



Saddleworth White Rose Society

In the County of York

Newsletter No 28 Autumn 2005

Yorkshire Day 2005

Yet again a very successful Yorkshire Day, thanks to the organizers, the Yorkshire Day Group, headed by Mrs Mary Clay and Cllr Phil Davenport who very professionally conducted the proceedings at the Museum and the Park. The occasion was again thankfully blessed by good weather.



The Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr Dr David Atherton lays the garland of white roses on the Ammon Wrigley statue.

Cllr. Dr David Atherton, Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council placed the garland of white roses on the Ammon Wrigley statue. These were kindly donated by Mrs Brenda Cockayne, florist of Uppermill. After the introduction by Cllr Davenport, Mr Derek Seville, Chairman of Saddleworth Council, 1974/75 read the Yorkshire declaration followed by speeches from Cllr. Kay Knox, Mayor of OMB who spoke about the fact that Saddleworth has its own identity and history of which it is rightly proud and Cllr Colin Holt spoke on behalf of the Yorkshire Ridings Society. A letter of good wishes from Mr Chris Dawson, Chairman of Friends of Real Lancashire, a copy of which appears elsewhere in this Newsletter, was read by Cllr. Davenport. The Hare & Hounds Hotel which was decorated for the occasion, provided excellent beef sandwiches and tea and coffee, all free of charge. Taylors of Harrogate, the Yorkshire Tea company also provided tea.



The Standard of the Saddleworth Branch (West Riding Yorks) Royal British Legion, proudly carried by Mr Arthur Hinchliffe

The parade headed by Uppermill Band and the Saddleworth Branch, Royal British Legion included vintage West Yorkshire and Burnley & Pendle single deck buses, from Aire Valley Transport Group, which later gave trips around the Uppermill and Greenfield area.



The parade headed by Uppermill Band and the Royal British Legion on it's way through the village of Uppermill followed by the West Yorkshire bus.



Guests included Cllr. Kay Knox, Mayor of Oldham Metropolitan Borough proudly sporting the white rose...

There were several display stands, representing Saddleworth Civic Trust, Marsden Moor Trust and SWRS, plus a bouncy castle for the children and trade stands. Greenfield and Uppermill Bands entertained in the park during the afternoon.

Greetings for Yorkshire Day from Chris Dawson Chairman, Friends of Real Lancashire.

To all members of Saddleworth White Rose Society and Yorkshire folk in general, we send our best wishes as you celebrate your county day on 1st August 2005. May the sun shine on your festivities as you remind people of the real identity of Saddleworth in Yorkshire. Administration boundaries may come and go but the thirty nine true counties of England continue to live on, loved by their people and providing a meaningful geography for our country.

God bless her people. With every good wish to the people of Saddleworth for a successful and enjoyable Yorkshire Day from the Friends of Real Lancashire.



Cllr. Colin Holt Chairman of the Yorkshire Ridings Society, with the county flag.



Dr Atherton conducts Greenfield Band

The Saddleworth White Rose Society AGM.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Hanging Gate Hotel, Diggle on Tuesday, 8th November 05 at 8.00 pm. A potato pie supper will be available at £4.00 per head. Will those wishing to attend please inform the secretary 01457 878768 as soon as possible so that suppers can be ordered.

Don't Spoil Our Beautiful Saddleworth.

These sentiments were echoed time and time again by speakers at the Knoll Mill site planning meeting on Wednesday 22nd June, at the Civic Hall, Uppermill. Those speaking against the particular development proposal for that site were not only Saddleworth people but also Oldham people, who wish to see Saddleworth's character preserved and protected against undesirable urban development. Although not against development that would usefully benefit and serve the community, they were very much against that which would add to the already overburdened infrastructure.

Many, obviously unfamiliar with public speaking, heroically did so under tremendous personal pressure but, nevertheless battled on and bravely faced the ordeal, determined to put their case forward. These people have to be truly admired.

With the support this scheme has received from the OMB Council in the name of regenerating Saddleworth, it has to be asked is it safe to have this district administered by an urban based, Metropolitan Council, one which shows so little sympathy or understanding, for a rural district, it's appearance or requirements? Speaking at the planning enquiry which took place the same week Cllr. Mike Buckley told the inspector "the idea of a marina is totally inappropriate to an eighteenth century industrial canal setting and is more redolent of a Cornish fishing village." The figures for the 1974 Saddleworth referendum were reproduced in our Spring Newsletter. Given these figures and the fact that against the wishes of 90% of Saddleworth's voting population we were forcibly made to join the administrative union, which was later to be dubbed "Oldham" Metropolitan Borough, can any decisions made by the council of that body be considered to be truly representative of our village communities, or even democratic?

That apart, our congratulations go to Saddleworth Parish Council on achieving "Quality Parish Council" status, this is great news. It now needs some power, real power, particularly over planning matters. What Saddleworth Parish Council has achieved is a first step in the right direction, but only a tiny one, there is a long way yet to go.



The Hare & Hounds celebrates Yorkshire Day.

A Walk Around Our County July 15th to August 31st 2005 (including rest days!)

The idea for the walk came from discussions, about the distance around the real boundary, at the Yorkshire Day celebrations at York in 2004. Several months of research and map work resulted in a route which seemed practical, so we began preparing ourselves for the physical side of the walk, visiting sections which we thought might be tricky to navigate and setting up the logistical support.

The date of the start was changed several times but we eventually left Hull on the morning of 15th July and headed up the Humber Estuary. We decided on a clockwise route saving the coast until last. This proved a wise move as it got us over the grouse moors before August 12th and the coast proved, for us, the best part. We also enjoyed the Tees, well, most of it and surprisingly, a very green walk through Sheffield. Saddleworth was interesting, we enjoyed that too, but we really don't know where Victor Khadem led us. We'll have to get him to show us on the map some time. The help of Victor, Malcolm Mills and Geoff Hoyle was greatly Appreciated.

We were looking forward to the Teesdale Way and it largely lived up to expectations with some good walking and super scenery but it rather spoilt itself when it turned into a bog within the Corus Steelworks below Middlesborough. We were apprehended by Corus security, as we tried to make our way around the bog, and were escorted from the premises.

As mentioned earlier, the coast proved our favourite part, not surprising as we both like the seaside, especially when it's quiet. The cliff top walk in the north was spectacular and the flying display by the gannets at Bempton unforgettable. There is a lack of paths south of Bridlington and we did a fair bit of beach walking with some road walking on the way to Spurn Point. The final stretch up the Humber on roads and paths of varying condition was completed along a super section of waterfront path into Hull where we were greeted by: family, friends, YRS members and the Lord Mayor.

The whole experience has been incredible but the magnitude of what we may have achieved has not sunk in yet. We couldn't have completed the walk without the incredible help of our team of supporters and we extend sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way. We were raising funds for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity throughout the walk and if anyone would care to donate to the charity they can do so by phoning 0845 120 6060 or at www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk.

Roger and Chris Sewell, Goole, East Riding.

Roger and Chris walked approximately 600 miles round the true boundary. They are retired teachers and now live on a river boat at Goole. SWRS member Victor Khadem acted as guide over the Saddleworth section of the boundary.