



# Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

## Newsletter No 24 AUTUMN 2004

### A very successful "YORKSHIRE DAY"

The most successful Yorkshire Day we have had so far was held at Saddleworth Museum and King George V playing fields on Sunday 01 Aug 2004. Congratulations to Chris Dronsfield and the Yorkshire Day Group who organised this years event and did such an excellent job and hopefully laid the foundations for many more successful Yorkshire Day events organised by this group. Thank you also to the many people, members, helpers, the various Saddleworth Groups, National Trust Marsden Moor Estate and all the exhibitors, visitors and others who helped to make this a real Yorkshire Day Event.

### Yorkshire Day 2004

On Sunday 1st August, Uppermill was ablaze with flags bearing the Yorkshire White Rose and shop windows decorated with "all things Yorkshire"!

Why was this? Because the annual celebration of "Yorkshire Day" was taking place in Saddleworth. Why does this take place on August 1st?

The Yorkshire Ridings Society chose August 1st, back in 1975, as it has special significance in the County's history. On this day in 1759, soldiers from Yorkshire regiments, who had fought in the Battle of Minden in Germany, picked white roses from nearby fields as a tribute to their fallen comrades. Since then a number of Yorkshire regiments have worn white roses on August 1st to commemorate the events of that day and the heroic deeds of their Yorkshire ancestors.

This year's Yorkshire Day celebration in Uppermill was organised by "The Yorkshire Day Group". The organiser Christopher Dronsfield, said "in spite of the weather having been awful just days before, we were very fortunate to be able to enjoy some wonderful weather on Yorkshire Day as the sun blazed down on the proceedings. Yorkshire must have a very special place in God's heart...perhaps that's why Yorkshire is known as "God's own country"



**Mr Martin Warburton reads the Declaration of Integrity**

The day began at 11.00am with Friezland band playing some rousing music beside the Ammon Wrigley statue in Uppermill. As Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr. Mrs Pam Preston placed the traditional garland of white roses and heather on the statue and Mr Martin Warburton, born and bred in Saddleworth, read out at 11.29am the "Yorkshire Declaration of Integrity":-

" I, Martin Warburton being a native of Saddleworth and resident in the West Riding of Yorkshire declare:  
\* that Yorkshire is three Ridings and the City of York with these boundaries of 1129 years standing;

- \* that Yorkshire is three Ridings and the City of York with these boundaries of 1129 years standing;
- \* that the addresses of all places in these Ridings is "YORKSHIRE";
- \* that all persons born therein or resident therein and loyal to the Ridings are Yorkshire men and women;
- \* that any person or corporate body, which deliberately ignores or denies the aforementioned shall forfeit all claim to Yorkshire status."

YORKSHIRE FOREVER!  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!



**Ms Doreen Ainscough with a message of good wishes from Friends of Real Lancashire.**

"A Grand Parade" up the High Street followed this and we were grateful to the police for temporarily stopping the traffic so that the parade could proceed up to the King George V Playing Field.



**Friezland Band leading the parade through Uppermill**

And what a wonderful parade it was...the sights and sounds of Yorkshire! The massed band of Uppermill Band and Friezland Band led the parade and the sound of "Hail Smiling Morn", the Saddleworth anthem resounded as we marched up the street. Yorkshire flags were flying from shops and pubs and many shops had decorated their windows with some very eye-catching displays depicting "all things Yorkshire!" A large number of people joined in the parade and followed the bands and 11-year-old Katy Dronsfield proudly carried the "Yorkshire Flag" at the head of the parade. As we marched up the High Street, people lined the pavements and clapped and cheered as the parade passed by.

On arrival in the park, three hours of entertainment began and well in excess of 500 people were present over the period of the event. Friezland Band and Uppermill Band entertained the crowds with a varied programme of brass band music, as well as the ladies of the Saddleworth Clog and Garland Dancers, whilst young children were able to enjoy themselves on a bouncy castle that proved to be very popular with children...and their parents!

There were stalls and marquees run by various organisations such as the Saddleworth White Rose Society, Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Historical Society, Friends of Saddleworth Museum, and the National Trust Marsden Moor Estate who had a plant stall.



**Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr Pam Preston and Mr Preston at the SWRS stand with Mrs Norma Gregory SWRS treasurer.**

On the other side of the River Tame, near the stepping stones, the "Saddleworth White Rose" canal boat, owned by Christine Barrow (Saddleworth White Rose Society member) was moored, and cups of Yorkshire tea were being constantly brewed and served to those who passed by on the canal towpath or who bravely ventured across the stepping stones!

The setting of the park was a perfect location for the event and we are grateful to Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council for allowing the use of the park. There was a wonderful atmosphere and many people commented on it. People sat around in the park and soaked up the sunshine, and the atmosphere of the day, and enjoyed what proved to be a wonderful celebration of "Yorkshire Day"



**SWRS members Ken & Chris Lee had an extremely busy day manning the SWRS stand.**

### **Here's to "Yorkshire Day 2005"**

If any members would like to be involved in the planning of next year's "Yorkshire Day" celebrations in Uppermill, then please contact:-

Christopher Dronsfield,  
Yorkshire Day Group,  
c/o Pennine Croft, 1 Kent Close,  
Diggle,  
Saddleworth,  
West Riding of Yorkshire  
OL3 5PN

## **Yorkshire Brass**

As I was not involved in this years Yorkshire Day celebrations or the Yorkshire Brass concert the night before.

I arrived home after two weeks holiday expecting to be able to put my feet up for a couple of days. No such luck. At about 11 o' clock Saturday morning 31st July, (the day of the concert) I got a frantic phone' call from Jonathon Webster asking if I would compere the concert and also did I know of a conductor. who would step in and conduct the concert as he had been let down by both the compere and the conductor. So I said of course I was OK, even though I had nothing prepared, but cometh the hour cometh the man. The conductor on the other hand was a different matter. Eventually, Jonathon managed to track down that good Yorkshire lad Kevin Wadsworth who was on holiday on his boat in the Midlands somewhere. But as they say it was alright on the night.

We set off in true Whit Friday style with George Allens march, Knight Templar, and from then on the night just got better with 5 top class soloists, with soprano cornetist Nigel Fielding leading the way followed by the truly great playing of Philip McCann on Bb cornet, Helen Fox on Flugel horn David Thornton on Euphonium, and the exiting Xylophone solo by Joycelyn Robinson (who I am sure, we will hear a lot more of in the future)

To conclude a fine and variable concert the band played the stirring Pines of Rome, what we at Brighthouse and Rastrick used to call a "pot boiling finish".

With players from some of the top bands in the world (all from Yorkshire of course) we couldn't fail but to have a great night. I hope that my poems and little tales helped to enhance the night, and that the event becomes a regular event. But if it does then, please, please give Kevin and I a bit more notice.

Gilbert Symes, Delph, Saddleworth, Yorkshire.

## **Saddleworth White Rose Society AGM**

This years AGM will again be held at the Swan Inn, Dobcross by kind permission of Mr Richard Holborn, the landlord, on 09 November 2004 at 7.00pm All members are welcome as are all nominations for the committee. Please try and attend this meeting, it is the chance for members to express their views both directly to the committee and to each other and hear more about the issues the committee are campaigning on. If you care about Saddleworth and it's traditions, and if you have any ideas about things we need to be involved in, then put your ideas forward and help us campaign for better recognition for Saddleworth. We need your support.

The AGM which will last approximately 30 minutes will be followed by a "potato pie" supper plus slide show and quiz by Mike Buckley.

## **Obituary**

### **Mr Keith Wellens**

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mr Keith Wellens of Delph, an early member of SWRS. Our condolences to Mrs H Wellens.

## **Membership Cards**

We have noticed that in the vast majority of cases where members have failed to renew their membership, this has been due to an oversight, so we feel that it would be in everyone's interest to have a membership card system. The date shown on the card will be a reminder, of membership validity.