



Saddleworth White Rose Society

in the County of York

Newsletter 54

Yorkshire Day 2012 will be held on Sunday 29th July, the nearest Sunday to the 1st Aug., the correct Yorkshire Day, to enable more people to attend. The event begins at Saddleworth Museum around 11.00 am.. Friezland Band will play, and SWRS Chairman Mr Geoff Bayley will open the proceedings by introducing the Chair of Saddleworth Council Cllr. Brian Lord and other dignitaries. This is followed by a few short speeches with asides from Mr Gilbert Symes who will read the Yorkshire Declaration of Integrity, at precisely 11.37. After this ceremony, the procession forms up and makes it's way to the King Gorge V playing fields (back meadow). At the field there will be many stalls displaying Saddleworth crafts etc. There will also be food stalls selling home made cakes etc. There will be Hog Roast from Albion Farm, Delph, and local beer from the Church Inn, Uppermill. Denshaw Llama Trekking will have their Llamas on display and will provide Donkey rides, for the children. Several domesticated animals, including poultry, ducks, sheep for shearing and a display of several different breeds of show rabbits provided by Huddersfield District Rabbit Fanciers. Don't forget to bring your pet along to take part in the Pet Show. Mike and Jacob will be entertaining with their Country Music plus the colourful Brenda Goddard School of Dancing and Stubbing Billy's Morris Men from Marsden. We hope you will come along and have a good day. Anyone wishing to have a stall should contact Benda on 01457 874 686 or 872 529. We trust all stallholders, other than charities will make a generous donation to the Yorkshire Day Group. SWRS are still asking for donations towards

the County Boundary signs. There are several more to put in place.

Summer 2012



Mayor of the Borough Councillor Richard Knowles, Chairman of Saddleworth Council , Cllr Bill Cullen and Saddleworth MP Mrs Debbie Abrahams.



Cllr Barbara Beeley, Saddleworth Council; Mayor of the Borough, Cllr Richard Knowles and Cllr Val Sedgewick.



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Mrs D Abrahams MP, Cllr Richard Knowles, Cllr Val Sedgewick and Mrs Linda Russell FORL.

This article was first posted on a Yorkshire CCC supporters message board, on a website called the corridor of uncertainty in 2011. It is one of a series of articles written as part of a “virtual walk” around Yorkshire’s proper boundaries, investigating the state of cricket in those outlying parts and the state of their historic attachments and loyalty to Yorkshire nearly 40 years after the dreadful local government act changed modern maps and many people’s thinking. Over a dozen articles were posted including five about Saddleworth.

I have been unable to entice my family over to Saddleworth for Christmas so I am reluctantly having to take a break from the boundary walk. However, I have time to pen some more thoughts about this special place before I board the last train home out of Greenfield station,

Yes, the White Rose is tinged pink and this definitely is why some locals I questioned feel they have in their own words been “Lancastrated” Not only are all the local services provided by Lancashire based authorities but many Lancastrians are not surprisingly enticed to live here by the splendid scenery and property. I have even heard Saddleworth described as the place in Yorkshire where Lancastrians live.

Sadly Saddleworth is often not recognised as being in Yorkshire by publications. A monthly magazine called Yorkshire Life for instance when recently featuring the Huddersfield Narrow Canal described Diggle as being in Lancashire. I bought a fascinating book recently which featured little known facts about the Ridings. It included Middlesborough in the far north of the county but ignored Saddleworth. The lamented and lamentable county administration changes introduced in 1974 also sadly influenced organisations which have sprung up since, including tourist boards. So Greater Manchester claims Saddleworth as Lancashire, By the way the

Lancashire Admin. area claims all West Craven including the Forest of Bowland and Cumbria does likewise for Sedbergh and Dentdale.

Certainly geographically Saddleworth is much closer to Lancashire than Yorkshire population centres. Manchester is 15 miles from Uppermill Leeds 32, Oldham is 5 miles from Uppermill, Huddersfield 14. I have previously mentioned the additional enticement of the Lancashire based football clubs and AFC’s website feature a junior visit to Old Trafford (the football ground). However, Uppermill as members of the Huddersfield League, are also members of the West Riding and did receive a visit from a Leeds Carnegie and England woman footballer. But would you believe it the Saddleworth Morris Dancers wear Lancashire clogs.

Many sports clubs, including cricketing ones, feature both roses, and of course it is nearly 37 years since their West Riding County Council was wound up whilst many players at the Saddleworth cricket clubs may be from Lancashire, as such sides do recruit from far and wide and there is a large population to tap into just over the boundary.

What concerns me is that this is proper Yorkshire and yet nobody at the Yorkshire CCC or Yorkshire Cricket Board appears to be actively interested in promoting themselves here and encouraging locals who feel Yorkshire to be part of our cricket community. If they are I would happily apologise but I am not aware of it. Yes geography and local government changes are real handicaps to promoting Yorkshire over Lancashire but the M62 makes Saddleworth closer to Leeds than it was in J.L. Byrom’s day.

And we have had links! Roy Bardsley of the Saddleworth White Rose Society told me that Yorkshire county elevens, made annual visits to Greenfield between the wars whilst he also told me that none other than Geoffrey Boycott had friends in Uppermill and used to visit.

The Friarmere CC in particular intrigues me. The Sadddleworth League secretary, Trevor Harrison, kindly took out time to confirm that

the pavilion was funded by J. L. Byrom in 1880, with relatively recent renovations, whilst the cottages pictured on the website are indeed those built for his team! Trevor told me that a local family, the Morrises, have been stalwarts of the club for over a century and many of them have lived in the cottages. Friarmere's current chairman, John Morris does live in one of the properties today and he has been the scorer since the sixties! His great grandfather Harry once scored 232 runs in an epic innings in 1913 which was the league record for years. Friarmere's history and the size of its ground, makes it arguably the best suited venue to host a Yorkshire 2nds match should we ever wish to make an impression in Saddleworth in this way. Frustratingly, he was out when I managed to make my way up the hill and view the marvellously sited ground in a snowy picturesque Pennine landscape! However I am pleased to report that Byrom's grave is still standing and remains clearly inscribed in St. Thomas church yard. The worry in this district is the same as in West Craven (Barnoldswick and Earby) that it is part of a Lancashire schools system, despite the local secondary school having the white rose as its symbol! The best cricketers will play for Oldham schools and thence will be filtered into Lancashire schools teams. I wonder about the legitimacy of such boys then being approached by the Lancashire CCC as we surely have first call on people resident within the traditional boundaries! Of course the lads themselves may then feel comfortable in the Lanc's system.

The difficulty of promoting Yorkshire cricket in Saddleworth is also the same that faces us in Barnoldswick and Earby that the clubs are members of the Lancashire Cricket Board. The county boards presumably began after 1974 and local Government boundary changes so they inherited all clubs and leagues within the new jurisdictions. (Except of course Todmorden and Walsden who were within the new West Yorkshire boundary but became members of the Lancs CB presumably through being members of their leagues!) the Saddleworth league are members of the Lancashire Cricket Board and its teams play in

their County Cup Comp. (Yorkshire do not seem to have an equivalent). Even Delph and Dobcross of the Huddersfield cricket league, are members of the Lancs CB. The Saddleworth clubs must have some sort of affinity with Lancs system by now and for instance in 2008 when a task force went to Austerlands CC to help maintain the ground (remember Yorks did the same at Scarborough last year) it was Lancs cricketers who were invited. Interestingly, there is a modern day Saddleworth cricketer currently playing county cricket, Kyle Hogg at Lancashire. his father, Willie incidentally, was born in Ulverston in the Lake District but of course in the Lancashire bit. Do you remember the Lake District being Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire? I recall visiting there as a child on holiday and hopping between. Glenn Chappel, went through the Lancs system but given his father's career we cannot quivel about that.

Actually, on the Lancashire. CCC website, Hogg junior is rather coy about Saddleworth describing it as having moors and being near Oldham. So he seems to sidestep the Yorkshire question despite the fact that he learned his cricket at Greenfield CC, and when he was not required by Lancs has recently played for the club. Kyle was actually born in Birmingham when Willy moved to Warwickshire but he left Edgbaston at the end of the season. Hogg junior went to Saddleworth School so received his lessons in education and cricket in Yorkshire!

The Hogg family background is even more interesting as Willy married one of Sonny Rahmadhin's daughters. Sonny played for Lancs in the mid sixty's, just before Farokh Engineer and Clive Lloyd helped transform their fortunes, and settled in Saddleworth. Thanks to Trevor Harrison, who told me that Sonny is still in the area and watches matches at Friarmere. Sonny's son Craig who recently retired from playing, himself in the league is child protection officer at Friarmere as well as being league treasurer and an umpire!!

I must go home for Xmas but you can imagine my reluctance to leave these parts. When I

return it will be to climb out of the valley and head south to continue my venture. Could you blame me if I stayed?

The Duke's

It is with great sorrow we send our condolences to the families of the six soldiers from the "Dukes", Sgt Nigel Coop from Lytham St Annes, Cpl John Hartley Huddersfield, Pte Anthony Framton and David Willand Huddersfield, Pte Chris Willford Huddersfield, Pte Chris Kershaw Bradford and Pte David Wade Warrington who died at Helmond when their vehicle was blown up by the Taliban. All, except Sgt Coop, who was in the Duke of Lancaster's, were in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regt. Let us not forget also Graham Shaw of the Dukes who was killed three years ago and Capt Lisa Hood of Huddersfield who died whilst disarming a bomb. She was in the Royal Logistics Corps. The "Dukes" is Saddleworth's unit. There were few Saddleworth families who did not suffer losses in the "Dukes" during the first and second world wars. The Dukes was then a regiment and most Saddleworth, Mossley and Marsden men served in the 7th Bn in whose catchment area they lived. The Dukes is now the 34rd Bn of the newly formed Yorkshire Regt.

Unveiling the Country Boundary Signs at County End

Probably, the two most important signs for Saddleworth were unveiled at the appropriately named Country End on 19th May 2012. the signs were placed as near as possible to the real Country Boundary

The real Country Boundary is of course quite different to the admin. Boundary created in 1974 for admin purposes only. However, after a mere twelve years these admin. counties were found to be an unnecessary tier of local government and their councils were abolished. Strangely, the admin. counties were not, leaving them in the anomalous position of a county with nothing to administer and possessing nothing more than a Lord

Lieutenant, but the Fire, Police and Waste disposal vehicles continue to use the titles of these now redundant admin. areas which, presumably, because they kept their Lord Lieutenants became known as Ceremonial Counties A strange choice bearing in mind the fact that areas have no past, no present, and no future, whereas the office of Lord Lieutenant is an historical office going back to the time of William the Conqueror. One would have thought these traditional and historical offices would have been put back to the traditional and historical counties!

YWCA meetings

August No Meeting

September 24 Coop Singers

Raffle: J Cheetham & E Bardsley

October 31 Brenda's Friend Writer

Raffle: J Bradbury & B Cockayne

November 28 Cake Decorations

Marlene McClean

Raffle: M Hall & M Edwards

December NO Meeting



Cllr Richard Knowles, Cllr Bill Cullen, Saddleworth
MP Mrs Debbie Abrahams.