

## Newsletter, October 2019

### A brief summary of what's in our October 2019 newsletter..

Why our Civic Hall is the ideal venue for your wedding – not just for the reception but for the actual ceremony, too. We bring you news of public transport changes in the area, some welcome, some not-so-welcome, and how you can have a say on local bus services. Finally, there's a reminder that it's 'that time of year' again – so get out those festive lights because we'll be judging the best of the best in our annual Saddleworth Illuminations Competition on the 10th and 11th December!

---

### Planning a spring or summer wedding? Our Civic Hall is the perfect venue!

With its fabulous ballroom, licensed bar, excellent PA system plus a large fully-equipped kitchen on the premises (complete with dumb-waiter to a first floor serving kitchen), our Civic Hall in Uppermill is a fantastic place to hold a wedding reception. The building is also licensed for wedding ceremonies, so if you're searching for suitable venues for your spring or summer wedding, why not get in touch with us to find out more?

#### **For pleasure – and business**

The Civic Hall is also the perfect place to hold other activities and events such as exercise classes, concerts, dinners, conferences, celebrations and afternoon tea dances. Over the years we have also been host to craft fairs, flea markets, fashion shows, exhibitions, mother & baby classes (we have full disabled and baby changing facilities) and much, much more. Up to 90 guests can be accommodated in the council chamber with larger parties in the ballroom.

On top of this we have several rooms which are perfect for smaller meetings and gatherings. In addition, we have lots of facilities (including disabled facilities) while free Wi-Fi, a hearing loop and AV facilities (conference microphone,

projector, screen and laptop computer) make it the ideal venue for larger business meetings and conferences.

**Download our brochure, take a ‘virtual tour’, then call to book on 01457 876665**

All our facilities are available to book 7 days a week, morning, noon and night, including Sundays. There is free parking on site for up to 35 cars plus 2 disabled spaces.

So whether you’re a community group, a charity or a business looking for a suitable venue for a one-off or a regular weekday meeting – or a couple looking to book the perfect romantic venue for a spring or summer wedding – why not get in touch with Pam Bailey, Clerk to the Council on 01457 876665. You can also **[download a brochure and take a virtual tour right here on our website.](#)**

\* \* \*

## Saddleworth is saying NO to big lorries clogging up narrow roads

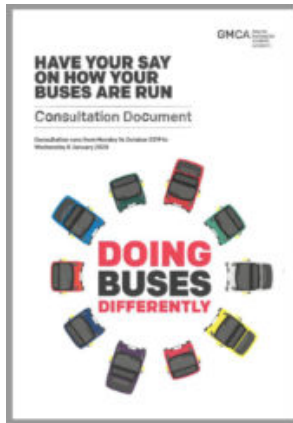
Here in Saddleworth we have more than our fair share of narrow, steep, twisty lanes and streets and back in the spring we brought you news of ‘Lorrywatch’ – a successful nationwide scheme to get lorries off this kind of road by introducing strict weight and / or width restrictions.

The scheme relies on local groups of trained volunteers to record details of vehicles using roads when they exceed the road restrictions. Registration details are submitted to DVLA who, in the first instance, send a warning letter and, if misuse persists, can issue a fine of up to £1,000. However, before the scheme can be legally implemented there needs to be signage telling vehicles that they are entering, and leaving, a restricted zone.

SPC is still chasing Oldham Council on progress on the installation of weight limit signage in Delph. We’ll bring you news of any progress in future newsletters.

\* \* \*

**On the buses – have your say on how they should be run**



Greater Manchester is launching a major public consultation to get a wide range of views on how the city-region's bus services should be run.

People across the region and beyond are being invited to have their say on a proposed bus franchising scheme through the consultation which runs from 12pm Monday 14 October to midnight Wednesday 8 January 2020. The documents can now be viewed online and in libraries and other public buildings, and you can find out more here <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-launches-major-public-consultation-on-how-buses-should-be-run/> and also here <https://www.gmconsult.org/> (where you can also comment on the proposals).

A series of drop-in events are being held across Greater Manchester and we are organizing our own event here in Saddleworth so that local residents can drop in to discuss the proposals and find out how to respond. So please come along to the Civic Hall on Friday 29th November between 2pm and 8pm to discover more and share your views.

\* \* \*

## Anger at timetable cuts to the numbers 180 and 184 buses

At a time when everyone is talking about the environment, a move by the First Group to cut services on the 180 and 184 bus routes, thus forcing more people to rely on cars for transport, has made us see red – especially as these major changes were implemented without any consultation.

The changes particularly affect Greenfield as the 180 service has been seriously reduced and the Sunday service withdrawn altogether. The 184 service revisions include a reduction in the number of stops between Saddleworth and Manchester. While we can understand the economics behind reductions in some underused off-peak services we believe that peak services are essential for both commuters and schoolchildren including Saddleworth and Mossley Hollins schools, and students at the Bluecoat School and Sixth Form College in Oldham.

In addition, the reduction of bus services between Saddleworth and Oldham would contribute to the already serious demise of the High Street as shoppers would also be adversely affected.

SPC has written a letter of complaint to First Group and others. We'll bring you news of any responses as soon as we get them.

\* \* \*

## Improved train timetable from 15th December

We're delighted to see that the new December train timetable is an improvement on the last one. From 15th December there will be at least 1 train per hour at all stations with no skip stops and 2 trains per hour during peak times (excluding Sundays). The platform at Greenfield is also to be extended to accommodate longer trains.

However we feel there is still room for improvement. CRAG (Greenfield and Grasscroft Rail Action Group) is campaigning for the reinstatement of trains through to Manchester Victoria and Salford, and for there to be 2 trains per hour at all times. So please watch this space in early 2020.

In the meantime you can find out more about the December timetable changes here: <https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/travel-updates/december-2019-timetable-changes>

\* \* \*

## Encouraging school field trips to Saddleworth

With its outstanding industrial heritage and breathtaking geography, Saddleworth is the perfect destination for a school field trip. We are in the process of mailing schools in the region to encourage them to visit Saddleworth and while they're here to take advantage of our Civic Hall as a base for school trips. This is a copy of that letter:

Dear Headteacher,

### **Field Trips to Saddleworth**

As part of the Key Stage 2 Schools Curriculum covers the Industrial Revolution, schools often make field trips to our area where the impact of that era can still be clearly seen. Particularly during adverse weather conditions, these field trips can be challenging due to the lack of shelter and public toilet facilities.

Uppermill, where Saddleworth Parish Council is based, is an ideal location for the field trips as, within a relatively small area, we have the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, the River Tame, a railway viaduct built on a curve – a fairly unique feature – and a museum which contains many exhibits telling the story of industrialisation in Saddleworth. There is also a park and playing fields which could be used on fine days for the students to picnic but, unfortunately, no longer any public conveniences.

In the centre of Uppermill is the Gothic-style Civic Hall, a former Mechanics Institute which opened in 1859, where the Parish Council is based. The building has been recently renovated and now provides a large ground floor hall with full catering facilities and accessible toilets – the perfect place to find shelter from the rain. Coaches can stop at the front of the building to drop students off and can park for no charge on the leisure centre car park, a 5 minute walk away.

The hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates and this can provide a solution to the current challenges and enhance the experience for both teachers and students. Although not under the remit of the Parish Council, we do work closely with the staff at the museum and could also organise a private visit for school parties.

All of this will help deliver an interesting, safe and fun learning experience for your students and staff.

If you would like any further information or wish to receive a brochure please contact Mrs. Pam Bailey, Clerk to the Council on 01457 876665, e-mail: [enquiries@saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk).

The brochure is also available to view on our website [www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk) where a virtual walk-through tour of the Civic Hall can also be found.

\* \* \*

Finally, it's time to light those lights!!



It's "that time" again – your chance to enter the ever-popular annual Saddleworth Illuminations Competition to find the most amazing Christmas lights displays in our community. Judging will take place on the 10th and 11th December 2019 and the categories are:

- Best Shop Window
- Best Public House
- Best Residential Property
- Best Community

The more incredible and eye-catching the better – basically what the judges will be looking for is innovation, enthusiasm, fun, creativity and LOTS AND LOTS of lights brightening up our dark Saddleworth skies this December. And, if your display is raising money for charity, we'll be delighted to hear about that, too.

Of course your display doesn't have to be on the scale of National Lampoon's Griswald family; tasteful and beautifully executed displays can be just as eye-catching as over-the-top wacky.

So if you would like to enter this year's competition please ring or email Pam, Hazel or Barbara at the Parish Council Offices on 01457 876665 / [\*\*enquiries@saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk\*\*](mailto:enquiries@saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk).

Good luck!