



# Sir Joseph Whitworth

Sir Joseph Whitworth was born on the 21st December 1803 at Stockport, Cheshire and is perhaps an unsung hero of the industrial revolution. His contribution to the industrial development of this country was perhaps just as significant as that of Sir Richard Arkwright or James Watt. He had achieved international renown as a mechanical engineer and toolmaker at the Great Exhibition of 1851 where his 23 exhibits won more awards than those of any other single exhibitor.

.Best known for the development of the Whitworth Screw Thread and the Whitworth Rifle, it was Sir Joseph Whitworth who was the first to introduce larger and more economical units of mass production in his machine-tool and armaments factories, and it was he who in 1880 persuaded the Board of Trade to adopt standard measures.

Lady Louisa Whitworth was 25 years Sir Josephs junior when they married, 6 months after the passing of his first wife and seems to have been an intelligent, independently minded woman. It was most likely the two had know eachother for some considerable time and match itself was considered to be a marriage of convenience.

Sir Joseph planned many things for Darley Dale but carried out comparatively few. At one time he intended to transform the village into a model community. He had long dreamed of a Comprehensive Village College in Darley whilst the strong-minded Lady Whitworth preferred a Social Centre. The Whitworth Institute was a compromise of the two schemes.

Wording from 'Joseph Whitworth Toolmaker ' by Terrance Kilburn