



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 14 Spring 2002

Oldham Ramblers Association and Misleading Information by the Media.

On the 9th of January we made a trip over the border into Lancashire to give a talk to the Oldham Ramblers Association. Mike Buckley gave a slide show and talk entitled The Four Meres of Saddleworth which was followed by an introduction to the Saddleworth White Rose Society. This was very much appreciated by the Ramblers who later showed their appreciation by making a generous donation to SWRS funds. We were also pleasantly surprised to find these good people were fully aware of the fact that Saddleworth is not a part of Oldham and that although it is in the same Metropolitan Borough as Oldham it is still in Yorkshire. This, even though the local media continue to give out misleading information.

A good example of this was when in January a local newspaper, in an article about the Huddersfield Narrow Canal stated quote "it links West Yorkshire with Greater Manchester " unquote. It would surely have been of far more interest to the general public to be informed that this historic waterway runs under the Yorkshire moors through the deepest canal tunnel in England and on through Yorkshire to the Saddleworth/Mossley boundary where it goes under Division Bridge into Cheshire and on over the short and probably oldest iron aqueduct in Britain opened 1801, the Stakes Iron Aqueduct over the River Tame and into Lancashire and then onto Ashton Basin. Why do they persist in promoting the now defunct (Mickey Mouse) administrative areas at the expense of the real counties?

Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

A meeting to form a Saddleworth Branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association was held at the Methodist Centre on February 12th.

Ten people attended to hear Glynis Rowe from the Central Committee talk of the organisation and activities of the Association.

The Association was founded in 1983 and its aim is to further skills, knowledge and heritage of Yorkshire. At present there are 4½ thousand members in 130 branches. A central committee is elected every two years and consists of four elected and one co-opted member from each Riding .

Askham Bryan College hosts the A.G.M. and the Gardener's Day - this is open to families.

There is a wide range of Social activities both at home and abroad, including a day at the races.

No decision was taken to hold a Saddleworth Branch but a further meeting will be held later in the Spring. Anne Parry.

STOP PRESS: A Meeting has now been arranged to form a Saddleworth Branch of The Yorkshire Country Women's Association. This will be held at The Catholic Centre Uppermill on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm.

Members Evening at the Museum

The Members Evening held at Saddleworth Museum on Friday the 8th of March was well attended. Mike Buckley gave a very interesting slide show about Saddleworth and the aims of the Society. He emphasised the fact that although we are in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough we are not a part of Oldham; Oldham and Saddleworth having separate existences and histories going back to Saxon times. This was followed after a short interval for wine & cheese, or tea, coffee and biscuits with a quiz to see who was able to name the locations on the slides. There were prizes of bottles of wine for first and second places.

Martin Stimpson then entertained with guitar and folk music and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The Revival of The Mossley Mayors Ball

It was a privilege and an honour to be present at the Mossley Mayor's Ball on 2nd March 2002 and also to represent the White Rose Society.

The Ball was a huge success and was held at the George Lawton Hall, Mossley. The last Ball was held some twenty eight years previous, may it once again become an annual event. In 2003 it will be held on 1st March at the same venue.

The Mayor and Mayoress, Roy and Ann Etchells were in attendance. Roy proudly wearing the Mossley Mayoral chain of office donated recently by Miss Rhona Catrall in memory of her late partner Mr Lawrence Broadbent This has replaced the previous chain of office which was stolen.

Dancing non-stop was to the Wally Mackenzie Orchestra and an enjoyable meal was by John Greaves caterers of Mossley.

Richard Darlington spoke on Emmaus and mentioned Terry Waite who is going to receive a pair of size fourteen clogs! when he visits Uppermill on the 6th April this year. The clogs are coming by canal boat from Hebden Bridge Terry Waite will be signing his book "Travels with Primate".

As at the 6th of March 2002, one thousand four hundred and sixty pounds has been raised in connection with this event for Francis House Children's Hospice of Didsbury which is the Mayor's chosen charity.

*Marjorie Edwards
Representative for the White Rose Society.*

A Happy Event for the Bradbury Family

In the "Autumn Newsletter" we were deeply saddened to report the passing of friend and long time member Gordon Bradbury. This time we are delighted to report an addition to the Bradbury family. Gordon's son Andrew and his wife Josie are the proud parents of daughter Casey Hall born 14th March 2002 in Malta where the couple live. Alan and Josie are family members of SWRS and we send them our congratulations and best Wishes.

Mrs Barbara Foster ne'e Shaw

We are deeply sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Barbara Shaw on the 10th of March 2002, a long time member who lived in Nottinghamshire but was originally from Uppermill. Our condolences go to all her family and many Friends.

A Letter to The Mayors Office

After several complaints received from SWRS members, and others, it was felt necessary to write to the Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough asking that the title of the Administrative Authorities magazine "The Oldhamer" be changed. We feel that this title is not acceptable to Saddleworth people. The administrative authorities and the local media seem intent on imposing a common identity of their choosing on all parts of the Borough.

SWRS Transports Terry Waite's Clogs

We were honoured and privileged to be invited by the Mayor of Mossley, Cllr. Roy Etchells to take part in the transportation of Terry Waite's clogs by canal boat on the 2nd of April. These began their journey at walkley's clog factory at Hebden Bridge and came by canal to Diggle Tunnel End where they were handed to the Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough, Cllr Christine Wheeler aboard the canal boat "Saddleworth Rose" for transportation through this part of Yorkshire, down the Diggle Flight to the Navigation Inn at Wool Road, Dobcross where they were handed to the Landlady Mrs Pauline Matley to be put on display.

After the handing over ceremony at Diggle Tunnel End Cllr Wheeler had to leave to attend another engagement but the Mayoress of the Metropolitan Borough, Mrs Hopkinson, the Mayor and Mayoress of Mossley Cllr. and Mrs Etchells and the Chairman and Chairman's Lady of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr and Mrs Angove all traveled aboard Saddleworth Rose to the Navigation, with Mayor Roy Etchells and Chairman John Angove proving to be first class Lock Keepers.



Crew of the Saddleworth Rose in Navigation Inn

Saddleworth Boundary Walk

On the Bank Holiday weekend of June 29th and 30th the Society plan to hold a Saddleworth Boundary Walk. This had been planned last year but fell victim to the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

We are being supported in this venture by Saddleworth Parish Council and the Saddleworth Historical Society. To support the walk the Historical Society will be staging a talk by Mike Buckley on Wednesday 8th May entitled "Meres, Merestones and Markers: One Thousand Years of the Saddleworth Boundary". The walk will be a sponsored event and we hope to raise funds for the Saddleworth Parish Council Chairman's charity.

The first day will be a comfortable walk from Stanedge along the Pennine Way to Readycon Dean then along the Yorkshire/Lancashire boundary via Cherry Clough to Grains Bar, Strinesdale and Mill Bottom at Waterhead. Onwards then to Austerlands, County End, Thornlee, Mossley. From here the Saddleworth boundary follows the Yorkshire/Cheshire boundary along the canal to Royal George where the first day's exertions will come to an end. Weather permitting, views on this part of the walk are spectacular.

The Sunday will be more difficult and is largely over moorland. From Shadworth lane we will head along the Yorkshire/Cheshire boundary, over Noonsun to Alphin, Laddow Rocks and Holme clough Head where we will join the Pennine Way and cross the Isle of Skye Road back to Stanedge. Distances the second day are less, but the difficulty will depend on how dry the moorland is.

There is a lot to arrange to make this day a success. We are looking for two or three volunteers to help organise the event. Please contact Roy Bardsley if you would like to help.

GREENFIELD

The heath-clad mountain, the stupendous precipices, the murmuring stream, and the sheltered wood, all tend to render Greenfield.....a picturesque and pleasing retreat; and whether we visit it for a botanic ramble, or in search of pleasure, we shall find Nature in this valley will supply all our need.....many a lovely scene; the rippling brook sparkling in the mid-day sun, and its surface occasionally broken by the ouzel or the kingfisher, the verdant canopy rustling in the breeze, the hum of birds and insects, and the fragrant perfume of the wild flowers and ferns, are delights which the lovers of nature and solitude will find in abundance here.

*- Saddleworth Sketches
by Joseph Bradbury 1871*

BONNIE GRENFELT by ELB.Whitehead

I've tramped the road, I've known the town,

I've wandered England up and Down,

But now at last good folk I'm boun',

Back to Bonnie Grenfelt,

There is no place so fair to see,

As those green fields about White Lee,

And ev'ry day they're calling me,

Back to Bonnie Grenfelt.

Chorus

It's Grenfelt for me wherever I be,

Where the folks are o'jannock and fair,

It is there I will go, to the hills that I know,

Where dances the bonnie brown hare,

And life goes along like a merry owd song,

With a lilt that is careless and free,

And while there's a street, or an owd friend to greet,

It will be Bonnie Grenfelt for me.

I hear a song, of mellow tone,

A thostle sings I Kinders Lone,

Of long June days and hay new mown,

Back I Bonnie Grenfelt,

And there I'll go on footsteps free,

Where hearth and home are waiting me,

My roaming done content I'll be,

Back to Bonnie Grenfelt.