



# St Helens Townships Family History Society

Founder And President-Richard Waring

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NEWSLETTER  
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**COMMITTEE** Chair:Margaret Crosbie, Vice Chair:Tom McKenna, Secretary:Pauline Hurst, Treasurer:Peter Harvey

**When** I sat down to write this latest newsletter, just after returning from holiday in warmer climes, I expected to report that Spring is on it's way. How wrong can one be , there is a fresh layer of snow on the ground, all very pretty, but when will it end.

In spite of this the members of our society have been busy with plenty of projects. More about this later

## Reports of Meetings

**Monday 14th December** Each year St Helens Central Library Archives department



provides society members with festive buffet, and each year our society presents the library with a donation in recognition of the support provided to our members throughout the year. In addition to our donation, we presented Ms Vivien Hainsworth

Senior Archivist, with a framed copy of the original 1842 architects plan

for the Prescott Union Workhouse

**Ivy & Les Swift** are pictured accepting a gift from our secretary Pauline as a thank you for many years active support for our society and it's predecessor. Ivy and Les have decided to retire as the journey from Westhoughton is just too far in the dark winter months. They will be greatly missed as our caterers at our town hall meetings.



**Help** we therefore urgently need one or two

volunteers to take over this important tea making task.

It's not too difficult folks and at most it is only required once a month

## Looking for Dead People By Our Treasurer Peter Harvey

**Peter** has written an absorbing account of his family history quest, the intention was to include it as an article for this edition of our newsletter. However to do it justice would mean four pages dedicated to Peters story, we have therefore decided to make it available as an email shot for those who have this facility. The article will also be available to download from the Society's website



## Prescot Union Workhouse

**Members** who attended our November Town Hall meeting will remember a talk by Dr David Meek on the above subject. To coincide with the talk we released our CD on the same subject, the content of the CD is the work of our secretary Pauline. We are pleased to report that Pauline has written and published, at her own expense a book on the subject. There has been considerable interest in the book, not least from Whiston Hospital Authorities.

Pauline tells me that she was invited to deposit a copy of the book at the Atheneum Club in Liverpool. Any book deposited at the Atheneum has to be proposed by a proprietor (a member). The author is then invited to deposit the book. Pauline is pictured meeting the librarian Mr Vin. Roper at the Liverpool Atheneum Institution to present the book. Mr Roper showed Pauline the vast array of books in the library many of them very rare and valuable. An example is an original signed copy of a book by Florence Nightingale on nursing teaching methods for hospitals, another is a Liverpool "Poll Book" and coloured map dated 1801 listing the full names and addresses of people who owned property in Liverpool. One day people will marvel at Pauline's Signed book. It looks as if the book is destined to become a "Best Seller".



## News Flash " The Oscars"

A SHORT LISTED NOMINEE for St Helens Cultural Community Heritage Award is

**St Helens Townships Family History Society**

**Result to be announced Saturday 27th February 2010**

A pearl of wisdom from Dave Risley "All records are subject to error. Let them without typo caste tea thirst scone"

### Historical Facts

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May. So in June they still smelled pretty good. However because they still smelled a little, brides would carry a bouquet of flowers to hide their body odour. This gave rise to the custom of brides carrying a bouquet at their wedding. Baths consisted of a tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of nice clean water, the boys of the household came next, followed by the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies, by then the water was so dirty that you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying don't throw the baby out with the bath water!!!!

### Forthcoming Town Hall Meetings

25th February North West Family Businesses by Dr Hannah Barber

25th March Rainhill Hospital - Real Lives by Karen Machin

22nd April Members visit to the Mormon Centre in Chorley

27th May Mysteries, Myths and Monologues by Brian Halliwell

The Programme for 2010 is complete see the website for further information