



St Helens Townships Family History Society

Founder And President-Richard Waring

www.sthelenstownshipsfhs.org.uk

[email:townshipsfhs@googlemail.com](mailto:townshipsfhs@googlemail.com)

phone:07851 503 307

June 2008
NEWSLETTER
number 5



St Helens Townships FHS have achieved another goal.

We have been accepted as a member of the Federation of Family History Societies.

So what! You ask

Well what it means is that we have proved that we are a serious bona fide Society. The requirements for membership were to demonstrate that A:-We have been in existence for at least one year B:-We have a formal constitution with a properly organised committee C:-Have at least 40 members D:-Produce a regular newsletter

All of these objectives have been achieved and indeed exceeded

The benefits of membership include

- FFHS is represented on governmental and national bodies
- FFHS has an e-zine (electronic magazine) for Family History news
- FFHS provides public liability insurance cover at low cost, within our subscription
- FFHS can provide specialist advice on a wide range of topics relevant to our hobby

This is an important step for our Society as it gives us credibility and status when negotiating with official organisations such as the local Council. If you want to know more about the Federation. Visit their website www.ffhs.org.uk

Membership at the latest count we have **137** members, quite an achievement when you consider that we were only **23** just over 12 months ago when we started

HELP On Work nights !!

One of the objectives of our society is to help others, so let's do just that

As the society is growing and Family History is becoming a popular hobby, we are seeing more and more newcomers at the library. These people need assistance and guidance from our members. We would appreciate it, if some of you who have made good progress on you own research, could devote some of your time and knowledge to helping new members get started. It can be very satisfying to have an insight into someone else's family tree and to receive the appreciation of a newcomer who before they met you, thought they knew nothing

www.ukbmd.org.uk

You may have heard of or indeed used the above website.

What you may not realise is that the transcription of all births, marriages and death records is a nationwide project, being carried out by dedicated volunteers some of whom are members of our society. So far the St Helens group of transcribers, have completed transcription of some 380,000 birth records since October 2006 covering 1837 to 1964

They are to be congratulated for all their hard work. Work has already started transcribing the marriages.

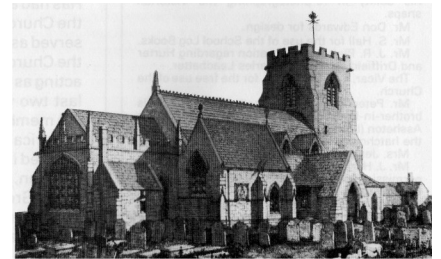
HELP IS NEEDED If you have some spare time and a computer your help would be most welcome. See one of our committee members for details

Meeting 24th April 2008**St Helens Town Hall**

This scheduled meeting was intended to be a talk on Elizabethan Prescott. Unfortunately our speaker was detained leaving us with a room full of people expecting to be entertained. Our Chairperson Margaret bravely stepped into the limelight with an impromptu talk about some of her experiences dealing with the many research enquiries arriving almost daily by email from every corner of the world. This talk inspired the assembled company to embark on a very lively discussion forum. The resourcefulness and diverse knowledge of the members of our group was demonstrated. As a result of this your committee feels that each and every one of us has a Family History tale to tell. If we all collect our thoughts and if necessary prepare notes, we would be prepared should the situation recur.

Meeting 22nd May 2008**Farnworth Church**

20 members of our society attended our outside visit to Farnworth. We were escorted round the church and it's surroundings by church members Barry Horabin and Alan Locke. We were all fascinated by the history of this church founded about 1180. What gem it is, in the midst of industrial Widnes. It houses many interesting architectural features showing the various stages of development over the centuries. There are a number of funeral "hatchments" (colourful crests of local families) also on display is crest of King Charles II placed in the church in 1661, it remains as colourful today as the day it was painted. A chapel within the church is dedicated to the locally well known Bold family. There is too much history to take in at one session so your editor for one, will make a return visit.



***We have** a full programme of interesting monthly meetings arranged, now well into 2009 (with no summer or winter breaks, unlike other societies). Check out our programme fliers and our website*

www.sthelenstownshipsfhs.org.uk for details

www.ukbmd.org.uk Further to the notes on the front page. Perhaps a word of explanation may be helpful. In 1837 registration of all Births, Marriages and Deaths became compulsory in England and Wales. The primary records and indexes are held in the local Register Offices. It is these indexes which are being transcribed, with the assistance of local history societies. A secondary index is held by the **General Register Office**. As each section is completed, it is scrutinised for errors and omissions. When complete, it is submitted to the local co-ordinator for publication on the internet, Eventually all records will be available on the web.



Our picture shows the Mayor & Mayoress of St Helens presenting appreciation certificates for work done on the BMD project, to our committee members Pauline, Margaret and Tom representing all our "backroom workers".

Finally-Peter's Pearls:-

Have you ever lent someone £20 and never seen them again? It was probably worth it!

Good judgement comes from experience, experience comes from poor judgement!

I have two theories about how to win an argument with a woman—Neither works!

The most wasted day of all is one on which we have not laughed!