

INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE:

- REOPENING TIMES
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- DATES FOR DIARIES



THE FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM AND GALLERY

Newsletter



SUMMER 2021

Museum Reopening: Following government directives, the Museum proudly opened its doors once again on Saturday 22nd May and will continue to open on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm until 4pm. In line with other indoor public spaces and to keep everyone Covid safe, visitors are currently required to provide names and contact details on entry, wear facemasks, observe social distancing rules and use hand sanitisers. There is no need to pre-book entry times but visitors may be asked to wait outside in a socially distanced queue should capacities be reached. As usual, there will be no charge for browsing in the shop or a visit to the Art Collection on display in the community gallery. As a "Friend" you do not need an appointment to freely visit the four collection galleries but please remember to bring your membership card with you and observe any Covid compliance rules in place.

Past into Present

The museum shop offers an appealing selection of local history books. This year, around September, will see the launch of a new publication entitled 'Past into Present' which compares and contrasts old photographs of the area with their modern counterparts; a theme suggested by many local people.

The book's authors, Michael and Peter Fox, have spent many hours taking images of the current scenes. Peter stated: "The process sounds a relatively easy one; however it is not that simple. For instance, when the early photographers were taking a street scene,

they had the advantage of being able to stand in the middle of the road and take their time which certainly, with today's traffic, isn't possible. Also, with construction over time, surrounding buildings now often block the view." Peter also commented: "The biggest issue is the 'greening' of the valleys with trees making it very difficult to see the locations."

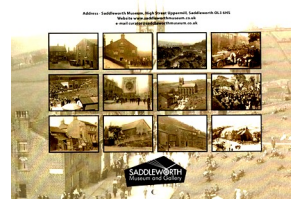
As a taster for the book the following two pictures feature St Chads Old School on Church Road, Uppermill taken c1885 with a current view from this year – happily the tree on the right has matured and stood the test of time.



We're only halfway through the year but...

We couldn't resist the opportunity to let you know that the museum has just taken delivery of its 2022 calendar! Featuring A4 old photographs of Saddleworth with an image for each month, these A3 sized calendars are printed on good quality paper and the images are ideal for framing. The cost is £7.95. Call in at the museum or we can post them out to you with a fee

for postage. Check out our online shop at www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk



Dates for Diaries

Art Exhibition: The Russel Howarth Collection	22nd May—27th June
Summer Art Exhibition: by The Saddleworth Group of Artists	3rd July—1st August
Arts and Craft Fair in the Canalside Gallery	18th July 11am—3pm
'Brother in Arms' Group Art Exhibition by various local artists	7th August-3rd September
Santa at the Museum	Weekend of 11th, 12th Dec tbc
Friends of the Museum AGM and Christmas Party	Date to be confirmed

Fundraising Success: The Plant Sale



With restrictions lifting and Saddleworth Museum and Gallery happy to be opening its doors once again, we were delighted to be able to reinstate our annual plant sale which took place on Sunday 30th May in the Museum's Secret Garden, raising well over £700 and bringing gardening enthusiasts together on a sunny Sunday.

The Friends had launched a 'grow and donate' scheme back in April, promoting the date and asking for gardeners to consider growing a few extra seedlings and plants this Spring, potting them up

and donating them. Charlie Middlewood, who ran the media campaign stated:

"The scheme attracted twice as much attention as expected on social media and seemed to 'capture' the mood of a road out of lockdown. I was a bit overwhelmed with the response and people were so supportive and kind about our efforts."

The Friends had offered to collect plants from within a 5-10 mile radius the weekend before and came back to the Museum, their car boots full and their hearts lightened after meeting some really lovely couples and families who had entered fully into the community spirit.

Over the weekend, more and more donations arrived at

the Museum with a temptingly wide variety of plants. The volunteers then worked hard to ensure everything was in place, labelled correctly and ready to sell.

Jo Holt, an active member of the Friends' committee, who masterminded the plant sale stated;

"A big thank you to all who answered the call with such a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials.

Grateful thanks also go to all the volunteers who helped set up the garden as well as pricing and selling the plants. A great team effort!"

The plant sale was a much needed community event, and most appreciated by those who stopped by to make their purchases. Many have taken the time to write their thanks, such as one happy shopper who stated:

"I came to your plant sale on Sunday. Just want to say thank you. It was fantastic. The quality and variety of plants was excellent. Came away with some beautiful plants I can't get in the garden centres. Thank you so much and well done."

For anyone who missed the sale, there were a few plants remaining that could be purchased at the Museum for a limited time only. Check out the Saddleworth Museum Facebook page for details.

<https://www.facebook.com/SaddleworthMuseumAndArtGallery>



**YOUR MUSEUM
NEEDS YOU!**

Join the Friends of Saddleworth Museum Committee!

The Friends Committee have done a sterling job in bringing us together to generate much needed funds for the Museum. Cast your minds back to the pre Covid days of tapas nights, musical evenings, Spring and Autumn lunches, Santa's Grotto, to name but a few. The plant sale kick started activities but now we're looking for new recruits for the Committee, whether in a named capacity such as treasurer or secretary, or as a volunteer who is happy to contribute ideas, enthusiasm and hands-on support during events. Short, monthly, meetings are generally held after coffee mornings in the Gallery and you'd be made instantly welcome. If you're interested, contact our membership secretary, Charlie Middlewood or myself, Verity Mann at friends@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk or leave us a note in reception.

Note from the editor



Hello Friends!

I hope this Newsletter finds you well and that, like me, you are

thrilled that we've been able to open our Museum doors once more. As always, we are very grateful to all the volunteers and are especially thankful to those who helped with the plant sale and the continued sale afterwards of the excess stock! With the uncertainty

surrounding the end of Covid restrictions, it is difficult to plan future fund raising events, but we hope that you'll be able to support the Arts and Craft Fair which takes place on the 18th July in the Gallery and which is gearing up to host a tempting variety of stalls. Given its popularity and the restrictions in capacity, potential stall holders should check out the website for possible spaces.

We're currently looking at the best time to reinstate our Friends' Coffee mornings which used to take place on the second

Wednesday morning of each month. Fingers crossed we'll be able to get going again in July, but do check for announcements either through posters, email or Facebook.

The ever-popular 200+ Club (actually we should rename it the 250+ Club) forms should be filled in and returned by August.

Fast forwarding to the end of the year, we will be looking to firm up a date for our AGM and Christmas party. A big plea to the team players out there—we are looking to recruit new

committee members. Being part of the committee offers a relatively small time commitment for an incredibly worthwhile role.

A gentle reminder; make sure you've renewed your membership. The tech savvy amongst you will find it easy to follow the links from the website or fill in the forms and return them in the usual manner. Your support is so appreciated.

Verity Mann

friends@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk