chemists. The Mortar and Pestle Emblem is just visible above the Shop Window.



Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 4. Kings Street and the Square, c. 1910.

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All of us went to Sunday School, at the Methodists of course, and again I remember these as very happy times. I joined in all the social life and many years later I felt privileged to be invited back to open their Bazaar.



Mary Rodgers Collection

Figure 5. The Chancel of Delph Methodist Church. Built in 1899, it replacing an earlier Georgian Church which had been destroyed by fire. Suffering from dry rot it was demolished in the 1950s.

Whit Sunday was the highlight of the Sunday School year because all the boys and girls took part in the Anniversary or what was then known as ‘sitting up.’ We were all very excited, the girls in their white dresses and veils and boys, very smart in their white shirts. It was called ‘sitting up’ because the back of the chancel was transformed with tiered seating which felt very high up. The boys sat right at the very top and the girls on the last six rows. The occasion I remember most and which now seems the highlight of my Sunday School days, came when I was asked to sing, along with Rosie Hudson and Irene Beckwith, we all sang solos of two verses each. The chapel was packed both downstairs and in the balcony. I remember Mr John Black Hardie used to be our tutor and people came from far and wide to the Chapel for these occasions. I feel proud when I think back on these services and have very fond memories of Whit Sundays in Delph. On the morning of this big day, after mother had dressed us all, we had to go to Aunty Minnie Ingram’s in nearby Millgate to make sure we all looked perfect.

The next big event was Whit Friday, what a day! We all wore our white dresses again and carried baskets of flowers which our parents had decorated for us. As we got older we were eligible to carry a banner string, unfortunately (or so I thought on this day) when I got to this

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Mary Rodgers Collection

Figure 6. Whit Walks at Millgate, c.1930. Co-op Staff in White Aprons Watch the Procession.



Mary Rodgers Collection

Figure 7. Whit Walks at Delph Lane, 1927. The Mechanics Arms (Old Mop) and Cottages in Delph Lane, were both soon to be Demolished.

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stage, I was a member of the Brownies and then the Girl Guides, so we had to wear our uniform and march with them in the procession. One of the highlights of the day that stays in my mind is going up to the big house belonging to the Mallalieu family at New Delph where we sang a hymn, and as we came out we all got a great big juicy orange. When we had finished the walk we used to go home and get changed ready for the sports in Swan Meadow, where the band played all afternoon - there was no band contest in the evening in those days. Wonderful memories!

Remembering the Brownies, another of the Ingram sisters, Aunty Phyllis was our Brown Owl and we used to go on lots of picnics and revels. We were all in different sections and I was in 'The Elf' and wore that badge on my uniform. Naturally when I got older I went into the Girl Guides, which seemed very similar to the Brownies apart from the uniform. Brownies wore a woolly cap with a brown uniform and we wore blue in the Guides, with a very big hat. When the hat got crushed I used to steam the brim! In the Guides we went further afield for our trips than the Brownies had done and I well remember our trips to Heaton Park and fun was found nearer home, paddling up at Chew Valley. Happy memories.

As well as outings, we had concerts and I don't think I missed any of these in my younger days. There were many concerts and pantomimes at the Methodists, some run by the Sunday School and others by the Brownies or Guides. Our family always seemed to be in the prizes for good attendance at Sunday School and Chapel and we received our rewards at the annual prize giving - quite an occasion in those days. I always remember two prominent figures who attended our chapel regularly on Sunday mornings, they were Lance and James Mallalieu. Their mother used to attend St. Thomas' Church of England, while the boys came to Chapel, they were sometimes accompanied by their father, Frederick Mallalieu - M.P. for Colne Valley. It seemed odd to us at that age that mothers and fathers should worship in different denominations. Another highlight of Sunday School was the bazaar. This took place every two years and it was held in the Mechanics so that we had more space to put the stalls. The children were always invited to open the bazaar. This took the form of a concert which was produced by Miss Phyllis Ingram. We were all given 'purses' (small brown envelopes like wage packets) to fill with money and my mother used to make black pudding and black peas and people used to come round to the house each Thursday and buy a bowl of each. The money made went into our purses and 'The Bristow girls' always came top when the it was counted. Most of the mothers in all three churches in the village used this initiative to get money for their children to present. The bazaars were a tradition and very good fundraisers, social occasions as well.

As I got older and started work, things were no longer the same at Chapel. The war came and we were very restricted as to what we could do. A roller skating session started up in the Mechanics Institute and I think all the teenagers in Delph learned to skate, we had trips to Manchester now and then to a starter rink and we also had a lot of dances on Saturday evenings. These lasted until about midnight, but at 11.15 p.m. our father who was quite strict, was at the door waving his hand and we had to go home.

There wasn't much activity during the war apart from these social occasions at the Mechanics, however it was during that time that I experienced one of the most important days of my life - when I met my future husband - Jim Shaw. He was from Austerlands and serving in the Navy, our romance blossomed and we were engaged to be married. Jim had only four days leave as his ship was sailing for foreign parts. This was at the end of March, we couldn't get married on April 1st or rather we could have done, but I was superstitious about this date, so we got married on the April 2nd instead. Whilst we were at the altar, a telegram came. Jim had to report back to ship that evening as they were sailing the next day. It was two years before I saw him again! His ship *The Newfoundland* was torpedoed and he was in the water for several hours with a life jacket for support, fortunately Jim was picked up by an American vessel and taken to America for safety. When he came out of hospital he was taken

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Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 8. Delph Carnival? 1935. Carnival Queens pose in the Square for the photographer.



Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 9. Whit Walks probably 1940s.

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to the home of an English couple living in Boston to be nursed back to health. This was a very worrying time for us all but by the time he came home I had got a comfortable home together in Lees for us both to settle down after the War. Two years after Jim came home our only child David Craig was born. Soon after that my involvement in politics began.....

This last statement was to begin another chapter in the book, it would have been a very long and interesting one. Sadly, Elsie's health began to fail but she was still able to write down a few important facts, the suggestion of using a Dictaphone bought for her by her family did not go down very well and the whole project sadly faded along with her health before it was complete.



D. Harrison Collection courtesy of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Figure 10. Elsie Shaw in Mayoral Robes 1987

ADOPTED BY SADDLEWORTH

Steve Whitehead



Peter Fox Collection

Figure 1. Shield Commemorating HMS Pegasus in Saddleworth Museum

If you have wandered through the Museum since the refurbishment you may have casually noticed the large shield in the WW1/WW2 showcase, but not really asked yourself what the story behind this is, the engraved plate at the bottom is inscribed:

Presented by
The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty
To Saddleworth
To commemorate the Adoption of
HMS Pegasus
During Warship Week March 2th, 1942.

But the real story starts long before this memorable act when in 1913, just prior to the start of WW1, the British Royal Navy was carrying out trials on an aircraft carrier concept, using HMS Hermes modified to support a pair of floatplane aircraft. As the trials proved viable the admiralty allocated £81,000 to purchase a merchant ship for a more thorough modification than had been possible with HMS Hermes, a search was made to find a suitable vessel already under construction. One was found at the Blyth Shipbuilding Company, Northumberland with Keel laid and basic frames in place, this ship had been intended to be built as a collier/freighter for the coal to grain trade in the Black Sea.

The original plans were easily modified to move any forward deck obstruction aft, including the engines and boilers, the bridge and accommodation, deck machinery and masts &c. She was 366ft long, 50ft beam and weighed 7,080 ton, with three boilers for one vertical triple expansion steam engine, producing 3,000 hp to a single shaft to give a top speed of 11 knots (13mph), with 500 ton of fuel oil she would have a range of 3,300 nautical miles.

The launch took place on 5th September 1914 with the name of Ark Royal.

Her crew was to be 180 officers and men including 60 aviation personnel because she was now 'the world's first purpose-built seaplane carrier.' She was designed to carry 6 floatplanes in a hanger and workshop under the forward deck, these would be lifted by one of two 3 ton cranes onto the deck for the engines to be warmed up before lowering into the sea for take-off

Recovery was by the same means, the planes were two Wight Pushers, three Sopwith type 807, and one Short Folder, later two four wheeled Sopwith Tabloids were added which could very clumsily take off from the very short forward deck, but had to land on shore once launched. A unique feature of the ship was a steady sail on the Mizzen mast to keep her head to wind, the only aircraft carrier to ever have this.

She only had very limited defence with four QF 12 pounder anti-aircraft guns and two machine guns. The ship proved to be too slow for Grand Fleet operations and was sent to the Mediterranean to join the Gallipoli campaign on air reconnaissance and mine detection. There was some success in locating enemy fortifications and ammunition dumps, but the planes suffered engine problems, and difficult sea conditions for take-off. On 15th March 1915 the first aircraft was lost when the propellor of a Sopwith splintered into pieces. Both of the crew were recovered by a cruiser; the ship had to be withdrawn from the area when enemy guns targeted her, and she had no armour casing on the hull. She continued to support other campaigns in the Mediterranean including when the crew built an airfield on Tendos island for the No.3 Royal Navy Air Service, and the ship also carried a large number of crated aircraft to be unloaded there.

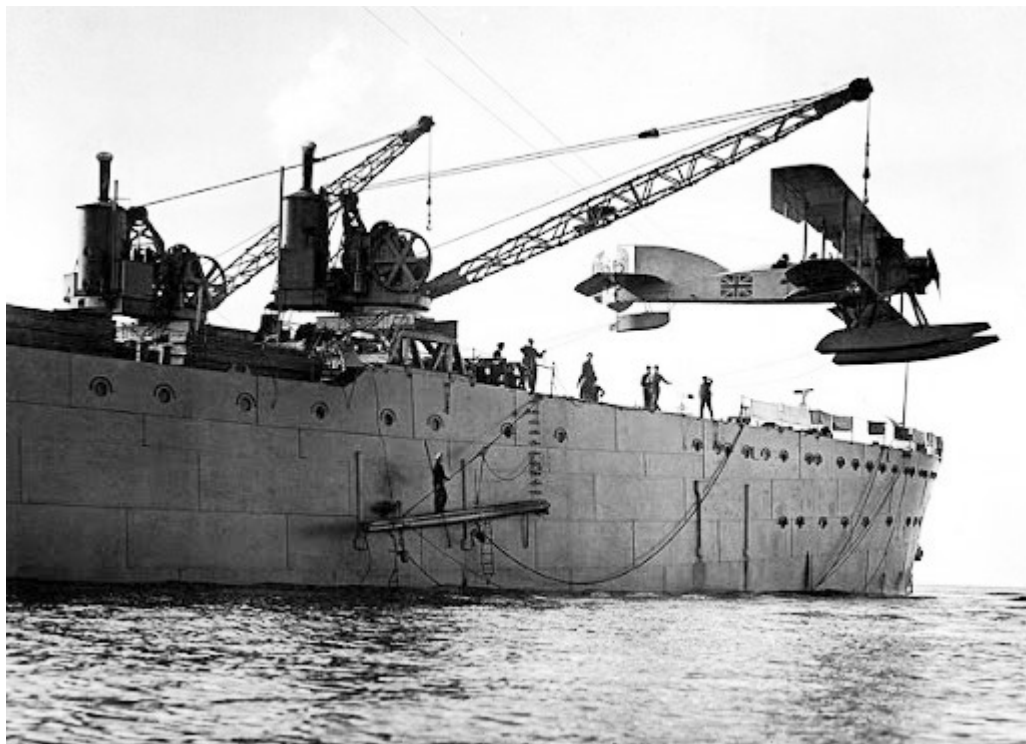


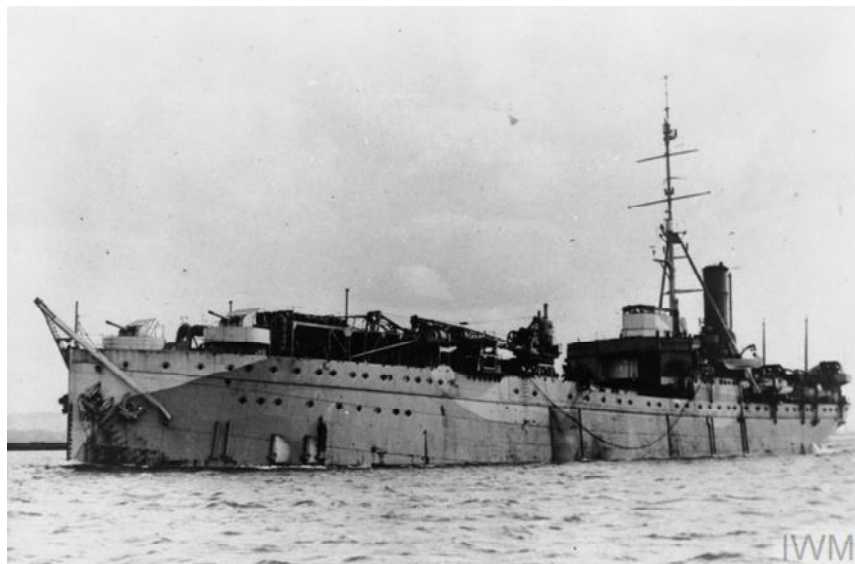
Figure 2. HMS Ark Royal

By 1916 she was in Macedonia supporting British troops before returning to the Dardanelles as a depot ship for all the seaplanes operating in the area. In January 1917 several of her aircraft attacked the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben, where the cruiser was forced to run aground. But even in these circumstances, despite dropping numerous bombs, not one hit the ship and the cruiser was later refloated. Ark Royal left the area to conduct anti-submarine patrols over the southern Aegean Sea. During the course of the war five other seaplane carriers were built and all formed a support roll of observation, mine detection and later submarine detection. Post WW1 she carried out several varied rolls; first as aircraft transporter in support of the White Russian/British operations against the Bolsheviks in the Black sea region, then in 1920 supporting the Royal Airforce in Somaliland, this time using twelve Bristol F2 Fighters. Following a period in reserve she was recommissioned in 1930 to evaluate a new concept of aircraft catapult techniques.

In 1934 the Admiralty was constructing the first of a new type of aircraft carrier with full deck take-off and landing capability which was also to be the Flagship of the Grand Fleet. The Admiralty of course wanted a name appropriate to its new ship's importance: what better than ARK ROYAL. So in 1934 the ship we have followed was renamed PEGASUS after one of eleven Peloras class cruisers built in 1897, which was unfortunately sunk by a German cruiser in September 1914 while undergoing repairs in Zanzibar harbour. She was now modified to become a prototype CAM ship (Catapult Armed Merchantman). At the start of the second world war, she was attached to the Home Fleet in a training role. She was at Scapa Flow when the battleship Royal Oak was sunk by German submarine U-47. As the closest ship to Royal Oak, the crew of Pegasus rescued some 400 survivors.

During the second world war she and several other modified ships were used to defend convoys against German long range patrol bombers. Fighters were launched via the catapults to provide the convoy with aircover and prevent the convoy's location being passed to lurking submarines. Three of these planes were no longer seaplanes but modern Fairey Fulmar fighter aircraft, and once launched had to land ashore, but if too far out at sea the aircraft would be ditched with the hope that the pilot would be picked up by a convoy ship.

She escorted around nine convoys in 1940/41 both to the UK and Russia while also retaining a role as training ship for catapult operations and this is where Saddleworth now features. HMS Pegasus' armaments were improved by the addition of two Oerlikon 20 mm anti-aircraft guns, mounted in the bow below the flight deck, with further cannon at the stern, all complemented by a new type 291 air warning radar. Modifications to the ships accommodation were also carried out and the bridge enlarged. Most of this was funded by monies raised by the Saddleworth community during Warship Week in March 1942 and the ship was adopted after raising £179,000 (£10 per head, £30,000 above the objective). The Saddleworth War Savings Committee had first hoped to adopt a corvette, but at the time no corvettes or mine sweepers were available for adoption, but they were offered HMS Pegasus, which they accepted. Saddleworth was the first place to adopt such a ship



Imperial War Museum

Figure 3 The Re-named HMS Pegasus

The role of convoy escort and training ship continued with a total of around 16 convoys escorted. Then in 1944 she became a barrack ship until June 1946 when she was retired for disposal. She was sold to R.C. Ellerman and renamed Anita 1 under a Panamanian flag and sailed to Antwerp in 1947 for conversion to a freighter. Work ceased in 1948 when she was seized by creditors and auctioned off to a Dutch ship breaker, then on to The British Iron and Steel Corporation in 1950 to be broken up at Grays, in Essex.

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Mike Buckley

In his 1984 *Bulletin* article, 'Some Saddleworth Court Rolls', Alan Petford described the functions of the Manorial Court Baron, one of the main organs of local government and the administration of civil law.¹ Manorial Courts were held in Saddleworth throughout the Middle Ages until the early nineteenth century. They were a forum to which manorial tenants could bring their grievances and an important source of income for the Lord of the Manor who collected any fines exacted by the court. The article describes the process and powers of the court, which in Saddleworth, included trespass, commoning and common rights, maintenance of hedges, walls, repair of houses, boundaries and rights of way &c. It also describes the way in which the proceedings of the court were recorded; anciently on parchment rolls but by the eighteenth century on individual paper sheets (but still often referred to as Court Rolls).

Fortunately some of these records have survived for the Manor of Saddleworth in a collection of Farrer papers now housed in the Brotherton Library of Leeds University.² The contents of this collection was described by Julian Hunt in his 1983 *Bulletin* article 'Saddleworth Records: Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers, Brotherton Library, Leeds University.' In it he lists forty four (in fact there are forty five) court rolls in the collection which span the years 1743 -1784.

Some of these court rolls were meticulously transcribed by Petford and these appeared with the article and in seven successive editions of the *Bulletin*,³ in all, seventeen of the forty five were published, the last that of 23 Jun 1756.

To complete this project those for 1757-60 are published here and it is hoped to publish the remaining twenty four in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

SOME BACKGROUND AND OBSERVATIONS

The Court Baron was held, usually once a year, at a local public house. At the beginning of the 1750s it was held at Clarks, the house of James Broadbent, the Parish Clark also innkeeper. This inn appears to be one of the main central meeting places in Saddleworth up to this time but from 1759 the meetings also take place at the nearby house of Michael Bottomley; the newly erected inn, now the Cross Keys next to Saddleworth Church.

Another local court, the Court Leet, dealt with minor misdemeanors (affrays), minor criminal matters and some local governments issues such as the appointment of Constables. These were held at Huddersfield, as Saddleworth was then regarded as part of the Manor of Huddersfield for Court Leet purposes.⁴ Sir John Ramsden, Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth also acquired the Manor of Huddersfield from the King in 1627, thus becoming the Lord of both courts. There was some overlap in the functions of the two courts during this period and Almondbury Court Leet was also dealing with matters more relevant to the Court Baron, calling into question whether a separate Saddleworth Court Baron was then taking place. It is

¹ A.J. Petford, 'Some Saddleworth Court Rolls', *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)*, Vol. 14 (1984), No 3, pp. 31-36.

² J.M. Hunt, 'Saddleworth Records: Wentworth-Woolley Hall Papers, Brotherton Library, Leeds University', *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp 31-36.

³ A.J. Petford, 'Some Saddleworth Court Rolls', *SHSB*, Part II, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 66-71; Part III, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 4-7; Part IV, Vol. 15, No. 4, pp. 71-73; Part V, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 10-13; Part VI, Vol. 16, No.2, pp. 29-31; and Part VII, Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 46-47.

⁴ See P. Hurst (ed), *Saddleworth: Garsomes, Geld Rents and Gould*, (Privately Published, 2011) Hurst gives an excellent overview of the workings of the court and publishes, the Saddleworth entries for the period 1627-1691 and 1712-1760.

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

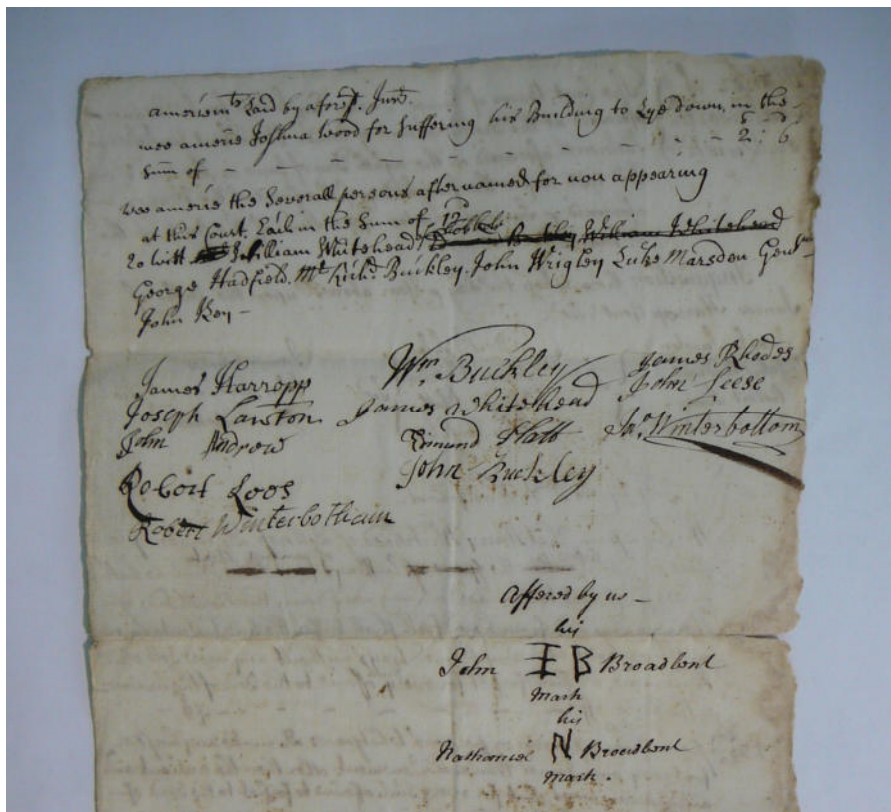
noteworthy that after the Ramsden's sale of the Saddleworth Manor to William Farrer in 1653 the Almondury Court was only dealing with court baron issues relevant to areas outside of the Saddleworth manor, that is, Friarmere and parts of Quickmere.

The Jurors of the court were selected largely from the freeholders of the manor, and excluded those in Friarmere and the parts of Quickmere outside the Manor. The chief rentals which list the manorial freeholders and which have also survived in the Brotherton Library Collection, provided a the list from which the jurors would be selected.⁵ The same names occur regularly as jurors and it is not clear how they were selected. Failure to attend, however, when requested left the individual concerned liable for a fine. The date of the court baron was publicised before the meeting, possibly by a notice on the church door, and every tenant was free to attend. Clearly this could not have been compulsory as the premises could not have accommodated the hundreds of tenants on the manor.

Any infractions of the local customs or the status quo left the offender liable to be named at the court and a pain issued. Pains were an order to desist the behaviour under threat of a fine or amercements. Amercements or fines were issued by the jurors, but an independent party or parties, the aferers, attended the court to ensure that fines were fair and not excessive.

Unlike many court barons, the court did not seem to be concerned with issues of tenure or the renewal of leases. There was no copyhold in Saddleworth which would have involved the renewal of a lease being registered in the court proceeding.

It is interesting that most of jurors were able to sign their names at the end of the court roll, a reflection perhaps of the general level of education and social standing of Saddleworth's freeholder class.



Mike Buckley Collection

Figure 1. Signatures of the Jurors on the Court Roll of 8 June 1758

⁵ See the illustration of the chief rental for 1783-89 in J.M. Hunt, 'Saddleworth Records' (op sit).

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Saddleworth Court 16th June 1757

Manor of Sadleworth or Quick. } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James Broadbent Innholder in Saddleworth aforesaid on the Sixteenth day of June in the year of our Lord 1757 Before the free Suitors of the Court of the Manor aforesaid & Sam^l Fenton Gent Steward of the Courts of the said Manor.

Inquisition there taken the day & year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

James Harrop Gent Sworn

John Andrew	} Sworn	John Winterbottom	} Sworn	James Buckley,	} Sworn
John Radcliffe		Henry Buckley		George Mallalew	
Joshua Wrigley		W ^m Shaw		Tho ^s Bradbury	
Tho ^s Platt		Alexandor Radcliffe			

The Jurors aforesaid present and Lay That they have viewed the Boundaries Mears and Marks between the Lord of thr Mannor of aforesaid And the severall Mannors of The Earl of Bradford And his Grace the Duke of L....s on the Eight day of July in 1757 And Enlarged the Mears or most [?] of them accustomed places Begining at a place Called ford. Thence to a spring called Whitewall spring Eastward, Thence to ye Top of Noon Sun hill, as the rain water decends Eastward, Thence to a mear Southward Called Cloven edge, and as the Rain Water Decends Eastward, thence to a mear Called Wharlow pike as the Rain Water decends towards the North, Thence to a mear near the Alphen stone on the South siude as the Rain Water decends North wards, Thence to a mear Called Slant stone on the South side, as the Rain Water decends Northward. Thence to a Mear Called Horestonedge as te Rain Water decend to the North East, Thence to the Armrake as the Rain Water decends Northward, Thence Eastward to the Blackclough head as the Rain Water decends Northward, Thence to Lad of moss East as the rain Water decends west, Thence North to Blackchue-head as the Rain Water decends West, Thence Northward to Long Clough head as the Rain Water decends West, Thence to a mear Called Clodberry Knowl at Howelshead as the Rain Water decends west, Thence to a Mear at the South Grain of Holme Clough head South, East, as the Rain Water decends North west, Thence to a mear at the Top of Holme Clough head, Called Holme edge to the east as the Rain water decends West, thence to a mear at the Top of Good bent Westward as the Water decends South,

Wee Amerce James Stock for not appearing at ye Court in	6 ^d
Wee Amerce John Key for Like offence in	12 ^d
Wee amerce James Harropp of Shaw houses Enq ^r about feaily	12 ^d
Wee amerce Alice Bagshaw for ye Like offence in	12 ^d

Whereas a pain hath been formerly Laid by John Platt of Butterworths upon a way Leading from ~~Hollingreave~~ Butterworths to the Brownhill And Whereas oath hath been made by James Platt That John Bradbury of Peters hath Riden through the said way three severall times since ye pain Laid for which said offence wee amerce the said John Bradbury in the sum of

We Amerce Henry Buckley and Alexander Radcliffe being Jurors Each and for not appearing at the adjournment of the Court. Each in ye sum of	20 ^s
---	-----------------

[In margin] Affeered

James Harrop	Jn ^o Winterbottom	James Buckley
John Andrew	Henry Buckley	George Mallladue
John Radcliffe	Will Shaw	Thomas Bradbury
Joshua Wrigley	Alexander Radcliff	
Thomas Platt		

Affeered by us
John Lees
James Broadbent

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Saddleworth Court 8th June 1758
Ye adjournment to ye 6 of July

Manor of } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his Manor aforesaid Sadleworth.
 or Quick } at the Dwellinghouse of James Broadbent Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid
 Court of the Manor aforesaid & Samuel Fenton Gent Steward of } on the eighth Day of June in the Year of our Lord 1758 Before the free Suitors of the
 the Courts of the said Manor.

Inquisition there taken the Day & Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

James Harrop Gent Sworn

Joseph Lawton	} Sworn	Will ^m Buckley	} Sworn	James Rhodes,	} Sworn
John Andrew		James Whitehead		John Lees	
Robert Lees		Edmund Platt		John Winterbottom	
Robert Winterbottom		John Buckley			

Pains Laid by the Said Jurors as follows

Wee Lay a pain that Henry Whitehead of Dobbcross Do make up a sluice or Gutter before the Tenth day of august Next Which he hath made (or Caused to be made) a Long way down the North Side of Harrop edge and from henceforth shall suffer the said Water to run in the antiant and accustomed Ways without any more Lett or Haidrance or shall forfeit for every such offence to the Lord of the mannor the Sum off 39^s

Wee Lay a pain that no person or persons Whatsoever Do make any horse or footway over James Whitehead Tenement other than the antiant and accustomed ways, but for every Such offence to forfeit to the Lord of this Mannor ye Sum of 10^s - 0

Wee also Lay a pain that no person or persons whatsoever do make any foot way over Mr Lawtons meadows Lyeing at Taum Water out of the antiant and accustomed way, but for ever Such offence to forfeit to the Lord of mthr mannor ye sum of 10^s - 0^d

ameracements Laid by aforesaid Jurors

wee amerce Joshua Wood for suffering his Building to Lye down in the sum of 2^s 6^d

wee amerce the Severall persons afternamed for non appearing at this Court. Each the Sum of 12^d

To witt William Whitehead of hobhole, ~~Ed Buckley, William Whitehead~~ George Hadfield
 Mr Rich^d Buckley, John Wrigley Luke Marsden Gent, John Key

James Harropp	W ^m Buckley	James Rhodes
Joseph Lawton	James Whitehead	John Leese
John Andrew	Edmund Platt	Jn ^o Winterbottom
Robert Lees	John Buckley	
Robert Winterbotham		

Affered by us

John **IB** Broadbent
 his mark

Nathaniel **N** Broadbent
 his mark

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Saddleworth Court 28th June 1759
Adjourned to 6th December fold & thence to 7th

Mannor of Saddleworth. } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his Mannor aforesaid
 or Quick } at the Dwellinghouse of Michael Bothomley Innholder in Saddleworth
 aforesaid on the Twenty Eighth day of June in the Year of our Lord one
 Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine Before the free Suitors of the Court of
 the Mannor aforesaid & Samuel Fenton Gentleman Steward of the Courts of the said Mannor.

Inquisition there taken the Day & Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

John Andrew Sworn

Joshua Wrigley	}	Sworn	James Buckley	}	Sworn	Alexander Radcliffe	}	Sworn
John Radcliffe			Thomas Platt			James Buckley		
William Buckley			John Winterbottom			John Broadbent		
James Buckley			John Platt					

Pains laid by the Jurors as follows

We lay in Pain That no Person or Persons whatsoever do turn the Water down at Rye End out of its antient Course, on pain to forfeit to the Lord of the Manor for every such Offence the Sum of 5^s

We lay in Pain That no Person or Persons whatsoever do turn the Water out of its antient Course in a Close called Brooke Croft in a Tenement at Digglee in the Occupation of George Platt on Pain to forfeit to the Lord of the Manor for every such offence the sum of 2^s 6^d

We lay in Pain That no Person whatsoever do make any Way over a Close called Hore Stones lying at Digglee in the Occupation of George Platt, out of the ancient and accustomed Way, but for every such Offence shall forfeit to the Lord of the Manor ~~for every such offence~~ the Sum of 2^s 6^d

We also lay in Pain that no Person whatsoever do make any Way over two Closes of Thomas Platt at Woolroad called Hey Head Coat Meadow, on pain to forfeit for every such offence the Sum of 2s 6d

John Andrew	James Buckley	Alexander R Radcliffe
Joshua Wrigley	Thomas Platt	his Mark
John Radcliffe	Jn ^o Winterbottom	James Buckley
William X Buckley	John Platt	John Broadbent
his Mark		
James Buckley		

Affered by us

John **IB** Broadbent
 his mark

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Sadleworth Court 18th June 1760
Adjourned to 7th July following

Manor of Sadleworth } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his
 or Quick. } Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of Michael Bothomley
 Innholder in Sadleworth aforesaid on the eighteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one
 thousand seven hundred & Sixty before the free Suitors of the Court & Sam^l Fenton Gent
 Steward of the Courts of the Manor.

Inquisition there taken the day & year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

Joseph Lawton Gent: Sworn

John Andrew	} Sworn	John Bentley	} Sworn	Edm ^d Platt,	} Sworn
W ^m Buckley		Rob ^t Winterpottom		Geo: Mallalew	
James Bradbury		James Whitehead		Tho ^s Bradbury	
James Scholefield		Edm ^d Buckley			

We a Merci Henry Whitehead at plathill for Turning the Water on Harropp Edg oute of it
 Right Corse and throughing it on Edmund Platt house in the sum of 1-19-8

We a merci Robert Lees of Park in Ashton Parrish for Cuting a new Water Corse on
 greenfield Steanery and Suffering the Lords Land to be Washed away in the sum of
 0-18-0

We a Merci Thomas Worth at Holling for Suffering the Lords Land to be Washed away in a
 field Called Nut Botts in the sum of 0-18-0

We a Merci John Bradbury of Peaters for Turning the Water out of it Anchent Corse in
 several Plases in the Slades and throughing it on George Melladues houseing at Whickings in
 the sum of 1-19-6

We a Merci John Kay of Marsden Gentleman for not apeareing at the Cort of James Farrer
 Esq in the sum of 0-5-0

Joseph Lawton
 John Andrew
 William X Buckley
 his mark
 James Bradbury
 James Scholefield
 John Bentley
 Robert Winterbotham
 James W Whitehead
 his mark
 Ed^{md} Buckley
 Edm^d Platt
 George Malladue
 Thomas Bradbury

Affered by us
 Robert Holden
 James Broadbent

SOME SADDLEWORTH COURT ROLLS - PART VIII

Sadleworth Court 3^d June 1761

Manor of Saddleworth } The Court Baron of James Farrer Esquire holden for his
 or Quick. } Manor aforesaid at the Dwelling house of James Broadbent
 Innholder in Saddleworth aforesaid on the Third day of June in the Year of our Lord One
 Thousand Seven hundred & Sixty one before the free Suitors of the Court & Samuel Fenton
 Gent: Steward of the Courts of the said Manor.

Inquisition there taken the day and Year abovesaid upon the Oaths of

Mr James Harropp Sworn

John Andrew	} Sworn	James Kenworthy	} Sworn	Alexander Radcliffe	} Sworn
John Radcliffe		Henry Buckley		James Rhodes	
James Buckley		James Wood		James Buckley	
James Buckley		James Scholefield			

We amerce John Bottomley of hole house for making an incroachment upon Esquire Farrer
 Land Lieing and being in Shadows Lane in the sum of £1-0s-0d

We amerce William Rhodes, Thomas Rhodes, and John Key ~~and John Lees of High Moors~~
 for non appearance at ye Court Each in the Sum of six pence

also we amerce ~~Edmd Buckley Lydgate~~ John Bradbury peters James Mellolue James
 Wrigley Saddleworth fould for the Like offence Each six pence

We amerce Richard Boothroyd for putting his Cattell upon the Lords Common haveing No
 right so to do in the sum of Ten shillings

We also amerce William Rhoades for ye Like offence in Ten shillings

~~We amerce John and Joseph Greave for non appearance at the Court 6d Each~~

We amerce James Bradbury for holding a Turf room which appears upon oath to belong to
 George Platt, in the Sum of Twenty shillings to the Lord of this mannor

We Lay a pain on George Platt that he plow None of the pertition Left between the two
 dowls Called Shaws and Wrigley tenement for the future in the sum of 5^s

James Harrop
 John Andrew
 John Radcliffe
 James Buckley
 James X Buckley
 his mark
 John Kenworthy
 Henry X Buckley
 his mark
 James Buckley
 James Scholefield
 James Rhodes
 James Wood
 Alexander **R** Radcliff
 his mark