



Saddleshworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 21 FEBRUARY 2004

Saddleshworth Parish Council

We are delighted that Saddleshworth Parish Council, at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on Monday 24th November 2003 voted overwhelmingly (17-1) in favour of using the true address;

Clerk of the Council, Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill, Saddleshworth, Yorkshire OL3 6AE.

Thus recognising the fact that Saddleshworth is still in the traditional county of Yorkshire. We thank the Council members for this almost unanimous decision and in particular Cllr Phil Davenport, of Dobcross who so eloquently put forward the case for! We feel it is significant that thirty years after the creation of the administrative boundaries the council reaffirms our position within our county. Only one councillor voted against this, stating a preference for Greater Manchester over Yorkshire. The solution to that councillor's dilemma is blatantly obvious. But whilst it is relatively easy for people to relocate it is not quite so easy to move counties, even the government did not attempt to do this in 1974, they created the unpopular and now virtually defunct administrative areas (popularly known as Mickey Mouse counties), called them metropolitan counties, and superimposed them on top of the real counties, leaving the real counties geographically intact.

These administrative areas were soon seen to serve no useful purpose and their councils were abolished in 1985, they are now not even recognised by the GPO or the Highways Agency, only being referred to by the media, for reasons better known to themselves, as "The administrative counties". The real counties go back in history, they are the places people come from and to which they feel a sense of loyalty and belonging. I doubt very much that this can be said of administrative areas. which are constantly subject to change.

Yorkshire Night at Greenfield Conservative Club

"Yorkshire Night" held at Greenfield Conservative Club on the 26th September 2003 was hosted by the Chairman of Saddleshworth Parish Council, Cllr John Hudson on behalf of the Chairman's Charity Fund. What an excellent night it was. Several members of SWRS were invited and were allowed a SWRS display stand, ably manned by committee member Christine Barrow.

The speaker, Mr Colin Holt, Chairman of the Yorkshire Ridings Society, gave a very interesting and amusing talk and ended by reminding everyone, if they needed reminding, that Saddleshworth, although administratively within OMB, is, and always has been, in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

This was followed, appropriately by superb music from the Diggle Band whose concert must have made all Saddleshworth people proud of their heritage and tradition.

The evening was rounded off by Cllr. Hudson who, in his friendly and affectionate way managed to raise a laugh at the expense of almost everyone within range, not excluding himself. A thoroughly enjoyable experience.

The Annual General Meeting

This years AGM was held at the Swan Inn, Dobcross on 6th November 2003 by kind permission of the landlord, Mr Richard Holborn, who provided us with an ideal room for the occasion. The Chairman Mr Mike Buckley mentioned the achievements of the Society during the last twelve months, particularly the agreement of OMBC to change the name of the OMBC Newsletter (OMBC have still to fix a date to discuss a new more acceptable title) and the acceptance by the Boundary Commission of the SWRS ward boundary proposals for Saddleworth, plus the various events that we have been involved in.

Regrettably two of our committee members found it necessary to stand down this year because of other pressing commitments, Mrs Clay after two years excellent work as Treasurer and Mr Buckley of Grains Road, Delph.

Mr Geoffrey Bayley of Delph becomes the Deputy Chairman and Mrs Norma Gregory of Uppermill steps in as the new Treasurer, Ms Sonia Radcliffe of Dobcross becomes a new committee member.

SWRS Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions for anyone who has not already paid are due 1st November 2003 for the year 2003/04. The rates are £5.00p family and £3.00p individual membership. This applies to all, except those who joined after 1st May 2003, these subscriptions will be due for renewal on 1st November 2004. All subs. should be forwarded to The Treasurer, Mrs Norma Gregory, 10 Court Street, Uppermill, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL3 6HD. Tel 01457 875186

Pre Lancashire Day Celebration with FORL

Phil Davenport opened this event by reminding everyone that there are two primary purposes for the occasion, the first to celebrate the forthcoming Lancashire Day with Friends of Real Lancashire but the second, to acknowledge the legal existence of the traditional county boundary.

Chris Dawson, Chairman of FORL welcomed every one and proposed the toast (The Queen, Duke of Lancaster) and pointed out that although cultural differences exist between our two counties, these are mutually respected and he felt these were becoming more recognised and accepted by OMBC. He also told us that 27th November (now celebrated as Lancashire Day) was chosen as their county day because on this date in 1295 the first elected representatives from Lancashire were summoned to Westminster by King Edward 1 to form the Model Parliament, the predecessor of today's democratic system of government.

Colin Holt Chairman of the Yorkshire Ridings Society thanked Chris and said that the two great cities of Liverpool and Manchester are still parts of Lancashire regardless of the existence of the now almost defunct administrative counties created in 1974.

This was followed by the traditional exchange of gifts, a large tin of Yorkshire Tea donated by Taylors of Harrogate, bottles of wine by Yorkshire Country Wines and steak pies by Hinchliffes Butchers of Huddersfield, were presented to the Mayor of OMBC Cllr. Val Sedgewick for the residents of Medlock Court Residential Home, Lees, Lancashire and traditional Lancashire black puddings donated by Chadwicks of Rossendale and fruit loaves by Warburtons Pennine of Shaw were presented to the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council Cllr. John Hudson. for Stone Leigh Residential Home, Springhead, Yorkshire. Also, a framed montage of last years pre-Lancashire Day celebration at the Kings Arms was presented by Mr P Davenport SWRS to the landlord of the Kings Arms, Mr Steve Kerr for his friendly hospitality and quality attention during these events.

Canal Walk

Saturday, 28th June was the day of the annual White Rose keep fit event. This year a group of a dozen or so athletic members set out to walk the entire Yorkshire section of the Huddersfield Narrow canal. In fact we did a little more than this. One might have expected the walk to start at Division Bridge near the Royal George, the boundary of Saddleworth and the counties of Yorkshire and Cheshire, but as a small portion of Saddleworth (and consequently Yorkshire) crosses the canal near Mossley, the walk started from the three counties point in Mossley itself. We were sent off by Cllr. Honorine Graham, Mayor of Mossley, and Cllr Maureen Arnold, Mayoress. After a leisurely stroll into Saddleworth, the group stopped for refreshments at Christine Barrow's boat "Saddleworth Rose", moored near the tunnel entrance at Diggle. Cllr. John Hudson, Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council livened up the event at this point with his inimitable humour and the party then set off on the most difficult part of the walk, the trek over Stanedge (proper spelling), following as far as possible the course of the old boat lane.



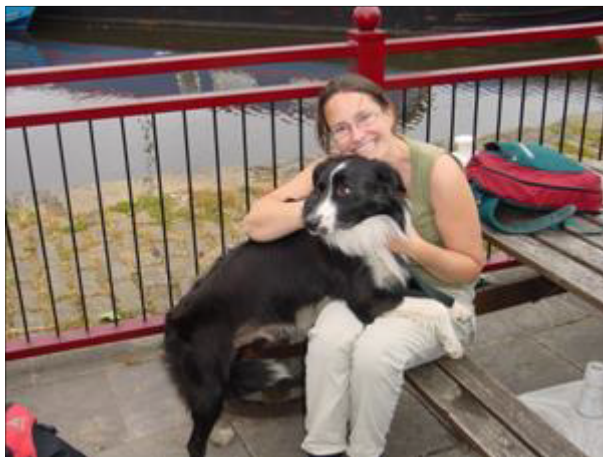
8am Mossley

Lunch was served in Marsden and comprised the local butcher's award winning pork pies and a pint in the Riverhead Brewery Pub. Then off again down the towpath to Slaithwaite, Milnsbridge and Huddersfield.



Dorothy & Julie Bradbury and Hayley Daykin

The canal ends at Aspley basin where it joins the Huddersfield Broad Canal and we arrived earlier than schedule (a great tribute to the fitness and stamina of the walkers).



5.30pm Huddersfield Anita Lilley and Elwood

We were met by Cllr. Barbara Allenby, Mayor of Kirklees who welcomed the walkers to Huddersfield, congratulating us on our achievement and confirming the fact that Saddleworth is of course still a part of Yorkshire.



Roy and Liz 11.00am Diggle

The weather was perfect for a long walk, bright and sunny for much of the day, but not too hot. Despite some sore feet, the walk was much enjoyed by all and we will definitely repeat it at some future date. The scenery down the Colne valley is breathtaking in places and the views from Stanedge provide a great contrast to the beauty of the leafy canal towpath. Congratulations to all who participated, particularly those who raised money for charity and completed the whole 16 miles

Programme of SWRS Events in 2004

Sponsored Saddleworth Boundary Walk over two days Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June. Anyone can join in or drop out at any point by informing the walk leader.

Yorkshire Day Sunday 1st August. This year the actual day falls on a Sunday, our usual day of celebration and is expected to be a bigger event organised by the Yorkshire Day Group.

Lancashire Day celebration Saturday 20th Nov, when, with Friends of Real Lancashire we celebrate not only their forthcoming Lancashire Day (27th November) but also the continuing existence of the traditional Lancashire/Yorkshire boundary.

We trust members will give support to these events in any way they are able.

YORKSHIRE DAY 2004

Because "Yorkshire Day 2004" falls on Sunday 1st August, we are planning to really "celebrate it with style" in Saddleworth. Although our county day has been celebrated in Saddleworth for the past few years, plans are already being made to make the event a much bigger and more eye-catching event in 2004 which will be centred on the King George V Playing Field in Uppermill.

The "Yorkshire Day Group" has been formed which is planning and overseeing the whole event and they are appealing for donations to cover the costs of the day which look as if they will be somewhere in the region of £1000.

If you would like to help to put "Yorkshire Day" really on the Saddleworth annual events map, alongside Whit Friday, the Beer Walk & the Rushcart etc. then please send your donation (cheque's made payable to "Yorkshire Day Group") to;

Christopher Dronsfield, "Pennine Croft" , 1 Kent Close, Diggle, Saddleworth, West Riding of Yorkshire OL3 5PN.

Saddleworth Wall Plaque

As part of our quest to bring the message that Saddleworth lies firmly in the County of Yorkshire, Saddleworth White Rose Society has commissioned the Yorkshire Plaque.

Traditionally cast in rust-proof aluminium and proudly sporting the white rose of Yorkshire, these elegantly hand-finished plaques are designed to withstand the rigours of Pennine Yorkshire and make a stunning addition to any home.



The plaques are 152 mm (approx 6in) diameter and come complete with brass fixing screws and are available at the bargain price of just £22 from available from Roy Bardsley 01457 878768.