

# LIVERPOOL

NEWSLETTER No 10

SUMMER 2004



Reg Charity

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## HISTORY SOCIETY

### MINUTES OF 3rd A.G.M. HELD SUNDAY, 16th MAY 2004 AT HOPE AT EVERTON, LHUC

**PRESENT:** John Tiernan, Chairman, and about forty members of the Society

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Opening the proceedings John welcomed members to his first AGM since taking over from Frank Boyce. He thanked the Committee for a successful 2003/4 season saying that generally it had been a good year for the Society. However, membership had remained static and, in addition to our attractive new Web-site, designed and run by Kirt Barooah, we needed to do more to publicise ourselves. Problems with the meeting venue remained unresolved, but meanwhile, the Society was grateful to Brother Ken Vance, SJ, for permitting the use of the Shaw Room of SFX Church as a venue for committee meetings.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Treasurer, Neville King, the Society had been awarded a grant from the Lottery "Awards for All" Fund, and some items of equipment had already been purchased.

The Journal 2004 was ready for distribution at the meeting and the Chairman thanked the contributors, the editor, Fred Forrest and the Publications Committee for their combined efforts in making it available.

The Library had received a steady flow of donated items and continued to grow in size. On behalf of the Society, John thanked Cynthia Stonall for taking overall responsibility.

It was expected that the Conference and Lancashire Local History Federation "At Home" on 9th October would be opened by the new Lord Mayor of Liverpool. John said it was an honour for so young a Society to be hosting the Conference..

**MINUTES OF 2nd AGM** were taken as read, and there being no Matters Arising, signed as a correct record.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jo McCann reported on the varied programme for 2003/04 which had been arranged with a balance of subjects in mind, speakers having been recommended by members and discussed. Arrangements for the 2004/05 programme were well in hand. Although venue and catering problems had arisen this year, the main concern of the year had been the planning, with the assistance of a sub-committee, of the October 2004 Conference. Application forms for the Conference were being distributed with the new Journal, and as places at were limited, early return was urged.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mike Brian reported that membership stood at 138, consisting of 6 Corporate Members, 3 Life Members, 24 Joint and 105 Individual Members. Regrettably, several 2004/5 subscriptions have yet to be paid.

While Journals were ready for collection, they would be sent by post to paid up members who were not present, but they would not be dispatched to members whose subscriptions were outstanding.

#### EDITOR'S REPORT

Fred Forrest thanked all the contributors to the 2004 Journal and also the Publication Committee. Referring to increased costs, he said that it had been decided to abandon the coloured cover in favour of black and white as this had enabled a saving of over £100 to be made.

Fred closed his report by inviting submission of articles, regardless of size, for consideration for the next Journal.

#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Cynthia Stonall said that at present there are almost a hundred items in the collection, a full list of which was available at the meetings. At present books etc were kept at her home, but, to make borrowing easier, she hoped that it would soon be possible to move them to the Shaw Room at SFX.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Neville King began his first Report by thanking Joyce Culling, his predecessor, and the Society's founding Treasurer, for her work during 2001/2003.

He said that the provisional statement of accounts for 2003/04 given in Newsletter No 9 had been confirmed by Brian Coghlan, the Society's examiner, following his scrutiny of the books and records, and that a signed copy was

/displayed on the notice board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT, cont**

was displayed on the notice board. He drew attention to the reduction in Income due mainly to a fall in membership subscriptions, and the rise in expenditure of some £230 for room hire, occasioned by the need to move from LIPA to HOPE. While the loss incurred on refreshments has now been rectified, Neville stressed the importance of considering future accommodation costs. Printing costs, particularly for the journal, had also increased, but Journal sales had nevertheless covered the cost of its production.

There had been a number of significant receipts during the year, including:

- Gift Aid Recovered in respect of Financial Years 2000/2003, approx £525.
- Transfer of assets on dissolution of the Merseyside Record Users Group, approx £343.
- National Lottery "Awards for All" Grant of £3610.

The first of these should re-occur in future years, although for a much lower sum. The second was very much a "one off" and would be used to fund an as yet undecided purchase or project. The Lottery Grant was also a "one off", and plans for its proper expenditure on display, computer and related equipment, were well in hand. The Display Boards in use at the meeting represented the first purchase from this grant.

Thanking Brian Coghlan for again examining and certifying the completed accounts, the Chairman proposed that he be invited to do so again at the end of the coming year. Seconded by Brenda Murray, this was agreed by all present. Also at the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Murray, the Meeting unanimously agreed to accept the 2003/04 Accounts.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

The Chairman explained that the three year terms of office of the Hon. Sec, Jo McCann, and the Hon. Membership Sec, Mike Brian had now expired. They were both prepared to continue, and in the absence of other nominations the Chairman declared them duly re-elected.

The terms of office of committee members Charlie Collier, Brenda Downey, and Brenda Murray had similarly expired. While Brenda Downey had decided not to stand for re-election, three new nominations namely, Kirt Barooah, Netta Dixon and Mary Harrison, had been received. There being five vacancies, (two carried over from the previous year) and no other nominations, at the proposal of Mike Brian, seconded by Neville King, these five were declared duly elected, with an expression of thanks being recorded to Brenda Downey for her past contribution to the Society's work. [The full Committee is shown on page 4 of this Newsletter]

A vote of thanks was called from the Floor for all the committee members.

There being no further business proper to the AGM, the Meeting was closed at 2.15pm.

*[Our thanks to Joyce Culling for her help in preparing the above report]*

**RECOLLECTIONS OF WORLD WAR 2.**

2005 sees the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2 and many groups such as ours are recording their memories of it. It has been proposed that we do likewise and we would like to invite members of the society to submit their own recollections and stories. These would be gathered together in the form of a booklet to be distributed free to all members during 2005.

We understand that for some this might not be an easy task and that others might not feel able to write a story, but if required help in doing so could be given. For instance, it would be possible just to talk about past events and for someone else to write them down, while the typing of a piece of work could be done by someone else. Alternatively, notes could be written down as you remember events and how you felt about them. These notes could then be written up at a later date, either by yourself or together with another person.

We do not want to impose a format for this but suggest the following points, which can be considered or dismissed, as you choose.

- The writing could take the form of a letter to a younger person – perhaps a grandchild.
- It could also be written as a diary, perhaps recalling the day to day events over a certain well remembered short period.
- What is most important about that war, could have been told to you, by another person who was directly involved in it – a father, a grandfather or another older person.
- You could write about your evacuation, or perhaps how you took relatives in or maybe the war changed your life forever.

These are just a few suggestions and there must be many more. As well as being an interesting story we would like as much accuracy as possible, especially when mentioning places and dates. If there is a problem with this, this too could be sorted out by referring the problem to us.

The recollections of members, as well as being of interest to the Society, would make a valuable contribution to the history of the period, and if you would like play a part in this project, please contact Jo McCann.

**PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 2004**

**All meetings on Sundays at the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw St, Liverpool.  
Doors open 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm start**

**SEP 19 'ON TRACK—two pioneering railways and a tramway system'**

**GLYNN PARRY**

As in so many fields, the Liverpool area has a number of “firsts” to its credit in connection with railed transport. Amongst these are the Rainhill Trials of 1829, the opening, on 15th September 1830, of the world’s first fare-paying passenger-carrying railway, between Liverpool and Manchester accompanied by the death of the world’s first railway passenger fatality, William Huskisson MP, the short-lived tramway on the Dock Road in 1859/60, the American, George Francis Train’s horse drawn trams in Birkenhead in 1861, and the much loved, and now much lamented, Overhead Railway, popularly called “The Dockers’ Umbrella”.



Lime Street Stn, c 1836

From this rich source, Glynn has selected just three for his talk, but you will have to be there to find out which!

**OCT 17 'THE FIRST MOSQUE IN BRITAIN'**

**ZIA CHAUDHRY**



In another of our occasional series when we look at one of the many communities that go to make Liverpool “the world in one city”, local barrister Zia Chaudhry will tell us the fascinating story of the Victorian solicitor William Henry Quilliam, 1851-1932, [left] who converted to Islam, and in 1887 founded Britain’s first mosque, first in Mount Vernon St and then in 1889 at 8 Brougham Terrace, West Derby Rd., where it remained until 1909.

A plaque commemorating the Mosque was unveiled in 1997 by Mrs Patricia Gordon, grand-daughter of Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam, as he was later known, and members of toady’s Liverpool’s Islamic community hope to acquire the Brougham Terrace premises and convert it into a Heritage Centre, providing religious, cultural and educational facilities for their fellow believers, and a means of increasing mutual understanding with their non-Muslim neighbours.

**NOV 21 THE INFLUX OF THE IRISH INTO 19th CENTURY LIVERPOOL**  
**FRANK NEAL**

Sited in the grounds of St Luke's Church, Bold Place, Liverpool, Eamonn O'Doherty's Famine Memorial, pictured alongside, was unveiled in 24 November 1998 by Ireland's President, Mary McAleese. A less well-known but perhaps more accessible memorial, which readers may perhaps have sat on without reading its engraved message, is the seat within the gates of Liverpool Central Library, donated by the Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS on the 150th anniversary of the Famine in 1997.



1847, the worst year of the Famine, saw 296,000 Irish arrive at Clarence Dock in Liverpool, and of these, 116,000 had no visible means of support. This posed immense problems for both the Poor Law Guardians and the Health Committee.

Professor Frank Neal of Salford University, the well known author of many articles and books dealing with Irish matters, will today tell us about those unhappy days in mid-19th century Liverpool.

**DEC 19 200 YEARS OF LIVERPOOL MUSIC**

**CHENISTON ROLAND**

There seems to be a common misapprehension that Liverpool’s musical history began with The Beatles in the 1960’s. While the importance of the “Fab Four”, both in terms of popular culture and in the local economy, cannot be denied, great music, of all genres, was being made beside the Mersey well before their time, and today violin-historian and LHS member Cheniston Roland will tell us about some of it and who made it.



One such major music maker has been the Liverpool Philharmonic Society, founded in 1840. Our illustration shows the Philharmonic Hall, their home from 1849 until its destruction by fire in 1933, as it appeared circa 1870. The present Hall dates from 1939. In 1957 the orchestra became the first outside the capital to be granted the prefix “Royal” & in 1994 it gained the additional distinction of being the first orchestra to play underwater, a feat it achieved during that year’s celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the

**SATURDAY, 9TH OCTOBER**  
**LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION “AT HOME”**

All members should by now have received their yellow booking forms for this most important event to be held in the Western Rooms of the Anglican Cathedral, from 9.30 am, and if they are wise, they will have already returned them to Jo McCann to reserve one or more of the limited places both in the venue and on the afternoon activity of their choice. **If you have not done so, you are advised to delay no longer!**

Arrangements for what promises to be an exciting day are well in hand, and we are looking forward to welcoming fellow Local History enthusiasts from all parts of “real” Lancashire, hearing two important talks, showing off the equipment purchased with the Lottery “Awards for All” Grant [see page 1] and participating in various activities during the afternoon

We are very pleased to announce that, as a result of a generous grant from The Liverpool Culture Company, the Committee has been able to arrange for the provision of a higher standard of menu than would otherwise have been possible with the previously announced fee of £13.50.

For more information, please contact Jo McCann at the address below or telephone her on 01744 638590

### RECENT TALKS

With our newsletter No 9, we distributed an insert giving a brief summary of the talks given in September & December 2003 and February 2004. A number of expressions of appreciation for this new feature have been received, and we are pleased now to provide synopses of the talks given at the March, May and June 2004 meetings. These have been prepared by Neville King, Frank Boyce and Netta Dixon respectively, and we thank them for their help in this respect.

A “glossy” brochure, outlining the history of the Bibby Line from 1807 to the present day, is enclosed as a supplement to the talk given in April by Christina Spencer, and we thank her and the company for making these available.

### LIVERPOOL by JOSEPH SHARPLES [A “Pevsner Architectural Guide”]

There seems to be no end to the books that are appearing about our City, and as its 800th birthday and the Capital of Culture celebrations draw nearer there will no doubt be more. Of one thing we can be certain – few, if any, will deserve a warmer welcome than “the new Pevsner”, a pre-publication copy of which was presented to our Library in May by the publishers, Yale University Press.

Very reasonably priced at £9.99, this fully colour illustrated 332 page book, pocket sized and in an apparently sturdy flexible binding, is sure to become a favourite with all who appreciate the architecture of Liverpool. Based on Nicholas Pevsner’s original 1969 text for the *Buildings of England*, it is augmented by a close study of extant buildings themselves and extensive new research into both published sources and original documents. While it does not dwell on the many gems that have, for whatever reason, been lost to us over the years, some are mentioned and even illustrated. Similarly, it does not just refer to the great buildings like St George’s Hall or the two Cathedrals, but also describes many lesser and often overlooked structures, some of which have been with us for only a few years, and includes, without pulling its punches, some which are not universally popular.

#### The Society’s Officers & Committee, 2004-5

##### Officers

Chairman: John Tiernan (2006)	Administration Secretary: Jo McCann (P) (2007)
Treasurer: Neville King (P) (2006)	Membership Secretary: Michael Brian (P) (2007)

##### Committee

Kirt Barooah (P) (2007)	Charles Collier (2007)	Joyce Culling (2006)	Netta Dixon (2007)	Fred Forrest (P) (2005)
Mary Harrison (2007)	Brenda Murray (2007)	Cynthia Stonall (2005)	Marie McQuade (P,C)	

NB (P) & (C) denote member of Publications Sub-Committee & Co-opted respectively, and the year is when current term of office ends)

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## LIVERPOOL HISTORY SOCIETY – 'RECENT TALKS No.2'

(Insert to Summer 2004 edition of the Newsletter)

**Frank Boyce's talk: '*Hugh Shimmin and Leisure in Victorian Liverpool*' delighted us all at the May 2004 meeting following the A.G.M. We are grateful to Frank for providing the following synopsis:**

**Hugh Shimmin (1820-1879) - Liverpool Journalist**

Hugh Shimmin attained prominence and prestige in Victorian Liverpool by producing a corpus of work that among other things, influenced sanitary reform in the town, that drew public attention to the moral dangers faced by children, and that publicised the levels of corruption between the interests of local businessmen and local politicians.

Surprisingly, his published work has, until very recently, been relegated to footnotes in the academic studies of nineteenth-century Liverpool. One exception is Margaret Simey's book, *Charity Rediscovered* (1951, republished 1992), in which she devotes several pages in praise of Shimmin's contribution to Liverpool life. Then in 1991, J.K. Walton and Alastair Wilcox published an anthology of Shimmin's journalism under the title, *Low Life and Moral Improvement in Mid-Victorian England*. Both books are essential reading for people interested in the life and times of Shimmin.

Shimmin came with his parents to live in Liverpool about 1824. His father, a stonemason, left Whitehaven to find work maintaining the newly constructed docks. At an appropriate age Hugh became apprentice to a bookbinder, and in due course he was able to afford to buy the business outright.

Shimmin's father became an alcoholic, and Hugh (the eldest of the Shimmin children), regularly had to bring him home from public houses, especially on pay-day.

Hugh's mother was a Primitive Methodist and staunch member of the Temperance Movement. Her religious beliefs cast a strong influence on Hugh who began to attend the Unitarian Church in Paradise Street where he was further influenced by 'the dynamic preacher', James Martineau. Walton and Wilcox speculate that Shimmin's involvement with the Unitarians led to contacts with members of the business, political and philanthropic power groups in Liverpool.

His series of articles collected under the title 'Pen and Ink Sketches of Liverpool Town Councillors', are an account of the constitution of the Town Council for the year 1856. Of the 64 members of the council, 27 were merchants, brokers and ship-owners - mostly members of the pre-1835 Reform Act ruling group. Between them they controlled all the commercial affairs of the town: docks, timber, building, breweries, distillers, lawyers and doctors.

As examples of his journalism show, Shimmin was also deeply conscious of the social divisions in Liverpool and the extremes of wealth and poverty that existed in different sections of the town. His articles on 'The Social Condition of the People' with their detailed studies of life in court-dwellings, especially in the north-end dockland slum areas, are a mixture of criticism of the causes of institutionalised poverty, and of sympathy for those who were left to daily endure its effects.

Shimmin came to journalism through his attendance at classes at the Mechanic's Institute and his membership of the Mental Improvement Society which he joined in 1845. He later wrote that his membership of the society sowed the seeds of his career as a journalist.

His interests were not confined to issues of local politics and social conditions, but embraced the intriguing question of what people actually did in their leisure time. His studies of drinking dens, concert halls, Aintree races and 'Sunday night on the landing stage', all published in his newspaper, *The Porcupine*, describe with wit and considerable humour, the raw side of life in Victorian Liverpool. F.B.

\* Frank Boyce is a retired lecturer well known in the Liverpool area for his courses on social issues currently undertaken for the University of Liverpool Continuing Education Department.

## **John Derbyshire on 'Aspects of Mossley Hill, Allerton and Aigbuth' – a comprehensive slide presentation given at our June 2004 meeting.**

Mr John Derbyshire took us on a tour of South Liverpool, illustrating his talk with 50 slides. As well as the former mansions of this area, he drew our attention to its more unusual features, such as an 1832 water fountain, a boundary stone in Roe Lane, a pub, "the Cobden Vaults", an archer stone in Calderstones Park, the University Wyncote Sports Pavilion built in 1856, Mossley Hill Railway Station as it was in the 19thC and a neglected orangery in Allerton Towers. A semi-circular garden seats in Woolton, commemorating the work of Woolton quarrymen, was moved in the 1970s from the former home of Harvey Lonsdale Elms.

Mr. Derbyshire showed us many slides recalling the time when wealthy Liverpool merchants lived in the splendid Gothic and classical mansions. We were reminded that William Roscoe had rebuilt the 18thC ALLERTON HALL between 1812 & 1816 when he was forced to sell it. We saw a slide of SPRINGWOOD HOUSE, an elegant classical villa, built in 1839, which became a Leonard Cheshire Home in the 1950s.

However, many of the stately mansions have now disappeared, and only the lodge and stables remain of CLEVELEYS designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1865. HARTHILL, built by the shipping magnate John Bibby for his wife, the daughter of Jesse Hartley, has also disappeared, except for the statues of THE FOUR SEASONS which now decorate the Harthill entrance to Calderstones Park.

Fortunately, a few miles away in Mossley Hill, SUDLEY HALL, the 19th C. home of the family of George Holt, is still standing as the Sudley Museum and Art Gallery, and we were shown a slide of the garden wall with its unusual holes which were once flues!

We were shown slides of a number of churches, including the bomb-damaged Paley and Austin church of St. MATTHEW & St. JAMES in Mossley Hill, but the most interesting of all was ALL HALLOWS, ALLERTON, a memorial church, built by G. Grayson (1872-6), for Sir John Bibby in memory of his wife who was born on All Hallows Eve; Mr. Derbyshire showed us slides of its famous Burne-Jones windows. Even members who are very familiar with this area admitted that they had learnt much more about its history. N.D.

\*John Derbyshire, has had a lifelong interest in the history of South Liverpool and for many years was involved with the Mossley Hill and the Garston Historic Societies.

## **Doreen McGiveron's illustrated talk on 'The Walton Experience 1915-1946' March 2004 meeting**

Doreen's talk concentrated on the transition period of this former West Derby Union workhouse into a hospital which became part of the National Health Service in 1948. The dramatic change over the period 1915 - 1946 was due to the dedication and tireless efforts of 3 people - Colin & Martha Roberts (master and matron) and Dr. Henry MacWilliam.

It came as a surprise to hear that in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup>C 'Voluntary hospitals' did not accept chronic patients who, therefore, had to be admitted to the workhouse. Consequently, over a period, the workhouses increasingly became hospitals. In the 1920s the workhouse became crowded and there was a need to reduce the time spent in 'hospital' by patients (where have we heard that before?). 'Outpatients' was the answer and by 1938 the number treated rose to 68,000 in a single year. In 1929 over 600 were admitted with tuberculosis and in the same year the 1<sup>st</sup> department of psychiatry was opened.

Nurse training was introduced by Martha in 1918 and a 'nurse tutor' appointed. In 1928 Walton was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> hospital in the country to train male nurses. In 1928 nurses worked 71hrs a week on days and 84hrs on nights! - this was improved to 56hrs per week on a shift system. Martha was the driving force in introducing a Ladies Committee to look after young mothers and she was famed for 'knowing how to bend the rules' to achieve her aims. Colin, the son of a workhouse master, was aged 32 when he came to Walton and set about reforming discipline and building a chapel. The inmates at Walton were segregated by sex, age (children & elderly separate from remainder), and the ability to work. There were cottages in the grounds for elderly married couples.

A notable change in administration took place with the Poor Law Reform Act in 1930 when overall responsibility passed from the Poor Law Guardians to Liverpool Corporation.

With the outbreak of WW2 Walton became a Grade A hospital for military personnel and prisoners of war. Martha Roberts was then 60 years old but continued in post until 1945 - she was honoured for her service with an OBE. Colin Roberts became president of NALGO in 1943/4 and received an MBE and an OBE. The couple had worked together for over 30 years achieving a great deal for the common cause.

Dr 'Mac' worked at Walton from 1920 and continued to serve in the NHS until he retired in 1952 receiving an MBE for his tireless efforts in improving the health of the poorer people of Liverpool. N.K.

\* Doreen McGiveron trained as a nurse but, for many years, was an administrator in the NHS at Walton hospital.