



# Saddleworth White Rose Society

## in the County of York

Newsletter 35

Summer 2007

### Presentation at the Hare & Hounds, Uppermill



The Chairman of SWRS Mr Geoffrey Bayley presented a Saddleworth, Yorkshire Wall plaque to Mr Wayne Lawton, landlord of the Hare & Hounds public house on the afternoon of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May in recognition of his support for the White Rose Society and Yorkshire Day. The plaque like many already on display around Saddleworth is to be displayed above the front door of the building. It indicates that Saddleworth is still a part of Yorkshire as stated by the government. This fact is not affected by local government being administered by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, OMB being only an administrative district created in 1974 and could of course be subject to future change whilst Yorkshires boundaries are permanent and have remained unaltered for over 1000 years.

### The Yorkshire Rose

We are frequently asked, Which way round should the Yorkshire Rose be?  
It is generally recognised that the Yorkshire Rose is displayed point downwards and two of the individual Ridings the North and West

follow suit, the East however is point up. It is thought that this dates back to the Wars of the Roses when the East Riding tended to support the Lancastrian cause!



North Riding West Riding East Riding

### YORKSHIRE DAY

The Yorkshire Day celebrations will begin at Saddleworth Museum at 11 a.m. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Yorkshire Day is actually on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August but is celebrated in Saddleworth on the Sunday before to allow everyone who wishes, to attend.

The white rose garland will be placed on the Aamon Wrigley statue by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr John Hudson and at 11.32 Gilbert Symes of Delph will read the Yorkshire Declaration. This will be followed with short speeches by the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council and other dignitaries and the singing of "Pratty Flowers". After the ceremony there will be a parade to the King George V playing field (back meadow) led by the Dignitaries, Friezland Band and Saddleworth Branch of the Royal British Legion

We are to be honoured this year with a visit of a detachment of our Regiment, the "Yorkshire Regiment", which was formed in 2006 with the amalgamation of the Duke of Wellington's the Green Howards and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Saddleworth of course being in the catchment area of the "7<sup>th</sup> Dukes". The Regt. are to provide a recruiting stand and a paintball range. Uppermill AFC who run twenty six soccer teams, with the senior ones in the Huddersfield Leagues and who coach both boys and girls, will stage a

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Penalty Shootout Competition for the younger people. Marsden Moor National Trust will have a plant stall and there will be a display of Derbyshire Gritstone sheep, one of the local breeds of our moors plus a demonstration of wool spinning with a wheel and various domestic animals including ferrets rabbits and poultry etc.

There will be many other stands and demonstrations. We hope as many members, friends and guests as possible will be present on the County Day and that you will visit the SWRS, Yorkshire Day Group and Yorkshire Country Women's Association stands and make yourselves known. We are always pleased to meet members, many of whom we don't otherwise get the opportunity to become acquainted with.

### PRATTY FLOWERS

Also known as "The Holmfirth Anthem", is sung at the Yorkshire Day ceremony near the Aamon Wrigley statue.

*Solo* Abroad for pleasure as I was walking,  
It was one summer, summers evening clear

*All Repeat Solo*

*Solo* Out there I beheld a most beautiful damsel,  
Lamenting for her shepherd dear,  
Lamenting for her shepherd dear

*All Repeat Solo*

*Solo* The dearest evening that ere I beheld thee  
Ever, ever, ever with the lass (lad) I adore

*All Repeat Solo*

*Solo* Wilt thou go fight yon French and Spaniards?  
Wilt thou leave me thus my dear?

*All Repeat Solo. Sing first line briskly.*

*Solo* No more to yon green banks will I take thee,  
With pleasure for to rest thy self and view the lambs

*All Repeat Solo*

*Solo* But I will take thee to yon green gardens,  
Where the pratty flowers grow,  
where the pratty, pratty flowers grow.

*All Repeat Solo (quietly)*

*All Repeat Solo again holding "Thee"*  
*(This Repeat sung loudly)*

There is an amusing though unsubstantiated story relating to why Pratty Flowers is also known as the Holmfirth Anthem. It is said that in the mid-eighteenth century a Holmfirth choir was performing at a concert and were asked to sing the National Anthem. At that time this was an unusual request. The British one being the first in existence and not many

people were aware of this, including the choir. So in order to demonstrate their patriotism and not knowing the words of the National Anthem they sang Pratty Flowers. An excellent choice don't you think?

### Boundaries, A new exhibition at Saddleworth Museum. Opened 01 Jun 07

As the festival publication, Saddleworth Historical Society are publishing a new book on Saddleworth Maps which is to be very much looked forward to.

The Museum are following this with an exhibition with the theme, looking at 'boundaries' which in essence are what boundaries are all about.

The dictionary definition of 'Boundary' is something that encloses a region, space or territory – on a psychological term it can mean a mental separation which we keep between ourselves and others, sometimes referred to as personal space – it represents the importance of that boundary that we own, live with or live within – it creates the boundary of your community.

The exhibition will present the opportunity to display many of the maps, the history behind them and include photographs such as of the triangulation points etc, etc.

The White Rose Society has been invited to contribute to the exhibition to give us the real facts and explain why we should be passionate about our boundaries. We hope you will visit the Museum and see the White Rose Society stand. *Peter Fox, Curator Saddleworth Museum*

### Where there's a will

Oldham, a town in Lancashire is one of seven towns and districts who share a common administrative authority. Unfortunately in 1974 the Councillors of that joint authority chose to prefix the title with the name Oldham, one of the admin area's towns. The Post Office also use this town as their post-town in their sorting and delivery system. This has caused a great deal of misunderstanding and unnecessary confusion. But most

importantly it threatens the identities of the other six towns. We have been advised by another local authority, who have changed the title of their administrative area that this is very easy to do. The Council has the power, under section 74 of the Local Government Act 1972, to change it's name. All that is required is a two thirds majority of the Councillors present at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. This same authority also informed us that there is no cost involved and that although they were advised it would cost them around £80,000 to change, in fact it cost, quote "not a penny". The changes, such as stationary and vehicle fleet lettering were phased in as required. They also informed us that road signs do need replacing but this should be carried out regularly anyway.

The Medlock which rises in the upper reaches of Strine Dale could provide an alternative name. One side of the valley is in the County Palatine of Lancaster and the other in the County of Yorkshire, hence the name Strine, meaning boundary. This boundary did not change with the introduction of administrative counties in 1974. Strinesdale Valley is also almost in the centre of the OMB administrative area. It would seem logical that a name for the borough could be chosen from all the options available in the Strines area Strine Dale, Strine Valley, Medlock, Medlockside or Medlock Valley etc. This would provide a title far more acceptable to the other towns and district in the borough.

### **Support your Real County.**

#### **Information you should be aware of**

1. Saddleworth is administered by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and **not** Oldham Council.
2. Saddleworth is not a part of Oldham. It is administered by the same local government authority, OMBC.
3. Oldham Council was abolished in 1974 as were the Councils of Saddleworth, Chadderton, Failsworth, Shaw & Crompton, Royton and Lees.
4. The Councils of Oldham Metropolitan

Borough and Saddleworth Parish were formed in 1974 and Shaw & Crompton in 1987.....

5. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council is a joint council made up of Councillors from Saddleworth, Oldham, Chadderton, Failsworth, Shaw & Crompton , Royton and Lees.

6. The administrative councils of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and many others were formed solely for the purpose of local government administration which had absolutely nothing whatever to do with Traditional Counties. They did not affect or alter Traditional County boundaries.

7. Saddleworth remained in Yorkshire (West Riding). Whilst Oldham, Chadderton, Failsworth, Crompton & Shaw, Royton and Lees remained in Lancashire.

8. Addresses used by the Post Office do not necessarily reflect the true geographical location of a place they are simply sorting and routing instructions for Royal Mail.

### **BMD's**

As you are probably aware the NHS plans to provide the care required to enable children to be safely born in their own home from 2012. This means that children born in Saddleworth will continue to have Yorkshire included on their birth certificate if requested. However as it is only compulsory for the Registrar to enter the Registration District you will need to request that your correct county is included. We have been assured by the Register Office that the County will be included if requested. This also applies to Death certificates. In the case of marriages one enters the address where one lives prior to the marriage.

### **Historic Counties, Towns & Villages (Traffic Signs and Mapping)Bill**

Andrew Rosindell MP for Romford introduced the Historic Counties, Towns and Villages (Traffic Signs and Mapping) Bill to the House of Commons on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 07, under a ten minute rule motion. The Bill's intent is; to amend the law so as to require traffic authorities to cause traffic signs be placed on

or near roads for the purpose of indicating the location of historic County, town and village boundaries: to require Ordnance Survey to mark the boundaries of the historic Counties, towns and villages on it's maps: and for connected purposes

He pointed out that "Restoring identity to Counties, towns and villages, along with pride and local patriotism in an historic context, is immensely important. I believe that we must stop the erosion of true local identities and restore pride that people naturally feel in belonging to a County, town or village that in so many cases has already been lost."

He went on to say "The importance of these places is much greater than local government. They are sources of identity and objects of affection for many people and I sincerely hope that this significant part of our British identity can be secured for future generations. However to achieve that, we must mandate local authorities to install signage indicating actual Counties, towns and villages and giving their names precedence over the name of the administrative council itself. We must divorce administrative, regional, electoral and ward boundaries from true places that have existed for centuries."

He concluded his speech by saying "Let us conserve our heritage so that future generations understand the distinct and rich identities of a Yorkshireman, a Middlesaxon, a Lancastrian or an Essex man. Let us defend our heritage and the history of these islands. Let us especially defend our historic Counties, each with their own character, they form the foundation of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales."

Mr Rosindell informed ABC that the Bill will get a second reading on 26<sup>th</sup> June. He says "Promisingly there is a lot of support amongst other MP's and I hope that with the support of ABC and the Historic Counties Trust the Bill will prove popular enough for the Government to accept."

We ask members to write to their MP asking him to support this Bill.

*Extracts from a speech by Andrew Rosindell MP printed by kind permission of "The*

*Counties" the official Newsletter of the Association of British Counties.*

### **Invitation to the Inaugural Service of the Saddleworth Parish Council's Chairman**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June SWRS were invited to the Inaugural Service of the Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council, Cllr. John Hudson. The procession to St Chads Church began from the Civic Hall, Uppermill where the Yorkshire flag flew on the council flagpole. The sermon at the Church was given by the Bishop of Manchester the Reverend Nigel McCulloch. At the reception afterwards and the excellent buffet provided by the Ladies of the Chairman's Charity, in the Civic Hall, the Bishop who we were pleased to learn is a member of the Yorkshire Society, was invited to the SWRS table. He commented that he noticed that all the church banners carried the white rose emblem and informed us he is fully aware of the difference between the administrative area boundaries (the admin counties) and the real counties and their continued existence. Something perhaps some Borough Councillors should take note of!

### **Donation to White Rose Society from Chairman's Charity**

We wish to thank Cllr Mrs A McInnes for her most generous donation of £100 from the Saddleworth Parish Council Chairman's Charity Fund to the White Rose Society The SWRS committee were delighted by this gift.

### **SWRS Items for Sale**

Saddleworth ties	£10.00
Polo shirts	£16.00
Sweatshirts	£18.00
T shirts	£13.00

*All these items are in blue with the Saddleworth Yorkshire logo and the White Rose.*

large card with large local view picture	£2.50
large card with small local view picture	£2.30
large card with rose and greeting	£2.00
small std card with local view	£1.20
small std card with rose	£1.00
Plus Yorkshire flags with the white rose	