



Rainford Heritage

Issue 19, April 2019

News

Dear Members

Our winter holiday in Australia was fantastic, but everything has to come to an end and here we are back to reality and the cold of a Rainford Spring!

I have already contacted business members and members who have not renewed their membership while I was away. Many thanks to those who have continued to support us.

We have already held our first fundraiser of the year, the quiz raising £476. Many thanks to all who supported it.

While I was away I received an email containing the resignation of committee member Simon Critchley who felt he could not continue due to other matters. I thank him for his efforts and help.

On my arrival home I was particularly disappointed to receive the resignation of Jill Woods due to ill health. Jill has made a huge contribution to where the Society finds itself today. Jill was Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Minute Secretary for several years and we will miss her a great deal when she steps down at the AGM in May.

Gordon Taylor has kindly agreed to take over as Treasurer and Membership Secretary from that date. However, we are appealing for someone to volunteer to take the minutes at committee meetings (approximately 1 per month) so please give me a call or email if you are willing to help.

I would also like to take the opportunity to strengthen the committee as we move forward in trying to secure a grant to convert the barn at Bridge Farm into a major heritage centre for the whole of Merseyside to enjoy. If you feel you would like to join the committee please contact me and, if unsure, have a chat to see what it involves.

Ray Waring

Chairman 01744 885547 rayw91141@gmail.com



In this issue:

Chairman's Letter	1
Business News	2
University of the 3 Age (U3A)	3
News in Brief	4
Forthcoming Events	5
Updated Programme	6

Business News

Many thanks to Wendy Downey from **Wendy's Flowers** and Janette Cockayne, **Bridge Farm Nursery and Cafe** for their raffle donations at our Spring Quiz Evening.

It is disappointing that business member **A G Autobodies** will shortly be moving to Skelmersdale as the factory units on Lords Fold are being demolished to build houses. They really wanted to stay in Rainford where the business has blossomed, but unfortunately had no choice. This is an excellent car body repair company and I know several members have used them including myself. If you wish to continue using their services they are moving to Unit 2, Grimrod Place, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale.

I am reliably informed that **Mahood Marquees** will move to the rear of their present position so this outstanding company will still put the name of Rainford on the map.

Further down the road the group of factories at the end will remain — this is great news and means that **Rainford on Line Trading** run by local lads Chris and Adrian Houghton and their new business partner will continue expanding this successful business. I also know that Chris is expected to retire to the Lake District in the Autumn; I'm sure he must be at least 20 years younger than me!! Good luck Chris if you relocate and start a new life; you have a lot of friends in Rainford who will miss you. Make sure you get a large property so Rainfordians can come for a free holiday!!

Paul Bromilow at the **Junction Shop** is now making and selling garden furniture - why not call in?

The **Junction Pub** has moved the marquee to make a more direct access to the rear field.



Visit the Society's website at www.rainfordheritage.co.uk
and Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/rainfordheritage>

University of the 3 Age (U3A)

Why did I join?

I was asked why I joined the U3A, well when I retired I had some interests to keep me occupied, allotment, bee keeping, hen keeping but these were more about me keeping physically active. I knew I needed something to keep my mind active and so I joined my local U3A.

Joining St Helens University of the 3 Age (U3A) can be of benefit at any time of year but especially when the weather is bad and days are short, especially as our meetings all happen during the day, and mostly in the Town Centre. U3A fulfils all these and was the reason for me joining. We do not judge our groups by their size but, on a purely numerical basis, Tai Chi, Ukulele, Folk Song and Music



St Helens U3A Ukulele Group

and Poetry are among the largest. All groups are open to all our members, although one or two do have waiting lists where numbers exceed the capacity of the venue. Some groups are much smaller, but no less popular, in total we have over 50 groups.

The U3A is unique. It is only for people in the Third Age (retired or semi-retired) who have a desire to carry on learning. It has no teachers or tutors, it neither needs nor gives any qualifications. It is run by the members, for the members, through the formation of interest groups, and once someone becomes a member (for a modest annual fee of £15) all groups, social events and interest outings are open to them. It is easy to stay at home when conditions outside are cold and wet. We find that our members will brave the weather because they know that attending groups is worth the effort, especially meeting up with friends and being involved in activities and learning together. U3A's core aim is learning in later life, but a substantial side-benefit is that this happens in company with other people, who quickly become friends.

As a charity we are not able to financially support other charities, but we do have links with other agencies in the town. Each month at our monthly Drop-In we invite one organisation to have a table where they can tell our members about their services. These have included help with hearing and sight loss, as well as retirement-village living and a visit from Merseytravel. I could list so many favourite things about being a member of the U3A but I particularly like being involved in an organisation that stretches me mentally (photography) and physically (walking) while giving me an active social life. It is knowing that, for many members, it is a lifeline when circumstances change in later life and it helps combat loneliness and isolation.

Being involved in the U3A eventually led me to joining Rainford Heritage Society. I have always had an interest in history and this complemented the other interests that I have. But the biggest thing is that you need to have interest that mentally and, where possible, physically stretch you. Sitting watching daytime TV is not the way to go.



Gordon Taylor
Committee Member

News in Brief

We have once again been given permission by Lord Derby to detect on estate land and we thank his Lordship for his continued support.

We were devastated to learn of the sudden passing of Alan Birchall. He was a major asset when staffing Inglenook Heritage Centre with his own personal memories of Rainford to pass on to visitors and he also made several contributions to previous newsletters. Thanks for the memories Alan and for recording them for our Oral History Project; I will personally miss your warmth and humour.

I am working on a new book about Rainford which is expected to be out for Christmas. It is entitled 'True Stories and Memories of Rainford'. If you think you may have something to contribute please let me know.

We have been looking to sell our books on line to ex-Rainfordians— is this a job you could do for us?

My own book 'Step Back in Time' has sold over 2,000 copies and is in its 3rd reprint. It will be out again shortly.

In October we will be holding a mega display of 1,200 old Rainford photos in the Parish Hall ,also on display will be the model of the village in 1841 . The exhibition will be held October 4th 5th and 6th . The reason I am mentioning it so early is that we will need to staff it every day and would be grateful if you would indicate if you could give two hours on any of the days to help. It is likely that admission will be by a simple donation and all profits will go to the Heritage Society. We are grateful to Joan Dagnall and Alan Frodsham for coming up with this great idea in memory of the late Ron Dagnall who was a great loss to the Society.



The foot fall counter we installed at the heritage centre provided an accurate visitor count of almost 22,000 people during 2018. Large numbers were on market days and the largest was when we also did second-hand stalls. We have deducted numbers for miscellaneous people, ourselves and Inglenook staff going in and out. A record of weather and events that may help improve or detract from visitors was also kept.



Please note your original membership programme requires two alterations (please see final page of newsletter for updated programme). We were unable to have the photographic exhibition (see above) in June and the group for the Entertainment Evening double-booked, which is why it is now on Saturday, 4th May.

Forthcoming Events

Entertainment Evening

'A-Train Swing' with music, singing and dancing from the 20s to early 50s will perform for the fundraising evening. This will be at the Junction Pub on Saturday, 4th May at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 including a meal of sausage and chips. Please let me know if you are a vegetarian and we will make alternative arrangements.



There will be a raffle and interval game to raise extra cash. Tickets are limited for this event so please book early.

Barn Dance



This will be held in the Marquee at the rear of the Junction Pub on Saturday, 1st June at 7.30pm. We will be entertained by McCelt Cool who cover a wide range of music. They have two different callers which should make the evening more interesting. The food will be Chicken Goujons and French Fries and tickets are £12. There will be a raffle on entry.

**If you would like to book one or both events please contact me on
01744 885547, email rayw91141@gmail.com.**

Thanks to those who have asked about the films of Rainford in the 60s –yes, we are taking names and giving first priority to those who missed the other two. I also have a list of those who say they would like to see them the film again if there are tickets left over. It is on Saturday 30th November.

AGM

Don't forget if you wish to attend the AGM it is on Monday,
20th May 6.30 to 7.00pm at the Junction Pub.

Updated Programme 2019

**All Indoor Meetings are 7.30pm at Junction Pub
Inglenook Market Days — 2nd Sunday each month**

Saturday, 4th May	Entertainment Evening Junction Pub	F
Monday, 20th May	AGM Junction Pub	
Saturday, 1st June	Barn Dance, 7.30pm Junction Pub Marquee	F
Friday, 9th August	Summer Quiz X Sports & Social Club	F
Monday, 16th September	Indoor Meeting, Ken Pye 'Curious & Amazing Tales of Liverpool'	
4th/5th/6th October	Rainford Photo Display Village Hall	
Saturday, 12th October	Alcohol Evening: Special Beer/Gin/Wine Junction Pub	F
Monday, 21st October	Indoor Meeting, Dave Joy 'Liverpool Cowkeepers'	
Friday, 1st November	Lancashire Evening X Sports & Social Club	F
Monday, 18th November	Indoor Meeting, John Davies 'History of Hydes Brow Farm'	
Friday, 22nd November	Autumn Pub Quiz Junction Pub	F
Saturday, 30th November	Film Evening Rainford Parish Hall	F
Sunday, 16th December	Christmas Fayre Junction Pub Marquee	F

F — Fundraiser, please put date in your diary & offer help if possible