



# THE FRIENDS of SADDLEWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## *Newsletter*

No 2

Spring 2007

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### ***Retrospect, 2007***

The first meeting of the year was the Annual General Meeting, which was held at Greenfield Conservative Club on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The meeting was very poorly attended but we managed to transact the business of the meeting. The main items being the election of the officers, who were re-elected on- bloc and the amount of the annual subscription, which, on the recommendation of the Treasurer, remained the same as the previous year. After the close of the AGM Ken Booth gave an illustrated Archaeological Quiz. Mike Howarth won the prize of a box of chocolates for having greatest number of correct answers. This was our last meeting at Greenfield Conservative Club due to our normal room having been changed to a smaller room located in the cellar. The committee felt that this room was unsuitable and decided to return to Uppermill Masonic Hall. Our thanks were given to the committee of the Conservative Club for helping us out during a difficult period.

In February, after a change in the programme, Ken Booth gave a talk entitled **‘Discovery & Exploration at Castleshaw Roman Forts; 1751-1964.**

The audience were told of discovery in 1751, rediscovery in 1897 by Ammon Wrigley, who subsequently excavated at the site and the work of local mill owner Mr G.F.Buckley. Samuel Andrews and Major Lees carried out the extensive and important work in 1908-09, which produced the first real plan of the site and a photographic record. The site again received attention in the 1960’s by Manchester University.



**Andrew and Lees excavation team. 1908**

March was the month of the second John Buckley Lecture which was entitled ‘**Early Water Mills in Saddleworth**’, an illustrated talk given by Mike Buckley



An audience of over 50 people heard Mike tell of tracing some of the mills by the use of early deeds and field names. The talk was accompanied by digital images of sites, maps and early deeds. Mike held his audience spell-bound with accounts of his detective work in tracing these early mills.

The last lecture before the summer break was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April and was given by Dr. Laurance Donnelly, an Exploration and Engineering Geologist who has spent considerable time exploring the Saddleworth hills. His title was ‘**The Evolution of the Saddleworth Landscape in relation to Archaeology**’ and the talk was illustrated by digital images of the Saddleworth landscape. An audience of over 40 people were enthralled to learn that the landscape of Saddleworth had originated from Antarctica millions of years ago and even now Saddleworth is moving towards Germany. Laurance answered many questions from the floor. Reports from a very appreciative audience indicated that this was our best lecture to date.

Each year The Council for British Archaeology organises a ‘National Archaeology Week’ during the month of July. In order to support this event, Saddleworth Archaeological Trust is organising a ‘One Day School’ in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit. The One Day School will be based at the Castleshaw Centre in Delph and will deal with the Industrial Archaeology of the Castleshaw Valley. In the morning we have arranged for two speakers, the first is Norman Redhead, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester who will give an illustrated talk entitled ‘**The Industrial Archaeology of the Castleshaw Valley**’. Norman is well known to the members of the Trust. The second speaker is Dr. Mike Nevell, Director of the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit. He will give an illustrated talk entitled ‘**The Industrialisation of Upland Valleys; Castleshaw in its Regional Context.**’ Mike delivered the first John Buckley Lecture last year and will be recognised from his appearances on ‘Time Team’.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the booking form for this event, places are limited to 50 and last years event was overbooked. If you wish to attend, please book early to avoid disappointment.

**We welcome the following new members - Mrs M Bray from Stalybridge. Mr P Barrett from Leeds. Miss K Coldwell and Mr W Howard from Shaw. Drs. S & H Drake from Bamford. Mrs G Davison from Greenfield. Mr D Lloyd from Grotton. Mrs I Milhench from Sandbach.**

**From the Treasurer.** A small number of members have not yet renewed their membership. We do hope they will continue to support the Trust and the work it does in trying to preserve both the archaeological and historical heritage of Saddleworth. If you have not rejoined, a subscription form is enclosed; we value your membership and hope that we can look forward to your continued support.

The **2007 STONEHOUSE LECTURE** will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the Royal George Hotel, Greenfield. 2pm for 2.30pm..

**THE SADDLEWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRUST**

The Trustees invite you and your friends to the Sixth Annual  
Stonehouse Lecture.

**LIVING with the EDGE**  
**THE STORY OF THE ALDERLEY EDGE**  
**LANDSCAPE PROJECT**

An illustrated talk by

**Professor John Prag**

Hon. Professor in the Manchester Museum and Professor Emeritus of Classics,  
University of Manchester

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007                      2pm for 2.30pm  
Royal George Hotel,    Manchester Road,    Greenfield.

**Change to December Lecture**

Norman Redhead has volunteered to give a lecture in December relating to a ‘**Years Archaeology in Greater Manchester**’. The programmed talk ‘The Hidden Frontier’ will now be given in 2008. We have not yet obtained a date in December from the Masonic Hall due to Christmas bookings from members. As soon as we can fix a date it will be announced at forthcoming lectures and displayed on the usual village notice boards.

