



# Saddleshworth White Rose Society

## in the County of York

Newsletter 39

**Yorkshire Day 2008**

Saddleshworth's Yorkshire Day celebrations will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 11am at Saddleshworth Museum. Mr Michael Hall, Vice Chairman of SWRS will open the ceremony and welcome the Chairman of Saddleshworth Parish Council Cllr. Mrs Pat Lord who will be invited to say a few words. The Yorkshire Declaration will be read at 11.33 near the Aamon Wrigley statue, by Mr Gilbert Symes of Delph. A Local Band will lead the parade to the back meadow (King George V) playing field. For anyone wishing to go straight to the playing field, activities will begin there at 9.30 am. This years parade will include the dignitaries of Saddleshworth Council and again the Saddleshworth Branch Royal British Legion and we are pleased to welcome the newly reformed Saddleshworth Detached Flight, 2200 Squadron, Air Training Corps. This years event will be the third Yorkshire Day Country Fair although of course Yorkshire Day has been celebrated in Saddleshworth for many years. In addition to the craft stalls and specialist food stalls there will be face painting, hanging baskets, a barrel organ, belly dancing, homeotherapy, antiques, tombola, a book stall and Yorkshire tea will be served from the "Saddleshworth Rose" narrow boat on the canal towpath and the SWRS stand, there will be farm animals including Anne Taylor's Shetland ponies giving rides to children, dairy goats being milked, sheep being sheared, rabbits, poultry and ferrets etc. Demonstrations of Dry Stone Walling, wool spinning, Hawking with Red Tailed Hawks, rag rug making and more, plus Saddleshworth artist David Ford painting a scene of the event. The English Civil War Group, from Dewsbury, in period costume (Civil War 1642-1651 between the English Parliamentarians and the Royalists) will be

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exhibiting the skills used to make weaponry, whilst the womenfolk demonstrate their woollen spinning and weaving skills. The Yorkshire Country Women's Association and the National Trust will have stands. Anyone able to help on the day setting up, helping to run stalls and clearing away and tidying up at the end of the day will be most welcome and very much appreciated.

### **Saddleshworth Detached Flight, 2200 Squadron, Air Training Corps.**

Air Cadets returned to Saddleshworth earlier this year, with the opening of 2200 (Saddleshworth) Detached Flight of the Air Training Corps (ATC). The Flight parades at Diggle Band Club on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm, as well as taking part in weekend and school holiday activities.

Flying Officer Paddy Diamond, from Diggle, the Officer Commanding, said "I am pleased that we can once again offer the exciting opportunities that the Air Training Corps provides to the young people who live in the Saddleshworth Villages."

Saddleshworth has a long tradition of support for the ATC. The 1848 (Saddleshworth) Squadron was formed in early 1943, based at Uppermill, Springhead and Greenfield. In the contraction of the ATC in the years immediately following the end of the Second World War, a new Squadron was formed, which met at St Thomas' School in Lees, 2200 (Lees and District) Squadron. It is believed that it was in the mid-1950's that the squadron moved to the old drill hall in Uppermill (later the Village Manor) and it is presumed that at this time the squadron changed its name to 2200 (Saddleshworth and District) Squadron. Further moves, at undetermined dates, to two other locations in Uppermill followed, the last being

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to Station Road, where the squadron remained for a considerable period. In July 1980 the squadron was forced to leave its Uppermill base and moved 'over the border' to the outskirts of Oldham, to its present site on Wellyhole Street. Again, a squadron title change followed, to 2200 (Leesfield) Squadron. In 1988 the squadron changed its name once again to 2200 (Oldham) Squadron.

The ATC is a national youth organization sponsored by the Royal Air Force in the UK. Membership is open to young people aged between 13 and 20 years, inclusive. The ATC provides the opportunity for members to take part in a huge and diverse range of exciting and challenging activities. The ATC develops personal qualities and a sense of community and citizenship valued by employers, both military and civil.

The ATC also offers opportunities for adults from all walks of life who would like to develop or use their leadership skills and gain BTEC, First Aid and Mountain Leadership qualifications - all whilst helping young people. Adult instructors can wear a uniform, help as civilian instructors or assist on the Squadron's civilian committee.

To find out more, please contact Paddy Diamond on 01457 870991.

[Note]

Mr Bert Fraser of Uppermill, a Gunner in the Royal Artillery during WWII and invalided out of the army due to wounds received at "Sword Beach" during the D Day allied landings (Operation Overlord) of June 1944, formed the Squadron Band on invitation in 1952. He went on to attain the rank of Warrant Officer in the Squadron.

### **The Borough Council**

As expected the Borough Council have not changed the prefix of the Borough or tackled the identity problems. Instead they have decided to delete "Metropolitan Borough" from the title to supposedly make the prefix "Oldham" sound more positive. However, this changes nothing.

What has the Hemisphere Report achieved? The legal status is still Oldham Metropolitan Borough. It is

still a Borough with a joint council whose authority is over seven separate townships, the name of any one of which, or preferably an impartial name, could have been used as an alternative prefix to Oldham. Oldham Council is in fact no more than a logo and is as meaningless as it would have been had they used Chadderton Council of Failsworth Council as a logo.

Each of the seven townships still has its own identity and its own boundaries. The traditional county boundary still runs through the middle of the Borough. So what have we got? A deletion of two words from the council's title and a new logo. The official cost? £100,000 for the Hemisphere Report plus £300,000 for the Urbed Report. Who will foot the bill? Guess who?

### **Yorkshire Ridings Society meeting**

On Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Chairman of SWRS Geoff. Bayley attended a meeting of the Yorkshire Ridings Society held at the Black Swan Hotel, York. Two representatives of York City Council, the City Centre manager and the Chief executive of the York City partnership were present to discuss arrangements for the Yorkshire Day celebrations in the City. A report was given of 'real county signs' which have recently been erected at the true county boundaries in the eastern part of the county. Some of these signs are situated on private land but visible from the highway and of such a size as not to require planning permission.

It was reported to the meeting that information had been received from Friends of Real Lancashire that because of changes to the legislation to permit the flying of 'registered' county flags (without planning permission) they had attempted to register a red rose on a white background as the Lancashire flag. This had been rejected by the flag institute because another county had already registered a similar design. FORL had settled for a red rose on a gold background, apparently this is appropriate for the County Palatine. The Yorkshire Ridings Society showed some concern at the above news and promptly negotiated to register the

Yorkshire flag as a white rose on a 'blue' background. This appears to be acceptable to the flag institute and negotiations are continuing. They were informed by the flag institute of the SWRS attempts to design a Saddleworth flag. The flag institute will register a flag for a real county, but not the so called administrative counties, or a town or district. A flag design once registered cannot be subsequently registered by another county. It would appear that this ruling would not affect a Saddleworth flag design with a white rose on a blue background. Saddleworth is not a county, so a Saddleworth flag could not be 'registered' but of course SWRS only asked for advice on designing a Saddleworth flag. It is hoped that the Yorkshire flag will soon be registered at the flag institute library in Hull, then a ceremonial flag will be presented in the City of York for public display, probably at the Mansion House. Geoff Bayley, Chairman SWRS.

#### **SWRS visit to ITV Yorkshire Studios**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June a group of SWRS members went to the studio of ITV Yorkshire to see a production of 'Calendar' which is the Yorkshire local area TV 6.0pm news program, the equivalent of Granada's Look North. We were met by an ITV receptionist and taken to the news studio to see this programme presented. This was followed by a conducted tour of the studio and how a television studio operates. Enquiries were made as to why we cannot receive this programme here in Saddleworth. Further enquiries are to be made. Meanwhile, however it is possible to receive regional ITV channels via satellite, either via a satellite freeview box or via a Sky box. A Sky box at present appears to need to be manually tuned. The procedure to tune a Sky box is available from SWRS. The visit was organised by the Yorkshire Society of which SWRS is a corporate member. Any SWRS member and their friends can take part in Yorkshire Society events. The events for this year are listed below. Anyone wishing to take part should contact SWRS.

27<sup>th</sup> July Sun A day at Pontefract Racecourse.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Aug Fri Yorkshire Day at Redcar.  
 Sep AGM / History Prize followed by a buffet – evening.  
 17<sup>th</sup> Oct Fri Yorkshire Awards dinner at the Hilton, Leeds.  
 28<sup>th</sup> Nov Fri The Society's First Ball at Hilton, Bradford -themed.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Dec Mon The Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday – special celebrations. Geoff Baley  
 Chairman SWRS

#### **A Walk to the County Stone**

The County Stone is located where the familiar pointed north east corner of Lancashire (South of the Sands) juts into the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Here, between Gragareth and Great Coum. lies the meeting point of Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding) and Westmorland. The three Counties converge at the County Stone. The historic boundaries of the Counties are followed by delightfully idiosyncratic dry stone walls. You can walk to the County Stone from a variety of points. From Cowan Bridge in Lancashire (famed for it's Bronte connections) you can climb up to the Stone via the summit of Gargareth. If you want to ascend from Yorkshire, try the climb from the exquisite upland valley of Kingsdale. Either way the stupendous vistas of this limestone hill country are guaranteed to astound and delight.

*By kind permission of Robert Hawley, Editor of "The Counties" Association of British Counties, Newsletter.*



*The County Stone where Lancashire, Westmorland and Yorkshire meet (photographed from the Yorkshire side)*



*The County Stone photographed from just inside the acute pointed angle of Lancashire*



*Divided by the dry stone walls, Westmorland top left, Lancashire bottom left, Yorkshire on the right.*

### **The Stanedge Canal Tunnel Festival**

There were many people involved in running the Stanedge Canal Tunnel Festival both before and during the event. I send thanks on behalf of the Horse Boating Society for the help of all those involved, and congratulate all the cheerful faces despite the pouring rain from midday! I have received many compliments about the event. People feel it was a good event for its first year and the turnout was good, considering the weather and short time for publicity. There was very good newspaper

coverage by the Oldham Chronicle and Huddersfield Examiner. I did not attempt to contact other papers for 2008. The two MPs David Heyes and Phil Woolas seemed to genuinely enjoy themselves and have praised the event publicly. David requested that he could leg in the tunnel so he did his stint, then I ensured he was photographed legging as horseboat Maria came out at Marsden. Ronnie Barnes, age 89, steered Maria up the Marsden flight on our return journey from Huddersfield. He was thrilled to be behind the tiller again. Fantastic weather for all our journey, except on the event day of May 4th! Bilbo Baggins, my boathorse in training, did extremely well. We got home late on May 16. Since then I've attended by car with Toy Bonny at Rickmansworth Waterways Festival, The National Trailboat Festival in Devon, and Crick Boat Show. So I'm buzzing with ideas for our own event in 2009 etc! We have a Horse Boating Society committee meeting on Monday June 2. We shall discuss the Stanedge Festival there.

Sue Day Horse Boating Society



*The boat arriving at the last but one lock at Diggle to a welcoming crowd.*

There are still a few SWRS membership subscriptions due for 2007/08 please forward these to:

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