



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
Programme Secretary: Geoff Hall

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter,

I hope you are all enjoying the "lovely weather". This is the time for visiting long lost relatives and renewing friendships, and adding the missing twigs and branches on your family tree. Your Society has been having a busy time so read on for the details

THE BIG EVENT of our year is always

the St Helens Festival which this year was held on the 3rd and 4th of July. This year the attendance at our stall was in excess of 200 people. In the weeks following the number of people attending our Monday night "working evenings" at the Central Library has increased considerably. This has given rise to a further increase in membership. A big thank you goes out to all our hard working members who made this event such a success.



In support of our Secretary Pauline Hurst's book on the History of the Whiston Workhouse, we had a display which included a model of the now demolished Workhouse Chapel this was presented by Gerald Haliday who is trying to have a section of the chapel preserved

The picture shows our team in action, with the laptop connected to the internet and using a projector to display the computer images. Our visitors were surprised to see their family records from the census returns and church records which were available at the festival.

Spot the "deliberate" error on the above picture



Pictured left is our secretary Pauline Hurst with our President Richard Waring who with our webmaster David Risley is researching, for future publication in book form. The History of the 11th Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment (The St Helens Pals) If any of our readers have any stories, memorabilia or photographs of relatives who served in "The Pals". We would be pleased to hear from them.

Our Meeting on 22 April took the form of an outing to the Family History Research Centre at the Church of the Latter Day Saints at Chorley. The number of visitors was restricted to just our Society members due to the limited space at the centre. We were entertained by Kathryn who outlined the considerable facilities and records available, of which our members were soon making full use. Your editor managed to find a baptism record, which had eluded him for some years. He was presented with the unwelcome news that the name of his great great grandfather is still unknown.

Kathryn, Research assistant at the centre has agreed to give a talk to our group next year

Our Town Hall Meeting on 27th May

We were entertained by Mr Brian Halliwell on the subject of Mysteries, Myths and Monologues. One is always apprehensive when the speaker declines the opportunity to use our wireless microphone and loudspeaker system. On this occasion our fears were definitely unfounded as Mr Halliwell addressed us with a speaking voice which in stature matched his personality. The talk was very entertaining, informative and the speaker very knowledgeable.

Heritage & History Weekend 17th—19th June Our Society took part in this event at the Friends Meeting House, We had our display boards on show and attended for most of the three days of the event. The attendance however was a little disappointing but at least we showed our support.

Our Meeting at The Town Hall on 24th June

Mr David Griffiths gave a talk entitled "The Lancashire Watchmakers of Prescot" David showed pictures of early watch making in England. There was a tradition of watch making in Prescot but it was very much a cottage industry, the watches being taken from place to place as each craftsman added his own particular special piece. Census records identified the occupation of each craftsman by the individual part he made. The cottage of a watch maker could be identified by having an extra room with many small windows allowing in the light required for the craftsman to see the small parts he added to a watch. The Americans realised that by keeping all the specialists together, watches could be made more efficiently and cheaper. With the advent of Greenwich Mean Time, plus the advent of railways and their time tables, watches were in more demand. The first watch factory in Prescot opened in 1889, but American competition could not be matched and the factory, which floundered in 1910, moved to the Flat Iron Building and eventually closed. Both buildings still stand. The Lancashire Watch Company then passed into history.



Forthcoming Events

Thursday 22 July at the Town Hall Curtain up for a talk about St Helens Cinemas By Alan Roby

Thursday 26th August at the Town Hall Members Evening—Several short talks by our talented members

Weekend of 11th & 12th September at the Town Hall—**Heritage Weekend**

Our Society will be manning a stall in the Town Hall building

As part of this event one of our members—Ted Forsyth, in conjunction with cemetery staff will be conducting "Cemetery Strolls" - Short walks lasting about an hour describing the history of the cemetery and highlighting graves and memorials of the famous, the infamous, the comical and the tragic



We are always on the look out for interesting articles for this newsletter. If you think you can contribute, contact the editor Peter Crosbie either by email townshipsfhs@googlemail.com or telephone 0781 503 30785