



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023.

Aims and Objectives

To advance education, including increasing individual and collective knowledge and understanding of the history of Saddleworth, in particular, but not exclusively, by:

- Documenting the history of Saddleworth,
- Promoting an interest in the history of Saddleworth,
- Facilitating research into the history of Saddleworth, and
- Maintaining a publicly accessible archive and library relating to the history of Saddleworth.

Membership.

Membership is growing and at the end of the year stood at 271; roughly half living outside of Saddleworth and 16 living overseas. Approximately 80 members have opted to join as digital members which helps to lower printing and postage costs.

<u>Trustees.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
	Michael Fox	10.10.23
	Graham Griffiths	11.10.23
	Kenneth Waddington	10.10.23
	Robert McCracken	10.10.23
	Michael Buckley	24.08.22
	Mary Rodgers	13.10.21
	Lesley Brown	13.10.21
	Christine Barrow	13.10.21

Lectures.

Monthly lectures have again proved popular and are well attended by both members for whom admission is free, and visitors who pay a fee of £3.00. The Society is grateful to all the speakers, some of whom travel long distances, and many refuse payments. Our Programme Secretary has arranged another interesting full itinerary for 2024.

In April we held a seminar to further the debate on the authenticity of the Tudor bed reputed to be the marriage bed of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. The bed had, apparently, once been in the possession of George Shaw of St. Chad's, Uppermill and a heraldic shield, once part of the bed, still remains at St. Chad's. Some speakers are

convinced of the bed's authenticity while others are strongly of the opinion that it is a George Shaw forgery. In depth scientific tests results were presented, some inconclusive. However, the verdict of the audience was that the bed was certainly Tudor, however proving its links to Henry VII would require further historical research.

Bulletin and Newsletter.

The quarterly Bulletin, now in its 53rd year, continues to be a mix of research articles and lighter subjects and is well received. Sadly, we have not been able to issue the quarterly Newsletter this year due to the indisposition of the two editors. We hope to change this situation at an early date.

Guided Walks.

As in recent years, Summer guided historical walks around various Saddleworth villages were arranged by two members and proved very popular

Projects

The Society continues its programme of documenting the monumental inscriptions in all the Saddleworth graveyards. In 2023 we worked along with members of St. Chad's Church to uncover the nineteenth century graves in the Lower Graveyard. Approximately a quarter of the graves have been cleared and their inscriptions transcribed. Work is also well advanced on transcribing and indexing the MIs in the four Delph graveyards. Publications on these two projects are planned when work is completed.

Work continues on the colossal task of publishing the 370 Saddleworth Probate Records of the sixteenth and seventeenth century. Containing extensive notes on the individuals and places concerned, it is hoped it will form the ultimate work on early modern Saddleworth and its inhabitants.

Holly Bank.

The conversion of Holly Bank, the Society's new base in Greenfield has been a major focus and continues steadily but slowly. Much of the work during 2023 was concerned with insulating the building and preparing the floor for underfloor heating. Parts of the building also needed re-roofing. The Society is grateful to the Saddleworth Hydro Scheme for the generous grant towards insulation costs. We continue to seek grant opportunities to further this refurbishing project.

As well as a base for the Society, it is hoped that the new premises will become a regional facility for family history research and the large garden and first floor room a community hub for Greenfield where other organisations can meet and hold events.

Website.

Enhancing our website continues, although the lack of a committee member to take on the role of webmaster limits progress. Book sales are almost exclusively through the website and an increasing number of members pay their membership subscription by this method.

Archives.

Our archive is constantly receiving new donations. A particularly valuable gift this year has been the collection of the late Ken and Barbara Booth which contains a wealth of archaeological books and maps. Accessioning new material is slow due to the lack of an Archivist, however, a new member of the Committee, is helping with the archives and this is making a difference.

2023 has been a challenging year, but despite difficulties the Trustees look forward to the future with optimism.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

Saddleworth Historical Society

No (if
any)
1195706

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start
date

1.1.2023

To

Period
end date

31.12.2
3

Section A Receipts and payments

Unrestricted funds

to the nearest £

Restricted
funds

to the
nearest £

Endowmen
t funds

to the nearest
£

Total funds

to the nearest £

A1 Receipts

Membership Subscriptions	4,982.00	-	-	4,982.00
Gift Aid yet to be claimed	-	-	-	-
Loans for Holly Bank	30,000.00	-	-	30,000.00
Grants and Donations for Holly Bank	3,989.00	-	-	3,989.00
Publication Sales	792.00	-	-	792.00
Proframme	531.00	-	-	531.00
Misc. Walks	51.00	-	-	51.00
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	40,345.00	-	-	40,345.00

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,345.00	-	-	40,345.00

A3 Payments				
Publication Costs	1,876.00	-	-	1,876.00
Postge of Bulletins	839.00	-	-	839.00
Saddleworth Museum Room Hire	1,140.00	-	-	1,140.00
Society Memberships	168.00	-	-	168.00
Administration	185.00	-	-	185.00
Website	64.00	-	-	64.00
Assets Bought (Grave Books)	1,176.00	-	-	1,176.00
Holly Bank Bildg & Assoc Works to 31.12.2023	23,573.00	-	-	23,573.00
Programme	409.00	-	-	409.00
Sub total	29,430.00	-	-	29,430.00

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,430.00		-	29,430.00

		-		
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,915.00	-	-	10,915.00
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	10,915.00	-	-	10,915.00

[illegible]



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FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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