

INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE:

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SADDLEWORTH Museum and Gallery

THE FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH
MUSEUM AND GALLERY

Newsletter



SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Museum Reopening: Recent government announcements indicate that museums must stay closed until the 21st May. We are looking forward to being able to safely open our doors to Friends, Volunteers and the public alike as soon as possible after this date and will keep you informed on our progress as we prepare to reopen.

House Histories - In the Picture

One aspect of local history that has become popular is 'house history'. With so many older properties in the area, many residents are keen to trace the history of their homes; who were the previous owners and occupiers and what were their occupations. To begin your search, the best starting point is going back to the documents that relate to your property in deeds and plans - admittedly not everyone has a full set. Start by putting the papers into

some form of chronology - dates when it changed hands, who the occupiers were etc. etc. Maps of different ages inevitably prove an interesting source of information, helping to narrow down when construction took place. These maps can be fairly easily accessed in the two publications 'Mapping Saddleworth' volumes 1+2 with volume 1 giving the 1845 and 1895 ordnance survey maps - both available from the Museum shop. What of the

by Curator, Peter Fox

people? Using a name and location you can search the census to see where these people were born and what they did as an occupation. The visual history can be looked at through old photographs of the area. If you are after old views of your house or locality please feel free to send an enquiry to the museum - curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk - We will send you thumbnails (small files) so you can see the images we have and if you

want to have a larger image we can supply with a fee paid to the museum.



Peter's house in the 1960s was Heathfields Cottages, Uppermill which was converted from an old barn or possibly a small warehouse that related to the adjacent Heathfields Mill.

Safe Santa



Due to Covid 19 it was doubtful if we could have Santa at the museum, but,

not wanting to disappoint the children, Colin Watt decided to phone Santa and see if he was agreeable to doing a "Safe Santa", which would mean moving the grotto to the front window and allowing the children to speak to Santa on the phone. Santa was happy to agree and so, with the help of Oliver Benson and Steve Whitehead, the grotto was moved from the upstairs

Gallery to the front window. Also, as Uppermill was using windows to depict an Advent Calendar, Colin and Anneta McKeever got together to incorporate this into the grotto. On Sat and Sun, the 12th and 13th Dec, Santa, joined by Mrs Santa and two elves held two sessions each day, where the children could book an appointment time and come to the museum, where they

were given a secret telephone number and came to the window to speak to Santa on the phone. This went very well, with the help of Verity Mann, Meg Todd, Charlie Middlewood and Janet Thornton on the day, and we had a total of 42 children. All the feedback showed the children enjoyed the experience.

A Tribute to Doreen Brooks by Colin Watt

During this pandemic I have received much sad news about "Friends", but I thought we should share the news that Doreen Brooks sadly passed away in hospital on the morning of Tuesday 9th February 2021. Her husband Edward (Eddie) is at home being visited by carers (and family) we understand. Doreen officially joined the

"Friends" of the Museum in 1979 but we believe that Doreen, and probably Eddie, were involved with the museum long before that. I have known Doreen since 1987, when I first joined the Museum Friends, as we were called then, and Doreen was a long-standing member before that. Together we were involved

in many projects from displays to record keeping. Both Doreen and Eddie were always ready to help with any fund-raising events up until the time when her health deteriorated to the point that she was unable to participate as an active volunteer. At weekends, Doreen was also one of the volunteers who manned the reception booth. We must remember the wonderful

clothing displays that she used to put on at the "New To You Boutique" at the coffee mornings. Even though her health was failing, she was still extremely interested in the museum, and came to many functions. She was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed.



A Message from Our Membership Secretary

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you well, and, whilst we are having to do everything we can electronically these days, those of you who do not have email/internet should be assured that you are always one of our priorities and we will always try our best to keep in touch with you. Thank you to all those, without email, who replied to our last newsletter insert requesting a new online brochure. The curator has printed a few extra so you may find a copy enclosed even if you did not request one.

This is the time of year for me to remind you that your membership is due for renewal, and I personally do not remember a time when your support was more needed. Those who have not yet renewed will find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. Whilst we hope you enjoy the colour version of the newsletter we are having to look very carefully at costs. There may be a delay in sending your membership cards this year. The

cards will most likely be held at the museum reception for you to collect when we re-open or until we next post something else to you. That it is most likely going to be when the 200+ Club subscription is due for renewal.

Many members have already set up standing orders to pay. I appreciate that some prefer to send cheque or cash and that is fine and most welcome. This year especially, it would really help if you could contact your own banks and set up a regular, annual standing order to pay your membership subscription by bank transfer directly into the museum's bank account sometime in March or April. The museum's bank account is under the name of Saddleworth Museum, the bank account number is 84183497 and sort code is 01-08-99. If you do this for the first time please let me know when you return the renewal form. I will make sure that your subscription (and donation if you make one) goes into the respective gift aid, or no gift

aid, channel you indicate.

This year I have designed what I hope is a straightforward online re-joining method so, for the first time, you can also renew online at <https://www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk/friends/membership-renewal/>. Naturally this method of re-joining is also secure and ensures we comply with the data protection act/s currently in force. Additionally you can either arrange an appointment to collect your card or pay a shipping cost of 65p if you would like me to post your membership card/s to you separately.

Finally a word about the Friends committee, the museum management committee, trustees, and a limited number of volunteers at the museum. We are all doing what we can in the background both at the museum and online. Your support, in either renewing your membership, donating, posting an order to sales, or purchasing online is most welcome. These things alone may not be sufficient if we are to survive long term as a museum and charity but are essential to get the museum (in good

order) through this pandemic. I share the frustrations we all feel that the building and collections are receiving the minimum attention required, and dearly hope that sometime in 2021, we may re-open and recommence exhibitions, gallery and shop visits and fund-raising events with whatever restrictions are in place at the time.

If you need more information about online shopping or memberships or something sending to you please write to me at the museum or email me at friends@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk. Hoping to hear from you or see you soon. Heartfelt thanks to all those who hand delivered this newsletter.

Charlie Middlewood



Note from the editor: Verity Mann

Hello Friends!

I hope this Newsletter finds you well and that, like me, you are looking forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions and a return to Saddleworth life as we know it! Whilst we have no fixed date for opening yet, it has not been totally quiet at the Museum. Safe Santa brought us some much needed Christmas cheer and it was great to be part of the Uppermill Lifesize Advent Calendar. Our December AGM had to be postponed but the Friends' Committee has extended its tenure for one year and will find a way to hold the AGM in 2021. Despite not being open for visitors the maintenance crew are still keeping a watchful eye on the building and any problems that arise. During one of these visits, during the flooding, it was spotted that the gutter, on the outside store, was blocked with leaves and so, on a freezing cold morning, Oliver and Colin went for an exciting trip on to the roof to clear it out. A great big thanks to our gutter-clearing heroes!

During this time your financial support is much needed. Please can I encourage you to help us by supporting the on-line shop and gallery. You can find us at www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk. We're currently pleased to be promoting the local walking trails

and artist Russel Howarth's Collection but you can find a treasure trove of locally sourced books and gifts which can be ordered and collected safely. Please don't forget your renewal - your continued support is much needed.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Museum,

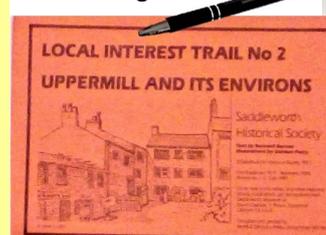
Verity

Email: friends@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk



Self Portrait c.1955 – Russel Howarth

Walking Trails



Provisional Date for the Diary: Plant Sale Sunday 30th May

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty, it may be late April/ early May before we can confirm this to you

Please can the green fingered amongst you consider donating labelled plants or seedlings?