



# Saddleworth White Rose Society

## in the County of York

Newsletter 37

Winter 2007/08

### Saddleworth Branch YCWA at York Minster

Mrs Brenda Cockayne of the Flower Shop, Uppermill was again invited, as a member of the Saddleworth Branch, Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association to help with the floral decoration at York Minster on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. On this occasion it was to commemorate the first anniversary of the Yorkshire Regiment. The Regiment was formed in 2006 with the amalgamation of the Prince of Wales's Own, the Green Howard's and Saddleworth's regiment, the Duke of Wellington's.



Mrs Cockayne with her floral display a York Minster

The Duke of York who is Patron of the new regiment attended and Mrs Cockayne's flower

arrangement of mainly white roses was placed prominently at the side of the Dukes chair. She said 'It was a great honour to be asked to take part'. We left Uppermill for York at 6 a.m. on the morning of the 21st with the car loaded with flowers, to a marvellous day at York Minster.

The Minster is a wonderful place to work with a great atmosphere, music, singing, prayers and the aroma of incense. There were people of all nationalities and religions involved. Everyone was friendly and many stopped to chat and ask about the flowers. Members of branches of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association came from all parts of Yorkshire to take part. The friendship and companionship was wonderful and it was a truly memorable day.

The Saddleworth Branch YCA received a letter from the Regiment who were also present at the Saddleworth Yorkshire Day event, thanking them for the wonderful display of white roses.

### The Yorkshire Regiment

This year we were honoured and delighted to have members of the Yorkshire Regt. take part in our Yorkshire Day event. Saddleworth being in the West Riding is of course in the catchment area of the Yorkshire Regiment. Unlike local govt. authorities and the media, both national govt. and the army recognise the Real 'Traditional Counties', as the government intended. Saddleworth's unit the Duke of Wellington's Regt. became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. of the Yorkshire Regt. in 2006. The 'Dukes' has a pedigree going back to 1702 when the Earl of Huntingdon's and Lord Harcourt's (1745) Regiments were formed. These two regiments were amalgamated into one Regt. In 1853 one year after the Duke of Wellington died aged 83, the Regt. was granted the title 'The Duke of Wellington's

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Secretary: Mr. Roy Bardsley, 52 Church Road, Uppermill,  
Saddleworth, Yorkshire, OL3 6EJ. Tel: 01457-878768

Website: <http://www.whiterose.saddleworth.net> Email: [whiterose@saddleworth.net](mailto:whiterose@saddleworth.net)

(West Riding) Regiment'. It was, until it's recent amalgamation into the Yorkshire Regt. the last remaining regiment of the British army named after someone not of Royal blood.

In 1908 the various Volunteer Rifle Regiments of the West Riding were formed into battalions of the DWR. Men from Saddleworth including of course the Yorkshire Ward of Mossley and surprisingly Lees which is in the County Palatine of Lancaster were called into the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. in WWI. Many men from these areas received medals for their bravery. Sadly also many lost their lives in battle.

The Saddleworth Home Guard of WWII was the 36<sup>th</sup> Bn. Dukas whilst Holme Valley was the 34<sup>th</sup> and Colne Valley the 35<sup>th</sup>.

Many of these Home Guard men were veterans of WWI and contributed with their invaluable experience and knowledge to create an efficient defence force which could well have been our main line of defence had German paratroops landed in or around Saddleworth. At the time this was a realistic possibility.

### **The AGM**

The AGM was held this year at the Masonic Lodge, High Street, Uppermill, which proved to be an excellent venue and the bar was open to the SWRS members for the night. The meeting was chaired by Mr M Hall who stood in for the Chairman Mr G Bayley who was unable to attend and sent his apologies. The committee was re-elected without change.

The formal part of the meeting over, Cllr Mike Buckley gave a talk on three subjects. The "Re-branding of OMB" and a meeting organised by SWRS. A report of this meeting which took place in Royton on 30 Oct 07 appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. Cllr Buckley then went on to talk about the work SWRS have been doing in the South Pennines by contacting all the Town and Parish Councils and almost all their councillors individually with the aim of getting them working together to discuss ways of creating a South Pennines Borough. We believe this would be in the best interests of all the rural and semi-rural areas of the South Pennines by

removing the authority from Metropolitan Boroughs with their urban attitudes and urban agendas and placing it in the hands of people from the South Pennines.



Finally he discussed and showed slides of a possible Saddleworth flag. The original idea was put forward by Mrs Pam Preston and Mr Gilbert Symes of Delph and was put to Saddleworth Parish Council who asked SWRS to be involved. We have been working on it for some time and have been helped and advised by the Chief Vexillologist at the Flag Institute. Copies have been passed onto Mrs Preston, Mr Symes, the Parish Council, Historical Society, Civic Trust, Archaeological Society, Saddleworth Branch YCWA and the Business Assoc. for their approval. The flag carries the white rose on the Yorkshire blue background with Saddleworth Arches portrayed in pale grey and at the base the green of Saddleworth's beautiful hills and valleys.

After the meeting an excellent potato pie supper was served which I understand was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### **Re-branding of the OMB**

A meeting chaired by Mr David Makin and organised by SWRS was held on 30 Oct 07 at the Haggate Inn, Royton. This meeting was attended by groups from most townships across the administrative area and included Chadderton HS, Failsworth HS, Royton LHS and Crompton & Shaw Branch FORL all of whom wish to see the prefix of the Borough changed to something acceptable to all the townships not just the township of Oldham. Ms Sue Vanden of 'Hemisphere' the firm who

have the re-branding contract and Ms Naomi Duggan who has responsibility on behalf of OMB Council also attended the meeting and gave an insight in to what the whole process is intended to achieve.

OMB Council are attempting to impose the label 'Oldhamer' on everyone in the admin area even though each township has its own identity. They even refer to Oldham town centre as 'the' town centre and those of the other towns as 'district' centres and appear to see the 'Unitary Authority' as a town with suburbs rather than seven separate townships. Saddleworth, Yorkshire is no more a part of Oldham than Stalybridge, Cheshire is a part of Ashton-u-Lyne.

An interesting point was raised by the Chairman of one of the groups taking part. He referred to a letter he alleged he had received from the leader of OMB Council stating that "the name of the Borough will NOT be changed". An amazing statement from the leader of a supposedly democratic Council. There is no logical reason why the Borough should be prefixed 'Oldham' when in fact it is a Borough of seven townships. The Council is not Oldham's Council but the Borough's Council which means all the townships in the admin area. All the groups at the meeting felt a generic prefix would be far more acceptable.

#### **Agriculture, an important industry to Saddleworth**

People have been encouraged to shop at super-markets for many years but these and the dairies who supply them have paid dairy farmers an unrealistically low price for their milk and forced many out of business. In the last ten years the number of dairy farmers has dropped from 34,700 to 19,011 and some milk has even been imported from countries reputed to have a lower standard of both animal welfare and hygiene. A recent casualty of this squeeze was the Queen's, "Windsor" pedigree Ayrshire dairy herd numbering 225 animals and established 56 years ago.

In the long run this loss of viable farms is not in the public interest. Farmers are not only food producers they are also re-cyclers and

have been recycling the by-products of our foods efficiently for hundreds of years, whilst at the same time maintaining our countryside in a way we have come to take for granted, a way enshrined in the works of our famous artists, poets and photographers. The glass milk bottles for example conveniently delivered by the farmer to our doorstep are also regularly collected, sterilised and re-used on average 12 times.

If, in the twenty first century we are going to allow super-markets to drive even more of our farmers out of business, we shall see a rapid deterioration of our countryside. We may well see farm land exposed to the mercies of speculators on the open market. We have already seen them buying green belt in Saddleworth in the hope they will eventually get permission to build. If you wish to help towards reducing global warming, reducing food miles, improving animal welfare and protecting Saddleworth's countryside, then seriously consider buying your fresh farm milk, beef, lamb, even free range Christmas turkeys from local producers, one of whom has a farm shop situated beside a busy main road selling these meats from home bred native breed animals. Saddleworth Farmers Market, held at the Saddleworth Museum on the second Sunday of every month is also a source of some locally produced food. Of course some of it will cost more but this only reflects its true value from sustainable agriculture. It helps to ensure a regular supply of healthy produce from extensive farming systems with high standards of animal welfare and the minimum use of medication for the stock. Do we really need supermarkets in a rural area like Saddleworth?

#### **Saddleworth Parish Council meeting 19 Aug 07**

On 19 Aug 07 Saddleworth Parish Council met to discuss the SWRS proposal that in conjunction with the other Town and Parish Councils in the rural areas of the South Pennines they form a Forum to discuss the possibilities of working together on common interests and with the intension of eventually forming a South Pennines Borough. This

Borough, which would absorb the rural and semi-rural areas of the South Pennines would be totally independent of the existing 'alien urban attitude' 'Metropolitan Boroughs' that surround the South Pennines and presently administer them.

After receiving the SWRS proposal the Council had appointed a sub-committee of five Councillors to study the possibility of forming a Forum with these Councils.

The sub-committee came to the conclusion that the area should also include Mossley and Crompton & Shaw, that there is a need to make sure that the voices of rural and semi-rural communities are heard and not lost, that there is a need for a commonality of approach on Planning issues, on loss of character across the area, threat to our heritage, affordable housing, transport and building in the green belt. They suggested that Saddleworth Council do not pursue the idea of a South Pennines Borough specifically, but that issues of administrative changes etc. can only emerge out of a forum of this kind

There was a lengthy discussion with the vast majority in favour, one or two ditherers and only one totally opposed. In the vote which followed, the Council voted unanimously in favour of approaching the South Pennines Councils with a view to forming a forum.

SWRS feel that although this is a somewhat watered down version of what we had proposed, it is probably the correct approach. It is understood that after the forum has been formed, opinions of other Councils have been aired and discussed and an agreed package put together that a Referendum will eventually be held to allow the people of the South Pennines to make the final choice.

### Membership Subscriptions

The SWRS 2007/08 membership subscriptions are now due. Although many members have already paid, a small number of members have still not yet paid their 2006/07 subs. It is important that every member pays their subs to keep the Society viable. The society is heavily reliant on these for it's continued existence. Reminders cause unnecessary

additional expense and are very time consuming.

### SWRS merchandise available

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Saddleworth ties | £10.00 |
| Polo shirts      | £15.00 |
| Sweatshirts      | £17.00 |
| T shirts         | £14.00 |

*The above items are in blue with the Saddleworth Yorkshire logo and the White Rose.*

### The new aluminium wall plaque

The new Saddleworth wall plaque with house number. Black aluminium height x width.

Price £37



|  |        |
|--|--------|
| large card with large local view picture | £2.00  |
| large card with small local view picture | £2.00  |
| 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 |        |
| 5' X 3'                                  | £10.00 |
| 3' X 2'                                  | £5.00  |
| Hand waving                              | £1.00  |
| Car windscreen discs                     | 70     |
| Car stickers                             | 70     |
| White rose lapel badges                  | £1.50  |
| White rose key rings                     | £2.15  |
| White rose cuff link & tie pin set       | £15.00 |

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| White rose ear rings pair | £5.00 |
| White rose tea mugs       | £4.50 |