

As we draw close to the end of another year's activities I feel that by looking back we are able to see how far we have progressed over the last twelve months. We have seen a pleasing increase in membership, and an increase in visitor numbers on our meeting nights, with 70 people attending both the February and March meetings. I am led to believe that other local history societies within the borough don't get these numbers, so it says a lot for our hard working committee who have booked such quality speakers for our entertainment.

During the year the society joined 'FORL' and we are looking forward to enjoying our membership of the 'Friends of Real Lancashire'. 'LANCASHIRE DAY' is celebrated on November 27th each year because it was on this day in 1295, Lancashire's first two representatives were summoned to the Parliament at Westminster, by King Edward I. That Parliament - the Model Parliament - established the beginnings of democracy in England, a fitting Lancashire Day! Your committee are planning to hold 'Lancashire Day' celebrations in Royton this year - we hope to have a Town Crier read the 'Proclamation to the Queen' (as you know she is the Duke of Lancaster) at the Town Hall/Library during the day, and perhaps have an evening "do" as well Watch this space!

Royton Library are appealing for any artefacts, connected with Royton, to exhibit in the library. All items will be safely locked in their display cases and returned to you after a period of time when the display changes (unless you wish to donate them to the library permanently). If you have anything of interest which you want to share with the people of Royton, please take it along to the library.

One of our members, Phil Ellis gave a talk on genealogy to the society on the 16th April 2007. His talk was both interesting and informative and 17 people signed up to say they would like to progress further by joining his genealogy group. Phil has lots of experience in this field and has made enquiries at Royton Library who are happy to make available their I.T. facilities when required. He has also contacted Roger Ivens at Oldham Local Interest Centre with a view to the group visiting the centre to see the records held there.

All this talk about genealogy brings me very nicely to the trip to Derbyshire that Marge and I made in March. We are tracing my maternal father's line in small villages like Kirk Ireton and Kniveton in some of the most beautiful parts of Derbyshire, off the beaten track and where time seems to have stood still for centuries. One such place is Tissington where the Hall belonging to the Fitzherberts stands and the family still reside there. There are 6 wells in the village and they start off the season of Well Dressing that Derbyshire is famous for. This is a beautiful village and a must for anyone who hasn't visited there before.

So whether you visit Tissington or Tenerife, Morecambe or Majorca, or just stay at home enjoying sunny Royton, have a good summer break and I hope to see you all again at our next meeting on September 10th.

Doug Ashmore, Chairman



Royton Lives Through the Ages - Project 2

This is just to keep everyone updated on what is happening with the next Royton Hall 'dig'. It will definitely NOT be taking place in June/July. We have provisionally 'pencilled in' a starting date of 10th September 2007 but this will depend on whether we have the funds in place by then.

Each Tuesday evening 'The Greyhound' pub hold a fun quiz night and they are donating all the profits from each quiz held between 24th April and 26th June inclusive, to R.L.T.A. Project 2. I would like to thank them for this very kind gesture and urge any of you who can attend on these nights to do so, as I'm sure you will enjoy the evening.

Being eternal optimists we are currently compiling a list of volunteers for the 'dig' so if you would like to take part as a 'digger' or 'non-digger', please add your name to the list via our secretary, Jess Wild. Once again this committee would like to thank all the members of Royton Local History Society for their continuing support.

Michael Higgins, Chairman R.L.T.A. Project 2



Memories

Whilst Jack and I were in the loft we came across an old shoebox which had once belonged to Jack's mother. Immediately our searching came to a halt as we became engrossed with the contents of the box. In it were many personal items she had kept to remind her of events which had happened throughout her life letters, cards, postcards, birth/death/marriage certificates, newspaper cuttings etc. I'm sure we all have things like these which bring back many memories both happy and sad. However, there were also other, less personal items which she had kept and which I thought might interest you. One such item was a small blue booklet issued by the County Borough of Oldham in 1942 entitled:

WAR EMERGENCY - WHAT TO DO.

Things YOU should know.

(second edition)

Printed below is just some of the advice it contains:

ACCOMMODATION - REGISTER OF. If you have a spare room at your home and you feel you would like to give shelter to some homeless person kindly communicate with the Air Raid Welfare Officer.

BLACKOUT. Have you tested your blackout recently? Look at it from the other side of the road and get a member of the family to switch the light off and on. If you can tell when this happens, your blackout is not 100 per cent effective.

CASUALTIES. All serious casualties will be dealt with at one of the hospitals in the County Borough. If a person consults a private doctor, any expenses incurred will have to be borne by that person.

CHARGES - GAS and ELECTRICITY. If your windows are damaged and in order to make the house wind and weather proof, it is necessary to cover with felting or other material, appropriate allowance will be made in the cost of increased consumption of gas and electricity.

CLOTHING COUPONS. If you have lost your Clothing Coupons you should apply at any Post Office for a declaration form. If you have lost clothing by enemy action and desire to obtain coupons you should apply to the Local Information Centre, Town Hall.

FIRE PREVENTION AT HOME. Nearly all fires start in the upper stories of buildings, so make sure that your attic or loft is free of all material if possible store fire fighting equipment there - sand, a bucket of water and three or four half-filled sandbags. The stirrup pump is an important part of your equipment. Keep it handy and in good order. Test it once a fortnight.

GAS MASKS (CARE OF). You should look upon your gas mask as your best friend, but owing to the acute shortage of rubber and in accordance with the Government's advice, do not carry it for short journeys, but take it with you if you are sleeping away from home.

POOR MAN'S LAWYER. If you are in need of legal advice on War Damage or any other matter, and cannot afford the aid of a solicitor, assistance can be obtained from the Poor Man's Lawyer.

SHELTERS, AIR RAID - PUBLIC. These are intended for persons caught out in the streets away from their homes. **They are for you** - see that they are used correctly and not damaged by juveniles. *(nothing has changed then in 65 years!)*

CIVILIAN ACTION IN INVASION. It is important that you should be fully prepared and should know what to do when, if ever, invasion comes. You will be expected to stand firm and if in the Home Guard, you will be expected to carry out your duties with energy and resolution.

DON'T BELIEVE RUMOURS.

BOIL ALL MILK AND WATER AFTER A RAID.

BE PREPARED.

Please keep this booklet readily available and study its contents.

Does anyone remember this booklet or still have their copy?

Do you have anything in your 'shoebox' worth sharing with us?

Jess Wild, Secretary