



# Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

**Newsletter No 4 October 1999**

## **NOTICE!**

The Saddleworth White Rose Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 01 Nov 1999, commencing at 8.0 pm at The White Lion Delph Lane, Delph, Saddleworth, Yorkshire. All members and their guests are welcome to attend, members only will be allowed to vote.

## **YORKSHIRE DAY**

We are happy to report that our Yorkshire Day celebrations, in co-operation with Saddleworth Museum, went better than our wildest dreams. Diggle Junior Band were so enjoyable to listen and a credit to their Bandmaster, Neil Harvey, both in performance and appearance. Gilbert Symes was up to his usual high standard, not only in reading the Yorkshire Declaration of Integrity at 11.24 a.m, but in continually keeping the crowd amused entertained. The Saddleworth Morris dancers appeared next and kept everyone entertained for an hour followed by The Brenda Goddard School of Dancing, from Delph, Both these groups put on tremendous displays of dancing and we were very pleased with all the performances. The Museum staff helped in every way and the ladies who served cakes and tea (all of which were home by these ladies and members, of Saddleworth White Rose Society) did an excellent job in the Museum gallery tea bar.



We had a stand in the Gallery selling white roses on behalf of SWRS and the Multiple Sclerosis Society and all of these sold out very rapidly. We also sold raffle tickets offering one of the real white roses as yet on trial but hopefully to be available for the Millennium. These tickets are still available at £1 each, obtainable from SWRS and the flower shop in Uppermill; money raised from these will be used to pay for the rights and international registration of this variety.

We were also accompanied by members of The Yorkshire Country Women's Association who had a stand next to the SWRS stand and are keen to set up a branch of this organization in Saddleworth if any of you ladies are interested.

We must also mention and thank the members of the lace making group who had previously booked the Museum Gallery for their display but allowed us to share the room with them for Yorkshire Day,

At around 2 15 p.m., after the events at the Museum, the Yorkshire Pudding Walk took place to the White Lion public house at Delph where a really excellent Yorkshire Pudding meal was served to the walkers. This was then followed by a walk back to the Museum via Hull Mill Lane, Lark Hill and the Linear Park.

It was an absolutely beautiful day and the weather helped to make Yorkshire Day a big success.

Mrs Barbara Hopkinson has made a video of the occasion and if anyone would like a copy, these can be obtained from Mrs Hopkinson, Tel. Saddleworth (01457) 874012 at £10 each.

## THE SADDLEWORTH WHITE ROSE

A major aim of the Society is the development of a new white rose variety to be called "Saddleworth" and which we plan to promote and market throughout the North West to celebrate the district's right and proper place in the County of Yorkshire. After a country wide search last year we were fortunate to make contact with Mr Rawlings, a rose breeder in Huddersfield, who agreed to undertake the rose's development on behalf of the Society.

The project got underway last autumn with the search for a suitable seedling with the right set of attributes and from which the roses could be propagated. After considering a number of potential candidates the rose finally selected by Mr Rawlings was chosen for its combination of colour, fragrance and disease resistance. The first specimens were available early in the summer but through a combination of weather and personal availability it was not until August that we were able to see how the project was faring. On a warm and brilliantly sunny morning Society members Roy Bardsley and Mike Buckley, accompanied by gardening expert and Local Radio celebrity, Tom Leigh, went over to Huddersfield to see how the rose was progressing.



(L to R) Mr Rawlings, Tom Leigh and Roy Bardsley

Propagated from seedling, at present there are only two specimens of the rose, but during our visit one small bush was in full bloom and we were able to get a good idea of the rose and its full potential. All present, including Mr Rawlings, were delighted with the results so far. The rose is a brilliant white with a slightly pink interior (signifying Saddleworth's warm relations with Lancashire despite its presence in Yorkshire I hear you say). The flowers grow in a tight cluster and have a very pleasant fragrance. Mr Rawlings is particularly pleased with what he believes will be the strong disease resistant properties of the plant as it has been bred from parent stock known to be very resilient. Tom Leigh was particularly impressed and complimentary of the rose and Mr Rawlings efforts.

The next step is to propagate the rose by grafting buds from the parent plants on to suitable root stock. Depending on how these grafts succeed, it is hoped that by next summer, twenty or thirty of the first roses will be available.

A launch ceremony is planned as part of the Saddleworth Millennium celebrations next Summer. Stand by more more information on this.

The society plans to market the rose through nurseries and gardening centres throughout the region: and even nationally if the rose proves as popular as we think it will. The search is now on for a suitable nursery that will produce plants on a large scale from next year onwards.

The project has its associated costs, and the Society is looking to raise in the order of £750. These costs include development fees by the rose breeder and the registration of the name and growers rights. We have launched an appeal for sponsorship of the project and a number of donations have already been received. We are also selling tickets at £1 each for a draw which will take place at the launch ceremony next summer when the winner will receive one of the first specimens. There is still some way to go though to meet our target, so please help us by making a donation, buying a draw ticket or helping identify sponsors of the project.

The rose is a beautiful plant, well worthy of the name Saddleworth. If it lives up to its full potential. and if the project succeeds as well as we think it will, it should do a lot to boost national awareness of Saddleworth and of its true and historic place in the White Rose County.

## **A SADDLEWORTH TALE**

**by Phil Clay**

The year was 1974, the Boundary Commission had made their gigantic cock-up and Saddleworth was now, even though still part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, administered by the Oldham Metropolitan Borough. We the pride of Saddleworth, were now attached to the Greater Manchester Police and I had transferred my backside from the comfortable seat of a fast Triumph P.I. to a Panda car, a Morris Mini van. The shame was unbearable at times. One Christmas Eve I was patrolling the icy roads in my little car, it was a beautiful night with the stars shining brilliantly in a clear sky. when I chanced to meet up with Sgt. Gerry Brown and P.C. Gerald Blackey who were patrolling in the police Land Rover. "Look at what we've got for Rollie's dogs" said Gerry, displaying the carcass of a very large hare that had been involved in a one sided argument with a fast moving vehicle. Our colleague, Rollie Walters, who was warm and snug in the police station, was the owner of two large dogs and welcomed any contribution to their diet. After some fifteen minutes pleasant chat we parted company and I continued my travels.

I was meandering down Wall Hill Road. Dobcross. dreaming of my Christmas dinner, when I was confronted by an obstruction in the centre of the road. On investigation it turned out to be the very dead body of a large donkey who had, like the hare, also been involved, in a losing argument with a vehicle. To save any further accident I managed to drag the unfortunate animal onto the footpath. Not wishing to upset any children who may have stumbled on this tragedy on Christmas morning I returned to the office to enlist the assistance of the Land Rover crew in removing poor Old Neddy to a more suitable place of rest.

"You should see what the sergeant's brought me for my dogs" called Rollie as I entered the office. For the second time that night the pathetic body of the hare was laid out for my inspection. "That's nowt but a snack. I've got yer summat that will make your dog's eyes water," "What's that?" asked Rollie. "A bloody big, dead donkey, but It'll need some butchering" I replied.

I then went on to explain about the dead donkey I had come across but no one believed my story, thinking it was a wind up, until the telephone rang and a very upset female explained to Sgt. Brown that she had collided with a donkey in Wall Hill Road and that she was sure she had killed it. Sgt. Brown, P.C. Blakey and I departed, post-haste, to the scene in the Land Rover, myself driving fully equipped with a strong tow rope. I dropped my two companions at the tragic scene and continued up the road in order to turn round. On returning I found P.C. Blackey standing at the side of the donkey, his cap, presumably having been removed in respect, held in his right hand whilst he scratched his head with his left hand. "Hey-up Joseph, you and Mary over there (indicating the sergeant) have no chance of getting to Bethlehem tonight on that donkey". The replies were numerous, course and unnecessary. We hitched the tow rope to the donkey and to the Land Rover and I began to tow it through the gate and into the nearby field. I looked into the rear view mirror and saw my colleagues walking behind the unfortunate animal, caps off, solemn faced like two well, trained professional mourners. As I watched them there was, a sudden, very loud donkey's bray "Hee-haw. Hee-haw". The two mourners did an immediate about turn and fled towards the gate in order to put a safe distance between them and the resurrected Neddy. I climbed out of the Land Rover and shouted. "What the hell's up with yer?" "That bugger's not dead, didn't yer 'ear it?" There's no way I'm being near it's bloody hoofs when it gets up." replied the distant voice of Gerald. I am certain that the sad little face of the very alive donkey, whose head had been hanging over a nearby fence, broke into a smile when it realised that it had put to flight two stalwarts of the local constabulary, I know mine did.

### **LANCASHIRE DAY 27 NOVEMBER 1999**

**A message from Mr Chris Dawson, Chairman of Friends of Real Lancashire**

Throughout Lancashire and beyond, Lancastrians will be celebrating their County Day wearing the Red Rose of Lancaster, and at 9 p.m in the evening joining together in drinking the Loyal Toast to "The Queen. Duke of Lancaster".

The reason for observing Our County Day is to remind people that Lancashire still exists in its entirety, stretching, as it does from the River Mersey in the south to the River Duddon and the west bank of Windermere in the north, and from the Irish Sea coast in the west to the true Yorkshire border in the east.

No legislation has ever changed the boundaries of traditional counties, only administrative areas have been changed by Acts of Parliament over the years since 1888 when County Councils were first created. The area at present administered by Lancashire County Council does not represent the whole of Lancashire, and in fact covers parts of Yorkshire. We do not see why these areas of Yorkshire should be labeled as Lancashire, any more than we accept the labeling of parts of Lancashire as Cumbria, Greater Manchester. Merseyside or part of Cheshire. The former Metropolitan Counties of Greater Manchester and Merseyside ceased to be administrative areas when their councils were abolished in 1986, these areas are now mapped by Ordnance Survey to show the current fifteen unitary authorities that replaced these unpopular administrative counties.

We campaign to have the thirty nine traditional counties of England once again depicted on maps, with their boundaries marked by roadside signs, as they were for hundreds of years prior to 1974. The depicting of traditional counties on maps would recreate a stable geography for the UK. which has been missing since 1974. We believe that Lancashire is Lancashire and Yorkshire is Yorkshire full stop.

For more information about Friends of Real Lancashire visit our Website at [www.forl.mcmail.com](http://www.forl.mcmail.com), telephone 0151 928 2770, or write to:- FORL, 1 Belvidere Park, Great Crosby, Lancashire L23 OSP.

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