

Saddleshorth White Rose Society


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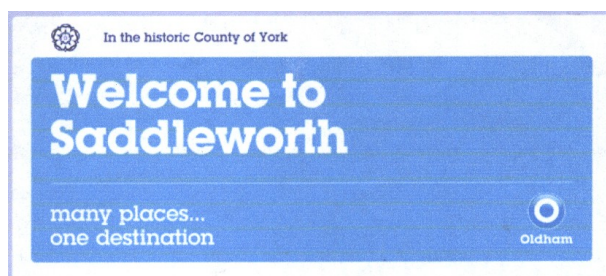
in the County of York

Newsletter 46

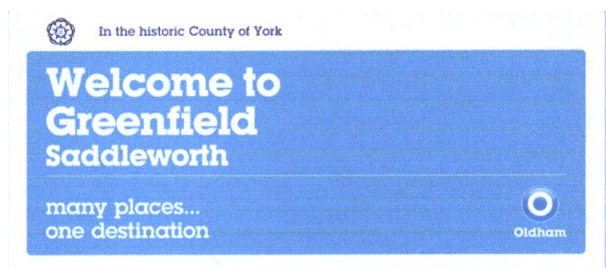
Welcome To Saddleshorth

The new Boro boundary signs, not to be confused with the new SWRS County Boundary signs, some of which are shortly to go up on the true County Boundary, are not always in the same location because in several places the Boro boundary and the County Boundary do not coincide. However, we feel the new Boro boundary signs are generally speaking an improvement on the previous ones but that the “seven squares” would have been preferable to the roundel. At least they clearly show which of the seven townships that make up the Boro, a person is actually in. but the top line “

 In the Historic County of York”, could have been larger and clearer and a capital “H” on Historic would have been far more acceptable. These particular signs are only to be situated on the outer boundary of the Boro, which of course overlaps the real County Boundary, 53% being in Yorkshire and 47% in Lancashire.



The inter-village signs (illustrated below) are slightly different but again clearly show which village one is actually in and equally important, which County.



We know the roundel is not universally popular nor the strange shade and of course Oldham is completely incorrect. This should be Oldham

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made up of seven separate townships and Oldham itself is just one of these townships, **not the Borough**. In summary though, we feel not too bad a job and a big improvement. At least we have been listened to, to a certain extent which in itself is a big improvement on many previous occasions. However, overall a move in the right direction. I believe we have Cllr Howard Sykes a Shaw & Crompton Councillor and leader of the Boro council to thank mainly. And also Cllrs. Mike Buckley and Alan Roughley, Saddleshorth Councillors on the Boro Council.

With the new Boro council signs to give clear identification of both Saddleshorth as a whole and all the individual villages and the SWRS Historic County Boundary signs indicating the true County Boundary between Yorkshire and Lancashire, we feel greater strides have been made over the past two years, in this respect, regardless of personal politics than has been made in the previous 37 years existence of this administrative authority and although much more still needs to be done it indicates a willingness of the administrative authorities to consider the wishes and listen to the opinions of people in the various and diverse communities.

The County flags

Further good news to come from the Boro Council is that from this year and each year thereafter, the Yorkshire and Lancashire County flags are to be flown over the Boro, Civic Centre on their appropriate County Day. Yorkshire Day 1st Aug and Lancashire Day 27th Nov. We realise of course that Oldham is not in God's own country but the admin buildings for the whole Boro are in that town and we believe this is a very fair and sensible move and demonstrates a much broader and considerate attitude to the communities of this Boro. It also recognises the fact that the admin. area is almost equally divided between these two counties and this recognition must surely

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

Website: <http://www.whiterose.saddleshorth.net>

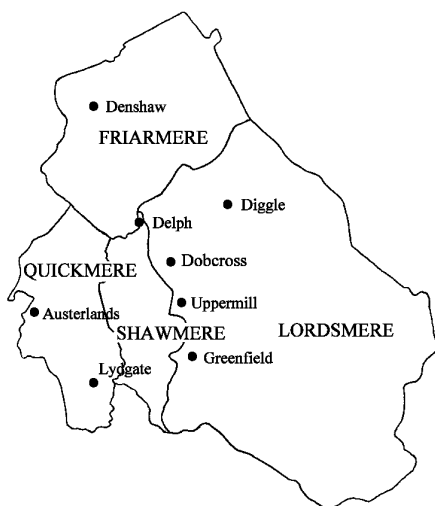
Email: whiterose@saddleshorth.net

contribute to improved community relations. We believe this should also be a good example and lesson in local democracy to other admin areas.

The Four Meres of Saddleworth

By Mike Buckley

Part two: Lordsmere & Shawmere



In the case of Friarmere and Quickmere the influence and involvement of the Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth was minimal or non-existent. The Lord's domain to all practical purposes was the area that later became Lordsmere. Up to the seventeenth century in fact the history of Lordsmere was the history of the Manor itself. The earliest references to Saddleworth are local charters from the Stapletons, the thirteenth century Lords. Although there is no written record to directly associate them with Saddleworth before 1200, their land holding according to various survey of fees carried out from 1166 onwards indicates that it had been unchanged since the time of Henry I. It seems safe to assume then that they had held Saddleworth from before this date. Robert de Stapleton died around the year 1260 and with him the male line of the Stapletons came to an end. The Manor then passed to Warin de Scargill of Scargill in the North Riding of Yorkshire who had married Clarissa, daughter of Robert de Stapleton. The Manor remained in the hands of the Scargills until the death of Sir Robert Scargill in 1531 when it passed to his daughter and son in law Marmaduke Tunstall. The Tunstalls of Thurslow Castle near Lancaster held the manor until 1590, when as recusant Catholics they appear to have compelled to sell some of their estates. Saddleworth was purchased from the Tunstalls by John Ramsden of Longley Hall, Huddersfield and his son William. As well as Saddleworth their manors included Huddersfield and Almondbury. John died soon after the sale, but his son, William Ramsden, a very shrewd businessman with vigour set about improving and expanding his Saddleworth possessions.

He added to what was effectively a Lordsmere Manor at the time of purchase by a number of further land purchases. These included part of the former Trafford holdings in Quickmere, and the whole of Shawmere. With the Ramsdens the history of Lordsmere as a separate unit effectively came to an end.

We have seen how the policy of the Stapletons was to grant large freehold estates to their followers. These grants were in fact subinfeudations; grants in which the land was held of the Stapletons in exchange for services rendered or money payments. Before the Second Statute of Westminster in 1290 it was also possible for the grantee to himself subinfeudate the land to his followers thereby creating a sub-manor. This was how Shawmere came into being. Perhaps the most important family in Saddleworth during the thirteenth century were the de Staveleys. As the name implies they must originally have come into the district from Staley, however a separate branch of the family from those already mentioned above must have moved into the district, probably prior to 1200, and retained their name; an example of how surnames were already becoming fixed at this date. Recent new evidence has come to light in the form of three previously undiscovered early thirteenth century charters which demonstrates that this Richard de Staveley and his father Robert were responsible for the creation of the large estate that became Shawmere. These charters take the de Staveley involvement with Saddleworth at least back to the very early thirteenth century and would point to the de Staveleys as the original occupiers of Shaw Hall. The Staveleys kept their name associating them with Staveley into the fourteenth century, even though they had lived in Saddleworth for a century or more, but then a second description became attached to their name to make it clear where they lived: so "Edmund de Staveley del Shagh", becomes simply "Edmund del Shagh". The Staveleys became the Shaws, and apparently the ancestors of the present day families of the same name.

Edmund's son William inherited the estate around 1350 and shortly afterwards, or maybe immediately, leased the state to John de Radcliffe of Ordsall in Salford for life and, following Richard's death in 1380, a dispute arose as to its ownership. This rumbled on through the courts for over thirty years before it was finally resolved in 1410 when the Radcliffes finally obtained outright possession.

The main branch of the de Staveleys, now the del Shaghs, left Saddleworth and prospered as merchants. Robert del Shagh is described in the 1379 Saddleworth poll tax as "mercator". Robert's son John settled in Duckinfield and amassed considerable wealth following in his father's footsteps as a wool stapler. Two of his sons became national figures. His son, Edmund Shaw, later Sir Edmund, having settled in London became Lord Mayor of London in 1482, Royal Jeweller to Edward IV, Richard III and Henry VII and is portrayed

in Shakespeare's Richard III. He died in 1487 and in his will directed that "200 gowns of welsh frieze, part whit, part black, should be made and distributed to 200 poor men in the towns of Saddleworth, Oldham, Ashton-u-Lyne, Mottram, Stockport, Manchester and Cheadle" also that each should receive 12 pence. His brother Ralph Shaw, D.D. was chaplain to Edward IV and was also mentioned in Shakespeare's play as a supporter of Richard III.

The Radcliffes had possession of Shawmere for the next two hundred years, apparently regarding it as a second residence, or a residence for younger members of their family. The last member of the family to reside at the Hall was one Robert Radcliffe in the reign of Elizabeth I who appears to be the common ancestor of the Saddleworth Radcliffes. By tradition a soldier; he is supposed to have accompanied Sir Philip Sydney in Flanders and the Earl of Essex at the taking of Cadiz in 1596 and to have introducing the Mallalieu family to Saddleworth in the form of his servant, apparently one Thomas Mallalieu alias French.

The existence of Shawmere as a separate estate came to an end in 1604 when Shawmere was purchased from the Radcliffes of Ordsall by William Ramsden and became part of the Manor of Saddleworth.

This article is an abridged version of a recent account of the early history of Saddleworth published in the Summer 2009 Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin.

Quickmere



Platting Rd, Lydgate

Friarmere,



Cherry Clough, Denshaw

Lordsmere



Station Rd., Diggle

Lordsmere/Shawmere



Chew Valley Rd, Greenfield
Post Office

The Post Office use their own incorrect version of addresses for Saddleworth and for several other places throughout the country. Their system is one they have conjured up themselves presumably to suit themselves, irrespective of anyone else and regardless of the real County location.. They make the dubious claim that this helps speed delivery! The system causes much confusion for many people and sometimes results in mail going astray. After using the correct first two lines they then deviate into their system, using for Saddleworth, both "Oldham" and "Lancashire" and both incorrect. Saddleworth's correct address is Saddleworth, Yorkshire. This cannot be disputed because this is where Saddleworth is located.

What is the point of the continued existence of the former administrative counties of Merseyside, Gt Manchester and West Yorkshire?

Having lost their administrative powers in 1988, these having been passed onto the Unitary Authorities within their former administrative areas, what purpose do these former administrative counties now serve? They were formed solely for the purpose of local government administration but only served this purpose for a mere 14 years. Whilst the Traditional Counties have been in existence for over a thousand years and have neither been abolished or had their boundaries altered or changed in any way. These former administrative counties have no history, no present and probably no future and having become nothing more than Lord Lieutenancies with little or no loyalty from the public, they appear to be totally pointless. The vast majority of people have no feeling or sense of belonging to a former administrative area or so called ceremonial county, their populations generally identifying with their true Traditional Counties, the continued existence of which the government agrees are where these people still live. The Lord Lieutenants would have a more loyal, traditional and historic following and roll to play if they represented the true Traditional Counties or Ridings.. This confusing issue needs to be corrected by the government with the abolition of these so called ceremonial counties..

After 36 years the media and local authorities are still trying to push these former admin areas by referring for example to Southport, Merseyside, Rochdale, Gtr Manchester or Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, which were formerly under their administrative control but not now. Everyone is well aware where these places really are without

this brainwashing which is neither desirable or required. And why did BBC whom we had always believed to be unbiased carry out such a biased survey during the "Hemisphere Report".

This was the case in 2007 when BBC Radio 4 carried out a supposed survey to asses if the people of the "Boro" wanted to re-name the "Boro" with a title more acceptable to all the townships within it , as had happened with Tameside, Trafford, Kirklees and Calderdale.

The so called survey was carried out only in Oldham town centre, where the very biased question "Do you wish to rename Oldham ?" was put to the public, presumably mainly residents of that town. The question that should have been asked, was "Do you wish to rename the Boro instead of using the name of one of it's townships"? .This "survey" being carried out only in Oldham and not in other towns or rural areas of the Boro and in view of the wording of the question,. whatever did they expect the answer to be but "no" ?

A Sad Goodbye to two well known Saddleworth people.

Mr George Ardley

Mr George Ardley, Merelwood Avenue, Uppermill and who once farmed Lower Cross Farm, Shaw's Lane, Uppermill sadly passed away on 12 Dec 09. He was buried at St Chad's, Saddleworth. Our deepest sympathies go to Glynis and family
In the past George has helped to entertain SWRS members and guests with Saddleworth poetry at society events.

On a personal note as an adolescent I remember George, a friendly, jovial, small hill farmer driving his horse and cart around the lanes of Saddleworth and sometimes going to the pub in it at night with his mates. Fortunately the well trained horse was quite capable of safely finding her own way home without human interference.

Miss Pat Hall

Miss Pat Hall of Grove Road, Uppermill, another well known and popular Saddleworthian passed away on 06 Feb 2010, a week before her 80th birthday. Our deepest sympathy goes to, Marianne, Michael and family. Both Pat and Marianne are long time members of SWRS and YCWA and even longer time members of Yorkshire County Cricket Club

**Yorkshire Country Women's Association
Saddleworth Branch meetings at the Methodist
Hall, Uppermill 7.30pm**

28 Apr 2010 The AGM. Followed by a talk about plans for Dovestone by Jon Bird of RSPB.

26 May 2010 Bee Lady Speaker BABZZZ Davies 30
Jun 2010 Samaritans Shoe Box Collections
speaker Judith Powell