



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

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NEWSLETTER

number2

Welcome to our second newsletter we hope you will find it interesting and we thank our contributors

Committee: -Chair- Margaret Crosbie: Vice Chair-Tom McKenna: Secretary- Pauline Hurst: Treasurer-Peter Harvey

Richard Waring

Founder and President

St Helens Townships Family History Society



Richard now a sprightly octogenarian having been born in January 1927, was christened Richard after his grandfather Richard Waring who was Mayor of St Helens in that year. He was educated at Allanson Street and Parr Central Schools leaving at the age of 14 to start work as an apprentice blacksmith.

He enlisted in the army in February 1944 and served until 1952, this experience fostered his interest in military history, a subject in which he has considerable knowledge, which has been of great benefit to our group

After leaving the Army, Richard worked as a blacksmith in BICC Prescott and Pilkington Glass Works, until retirement in 1985

Richard married Eileen in 1952 they have, one daughter Susan, two Granddaughters and three Great Grand children

Richard became interested in tracing his family tree in the mid 1950s, before the days of computers and the internet. At that time there was no family history library in St Helens. Most of the relevant records were kept at the Lancashire Records Office in Preston; this consisted of just 2 rooms in a building conveniently located close to Preston Station, Richard made many trips there. To search the census returns meant a trip to London in those days. Using these facilities Richard researched the families of six of his Great Grand Parents and has produced an extensive family tree.

After retirement Richard started helping people who live outside the Borough of St Helens to trace their family roots in this area. Richard is now deeply involved in transcribing local Church records.

With formation of the St Helens Townships Family History Society in April 2007 the membership could think of no better tribute to our father figure than to appoint him Founder and Life President.

We are receiving email messages from wellwishers the world over.

Here is one from an antipodean called OZ CHARLIE

hello, Its great to see your website keep up the great work you are doing. I have done a lot of research in my family tree of Turley and Dennett. The Turleys lived in Windle Street and Dennetts in Rigby Street. My great grandfather Alfred Turley, in the late 1800s owned Turley and Sons Furniture Shop.

My grandmother was Madame Annie Dennett a well known opera singer.

If there is anyone else doing research into either of these two families, I would be pleased to hear from them
Best regards, Charlie—Australia.

(email address available — peter ed.)



Funding Application – 2 successful grant awards

WHEN we became independent of the Liverpool & South West Lancs. Family History Society, we were given advice from the C.V.S to approach St Helens Council for help in setting up our "new group". Part of the St Helens Council Strategic Grants Programme is managed by the Community Empowerment Network. (C.E.N.).

AS our support for "Working Together for St Helens" we joined this organisation. Applications were made for two possible £500 grants. The CEN grants committee accepted our first application for support of the general activities we do for the benefit of the St Helens community, namely the workshops and meetings in the Library and the meetings at the Town Hall.

IN the second application to support these activities, another committee of the CEN accepted our need for a laptop and accessories for use with the public, in diverse venues, such as the library and other venues where we need to have access to the data bases which are so much part of our work.

IN return we are expected to be involved with the activities of the CEN and the Heritage Network. We are very happy to do this and meet those organisations which are involved in various aspects of St Helens based Local History. Our society will be part of an ongoing adult education programme.

We are indebted to our treasurer Peter Harvey for his strenuous efforts in securing this funding.

Web site

OUR web site continues to develop due to the skills of our member David Risley.

The members interests section continues to grow as we attract new recruits - **At** present the membership stands at 65 individuals. **We** are also revising the pictures of the churches shown on the website.

HOW can we improve the website ? Let us have your ideas

www.sthelenstownshipsfhs.org.uk

National BMD Index

THE Society's involvement in the National scheme to transcribe all local Births, Marriages and Deaths Indexes, is still ongoing.

THE transcription of the indexes for our local area has been progressing very well and to date 220,000 Birth Indexes, covering the years 1837 to 1935 for St Helens have been completed. Work is in progress on the years 1837 to 1969 for Rainford plus Newton le Willows 1837 to 1912 which also covers Haydock.

WE are indebted to our transcribers for their dedication.

THE result of this can now be searched at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

AS each section is completed, a disc containing the latest update is given to the St Helens Registrar

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TRANSCRIBERS we know it sounds complicated, but it really isn't. **ALL** you need is a computer and some spare time. **WE** will show you how.



This Article provided by one of our "Country Members" Ken Onion email address supplied = Peter ed.

Family History at The Open University

The OU is the university you attend in your spare bedroom and which doesn't require any entry qualifications other than keenness. Most people choose courses which eventually lead to a degree. But the OU also offers short courses which last just three months and can be taken as a 'one off'. One of them is 'Start Writing Family History'. I took it last year and it was great - a real eye opener and great fun.

It isn't about how to search for information but about how to interpret it when we've found it and how to write it up. There are five sections: first, the point of doing family history and the differences between family history and genealogy; next, censuses and registers: why, how and who created them, and how to use them to put our own information in context. The remaining sections cover diaries, other personal written information, family photographs and family stories. I enjoyed the photographs most because I learned about the strict conventions which different types of photographers including the ones on Blackpool prom, followed to create a particular impression and about why people had their photos taken.

The course is all on-line, (including sixty different sorts of photos), supplemented by an audio CD and case studies of real families. There are two assignments – the second a project of your own choosing. I was able to use my own FH information for it. You have a tutor at the end of the phone and email and an optional 'online conference' with other students. Cost was £145 - a combined XMAS and birthday present from my three children which lasted a bit longer than the single hour of last year's balloon flight. Here's the web link. It's worth a look.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/courses/bin/p12.dll?C01A173>

Lady Killers by Alan Hayhurst

Our August meeting was held at St Helens Town Hall on 23rd When were we addressed by author Alan Hayhurst with the macabre subject of murder and intrigue. Mr Hayhurst held the attention of the assembled 42 members and guests, with details of many local and nationally famous murder cases. Fortunately the meeting was held in August and none of us had to wend our way home in the dark looking anxiously over our shoulders and listening for a quickening footsteps behind us

For details of future meetings and events see our website.

Visit to the Lancashire Record Office

Our September meeting on the 13th consisted of a visit to the above offices. 16 members of our society were entertained by Archivist Mr Neil Sayer who by coincidence resides in St Helens.

We were informed of the huge wealth of archives and documents held and were shown how the information can be made available to members of the public

Further information can be accessed from

the website <http://www.archives.lancashire.gov.uk>

Email record.office@ed.lancscc.gov.uk

Open day at Sutton Oak Welsh Chapel

OUR Society attended the Chapel open day on 22nd September, to promote family history research. The Society presented the Chapel with two family trees compiled by our members, based on information taken from family bibles deposited at the Chapel.

THESE Family trees will go on permanent display at the Chapel.

WE thank the volunteers who helped with this event. WE also thank Paul Jones the Chapel curator for inviting us to take part in the event.

A Little Humour for Lexophiles (Lovers of Words)

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In a democracy, it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

We thank those who have contributed to the second issue of our newsletter and we welcome ideas and contributions for future issues

Editor Peter, email:- crosbie.peter@gmail.com