



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

No 7 - July 2000

The Boundary Walk

A small but brave group of members, friends and new acquaintance set off from Windy Hill at 8.30 am on a stormy Saturday morning, to walk the Yorkshire/Lancashire section of the Saddleworth Bound



Windy Hill - 8.30 am

The intrepid walkers battled their way along the Pennine Way for a mile or so, in a howling gale, (Windy Hill certainly lived up to its reputation) to the most northerly part of the Saddleworth Boundary above Readycon Dean Reservoir. Following the boundary fence across the moor this was the toughest part of the first days walk and there was a sense of achievement when the walk joined the well worn path again at Rapes Highway just north of the Ram's Head. From there via the Rooden reservoir the walk emerged onto the A640 at the Moorcock.

After a quick cup of coffee the walkers were off again, (with temporary reinforcements), across Crompton Moor, with its exquisite views over Saddleworth. Joining the A672 at Grains Bar and past the Bull's Head public house, then down Ship Lane, the route then passed over Rowbucklow and down to Strinesdale.

The walkers arrived in good time for lunch to rendezvous with the dignitaries and guests at two public houses, in Waterhead; the Gardeners Arms on the Yorkshire side of Lees brook and the Bull's Head on the Lancashire side.



Outside the Gardener's Arms, Waterhead

A short ceremony took place here when the Mayor of Oldham Metropolitan Borough; councillor John Dillon accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs Philomena Dillon presented Mrs Haigh landlady of the Gardeners Arms with a "First public House in Yorkshire" certificate, from the Yorkshire Ridings Society, and Mrs Kureishy landlady of the Bull's Head, with a "First Public House in Lancashire" certificate from Friends of Real Lancashire. The Chair of Saddleworth Parish council, councillor Betty Boon, the Chairman of Friends of Real Lancashire, Mr Chris Dawson and the Chairman of the Yorkshire Ridings Society, Mr Colin Holt made further presentations, to the two landladies.

We would like to express our thanks to Mrs Haigh and Mrs Kureishy for their excellent hospitality and the generous, and unexpected, delicious sandwiches which were greatly appreciated by all present.

The intended one hour break at this point got somewhat stretched due to the wining and dining and taking of photographs and it was around 3.0pm when the walkers again resumed their trek via Austerlands, County End, Thornley and Brookbottom arriving at where the Yorkshire/Lancashire boundary gives way to the Yorkshire/Cheshire boundary. After a pleasant walk along the towpath the first day's walk ended at 5.0pm, at Shadworth Lane (Calf Lane) near the Royal George public house.



Sunday morning - Above Noonsun

The second day was less eventful, but was much harder going - the Saddleworth moortops being the domain of the more experienced walker. The walk again commenced at 8.30am and unfortunately was unable to follow the boundary for much of the route, as it was requested that the walkers avoid bird-nesting sites on certain parts of the moor. Even so, it was a very enjoyable experience and the second day finished at around 3.0pm at Snoopy's on the A635.



The Second day - Laddow.

The walk was ably supported by St John Ambulance and the Oldham Mountain Rescue, to whom we owe our most sincere thanks, and we are happy to relate that we did not require assistance from these excellent organisations - but it was very reassuring to know that they were available if required.

This was a most enjoyable two-day event, which we hope to repeat next year, and £275.00p was raised by sponsorship and donations for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Diggle Fete 25 June 2000.

This year for the first time we had a stand at Diggle Fete. This proved to be a very worthwhile venture, the Fete being very popular and extremely well attended. There were excellent performances as always by Diggle Band and Saddleworth Morris Dancers. We acquired several new members and our Yorkshire white roses and Saddleworth, West Riding of Yorkshire windscreen discs, sold well. There were many side shows, popular with the children and even an "Agricultural Section" with cattle sheep and poultry which was both informative and appropriate at a village fete.

Songs Of Praise.

As a result of a mistake in Radio Times, when it referred to the recent "Songs of Praise" as coming from Saddleworth in Lancashire, SWRS members immediately contacted both the BBC and the Radio Times to express our concerns at this error.

We received an apology from the BBC production team, who were responsible for the "Songs of Praise" programme and they, like us, were very surprised to find Saddleworth referred to as being in Lancashire. We also received a telephone call from the BBC in London, which stated categorically that the programme will not mention either Lancashire or Yorkshire but will be introduced as "coming from Saddleworth".

It would appear that the BBC is not entirely at fault, over this error, and that the blame lies fairly and squarely at the feet of the Radio Times.

On contacting the Managing Editor of the Radio Times, his response was far from satisfactory. He stated that Saddleworth should have been described as coming from neither Lancashire nor Yorkshire but from Greater Manchester. He said: "... we no longer depend on historical county boundaries but instead tend towards local authority areas. To do otherwise would seem to us to be resisting the march of time". (Apparently, the Radio Times use the AA Road Atlas as their reference for the locality of places!) The fact that Greater Manchester, as a local authority, was abolished in 1986 means that "the march of time has resulted in many of the administrative counties created in 1974 being scrapped.

Clearly it is the Radio Times that is resisting "the march of time" by continually referring to these redundant administrative counties and giving them a place and role that they no longer have.

Yorkshire Day.

As Yorkshire day, 01 August 2000, falls on a Tuesday this year, we shall be holding the Yorkshire Day celebrations on SUNDAY 30 JULY at SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM. We hope as many of you as possible will attend and give us your support.

The day will begin with the Chair of Saddleworth Parish Council, councillor Betty Boon, placing a garland of white roses on the Ammon Wrigley statue. Delph Band will then play until 12.00 noon, with a short break at 11.25am when Mr Gilbert Symes will read the Yorkshire Declaration of Integrity. This will be followed by Saddleworth Morris Dancers who will perform until 1.00pm.

The tea bar in the Museum Gallery will be open and Yorkshire Tea, provided by Taylors of Harrogate, and home made cakes etc, will be on sale. There will also be a Saddleworth White Rose Society stand in the gallery with Society merchandise on sale plus information leaflets etc.

Around 1.15pm the Yorkshire Pudding Walk will begin, this takes the route along the canal towpath to the Diggle Hotel, where a roast beef and Yorkshire pudding meal will be served at a cost of £3.95p per head. Anyone wishing to take part in the walk should make cheque's payable to Saddleworth White Rose Society, up to a week in advance of the walk so that we can inform the landlady of the numbers required. The route back to the Museum will be via Digglea, Back 'o Lea, Hollin Greave, Butterhouses, Brown hill and along the path below Ladcastle quarries to Moorgate arriving at the Museum at approximately 5.0pm.

A SADDLEWORTH TALE

By Phil Clay

The Church Inn was a popular tavern with an equally popular landlord and landlady, Albert and Ethel. At 5.30pm Albert would open the door but on occasions, before the thirsty multitude reached the bar, Albert would have to disappear to his private quarters to either take it easy or find some little chore before the evening got busy. The tavern had an early clientele, hard working businessmen on their way home who would tarry a while to wash away the problems of the day, the off duty constable and the local 75 year old road sweeper, Tut Tut, who was an artisan in his craft. The first customer through the door, with the exception of Tut Tut, would pull his own pint and then act as temporary landlord until about 6.15pm. Albert would then take up his duties and the temp would return to the customer's side and join the serious drinkers and orators.

"Am going to move a hen hut lower down the field, what's the best way to move it?" Albert threw the question to the multitude. Numerous suggestions were put forward, "Put a match to it," said one wag. "Roll it down," said another, eventually the most popular being to put four or five poles underneath and then an equal number of men at each side. The hen hut was raised and, in step, the bearers proceeded towards the new location. "Where's Tut Tut?" said one. A frail voice from inside the hen hut was heard to reply, "Am in here, 'am carrying 't perches." He was evicted 'Post Haste'.

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