



St Helens Townships Family History Society

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Our first meeting of 2009 was held at St Helens Town Hall on Thursday 22nd January Our Speaker was Mr Alan Roby on the subject of the History of Sutton Manor Colliery.

Mr Roby was himself a miner at the Pit which opened in May 1906 producing coal for the first time in 1912. this coal was sent to

Liverpool mostly for use by steamships. Mr Roby recounted some of his experiences and showed examples of two of the safety lamps used at the pit. He told tales of the difficult working conditions miners had to endure and of "Red Clog" the ghost of Sutton Manor.

The mine closed in 1984 in spite of the strikes of that era. It is estimated that 25 million tons of coal, enough to last for 300 years remain underground. This closure marked the end of coal mining in the area along with a way of life.

This legacy is to be marked by a 20 metre high statue entitled "The Dream" on the site of the pit

Our Town Hall Meeting held on 26th January was addressed by our treasurer Peter Harvey

Peter spoke about the History of the Deaf in St Helens. His talk was accompanied by a series of pictures illustrating important people and places in this complex story. The story of how the Deafness Resource Centre in Dentons Green came into being. For the first time we had five deaf people at our meeting, it was fascinating to see excellent BSL interpreter keep pace with the narrative. Members were enthralled as the pictures were linked with the stories behind them. This talk forms part of a National Lottery Project for which Peter is the lead researcher.

Some of the photographs used were provided by members of the Deaf Society, but our Chair person Margaret Crosbie was somewhat surprised to see herself on the screen.

The talk showed how the fortunes of deaf have changed over the last 80 years. Missionaries, Councillors, the general public, Acts of Parliament, 2 World Wars, Births, Marriages, Deaths and even St Helens Rugby League Club all played a part effecting and enriching the lives of deaf people. The audience left the meeting with a much better understanding of the role of deaf people in our modern society.

A group of members of our Society has started a new **World War 1** project This involves researching the activities of **St HELENS PALS**, specifically the **11th (Service) Battalion South Lancashire Regiment (St Helens Pioneers)**.

The eventual aim is to publish a book about the Pals focusing on individual men's stories rather than simply the military history of the battalion.

Any contributions in the form of stories, photos, even the names of serving men, etc. would be very welcome. You can contact the researchers through the Projects page of the society's website

The Author of this web site has asked us to publicise it in our newsletter, we are pleased to do so and ask members to visit the web site www.prescot-rollofhonour/info

and forward any information they may have to the following email address

prescot.great.war@btinternet.com



This web site is dedicated to the men of Prescott, Lancashire, who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War 1914-1919. Use the links on the left of this page to go to the casualty detail pages and also to find out more about the town's memorials.

In addition, the site reports on those men of Prescott who served in the forces but returned home.

The email address above can be used to contact the author and I would especially like to hear from relatives of any of the men included. I would be happy to include any additional information or photographs which may be provided. A pdf version of the report on each of the casualties is available on request.

Please sign the Guest Book if you wish to simply leave a message. Thank you for visiting the site.

Stephen Nulty
June 2008

Forthcoming Meetings at St Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square.

26th March—"A Magnificent Man and his Flying Machine" by Member Ivy Swift

23rd April—Irish Ancestry by Pam Richardson

28th May—A visit to Burtonwood Chapel (numbers will be restricted - details later)

25th June—Eccleston by David Knowles

23rd July—Wills and Inventories by David Lambert

I have recently come across this web site explaining **Archaic Medical Terms** which may prove useful to researchers seeking to interpret the cause of death from certificates

www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/a.htm

Almost every eventuality is covered. Here a few examples from the "A" section

Abasia, Astasia = Hysterical inability to walk

Ablepsia, Abiepsy or Abopsia = Blindness

Accoucheuse = A Midwife, **Accubation** = Childbirth

Ague = Usually Malaria, but could be any feverish illness with fits of shivering

We are always on the look out for new unusual and interesting family history related articles . So if you have anything which would be suitable for publication in our newsletter—you can contact me via our Society email address

townshipsfhs@googlemail.co.uk Peter Crosbie—editor