



# Rainford Heritage

## News

Issue 12, December 2016

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Dear Members

What a successful 2016 the Society has had! There have been some great promotions including metal detecting exhibitions and the excellent WW2 display at Inglenook which then moved to Rainford Library and was visited by groups from Brook Lodge School. Open Heritage Day was possibly the best ever; the promotions at St Helens Antique Fair and the two local Christmas Fayres have spread the word in the community about our work. Indoor meetings have, in general, been well attended and almost everything has paid its way with entrance fees, raffles and donations. However, we do not currently cover the costs of the detecting team administration but the committee has decided to live with this at the moment.

By far the outstanding success this year has been the production of the Wells Book which sold out at the Village Christmas Fayre, enabling us to request an immediate reprint. It is the first book written anywhere about the history of wells and for a village Heritage Society to produce a world first is quite amazing. We have boosted our funds in a very positive way.

I value your continued support.  
Have a great Christmas!

**Ray Waring**  
Chairman



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**A very merry Christmas  
and a happy and prosperous 2017  
to all our members and supporters**

## **Important Notice—Renewal of Subscriptions**

In order to help with admin the Committee has decided to change the date for renewal of annual subscriptions to 1st January, commencing this coming year, 2017.

Please send your subscription to Ray or to the Treasurer, Jill Woods, or we would be delighted to see you at the next indoor meeting which will now be our new joining night. This year it will be on Monday, 16th January.

Members will be given until March to rejoin after which we will assume you are no longer interested.

We do need everyone on board this year as we need to raise a considerable amount of money for a special project in 12 months' time.

The fees have not changed and are as follows:

Individual £10

Family £15

Business £20

## **All Tomorrows Become Yesterdays**

So goes the line from a song and how very true as today was once someone's tomorrow and yesterday ..... which lies at the very heart of 'heritage' as we commonly understand it. In previous times our heritage would be handed down through generations by way of illustrations (cave art), by word of mouth ... oral history, and then later through various forms of the written word, advanced illustration and art and on to various forms of media as we understand it nowadays. One of the most powerful forms of story-telling has been through photography, be it stills or movie photography .... which brings me to the point of this piece.

The Rainford Heritage Society has a variety of artefacts of local origin or connection which have either been kindly loaned or donated for the communal good. What we have very few of, though, are photographs of a local connection depicting Rainford in past years.

We would like to build up a collection of images showing all areas of local life over past years, be they photos of walking days, life on the farms, in factories or workshops, social gatherings .... anything at all! If you have any such old photos or, even better, negatives (film or glass) or slides/transparencies which you feel able to donate or loan for copying please do get in touch.

Any support in this collection will be most greatly appreciated.

**Vince Ellis**  
**Heritage Society Photographer**



# Metal Detecting Notes

Good news first of all is that the Society has been given permission for a further 12 months from Lord Derby's estate to continue with our metal detecting project on his lands with the cooperative agreements of the tenant farmers. And of course we are extremely grateful for the cooperation of all the landowners who allow us to search the soil and dig on their land.

There has been a couple of interesting finds this year which has brightened the dark and wet detecting days; one gold Victorian Half Sovereign was rescued from the ground, and an Edward 1 long cross silver penny which was particularly nice and interesting. Coinage from Edward 1 dates from 1272 to 1307, indeed a long time to be sitting quietly beneath the soil in Rainford, however, this coin was from the London Mint which was a much improved style of 'Long Cross' coinage than the earlier group of L.C. coinage which was a very crude style of Durham and Bury St Edmund's Mint. 1279 saw the long cross coinage abandoned and a completely new coinage substituted.

Still, a lot of money to lose .....no pockets in medieval tights then?



We have welcomed some new members to the metal detecting team and hope they get as much enjoyment out of the digging ....along with aching backs cold feet and occasionally being drenched which is of course all part of the 'fun'!

We are at the time of year when there are still some fields available to search but the weather at the moment has not been very forgiving. If it freezes the ground is too hard to sink a spade, if it's too wet your wellies stick in the mud even if you carry on walking.

However, the land never ceases to produce little surprises, lost pennies, lost buttons, door handles, bits of plough, pins and badges, as I have said before ..... Rainfords treasures!

**Phil Taylor**  
**Metal Detecting Lead**

## Village War Memorial



This year's Chairman of Rainford Parish Council, Councillor Diane Nichols, has chosen to fundraise to build a permanent War Memorial for the Village. This has now been built on the land to the front of the Village Hall.

The service of dedication and unveiling was held on Sunday 6 November with a number of current and ex-servicemen in attendance.

The Parade Marshal was Lawrence Power RBL (Ex 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Border Regiment) who was born in Rainford and was involved in the building of the old ex-servicemen's club on Cross Pit Lane.

The memorial, a simple obelisk of Indian stone, is dedicated to all who lost their lives in the service of their country 1914 to the present. It has been very well received by Rainford residents.

An interest free loan was secured to ensure the memorial was in place for Remembrance Sunday 2016 and that loan is being repaid from fundraising up to May 2017.

So far, events have included an afternoon tea, a comedy evening, a Lancashire Night and a prize draw. In 2017 there will be another afternoon tea, a fashion show, a quiz night, a lunch and gin tasting at the Rainford Beer Festival.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund or support up-coming events please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council at the Village Hall on 884709 or Diane Nichols 07545 788144

## Fundraising 2017

The Committee would really like to impress upon everyone the importance of raising funds this coming year. Our Quiz Nights and social evenings are very good and we hope you will support the next quiz on Friday, 20th January.



We are always looking for new ideas to raise money so maybe you can help us out? A couple of suggestions we are looking at are a pictorial book on Rainford, and possibly a Spring Fayre.

Please contact Peter Lewis, Norma or Ray if you have any suggestions; we really would welcome your input.

## Next Indoor Meeting

Our next meeting at the Junction Pub is on Monday, 16th January at 7.30pm when Dr Tom Preston will give an illustrated talk on 'The Deeming Murders'. This is a fascinating Victorian story starting in Rainhill and ending in Melbourne, Australia.

Admission throughout 2017 will be £2.

Don't forget all meetings are now held on the 3rd Monday of the month.

## WW2 Exhibition

The exhibition opened at Inglenook on Remembrance Sunday, having been planned and set out by Ray Waring and David Pye. Added atmosphere was achieved by various groups dressing in period clothing.

The exhibition was extremely well attended and the Parish Chair, Cllr Diane Nichols along with MP for St Helens North, Conor McGinn added their enthusiastic support. The opportunity was also taken to present Conor McGinn with a copy of the very successful wells book.



After 2 weeks the exhibition was transferred to Rainford Library and the library reported an increase in visitors during this period. Children from Years 5 & 6 of Brook Lodge School came along to listen to a talk on heritage, to view the exhibits and to learn more about WW2.

The library was surprised by members of the public asking for paper to make comments and we thought we should share them with you because we feel this makes our work worthwhile.

- The map with pins + facts was superb!
- A great display.
- A fabulous display of articles, well done!
- Superb show – well done
- Fantastic display!
- A wonderful exhibition that highlights some of the village story during the war and the amazing story of Eric Mc Donald, a fine tribute to those brave individuals.
- Brilliant exhibition – children from yr 5 Brook Lodge were very interested in all of the artefacts. Many Thanks.
- A fantastic exhibition. Lots of interesting information and artefacts to further children's knowledge and understanding. Thank you – yr6 children of Brook Lodge.

Many thanks to everyone who loaned items to the Society and thanks to those members who helped to make this exhibition such a great success.

# Committee Members

Chairman	Ray Waring	01744 885547
Treasurer	Jill Woods	01744 635508
Fundraising	Peter Lewis	01744 885869
Facebook/ Photographer	Vince Ellis	01695 721274
Displays Organiser	David Pye	01695 722112
Newsletter	Norma Waring	01744 885547
Member	Martin Rigby	01744 884153

## Committee Appointments:

Adviser on Rainford History	Ron Dagnall
Oral History	Tony Foster
Metal Detecting Lead	Phil Taylor



## Rainford Heritage Society

### Joining Form 2017

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Post Code: ..... Tel No. ....

E-mail: .....

Membership Group (please tick)

- ◆ £10 Individual
- ◆ £15 Family
- ◆ £20 Business

Please send to: Ray Waring, 4 Reeds Brow, Rainford WA11 8PN  
or Jill Woods, 154 Church Road, Rainford WA11 8PX

