



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 19 Summer 2003

YORKSHIRE DAY CELEBRATION AT SADDLEWORTH MUSEUM SUNDAY 27th JULY 2003 COMMENCE 11.00 a.m. Come and support your County Day

The Yorkshire Day Celebrations this year will begin at 11.00am at the Saddleworth Museum. To open the proceedings the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr. John Hudson, following tradition, will lay a wreath of white roses on the Ammon Wrigley statue after which the Diggle Youth Band will play a selection of local tunes. At 11.28 a.m. (This year it is 1128 years since the ancient Viking Kingdom of York was established) Mr Gilbert Symes will proclaim the Yorkshire Declaration of Integrity. Following Diggle Band there will be several events including the Clog and Garland Dancers, more music from another Saddleworth Junior Brass Band and entertainment from the Dodgy Orange Folk Group. A raffle will provide an opportunity to win a case of Tetley Beer and Tetley Tee shirts (kindly donated by Carlsberg Tetley) and from 12.00 noon till 2.30 p.m. the museum Tea Bar will be serving Yorkshire Tea, again generously provided for the occasion by Taylor's of Harrogate, in addition to coffee, soft drinks, scones, cakes, biscuits etc. This year there will be more stalls than ever before including Andrew Livesey's Wooden Toy stall, an exhibition of the manufacture of guitars and violins, a flower stall, a demonstration of how to make fancy greetings cards and Saddleworth Historical Society will be present selling the new book Saddleworth Villages.

The Yorkshire Country Women's Association will also be represented and of course there will be the usual Saddleworth White Rose Society stand with information on the society and its activities and merchandise for sale including the Society sweatshirt, badges, stickers etc.

At 3.00 p.m. the Yorkshire Pudding Walk will begin, from the museum along the canal towpath to the Hanging Gate Hotel, Diggle where a Sunday lunch of roast beef, vegetables, gravy and Yorkshire Pudding will be served at a cost of £5 per head. Anyone wishing to take part in the Yorkshire Pudding Walk should book in advance by ringing the Treasurer Mrs Clay on 01457 873 555.

We hope that as many members as possible will give this event their support and make it a great day. Apart from the fact that we are celebrating our County Day, it is also a way of getting the message across to the doubters, that Saddleworth is still legally a part of Yorkshire, as it has been since the dawn of time.

Members Night

Another very enjoyable members night was held at the Catholic Centre, Uppermill on Friday 16th May. Mike Buckley gave a really interesting talk on the Saddleworth villages accompanied by a slide show with an account of the buildings their uses, and former occupants. Afterwards a quiz was held to see who was able to recognise various buildings or ornamental features throughout Saddleworth. This was much harder than one may imagine, when in some cases only a small part of a building was visible. The quality of the photography was excellent, and the winner of the quiz, with an amazing 18 out of a possible 20, was Mr Dennis Lees, Saddleworth born and bred painter and decorator.

During the interval wine, cheese and biscuits and Yorkshire tea and coffee were served and a raffle was held, the first prize a flower arrangement given by the "Flower Shop", Uppermill was won by Mrs Clay, the second, two bottles of wine was won by Mrs Hindes of Wade Lock.

Various items of Society goods were on sale including badges greetings cards and the very popular sweatshirts and tee shirts.

Dave Fieldhouse and his group entertained for the rest of the evening with folk music and songs, some of which the audience were able to join in with as they enjoyed their glasses of red or white wine. Overall an excellent night, but a great pity more of you were unable to be there!!!

A Service for Marjorie Fielding

A short service for Marjorie Fielding was held in the grounds of the Spiritualist Church, Uppermill on Friday, 12th April 2003 when a "Saddleshworth" rose was planted in memory of her in the Church garden. This had been planned for earlier in the year but due to late winter frosts had been held back a little while.

During the planting ceremony the congregation sang The Holmfirth Anthem, an anthem sung on all nostalgic occasions by Saddleshworth folk. They sang proudly to her memory and afterwards Cllr. Derek Heffernan made a short speech in which he mentioned the fact that he had nominated Marjorie for a National Honour in recognition of her 60 years service to Saddleshworth, not only for her many fund raising activities on behalf of so many Saddleshworth charities throughout her life but also for her vigorous support in the 1970's in the campaign which successfully put a stop to the proposed break up of Saddleshworth which would have resulted in its administration by two different newly created authorities.

Cllr. Heffernan went on to say " I cannot remember anyone I have ever met who was more deserving of recognition for their selfless devotion to their fellow man". Sadly Marjorie died before the nomination was finalised.

Appalling Walling

Many of our members must have noticed the artificial dry stone walling (stone cladding) that is replacing many of our traditional dry stone walls throughout Saddleshworth.

This is being carried out by OMBC in the mistaken belief that these stone clad walls are more substantial than a traditional dry stone wall. This is not the case and the extra cost involved in building these concrete and stone urban walls must be enormous, not only the initial cost but in the potential cost for any repairs that may be required to them in the future.

A correctly built dry stone wall will last indefinitely and will easily support an earth bank where required and will almost certainly cost a small fraction of the price of the stone clad walls. Not only that but any repairs required to a traditional dry stone wall will only require rebuilding by replacing the original material. On the other hand repairs to a stone clad wall will require the purchase of new stone to replace that which has been cemented or alternatively will require a great deal of cleaning at a considerable cost.

Walling has been carried out in Saddleshworth for centuries without the aid of concrete, cement or mortar. It is one of the places people come to learn the skills of the trade and proof of the quality of these skills is evident for all to see.

After many complaints by both local people and organisations including SWRS, Saddleshworth Civic Trust and Saddleshworth Historical Society, OMBC have decided to consult with experts from the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain hopefully before any more walling "improvements" are attempted.

Presentation of the Painting "Saddleshworth White Rose"

At the Saddleshworth Parish Council meeting on Monday 24th March, SWRS presented the original framed painting of the white rose "Saddleshworth" by local artist Mrs Eileen Eckersley, to Saddleshworth Parish Council.

The presentation was made by Mary Clay, our treasurer, to Cllr Pat Lord, the Chairman of Council. It and is to hang in the bar at the Civic Hall in Uppermill. It is particularly appropriate that Mrs Lord, should receive this painting on behalf of our Council, as she is herself a member of SWRS and has done much for our cause during her term of office in terms of both promotion and support. We thank her most sincerely.

Saddleshworth Festival

Our thanks go once again to committee member Christine Barrow for the use of her canal boat "Saddleshworth Rose" . This time to promote SWRS during festival week. It was moored close to the museum at Wade Lock and decorated for the occasion with white roses by the Flower Shop, Uppermill. Society merchandise was on offer and there was a photographic display of previous society events and cups of Yorkshire Tea and biscuits, for a voluntary donation. We were honoured by a visit to the boat by Baroness Mallalieu, Mr Phil Woolas MP, the Mayor of OMBC, Cllr Val Sedgewick and the Chairman of Saddleshworth Parish Council, Cllr John Hudson, who was proud to show off the white rose of Yorkshire on his chain of office. We also had Australian and Canadian visitors and gained more new members. We were also happy to enlighten many of our friends from the other side of the county boundary as to Saddleshworth's true geographical location.



Saddleworth Festival

Many travelers passing through Saddleworth, and indeed some of those living here, are unaware that Saddleworth is in the County of York. The total lack of signage of the fact by the local authority does little to help. As a small step towards achieving better signage we have ordered a number of cast aluminium signs 6 inches in diameter, suitable for display on private houses or business premises. To purchase one of these privately would cost in the region of £40 but as a Society it has been possible to negotiate a very favourable price, for a bulk order, with the manufacturer. As a result of which we are able to sell these locally for £22. They are black enamel with the white Yorkshire rose in the centre and Saddleworth, Yorkshire in white lettering around the side. They are ideal for fastening on to a house wall or business premises and several members have already placed orders. Anyone wishing to order one should contact Roy Bardsley 01457 878768.

The OMBC Council Magazine.

In the Spring Newsletter we reported that we had approached OMBC to ask for a change of title to the OMBC magazine "The Oldhamer" as this does not reflect the true identity of people in parts of the borough other than the town of Oldham. The council agrees and are to arrange a meeting with us and other groups borough wide to decide on a new more acceptable and imaginative title. If any of our members wish to put forward a suggested sensible alternative title please forward this to the secretary SWRS.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions for 2002/2003 were due from 1st November 2002. Please forward to:
Mrs Mary Clay 20 Brown Hill Lane, Uppermill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire .OL3 6BZ.