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Find us at
Saddleworth Museum and Gallery
High Street
Uppermill
Saddleworth
OL3 6HS

Phone: 01457 874093
Email: friends@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk
Email: curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk

SADDLEWORTH Museum and Gallery

THE FRIENDS OF SADDLEWORTH
MUSEUM AND GALLERY

Newsletter



SUMMER / AUTUMN 2023

Celebrating our heritage

As always, there is much of Saddleworth's rich heritage to celebrate and we will, of course, be embracing the Summer school holidays with activities for families, including trails through the exhibits, an extension of our dressing up clothes, colouring sheets and interactive displays.

The 10th and 17th of September are designated as heritage weekends where we extend a welcome to yet more visitors through free admission along

with friendly guided tours. Please encourage friends and family to visit as our joint history is meant to be treasured and shared.

History Walk 14th September

Discover more fascinating facts about Delph, its landscape, architecture and people by joining the 1 1/2—2 hours history walk. You'll need sturdy shoes but the walk itself is on the flat therefore suitable for most. Contact Neil Barrow for

details on 07779 301632 or Neilbarrow@hotmail.co.uk

Pots and Pans' Memorial

This year is the centenary of Saddleworth's Pots & Pans War memorial. The Museum will be mounting an exhibition. If anyone has any items or family stories connected to the Memorial please contact the Museum; curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk.

A tribute to Helen Sutcliffe (née Rhodes) (1929-2023)

We are sorry to hear of the death of Helen Sutcliffe, a longstanding Friend of the Museum. Her father, Lord Rhodes' memorabilia is displayed at the Museum as is a recent donation: her mother's VAD uniform worn at the Ashway Gap WWI hospital.

Her son, Adam, has sent the following tribute and we wish the family well at this sad time.

"At Helen's funeral on 25 April at Saddleworth Church, where she had been baptized, confirmed and married, I was privileged to be able to reflect on her place as part of the generation that grew into adulthood during the war years in the community of her beloved Saddleworth.

Helen grew up in a household of one man [Hervey Rhodes] and six women. During the war she delivered milk from Butterhouses, helped on the farm and knitted socks for sailors on the Arctic con-

voys. From Hulme Grammar she went to Ackworth and then the Mount, where she sang "Belinda" in Dido & Aeneas and was responsible for nominating readers for Assemblies – one of whom was a girl from a junior class called Judi Dench.

Helen spent a year studying in Geneva, then returned to Higher Brownhill and soon after met and fell in love with a young Oundle-educated architect from Oldham who had been in India during the war – John Sutcliffe. Together they dived into Saddleworth life – Tame Valley Lawn Tennis club, the Rotary Club and Round Table, the Drama society, the Civic Trust and the Festival. All these organisations saw them plan, lead and support entertainments and projects in the community. For 25 years Helen was a volunteer driver for the WRVS whilst John served as a Justice of the Peace. During this time along came

three children [Martin, Adam and Melanie]. In their mature years Helen and John travelled widely and enjoyed a long "Indian Summer" of life together whilst continuing to 'join in and help out' – supporting the Festival, Dobcross Silver Band and the 91 Club.

John's death in 2008 proved a devastating blow, but, fiercely independent and not without a small measure of Saddleworth grit, Helen kept up with her subscriptions and interests, Chamber concerts, museum outings and visits, special friends as well as her demonic skills on the croquet lawn and at the bridge table.

John and Helen were typical of their generation, names from which live on in our memories. We've all known, loved and lost people from what is often referred to as "Britain's Greatest Generation" – and we honour them all for who they were and the way they lived their lives."



Editor Verity Mann
friends@saddleworth
museum.co.uk



The Plant Sale

Through an Edwardian Camera

A Portrait of Saddleworth 1901-1910

Michael Fox & Peter Fox



New from Michael & Peter Fox, an interesting and entertaining book capturing the occasions, the people and the spirit of Edwardian Saddleworth



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High Street,
Uppermill,
Saddleworth
OL3 6BT

Update on Fundraisers

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support which allows us to contribute to the on-going success of the Museum.

Along with donations, we were pleased to provide a table and chair set as an addition to our secret garden, and are currently looking to source an interactive donation box which should prove to be a fun way to encourage contributions.

This year's plant sale was even more successful than last year, raising over £1000. Many thanks to all of you who pro-

vided plants and who helped on the day: it is so appreciated. Any remaining plants were donated to Julie Ryan for the Memorial Sensory Garden at the Royal Oldham Hospital which supports children and families. We were pleased to be able to help such a worthy cause.

Going forward we'll be gearing up for two, busy, Heritage weekends on the 10th and 17th September. Please encourage friends and family to pay us a visit and contact Neil Barrow to join the Delph History Walk.

Following the success of the Spring buffet which raised over £300 for the Museum we'll be hosting an Autumn lunch on the 15th October. Contact the Museum for details and tickets.

A reminder that your membership subscriptions are a vital source of income for us, so please make sure that you have renewed them this year and encourage friends and family to join to have unlimited visits throughout the year.

Verity



Can you string a handloom? Volunteers Required!

Granted, it's an unusual request, but we're looking for two, nimble fingered volunteers to re-string the handloom. It's a two person job and will require skill and patience, but we would be enormously grateful if you could

either help, or put us in contact with someone who could! Contact the Museum either during opening hours, by telephone (01457 874093) or email curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk



Friends' Coffee Mornings & 200+ Club Draw

The 2nd Wednesday of the Month 10am—12pm £2.50 until further notice

Dates for Diaries!

Summer Art Exhibition by the Saddleworth Group of Artists	15th July—5th August
The Russel Howarth Trustees Collection With the opportunity to purchase from this highly popular collection.	12th August—10th September
Art Exhibition by Michael Crispin	16th September—15th October
Friends of the Museum lunch	15th October
Photographic Exhibition by the Saddleworth Photographic Group	21st October—19th November
Art Exhibition by the Saddleworth Group of Artists	25th November—January 2024
Christmas Craft Fair	November date to be confirmed
Santa at the Museum, Grotto and kids' crafts.	9th & 10th December

See <https://www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk/events> or ring 01457 874093 1-4pm for details