



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 18 Spring 2003 Lancashire Day

On 23rd November 2002 Saddleworth White Rose Society took part with the Friends of Real Lancashire in a pre-Lancashire Day celebration at the Kings Arms, Grains Bar. The guests included the Deputy Mayor of Oldham M.B. councillor Mrs Val Sedgewick and her consort Mr Ken Wilson. The chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council councillor Mrs Pat Lord and councillor Brian Lord, the Chairman of FORL Chris Dawson, the Chairman of the Yorkshire Ridings Society Colin Holt, the chairman of SWRS Mike Buckley, Mrs Lynda Jones, Manager of Wellington Lodge Residential Home, Greenfield, York's. Mrs Buckley, Manager of Anbridge Residential Home, Watersheddings, Oldham, Lanc's. Plus members and friends of the various organisations.

The chairman of FORL Chris Dawson opened the proceedings with a welcome to everyone and then introduced the Deputy Mayor who replied by thanking FORL and SWRS for organising the event. This was followed by thanks from the chairman of Saddleworth PC. Mike Buckley replied on behalf of SWRS.



After the official speeches, the traditional exchange of gifts took place between SWRS and FORL. Mike Buckley presented the Deputy Mayor of OMB with a front end of beef rib, reared and produced on his Yorkshire farm, by Mr Thelwis, Butcher of Golcar and this was then presented by the Mayor to Mrs Buckley of Anbridge Residential Home. Chris Dawson followed by a presentation to councillor Pat Lord of Lancashire Black Puddings from Chadwicks of Bury, Eccles Cakes from Park Cake Bakery of Oldham and Lancashire Tea from Gold Crown Foods, Kirkby and these were then handed to Mrs Jones of Wellington Lodge.

Phil Davenport of SWRS introduced the entertainment. First Ron Williams of Greenfield gave us some excellent verse from Sam Fitton the Lancashire dialect poet and this was followed in equally good form by Frank Bradbury of Diggle with Ammon Wrigley's Yorkshire verse. George Ardley, retired farmer of Uppermill, sang an Ammon Wrigley song with a very difficult chorus to which the guests were invited to join in. Very few managed to master it. Finally Jack Steel of Delph baffled everyone with his amazing card tricks.

The Spanish Chef at the Kings Arms cooked a marvelous traditional Lancashire Hot-Pot, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Apart from the good camaraderie of the occasion the event had a serious purpose in increasing awareness of the continued legal existence of the the Traditional Counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire and their boundary which runs adjacent to the King's Head in a position unchanged for at least nine hundred years.

Thanks go to all concerned for making this such an enjoyable and successful event.

Saddleworth Ward Boundary Changes

We have been remarkably successful with our proposals to the Boundary Committee for the redrawing of the Saddleworth Ward Boundaries. In short, the committee are proposing to adopt the White Rose scheme almost in its entirety and in doing so have rejected the alternative proposals put forward by Oldham MBC and the Labour Group on Oldham MBC, both of which would have seen the boundaries of Saddleworth compromised and blurred. The Boundary Committee state in their draft proposals "In the east of the borough, we propose to adopt the White Rose Society's scheme, subject to minor amendments to provide for more clearly defined ward boundaries, as we consider these better resolve the current under-representation of this part of the borough than any of the other proposals received. We consider the Saddleworth White Rose Society's proposals would divide Saddleworth parish among borough wards in a manner more consistent with the reflection of community interests, particularly in the partly parished Lees urban area.". they go on to say: "We were not persuaded that the Labour Group's proposal to link the more rural Delph, Denshaw and Dobcross areas of Saddleworth parish with the majority of the existing Waterhead ward in the Oldham urban unparished area would provide the best reflection of community identities and interests." On the OMBC proposals they state "We were not convinced that the Borough Council's proposed Saddleworth West ward, comprising the villages of Grasscroft in the south of the parish and the villages of Delph and Denshaw in the north of the parish would adequately reflect community identities and main road links within Saddleworth parish. In comparison we note that the White Rose proposed Saddleworth South ward would link Grasscroft with the neighbouring areas of Greenfield and Uppermill to the east.

"Sadly, Saddleworth Parish Council have not felt able to embrace the White Rose scheme or the Boundary Committee's proposals and we intend to write to the committee to this effect.

The Canal Walk

A Canal Walk is planned for 28th June 2003 from Woodend, Mossley along the towpath to Diggle Tunnel End where there will be a half hour tea/coffee break, before walking over Stanedge to rejoin the towpath at Marsden Tunnel End and then along the towpath to Huddersfield. Money raised during this event by sponsorship will go to the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Councils Chairman's Charity Fund. Sponsorship forms for the event will be available from Saddleworth Parish Council Offices Tel. 01457 876 665. Please come and join us.

Members Night

A Members Night for members and friends will be held at the Catholic Centre, Uppermill on 16th May 2003 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm . We hope members and their guests will give their full support. Mike Buckley our Chairman will give another of his very interesting slide shows and talks on Saddleworth". After the interval, when wine, cheese and biscuits or tea and coffee will be served, Dave Fieldhouse and the Dodgy Orange Folk Group will entertain us.

Sweatshirts, T shirts and Polo shirts displaying the Saddleworth, Yorkshire logo with white rose, plus Society greeting cards and car stickers etc. will be available. Tickets at £1.50 each from the treasurer Mrs Clay on 01457 873 555 which include cheese and biscuits and a glass of wine.

Saddleworth Addresses

More and more Saddleworth people are now using the true addresses for both their property and their business. We are pleased to see this preservation of our districts identity. The picture below of the milk delivery vehicle from Ralphs Farm, Denshaw, an excellent example of this trend. We hope many more will follow suit.

We have again approached Royal Mail and we understand they have now altered the version of their computer database which relates to counties to indicate the correct Saddleworth address. This is one of two versions that are commercially available and are used as the basis for addressing software. (The other gives the post town but no county). This means that we should now start to see some OL3 mail addressed Oldham, Yorkshire. However there are many companies who supply address databases it may take some time for this to get through to all of them. We accept that this is by no means an ideal solution but it is a significant step in the right direction.



McLintock's Van proudly proclaiming Saddleworth, Yorkshire
Photograph courtesy of Arlington Photographic 01457 876690

The Met Borough Council Magazine

We have requested a change of title to the official council magazine "The Oldhamer" which we feel does not reflect the true identity of the people of Saddleworth, nor in fact that of the other separate districts, towns and villages outside of Oldham, which make up this unitary authority. We hope to meet with councillors and officials in the near future to discuss this. If any members have a more imaginative and suitable title we shall be happy to put these ideas forward

Membership Subscriptions

A reminder for those of you who have not already paid, membership subscriptions were due from 01 Nov 2002 for the 2002/2003 year. Please forward these to Mrs Clay, 20 Brown Hill Lane, Uppermill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL3 6BZ

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