



Chorley & Leyland News

Society Web Site www.lfhhs.org
President Steve Williams
Editor Jenny Cree jennycree@hotmail.com

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Family History for All Project Launch

On Saturday 6th January, the LFHHS Chorley Family History Research Centre held a launch to introduce its new resources. These will assist Centre users with visual and physical impairment. The launch was held in the lower gallery of Astley Hall Farmhouse, and in the LFHHS Family History Research Centre itself.



Present were the Mayor of Chorley, Mark Perks, guests from the borough, from the local community, from other historical organisations, from the Society, and from the West Lancashire Free Masons' Charity.



A generous contribution from the West Lancashire Free Masons' Charity made the purchase of the new resources possible.



(Above) Some of those present.

(Below) Melanie shows visitors how the visually impaired computer features can be used.



After much initial preparation, particularly by Sheila, Steve and Ron, Centre volunteers were on hand to help with demonstrating the new equipment, and to provide refreshments.

If you know of anyone who is interested in using the Centre's facilities and would benefit from these new special resources, please encourage them to make an appointment.

In fact, if you haven't visited the Centre recently, why not make an appointment for yourself, and see what's available.

Branch Chairman:
Pauline Chapman
Branch Secretary:
Steve Williams
chorleysecretary@aol.com
Tel: 01257 262028
Branch Website:
www.lfhhschorleybranch.com
Webmaster:
Steve Williams
General enquiries
chorleyinfo@lfhhs.org.uk

LFHHS Chorley Family History Research Centre,
Astley Hall Farmhouse Centre Website
www.cfhrc.com

Appointments
If open 01257 231600
If closed 01257 262028
Centre Manager
Sheila Gibbons
01257 262028

Email:
chorleyresearch@aol.co.uk

Email for business regarding the Centre:
sheilaresearchcentre@aol.co.uk

Opening Times:
Mon, Wed and Fri
10.00 a.m.
2nd and 3rd Saturday
12 noon
Closed at 4.00 p.m. on all above days.
Last appointment
3.00 p.m.
Booking is advisable on all days.

LFHHS Members Only Computer Club
3rd Monday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

LFHHS Resource & Research Centre,
2 Straits,
Oswaldtwistle
BB5 3LU
01254 239919
Open every Thurs and 1st Sat in each month,
1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Do you share descent with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle??

Whether you are interested in the forthcoming royal wedding or not, the family history research linking Prince Harry and Meghan Markle perhaps aroused a spark of interest. As well as sharing descent with a variety of American notables including past presidents, Miss Markle is said to have the following shared ancestry with Prince Harry. (Information from the BBC website)

The Revd William Skipper, who immigrated to Boston in 1639, appears to have been a descendant of King Edward III. Skipper was also a 1st cousin several times removed of Margaret Kerdeston who was the wife of a French nobleman, grandmother of a queen of Bohemia and Hungary, and an ancestor of later European kings.

The research claims that Skipper ancestors Sir Philip Wentworth (died 1464) and Mary Clifford are ancestors also, in various lines, of both H.M. the late Queen Mother (and thus H.M. the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Harry) and of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Because of royal intermarriage, it has been estimated that Prince Harry is descended from Margaret Kerdeston in more than 240 lines, including at least four through King George III and four through Princess Diana. Thus, if correct, Margaret's grandparents, Michael de Pole, 2nd Earl of Suffolk, who died in 1415, and his wife, Katharine Stafford, (died 1419), ancestors also of Revd Skipper and Miss Markle, would make Prince Harry and his bride-to-be distant cousins in more than 200 ways.

Perhaps, if we'd like to claim aristocratic ancestry, there's some hope for all of us!

LFHHS Subscriptions

Hopefully, amid the Christmas rush everyone will have remembered to pay their Society subscriptions. If not, please renew your membership as soon as possible. A form and details are to be found in the last Journal, or on the Society website www.lfhhs.org.

New members are welcome. Please ask for information this evening, or take away a form. If you have enjoyed attending the branch meetings but are not already a member, the Society requires its branches to ask such visitors to join. Now is the best time to become a member.

What's On

Friday 26th January is the 1st session of the branch's 10 evening Further Steps course. If you are interested, but haven't booked a place, please contact Ron on 07730793990, or talk to Pauline or Ron this evening. A snip at £40, and well worth attending!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon – 3.30 p.m. until the end of February - Chorley Heritage Centre's "Chorley's Past Coal Mining Industry" exhibition in the lower gallery of Astley Hall Farmhouse. The exhibition includes Andrew Alston's digitalisation of David Owen's Coal Mining Archive, and several volumes of it that are pertinent to Chorley. If your ancestors worked in local pits, this is an exhibition that shouldn't be missed.

Branch Meetings

Happy New Year and welcome to our new 3rd Thursday of the month meeting and our new venue. This evening, Fiona Smithson will give us an opportunity to handle strange objects, to decide what they are and how they are used.

On February 15th (remember the change of evening and change of date), Ian Bagshaw from Chorley Heritage Group will be with us. His talk is entitled "Celebrations in Chorley".

We need a new Chorley branch newsletter editor, please. The February newsletter will be my last.