



### **Description of the Coat of Arms**

Following local government reorganisation in 1974 it was found desirable to apply to the College of Heralds for a new Coat of Arms to incorporate the arms of those areas joining together to form the new Borough of St.Helens.

A design brief was prepared by Councillor G R Parr, a Councillor for East Sutton who had training in Graphic Design and this was readily accepted and highly commended by the College of Heralds with little alteration.

The silver shield contains

- the black cross of Haydock and Eccleston and the two blue bars of Parr.
- In the top left hand corner is the red diagonal cross of the Gerards representing Ashton and Seneley Green.
- In the top right hand corner is the black griffin of Bold representing Rainhill, Bold and also Whiston R.D.C. These devices were displayed on the previous County Borough of St.Helens Coat of Arms issued in 1876.
- In the bottom left hand corner is the red cross of Pilkingtons representing Windle.
- In the bottom right hand corner is the red cross crosslet of Billinge.
- The crest above the helmet is that of Lord Newton representing Newton U.D.C. and Haydock U.D.C.
- The crest is suitably differenced by the inclusion of two red fleur de lys on the body of the Ram which is issuant out of a ducal crown of gold.
- The supporters, a golden lion and a black griffin are differenced by 7 red fleur de lys on the lion and 7 gold and black bars on the wing of the

griffin to denote the 7 constituent authorities which make up the Borough.

- The motto in 1974 was "PROSPERITAS IN EXCELSIS" and taken from the Rainford Council badge of office and means "Flourishing Well".

### **New Motto Requested**

In recent times, and particularly since the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics, some local people had advocated that the motto on the St Helens Coat of Arms be changed from "Prosperitas in Excelsis" (Flourishing Well) to "Ex Terra Lucem" (Out of the Earth - Light). Ex Terra Lucem was the original county borough motto prior to 1974.

The Ex Terra Lucem motto had been particularly prominent in 2012 due to the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics. The writer of the Opening Ceremony was Frank Cottrell Boyce, born locally in Rainhill who attended local schools. Frank Cottrell Boyce had made it clear that Ex Terra Lucem was a significant influence on the development of the Opening Ceremony. It appeared to be particularly relevant to the development of the cauldron idea from which the Olympic Flame was lit.

The Opening Ceremony captured the imagination of people worldwide, but had also led many people locally to question whether we should adopt Ex Terra Lucem as the motto on our Coat of Arms in place of Prosperitas in Excelsis. It was felt that it was more appropriate to the town's history and had more meaning for local people, representing hope for the future. A number of people had raised this and requested that the Council consider replacing the motto.

A public consultation commenced on 17 January 2013 and at its meeting held on 17 April 2013 Council resolved to revert back to the original Motto of 'Ex Terra Lucem'

The Coat of Arms remained the same.