



Rainford Heritage News

Issue 13, April 2017

Dear Members

The Society has started 2017 at a fast pace; besides all the new fundraising ideas we have managed to do a superb Vintage Leisure Exhibition at the Heritage Centre and then a slightly reduced one which will be at Rainford Library until 21st April. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members and friends who very kindly donated and loaned so many great items.



Also special thanks to a keen supporter of the Society, actor and owner of Saddleworth Cheese Company, Sean Wilson. Sean has supported us for 3 years now and kindly helped to promote the exhibition by posing for a photo to go in the St Helens Star, which was taken by member Tony Hirons.

At this year's Rail Exhibition we supported the St Helens Transport Museum by having a stall in the Village Hall and by doing a commentary on Rainford's Heritage as the vintage bus toured the village (see full report on page 3).

Many thanks to Rainford businesses who have supported us this year, especially F.W.Marsh, Central Garage, Scissors Hair Dressing, Mitchell Industrial and Balmoral Veterinary Surgery who have joined for the first time. See back page for full list.

The Society really needs your help with fundraising events—if you cannot help or come to an event perhaps you would be kind enough to make a small donation or give a raffle prize. We would be grateful if you could let us have any raffle prizes early in order that we can have a balanced selection for each event. Also, if you would like to donate a prize for a specific event please let us know.

Prize suggestions for members and businesses – bottles of any type of spirits, bottles of wine or champagne, packs of beer, boxes of biscuits, sweets or chocolates, potted plants, basket of fruit, toiletries, voucher to spend at your business, lunch voucher toward cost of a meal for 2, food hamper etc.

Hope you can help—I really do value your support.

Ray Waring
Chairman

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Spring Fundraisers

St Georges Day Garden Party — Sunday 23rd April



This will be held in Barbara & Charlie Hurst's lovely garden at 11 Longwood Close from 11am to 4pm. Tickets are £3.50 inc light refreshments, available from Barbara on 07534 494490 or from Ray on 01744 885547. There will be a raffle and some small stalls and we are requesting donations of parcels for our £1 stall (please mark 'Man', 'Woman', 'Boy' or 'Girl') also tombola prizes. Barbara would also appreciate donations in advance of eggs, butter, flour etc for those baking cakes and scones.

Please park on St Helens Road as the Close is extremely narrow.

Rainford Band in Concert — Saturday 20th May

7.30pm for 8pm in the marquee at the Junction Pub. Tickets are £6 from Ray 885547, from Paul at Junction Pub 882868 or from David Grice 884633. If you require food the pub will be serving meals as usual but please get there early.



Spring Fayre — Sunday, 21st May



Special family day with market and bric-a-brac stalls at Rainford X Sports & Social Club, 11.00am to 4.00pm. If you know of anyone who might like a stall please let them know (stalls £10 for the day). There will be a bouncy castle, games and a metal detecting area. From late morning we will have a stall serving hot dogs!! The Club will of course be open for drinks, so have a pint and a hot dog while the family play!! If the weather is bad still come along as all the stalls will move indoors.



Keros Bottle



This small brown bottle was unearthed when digging the foundations of the new Boys Brigade hut (The Anchor) at the rear of the Rainford Parish Hall several years ago. At first glance it looked like a standard Bovril bottle from around 1900, but closer inspection revealed it to be a 2 oz Keros bottle. Having never heard of Keros I was intrigued to find out more about the history of this bottle.

The origin of this product is a company called Berk & Co who were agents for the sale of Liebig's meat extract. This company then acquired a mineral water company called Fleets. This amalgamated company introduced to the market a fluid-beef composition called 'Bouillon Fleet'.

At around the same time Bovril became very popular and Bouillon Fleet was struggling to maintain sales. In 1896 Fleets/Berks introduced 'Keros' to the market which they hoped would successfully compete against Bovril. The bottles used were very similar to Bovril's and was probably a ploy used by careless or dishonest traders to pass off Keros as Bovril. In fact, there were reports that they called it 'New Bovril' and charged 10 pence per bottle at the time when Bovril was being sold for 11 pence and 1 shilling.

Complaints reached Bovril from the Liverpool area regarding the sale of Keros, which resulted in Bovril (Limited) taking Bouillon Fleet (Limited) to court in June 1898. I have been informed that Bovril lost the court case, but history testifies that Bovril remained a major success whilst Keros disappeared from the market. The practises employed by Fleets continue today as supermarket own brand products often mimic the appearance of well-known brands. I am grateful to Ian Lancaster for keeping this bottle as I am sure nothing would be known of Keros if artefacts like these were not unearthed and retained for future reference and investigation.

David Pye

If anyone has any old bottles or knows where there are any old dumps to dig and explore within the Parish, please contact David - on 01695 722112 or 0777 3117567 (email david.pye@tiscali.co.uk).

Vintage Bus

I would firstly like to offer sincere apologies to anyone who had problems with the vintage bus on Saturday, 1st April. A clear set of agreements had been laid out by the Transport Museum as to where the bus would start, at what times it would run and that it would stop en route to pick up at any stop.

Phil Taylor and I waited patiently outside the Parish Hall in the pouring rain, all our equipment ready to rig out the bus for our tour presentation of Rainford's heritage, only to see him drive past and stop at the Village Hall!!

We rushed down the road and caught up with the bus to be told that no one had told him where to start and he felt he was best starting where he was, nor had anyone given him set times. Loading the bus, off we went. My first problem was that my notes did not now correspond to the new route, on top of which I then realised that I could not see where we were up to, as besides the very heavy rain all the windows were completely steamed up like a Swedish sauna! I was struggling but kept going; however, part way down Higher Lane and again in Old Lane I could hear a loud disturbance in the background; it was only when I got back and someone was having a row with the bus driver that I realised he had been going past people standing at the stops trying to flag him down. "Nobody told me I was supposed to pick up" he protested!



We agreed he would stop if requested and then did another 3 runs before lunch, all of which went well, especially as I had learned by this time to keep my breakfast down going over the bumps in Ormskirk Road.

In the afternoon session there were 4 more trips with the driver making up the times as he went along. The weather was great and the bus was getting more and more full with the last two trips being completely full up. People appreciated what we did, especially the visitors from various parts of St. Helens and they donated to our fund-raising bucket a total of £75 for which we were extremely grateful. What was especially nice was the warm round of applause given to Phil and I at the end and the comments of how they had learned so much about the village. It may never happen again so we were proud to be part of the occasion.

Once again apologies to those who missed out but please note that it was not the fault of the Heritage Society!

AGM at the Junction Pub—Monday 15th May 7.30

This will be a short meeting as we have tried having speakers but it made no difference to the poor attendances.

BUSINESS MEMBERS 2017

These are the local businesses who are supporting Rainford's heritage this year. Further details and photos are on the website. www.rainfordheritage.co.uk

BJC Photography	07534 494490
Bridge Farm Nurseries/Landscaping	07979 593536
Balmoral Veterinary Surgery	886284
Central Garage Car Sales	883454
Deli Cafe	884999
Draper Haulage	01695 722315
F W Marsh	882654
Hoyles Electronics Developments	886600
Junction Pub	882868
Kenneth MacRae Medical Centre	882606
Mitchell Industrial	886601
Mortgage Guarantee Ltd	886884
Post Office & General Store Rainford Junction	07795 470520
Phil Anders Joinery & Building	07903 714235
Rainford Solutions	889886
Rigby Finance	886077
Rainford Carpets	885030
Rainford Health Centre	882855
Satellite Finance Ltd	07891 917962
Scissors Ladies Hairdressers	883745
T Wilson & Sons	885114
Wendy's Flowers	885363

***Thanks to all Rainford businesses for promoting our mission statement
'Leaving something behind for future generations'***

Any other businesses wishing to join the Heritage Society
please contact Ray Waring—885547 or rayw91141@gmail.com