



ROY BARDSLEY (1937 – 2013)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Roy Bardsley, secretary of Saddleworth White Rose Society from its inception and a founder member. Although not born in Yorkshire, he nevertheless had the heart of a true Yorkshireman.

Roy was born in Derby, but at an early age moved with his parents back to their native Saddleworth. He was educated at Saddleworth Secondary School prior to starting work at Greenfield Farm, where he developed what was to be a lifelong interest in cattle. Roy served several years with the Royal Military Police, mainly in Germany. He cultivated his interest in the army, becoming quite knowledgeable in the history of Yorkshire regiments, particularly the Home Guard & Territorials of the West Riding.

Following the local government changes of 1974, Roy, along with many residents of Saddleworth considered that Saddleworth was given a 'raw deal'

when it was linked with the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham. He was a founder member and secretary of the Saddleworth White Rose Society, a voluntary group, which campaigns to preserve and promote the History, Culture and Identity of Saddleworth as part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and to refute the suggestion that Saddleworth had somehow moved into Lancashire. **(See Government Statement).**

Roy was proud that recently the Society had erected county identity signs (Lancashire & Yorkshire) on some of the roads of Saddleworth which cross the boundary into Lancashire.

Roy died suddenly on 20th May, following a long illness. He leaves his Wife Elizabeth, Sons David and Christopher, and five Grandchildren.

Roy's funeral at Hollinwood Crematorium was well attended (people standing at the back), with several representatives of the local British Legion and the Saddleworth branch flag bearer. The coffin was draped in the Yorkshire flag.

Following local government re-organisation in 1974, Roy always insisted that it was administrative districts **only** which had changed and that Saddleworth remains part of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The Government statement by Eric Pickles on the next page confirms that Roy was correct!

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

News story Eric Pickles: celebrate St George and England's traditional counties

On St George's Day, the government will formally acknowledge England's traditional counties in the life of the nation.



The flag of Middlesex, which was abolished as an administrative council in 1965

A significant number of counties were 'administratively abolished' by the government in the [Local Government Act 1972](#).

In a symbolic move, Eric Pickles will assert that England's historic and traditional counties still exist, and are now recognised by the government - including the likes of Cumberland, Huntingdonshire, Westmorland and Middlesex.

Previously, many parts of Whitehall and municipal officialdom have shunned these counties, many of which date back over a thousand years of English history. Mr Pickles today (23 April 2013) will announce that the government will seek to encourage the marking and continued use of such traditional county names.

He will encourage local residents to continue to **champion such local identities**, irrespective of current tiers of local administration.

This move complements this government's abolition of the 'artificial' Government Office

regions, based on European Union's NUTS1 administrative boundaries.

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles said:

The tapestry of England's counties binds our nation together. This government has binned the arbitrary Government Office euro-regions, and instead, we are championing England's traditional local identities which continue to run deep.

Administrative restructuring by previous governments has sought to suppress and undermine such local identities. Today, on St George's Day, we commemorate our patron saint and formally acknowledge the continuing role of our traditional counties in England's public and cultural life.

Rupert Barnes Vice-Chairman of the Association of British Counties added:

The counties are the basic tapestry on which countless generations have made their lives. They have shaped our identities and our view of ourselves and have remained a constant throughout centuries of change to become a vital part of British culture, geography and heritage.

The counties predate any transient lines drawn for convenience or administration and predate the kingdom itself, rooted in history and cultural identity, so that the ancient counties are of the people not of the state. Statutes on administration have respectfully left the ancient counties alone. This pattern of the counties brought down to us through the centuries then is the pattern around which the nation has grown and grown great, and worthy of celebration.

Futher information



A [map of England's traditional counties](#) can be found on the Association of British Counties website.

The traditional counties are fundamental to our culture. Older than cathedrals, more historic than stately homes, county names like Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Middlesex are basic to our life. Many of these pre-date the Norman conquest. They are an indelible part of our history and important cultural entities. Yet several have fallen by the wayside.

From 1888 to 1965 local government 'administrative counties' were closely based upon the traditional counties. A modern local government map now bears far less resemblance to the traditional counties. The tendency for the media, map-makers, publishers etc. to use local government areas as a basis for popular geography has obscured the identities of the counties. The Association of British Counties encourages the use of the historic counties in postal addressing, in guide books, on boundary signs and maps and encourages their further use as a basis for sporting, social and cultural activities and organisations.

FLAGS

The Flag Institute is the national body which deals with the registration of flags in the UK.

Andy Strangeway has been actively communicating with several Local Authorities & County Councils, to 'persuade' them that some of their road signs purporting to indicate 'county boundaries' may be unlawful. He has also been involved with the registration of new flags for each of the three ridings of Yorkshire.

West Riding Flag **Winning Design**

The winning design for the West Riding flag competition was by Michael Faul of York.

The flag is described as: *"The flag shows the cross of St. George, the historic symbol of England, with the vertical band off-centre to the left, in the format adopted by most Scandinavian countries. This reflects Yorkshire's Anglo-Scandinavian heritage, the county having been settled and ruled by Norwegians and Danes in the eighth and ninth centuries. Placed at the centre of the cross is the traditional white rose of Yorkshire, in use since the fourteenth century, shown against a blazing sun, a*

heraldic combination known as a "rose-en-soleil". The same combination of "rose en soleil" device and red and white colours appeared in the arms of the former West Riding Council of 1889-1974."

Purchasing West Riding Flags

The first West Riding flag was made by [Flying Colours of Knaresbrough](#).

A Polyester economy version is available from. [World Flag Shop](#)

FLYING YOUR FLAG

It is encouraging that the flying of flags by both residents and traders in Saddleworth has become more popular in recent years, particularly at events such as 'Yanks' and Yorkshire Day. It is great that people take the trouble to 'fly the flag'. However, not everyone displays their flag the correct way up! i.e The Union Flag when flown upside down, is technically a signal of distress. The pictures below show the Union Flag & the Yorkshire Flag. (Yorkshire Flag the other way in the East Riding!).



The Union Flag has a correct way up - in the half of the flag nearest the flagpole, the wider diagonal white stripe must be above the red diagonal stripe. It is most improper to fly the flag upside down

Acknowledgements: HM Government Web Site, Andy Strangeway, Flag Institute, Association of British Counties.

YORKSHIRE DAY 2013

The Celebration of Yorkshire Day was once more a great success in Saddleworth. There was the usual formalities where the Chairman of the Parish Council Councillor Graham Sheldon and his Wife Diana placed a wreath on the statue of Ammon Wrigley. The Yorkshire Declaration was read by Mr Gilbert Symes. Also present were the Mayor & Mayoress of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Councillor John Hudson & Mrs Hudson; Doreen Ainscough representing

‘The Friends of Real Lancashire’; and our Member of Parliament Debbie Abrahams.

Music was provided by the Dobcross Brass Monkeys Brass Band, who then led a parade from the Museum Gardens to the King George V playing field, where there was plenty to eat drink and ‘spend your money on’.

The weather was kind to us, and those present appeared to enjoy the event

SADDLEWORTH WHITE ROSE SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 26th November 2013 at Uppermill Conservative Club.

Start 8.0pm

Nominations are invited for the Committee.

To: geoff.bayley@delph.myzen.co.uk

POTATO PIE SUPPER AVAILABLE @ £5.00 – PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE – To TREASURER

SWRS Annual Membership (Due date November)

Please send to:

M. Hall, 6, Bridgefield Cres, Springhead, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL4 4PD

Single Member £5.00

Family £8.00

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... Tel

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