



Lady Louisa Whitworth

Lady Louisa was Sir Joseph Whitworth's second wife after his first wife, Frances, died in October 1870. Not long after they married Lady Louisa and Sir Joseph took up permanent residence in Stancliffe Hall, Darley Dale, where he lived the last 13 years of his life. After his death, it was left to Lady Louisa to implement plans for Darley Dale that her husband could never quite finalise.

Even before Sir Joseph's death she had organised emergency relief in the form of tea, beef and butter which was distributed to all Stancliffe Estate workers during the severe winter of 1875, but it was after his death that she really came into her own. It was under her guidance that Sir Joseph's estate was wisely disposed of to the benefit of Darley Dale, surrounding parishes and districts.

.She maintained an annual payment of £10 to ChurchTownSchool and gave much more besides. The opening to the public of The Whitworth Institute in September 1890 marked the beginning of Lady Louisa's second major project in Darley Dale. The Institute comprised an indoor swimming pool, an assembly hall, various reading and committee rooms and eventually a library, a billiard room, a museum of natural history, a convenient hotel and a landscaped park.

The Whitworth Institute was gifted to the people of Darley Dale, surrounding parishes and districts and has recently undergone extensive renovations to ensure its continued use for future generations. Both Lady Louisa and Sir Joseph are buried in the grounds of St. Helen's Church, Darley Dale.

Wording from 'Darleys Lady Bountiful' by Terrance Kilburn