



Rainford Heritage News

Issue 9, December 2015



Dear Members

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Although we only produce three newsletters per year the time in between seems to fly, so here we are already with our Christmas edition.

Our Autumn/ Winter indoor meetings have started off very successfully and both of the ones held so far have been cost-effective. In the past we have always lost money on indoor meetings, so thanks for your support. If you have not attended one please come along - it is a very relaxed evening in the Function Rom at the Junction Pub.

At 10am on Saturday, 9th January we are very pleased to welcome to the Heritage Centre the Member of Parliament for St Helens North, Conor McGinn who has shown an interest in our work and has said he will be delighted to pay an official visit to support Rainford's Heritage. This is a chance to showcase the Society's work and we would like as many members as possible to come along and show their support.

We always require members to staff our events so please contact me if you would like to help and I will explain exactly what is involved.

Unfortunately Phil Taylor has had to step down from the committee due to ill health; we all hope he will be fit to rejoin us in the Spring.

David Pye has joined the committee and will help with Displays/Events and Research. David has been helping me in the background for some time now and I greatly value his support.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the committee, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Ray Waring
Chairman

Old Rainford

Do you have any photos of old Rainford you would be willing to donate or loan to the Heritage Society for copying?



News in Brief

Ray is thinking of forming a research team to look into every aspect of Rainford heritage, from items brought in to the centre to those found on fields and detecting. You don't need to be on the committee, just love doing something different on your computer. If you want something to do in the long Winter nights, give him a ring or email!

The 50s/60s evening raised over £500. If you missed it everyone thought it was our most successful social evening so far.

The Quiz Night at the new Rainford X Sports and Social Club raised over £400. What a great night and another sell-out!!

The committee wishes to thank those who donated raffle prizes to both of these evenings; we do appreciate your help and support. A very special thank you to Sue Lewis for the hard work she put in for both events.

David Pye has a keen interest in old bottles so if you have, or know of, any old Rainford bottle dumps he would love to hear from you. Tel 01695 722112 or email david.pye@

Can you Help?

We are once again appealing for someone to help keep the Heritage Centre clean and tidy. It will only take about 1½ hours of your time once a month. If we could get maybe 6 people or couples to volunteer, maybe we could set up a rota. Sue and Peter Lewis have agreed to start off by doing their stint in January and Ray and Norma will fill in where necessary. Please let Ray know if you can help - 01744 885547 or rayw91141@gmail.com.



Metal Detecting News

We are grateful to Lord Derby for his help and support in allowing us to work on his tenants' land. We have already received tremendous support from Richard Webster at Red Delph Farm and Ian Birchall, Barrows Farm.

There have been some great finds which will be on display at the Derby Exhibition at the Inglenook Centre (see Page 2). Unfortunately the weather has been really bad, at times limiting us to getting out anytime we could get more than two people together. However, many items from the Victorian era have surfaced including the usual copper and silver coins, some very nice livery buttons and some mementoes of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Several items of jewellery have been found, the best being a silver brooch inlaid with gold and rose gold and hallmarked Birmingham 1888.

Several lead tokens have appeared, mainly of medieval origin, the star of these artefacts being a long cross lead token which at some time in its history has been converted into a pendant. This can be dated at 1200 to 1500 AD, but most probably between 1247 and 1279.

Lead is an exciting find to the detectorist and among the small items found are musket balls, martini bullets, bag and cloth seals, games counters and lead weights, some of them from the Roman or Medieval period.

We have also found belt buckles, ornate clog fasteners and lots of other items. They will all be on display at Inglenook so please come along and see them.

Detecting Team



*Barry Walker assisted by granddaughter
Jessica Stevens*

Derby Detecting Exhibition



Cllr Rob Reynolds at the opening of the exhibition with Society Chairman, Ray Waring, and Committee Members Peter Lewis & David Pye

The Society's 'Derby Detecting Exhibition' opened on Saturday, 12th December to coincide with the first day of Inglenook Christmas Market. The Parish Chairman, Cllr Rob Reynolds, very kindly came along to open the exhibition and to give his support. The display is on show daily 10am to 4pm until 10th January. It will then be transferred to Rainford Library where it will be open normal library hours from 11th January to 13th February 2016.

Forthcoming Events

Derby Detecting Exhibition

12th December - 10th January 2016

Heritage Centre, Inglenook Farm

Derby Detecting Exhibition

11th January - 13th February 2016

Rainford Library, Church Road

The Huxley Hoard (Dr Rob Philpott)

11th January @ 7.30 pm

Function Room, Junction Pub

Carr Mill Dam (Dr Tom Preston)

8th February @ 7.30 pm

Function Room, Junction Pub

History of St Helens Hospital (Pauline Hurst)

14th March @ 7.30 pm

Function Room, Junction Pub

Next Indoor Meeting

Our next indoor meeting in the Function Room at the Junction Pub will be an illustrated talk by Rob Philpott entitled 'The Huxley Hoard'.

This will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 11th January. The usual £2 entrance fee applies - why not bring a friend?

