



# St Helens Townships Family History Society

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October 2008  
NEWSLETTER  
number 6



Well how time flies. The days are getting shorter, Autumn is with us and it's getting colder, Winter drawers on.

## North West Family History Fair

**WILL** take place on Saturday 1st November 2008 At St George's Hall in Liverpool from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Admission is £2:00 on the door or £4:00 if you wish to listen to the talks. Dr Tim Barratt from the BBC programme "Who do you think you are" is one of the speakers. **WE** will have a stall representing our Society. You are all invited to attend. This will be the first time we have been represented, at a major event outside St Helens and we intend to demonstrate that St Helens has an enthusiastic and thriving group, dedicated to helping those who wish to research their St Helens Ancestry

## Future 2008 Meetings

**23rd October** at the Town Hall, St Helens. The subject is " An Overview of Local Registrations" by Anne Atherton—Deputy Registration Services Manager for St Helens

**27th November** at the Town Hall, St Helens. The subject is "St Helens and South West Lancashire in World War 1 " by Stephen Lindgard.

**18th December** at the Town Hall, St Helens. This will be our first formal AGM which will include presentation of our accounts and election of officers.

The business meeting will be followed by our Christmas Social

The Programme of meetings for **2009** is now complete and will be published on our website

**Meeting 24th July 2008** I know that most of you don't need reminding about the wonderful resources available to us at the Archives section of the St Helens Central Library and how lucky we are to be able to access them. Those of you who were able to attend our July Meeting, in the archives department, hosted by Senior Archivist Ms Vivienne Hainsworth and her staff, had a unique opportunity to gain an insight into the vast collection of archive material available to researchers. Besides giving us an interesting overview of the activities of the department, refreshments were provided. The excellent relationship with the library which our society enjoys is one of our most valuable assets and we thank them for their continued support.

## **Meeting 28th August 2008**

### **St Helens Town Hall**

30 Members attended this meeting. We were treated to an illustrated talk by Mr John Edwards entitled "Mysteries , Myths and Oddities" As a retired police officer Mr Edwards entertaining talk leaned a little towards the macabre. He based his entertaining and informative talk on local Merseyside historical incidents, the detail of which was gleaned from his own research.

**Meeting 25th September 2008****St Helens Town Hall**

**15 Minutes of Fame**, was the title of our meeting featuring 5 different talks by our members.

1st up was our Treasurer Peter Harvey who spoke about the appalling working conditions experienced by people employed in local chemical industries in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Disease and accidents were commonplace.

Next up was Ivy Swift who engages the speakers for our meetings. From her own family experiences.

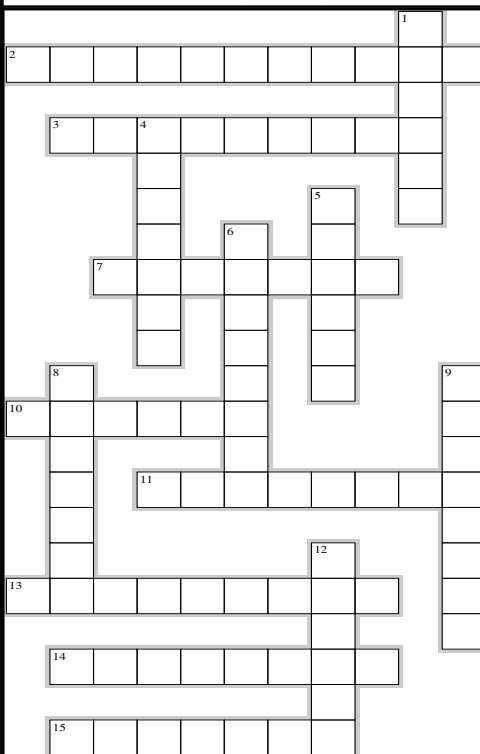
Ivy related a tragic tale in which a promising young Rugby League star was killed in a motorbike accident. The accident which occurred in St Helens involved two bikes and eventually resulted in four deaths.

The 3rd speaker was your editor Peter Crosbie. In his illustrated talk he advised members to closely examine family photographs, showing examples. Information can be gleaned, from the clothing worn by the subject, by detail in the background and from anything written on the back.

Our 4th speaker was member Sue Whalley. Sue spoke about the difficulties of sifting through family folklore and myths, complicated by emigration to Canada and having a common Welsh name. However by diligent research in Wales and in churchyards, she succeeded in unravelling some of the tangle of her family history.

The 5th and final talk was again by Peter Harvey who offered advice on Irish family history research based on his own experiences. Peter concluded his talk by entertaining us all with a rendition of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" with the assistance of the assembled company

*The September Meeting format proved to be popular with both the speakers and the audience. We have decided to have another similar meeting in 2009 So get your story ready—Everyone has interesting tale to tell about their family.*

**Peter's Poser—A Family history Crossword: Answer in the next newsletter****CLUES**

1. The next one is 1911
2. Super male parent
3. Floating cities
4. Does a spider live here
5. How is Richard dressed? What is he .....
6. Our Town
7. A tale about him
8. Our secretary is hard up and slim
9. All you need to know is stored here
10. I'll bet you can name this Institute
11. Look again
12. Bill and his Comets
13. He will marry you if you ask
14. Our meetings are held here
15. Lots of books here



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**See any committee member**

**Finally—Peter's Pearls: When she got married, she got a new name and a dress**

**The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered**

**When she saw the first strands of grey hair she thought that she would dye.**