



Rainford Heritage News

Issue 17, August 2018

Dear Members

At the end of July it was a great privilege and honour to be invited, as Chairman of the Heritage Society, to open the new Bridge Farm Café. It has been a wonderful heritage project by John and Janette Cockayne to convert what was once an old piggery and wash house into a business venture of which the village can be proud.

The barn at Bridge Farm is clear at last and work is underway in digging inspection holes to assess the foundations for underpinning. The next step towards its development into a Heritage Centre is to undertake a full survey and arrange for drawings to be done. We can then obtain an approximate cost to put to Heritage Lottery Funding to request a supporting grant.



Photo: Peter Lewis

Inside this Issue:

Chairman's Letter	1
Business News	2
Business News in Brief	3
News in Brief	3
Bath Brick	4
Family Open Heritage Day	5
Flyer	6



Thanks to the support of local businesses, and members' fundraising, this year has once again been very successful and we have now accumulated enough funds to apply for a substantial grant.

**Ray Waring
Chairman**

Business News

Lords Fold Businesses

The Heritage Society has three businesses on Lords Fold Trading Estate that kindly support the Society.

Rainford On Line Trading

Half of the village remember Chris and Adrian Houghton running the Newsagents but did you know about their ever-expanding 'Rainford on Line Trading' business? It will be 6 years in January since Chris and Adrian took a few small steps forward selling confectionary and crisps. Now you can order almost anything you can imagine from sports gear to the famous Barton's Pickles - known to be eaten by Prince Charles!!

Dealing with the likes of the mighty Amazon company, local lads Chris and Adrian are sending produce all over the world and have a superb thriving local business running from their Lords Fold base. You can even order your goods and collect from them if you wish, so take a look at rainfordonline.com or for more info phone 01744 883388.

A G Autobody Repairs

Steve and Andy at AG Autobody Repairs have been known in Rainford for years as a brilliant body repair business and I along with other members can vouch for them. What I had not realised is that they also stock tyres and do tracking and wheel balancing. For some of this work they can thank St Helens Council who came up with a fantastic idea to boost local business - speed bumps and pot holes!! Let's hope they don't discover how to do sink holes!! However, Steve and Andy are the guys to pull you out. Give them a ring on 01744 889821 if you require any of the excellent services they provide.

Mahood Marquees

Mahood Marquees is a very large and outstanding company in their field and the Heritage Society is very proud to be associated with them. They have a huge and exciting range of top class marquees which are used at the biggest events in the country. Take a look at their website www.mahoodmarquees.com and you will appreciate what an outstanding business we have in Rainford.

Need a special wedding with a difference? Phone 01744 882079 and their warm friendly staff will be only too glad to help.

Business News in Brief

Rainford Deli has one of the Society's Wells books on display for customers to browse through; anyone requiring a book can place an order and we will supply. If you have not seen it why not pop in for breakfast or lunch to have a look. 01744 884999

Rainford Farm Shop is known for its veg, but they now have a fridge and can stock items such as cream to go with your strawberries, and cheese for your biscuits. They also stock preserves, condiments and many specialised items. Call in and see the difference they have made. Did you know they also have the cafe in Taylor Park? 01744 882801

Bridge Farm Cafe is open Tuesday to Sunday, 9am to 4pm, with breakfast served until 1pm. There are also light lunches and afternoon teas on offer. 01744 882079

TW Wilson & Sons do their veg & salad boxes fortnightly and will be taking Christmas orders at the village Christmas Fayre. 01744 885114

Wendy Downey and her staff at Wendy's Flowers are planning another Rainford Pink Week this October in aid of Breast Cancer. Watch for info in the village shortly. 01744 885363

Paul Draper at the Junction Pub has now added drapes inside the marquee - it looks great! If you wish to book the marquee for an event please phone Paul. 01744 882868

Many thanks to business members who support our appeal for raffle prizes. If you can help please let me know - we always require more!

All businesses please note that on Open Heritage Sunday we have a table to display your cards and flyers.



Meetings 2019

Speakers and dates for 2019 meetings have been arranged. Meetings will continue to be held on 3rd Monday of the month in the Junction Pub.

Fundraising

If anyone has any ideas for possible fundraising events in 2019 please let us know.

Inglenook Centre

The summer weather helped break all records at the Inglenook Centre, with over 3,000 visitors in June and 900 on the Market Day when we raised funds with a second-hand stall.

Autumn Quiz

We already have a number of bookings for the Autumn Pub Quiz at the Junction Pub on Friday, 9th November. We can only fit 60 into this venue. Watch out for emails and posters.

Metal Detecting

The Metal Detecting Team have started work as fields become available and we are again applying to Lord Derby for permission to work on estate land for another year.

Bath Brick

A recent addition to the Rainford heritage inventory is a Bath Brick – which is not from Bath and isn't a brick. So what was it and what was it used for?

The original Bath Brick (also known as Patent Scouring or Flanders bricks) was patented in Bridgwater in 1823 by William Champion and John Browne. It was a predecessor of the scouring pad used for cleaning and polishing metals. They were issued regularly to soldiers in the British army, and hence travelled all over the world.



It was discovered that, by using silt from the river bank, bricks could be made which when scraped would produce a gritty substance suitable for scouring metal.

The River Parrett in Bridgwater carries a great deal of silt which is deposited on each tide as a layer of yellow slime. The particle size of the grit, and the algae content, was perfect for making the Bath Bricks. Pens were arranged along the river banks to trap the silt, which would then be gathered, ground and shaped into bricks for kiln firing. After drying on boards for a few days, the bricks were fired at 5-600 Celsius for 4-6 days. This low temperature firing resulted in a softer colour, similar to Bath Stone.

Bath Bricks were advertised as "the most effective and economical polishing material. It is superior to metal polish and does not contain acid or alcohol injurious to metals." Sadly, after 1918, alternative cleaning materials that were cheaper (Vim and Ajax) led to the demise of the manufacture of Bath Bricks.



This particular Bath Brick was actually made in Walkeringham, Nottinghamshire. A 1900 map shows the location and layout of the Walkeringham brickworks.

David Pye

Family Open Heritage Day

Rainford Village Hall
Sunday 9th September, 11am to 4pm

This year's theme for Open Heritage Day is 'Rainford Through the Ages'. The Society is making a big effort to change things from our usual set-up and to do something a bit different.

In the entrance hall will be the Raffle, Promotions Table, Book Stall, Business Members' Table and All Saints Church Heritage Day Promotions Table.

The Main Hall will have a Time Line running around the room depicting Rainford throughout the different ages right up to modern times, starting with the Ice Age. It continues with a model of Kings Moss as it might have been in Prehistoric times showing how the first humans lived and is followed by a model showing Rainford Cruck Beam Farm Houses from the middle ages.

We are exhibiting fossils, bog oak, Ice Age tools and a bronze axe head together with donated items from 1600s right through to the 1900s.

Old photos taken from glass plates will be on show and there will be a Heritage Reading Table. The large Model of Rainford in the 1800s will be in the Reception Room and the Council Chamber will have its own display and will be open to visitors.

There will also be a Family Corner where children can draw and colour dinosaurs and other interesting things from the period.

Reds Café will be open from the kitchen serving beverages, snacks and lunches.

Special guests include the Mayor and Mayoress of St Helens who will arrive at 11.30am and stay until 12.30pm, MP Conor McGinn and his family and Rob Reynolds, Parish Chairman.

We hope it will be a great family and friends day so please use the info on the back page to give to families and friends.



The recent quiz evening at Rainford X Sports & Social Club realised a total of

£508.96

for Heritage Society funds.

Thanks to businesses and members for their continuing support.



Rainford Heritage Society

Family Open Heritage Day

Sunday, 9th September

11am — 4pm

Rainford Village Hall



Timeline: Rainford Through the Ages

- **Ice Age** - Model of Kings Moss first humans
Fossils
- **Stone Age Tools**
- **Bronze Age Axe**
- **Middle Ages**
- **Victorian Model** - Rainford
- **Models**

Parents' & Children's Corner
Red's Cafe
Rainford Ladies Choir at 3.15pm