



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 13 Winter 2001 The AGM

The AGM was again held at Delph Band Club this year thanks once again to the generosity of DBC committee. The Chairman's address was given by Mike Buckley, due to the sudden and unexpected resignation as Chairman of Chris Dronsfield. A change to the Constitution was made to enable the committee to co-opt additional committee members to share the ever increasing workload.

After the meeting there was entertainment by Delph Junior Band, a slide show and quiz by Mike Buckley and a Sop Supper put on by the club. All of this was very much appreciated by those present but regrettably there were far fewer members than expected, which was rather surprising as our ever increasing membership now stands at over two hundred. This meeting is carried out each year for the benefit of the members and to offer them the opportunity to put their ideas forward and to offer themselves for election as committee members if they wish. We hope to see more members next year.

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2001/2002 were due from 1st Nov 2001, for all members except those who joined after 30th Apr 2001. Individual membership is £3.00p, family membership £5.00p and corporate membership £5.00p.

Please send your payment to the Secretary Roy Bardsley, or the Treasurer, Mrs M Clay, 20 Brown Hill Lane, Uppermill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL3 6BZ

The ABC meeting

Saddleworth was the chosen venue for the November meeting of the Association of British Counties. This organisation, under the chairmanship of Michael Bradford, does a terrific amount of work on behalf of local groups such as SWRS and they are currently campaigning for true county boundary signs in the correct places at the traditional county boundaries and for greater recognition by the media of the traditional county boundaries.

Lancashire Day

On Saturday 24th November SWRS, along with Friends of Real Lancashire and the Yorkshire Ridings Society, celebrated Lancashire Day at the Temple Public House on the Austerlands/Lees boundary which is also the Lancashire/Yorkshire county boundary. This celebration which was three days ahead of the actual date of 27th November, is held each year at a different location on the Saddleworth boundary with Lancashire and it acknowledges the continued existence of the boundary, as assured by the government in 1974 at the time the new administrative boundaries were created.

The occasion was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham Metropolitan Borough, councillor Christine Wheeler and Mrs Lily Hopkinson and by the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, councillor John Angove and his lady Mrs Kath Angove.



An excellent Lancashire Hot Pot meal was provided by the landlady of the Temple Public House and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Gifts of Lancashire Oven Bottom Muffins and Bury Black Puddings were presented by the Chairman of FORL to the Mayor of OMB who passed them on to Millfield Residential Care Home, Austerlands, Yorkshire, and a gift of a Yorkshire oven ready turkey was presented by the SWRS and given by the Mayor to Oaklands Residential Care Home, Shaw Road, Royton, Lancashire.

The "Saddleworth" White Rose

In 1999 we selected a highly reputable Horticultural College to be the multiplier of the white rose of Saddleworth and supplied them with one hundred briar root stock on which to bud graft the 2001 crop. Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond their control (winter flooding of the rose beds) they only succeeded in a 1% take. As there is a fair possibility of this problem recurring we decided to look for an alternative multiplier, and on the understanding that we had found one, cancelled the arrangement with the college, moved our parent plants to the new location and ordered the root stock. Unfortunately we were later informed that because of pressure of other work the new multiplier would not now be able to carry out the task. So we are in the unenviable position of having one hundred root stock on order plus a small number of parent plants and no Multiplier.

If anyone feels they would like to take on this job, which only requires basic gardening skills, on whatever scale they choose we would urgently like to hear from you. Once the plants are in the ground it is a minimal cultivation job, requiring mainly weeding. In July we shall need to hire the services of a bud grafter to carry out this delicate operation and then once again it becomes mainly a matter of keeping an eye on things. Yorkshire Country Woman's Association Things are moving! A meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a Saddleworth Branch of the Y.C.A. will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, February 12th 2002 in the lower hall of the Methodist Centre, Uppermill. Weather permitting, Glynis Rowe, from the Y.C.A. Central Committee will be on hand to tell us all we need to know about forming a branch. Anne Parry.

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Diary Dates

8th March. Members Evening

A chance to meet the committee and other White Rose members. Wine and Cheese. Musical Entertainment 8th May. Meres, Merestones and Markers. One thousand years of the Saddleworth Boundary. An illustrated talk by Mike Buckley. Meeting organised jointly with Saddleworth Historical Society

29th & 30th June. Saddleworth Boundary Walk

Saturday, 29th. The Yorks/Lancs Boundary. Stanedge to Royal George via Grains Bar. Meet 8.30 a.m. Stanedge Car Park.
Sunday, 30th. Royal George to Stanedge via Saddleworth Moor. Meet 8.30 a.m. Royal George, Greenfield. Walk organised jointly with Saddleworth Parish Council and Saddleworth Historical Society.

14th July. Saddleworth Show

Visit the White Rose Stand. Maps, Souvenirs, Leaflets.

28th July. Yorkshire Day

Band, Ammon Wrigley Ceremony, Yorkshire Declaration, Morris Men, Face Painting, Yorkshire Pudding walk and meal and more
Uppermill Museum 11.00a.m. Onwards.

1st November. AGM

Followed by Illustrated Talk by guest speaker. Mulled Wine and mince Pies.
Catholic Church Meeting Room, High Street, Uppermill

23rd November. Lancashire Day

Friends of Real Lancashire and Saddleworth White Rose Society exchange gifts at a pub on the Yorks, Lanes Border. Hot-pot Meal.

From Chris Dawson, Chairman of Friends of Real Lancashire.

Once again members of the Friends of Real Lancashire and Saddleworth White Rose Society joined forces to celebrate Lancashire Day which falls on 27th November. The day was anticipated when we met at "The Temple" at Austerlands on Saturday 24th to exchange typical items of Lancashire and Yorkshire food for presentation to Old Folks Homes on either side of the true border, and to enjoy a hotpot lunch. We were pleased to have the company of the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Oldham and the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council and his wife. Interest was added to the occasion by the firm of G.H Sheldon Wholesale Bakers sending their vintage van Bertha to deliver a gift of their Lancashire Oven Bottom Muffins.

In the twenty first century version of the War of the Roses, Lancashire and Yorkshire folk are united in fighting a common enemy - the bureaucrats and many members of the media who seem hell bent on destroying the identity of the traditional counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire. We would urge everyone who wishes to see the identity of our two historic counties preserved for future generations to support their county group.

For information about FORL visit our website at www.forl.co.uk or send for information to FORL, 1 Belvidere Park, Great Crosby, Lancashire, L23 OSP.

A New Year Message from the Yorkshire Ridings' Society.

The turn of the year is a time for looking back and forward. This last year has been a good one for our common cause and the SWRS has, more than anyone else, the credit for that. As a young society, limited to a specific district in Yorkshire, the SWRS already has an impressive record. In 2001, however, you made your greatest contribution yet - to our shared goal. In September, at the canal tunnel opening, you persuaded HRH The Prince of Wales to state the importance of the historic West Riding of Yorkshire. Statement of HRH the Prince of Wales, September 3rd 2001... *"The fact that Saddleworth is still part of the historic West Riding of Yorkshire is extremely important"*

This is an enormous achievement. In twenty six years of the YRS, much as it has done, it has never succeeded in gaining a direct royal statement of this kind. Neither have the ABC, nor the FORL, nor any other body. If SWRS never did anything more in the future its existence would have been justified by this one event.

But you are going to do more good things. 2002 is going to be a good year for tradition with the Queen's Jubilee as well as all our usual events. Already on the last day of 2001 the upcoming Yorkshire Day was mentioned in a reader's letter to the 'Yorkshire Post'. Each year the day gets bigger and more important in preserving the shire that we love. And there is the key. We will in the end prevail.

Colin Holt, Chairman YRS, Fenwick, West Riding of Yorkshire. January 1st 2002

The Unlucky Budgerigar another "Saddleworth Tale" by Phi! Clay

I was taking a well earned rest one evening with my feet on the table, a large mug of tea at my side and the Oldham Chronicle cryptic cross-word nearing completion when the ringing of the telephone disturbed my concentration. It was answered by Police Constable Peter Upton and after a very solemn conversation he rang off, turned to me and gave me the disturbing news that some old gentleman had given up the ghost and had gone to a better land. You had better brush your uniform down, straighten your tie and make yourself presentable before you deal with this call, you look like Wurzel Gumage. Peter was a good lad but he hadn't yet managed to make full use of an iron and a clothes brush. He went on his way rejoicing.

Some two hours later there was a disturbance at the counter and on investigation I was confronted by the sight of Peter who was displaying a few feathers on his tunic and on his outstretched arm hung a large bird cage containing a very vociferous budgerigar. "Where the hell have you purloined that from?" I asked. Peter replied in all sincerity, "That bloke that's just died gave it to me, he said that he hadn't anywhere to keep it." My brain swung into top gear, he can't be serious so it must be a 'wind-up' and there is no way that this young beggar is going to get one over on me. "Now then Peter, if you have suddenly found out that you can speak to the dead there may be a possibility of a lucrative career change in the offing. Would you like me to make some enquiries from the 'Psychic Society?'" "No Sergeant, I don't mean I spoke to him that were dead, it were a relative that gave me the budgie."

A couple of days later I answered the telephone and was told by a tearful and distraught Mrs Upton that Tweety had dropped off his perch and was lying stone dead on the bottom of it's cage and could I let Peter come home to deal with the tragedy. I quickly passed the phone to Peter who spoke soothingly to his beloved for some time. "You did know that you had to feed and water the bird regularly?" I enquired. Peter then went on to explain that the budgie had been watered and fed seed and that it had settled in it's new environment very well, that it had been very friendly to all the family, including the dogs and the cat which often sat on top of the cage and, through the bars, playfully tapped it with it's paws. "Well Peter lad, if that bloody canary, or what ever it was has not died of fright you'll find that it has had it's throat ripped open by Felix." I then gave Peter the rest of the day off to enable him and his wife, in the privacy of his home, to comfort each other in their moment of Grief.