

LIVERPOOL



REG CHARITY

HISTORY SOCIETY

1093736

NEWSLETTER No 12

SPRING 2005

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SPECIAL

Notice of Annual General Meeting

In accordance with paragraph 10.1 of its Constitution,
formal notice is hereby given that the

Fourth AGM of the Liverpool History Society
will be held at

The Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw St, Liverpool, on
Sunday, 15th May 2005 at 1.15 p.m.

AGENDA

- [1] Chairman's welcome, introduction, and Report
- [2] Minutes of 3rd AGM, held on 16th May 2004
- [3] Secretaries', Editor's and Librarian's Reports
- [4] Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Accounts
- [5] Appointment of Examiner for 2005/06 Accounts
- [6] Election of certain Officers and Committee Members
(See note 1 below and page 3 within)
- [7] Consideration of matters raised by members (See note 2 below)
- [8] Any other business, at Chairman's discretion

Note 1 Written nominations for these vacancies, duly proposed and seconded, and bearing the signature(s) of the candidate(s), accepting nomination, must be received by the Chairman or Secretary not later than **4th May 2005**. (Constitution, paragraph 7.2 refers)

Note 2 Written Motions for consideration, duly proposed and seconded, must be received by the Chairman or Secretary not later than **4th May 2005**. (Constitution, paragraph 10.3.5 refers)

Members are reminded that to be eligible to vote, **Subscription Renewals for 2005/06**, which fell due for payment on 1st April, must have been received by the Membership Secretary **before** the start of the AGM. Sidelining of this paragraph in red indicates that according to our records, that your subscription appears not yet to have been paid.

Please make every effort to be present, as this is your opportunity to say how your Society should be run.

[For security, facsimile signature has been omitted]

Jo McCann,
Administrative Secretary, LHS

17th April 2005

NB

Please bring this Newsletter with you to the AGM, as spare copies may not be available.

Provisional Statement of Accounts for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

| | 2004/05 | | 2003/04 | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | £ | p | £ | p |
| Balances b/fwd from 2003/04 | | | | |
| At Bank | 6681.70 | | 1874.50 | |
| Cash in Hand (Treasurer) | 22.82 | | 23.66 | |
| Cash in Hand (Memb. Sec) | <u>16.29</u> | 6720.81 | <u>8.85</u> | 1907.01 |
| Income | | | | |
| Subscriptions for Membership Year 2004/05 | 519.00 | | 396.00 | |
| Subscriptions for Membership Year 2005/06 | 1040.00 | | 980.00 | |
| Sale of Journal: 2002/03/04 (inc. £23.56 post) | 571.58 | | 797.56 | |
| Donations | 67.90 | | 49.50 | |
| Refreshment sales | 137.70 | | 73.62 | |
| Bank interest | 0.00 | | 8.93 | |
| Gift Aid recovery for 2003/4 | 273.03 | | 525.51 | (2 years, 2001/03) |
| 'At Home' Liverpool Cathedral, (inc £500.00 grant from Liverpool Culture Co.) | 1949.50 | | - | |
| Special donation from MRO Users Group | - | | 343.01 | |
| Lottery grant for equipment (Jan 2004) | <u>-</u> | 4558.51 | <u>3610.00</u> | <u>6784.13</u> |
| Total | | 11279.52 | | 8691.14 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Hire of meeting rooms | 580.70 | | 519.30 | |
| Speakers | 195.00 | | 190.00 | |
| Printing, stationery & general equipment | 252.56 | | 235.99 | |
| Printing of Journal 2004 | 408.00 | | 512.00 | |
| Postage | 174.71 | | 167.90 | |
| Web site charges | 80.92 | | 62.15 | |
| Lottery Grant expenditure (detailed separately) | 3369.86 | | - | |
| Material for refreshments (incl. Christmas event) | 107.13 | | 222.99 | |
| Subscriptions to other societies & insurance | 60.00 | | 60.00 | |
| 'At Home' (room hire, meal, speakers etc) | <u>1696.76</u> | 6925.64 | <u>-</u> | 1970.33 |
| Balances c/fwd to 2005/06 | | | | |
| At Bank (Treasurer) | 4320.80 | | 6681.70 | |
| Cash in hand (Treasurer) | 27.07 | | 22.82 | |
| Cash in hand (Memb Sec) | <u>6.01</u> | 4353.88 | <u>16.29</u> | 6720.81 |
| Total | | 11279.52 | | 8691.14 |

Prepared and certified correct by

[For security, facsimile signatures have been omitted]

Neville H King
(Hon. Treasurer)
5th April 2005

Michael E Brian
(Hon. Membership Secretary)
5th April 2005

**NB: These provisional accounts have yet to be examined by Brian Coghlan (society member and examiner)
The Examined and Certified Accounts will be available for inspection by Members at the AGM.**

Election of Committee Members

The term of office of Cynthia Stonall as a member of the Society's committee terminates at this year's AGM, and we take this opportunity of thanking her for all her hard work behind the scenes, especially during recent months when she has been so unwell. She has indicated, however, that she is prepared to continue to serve in this capacity, and also as our Hon. Librarian, if re-elected.

The vacancy created by the resignation earlier in the year of Fred Forrest, has also to be filled. Dr Jon Murden, of Liverpool University, and a member of our Society, has kindly agreed to stand for election, and with his prominent position in the preparation of the new history of our City (to be published as part of the 800th birthday celebrations in 2007), it would be hard to think of someone more suitable.

The Committee therefore has great pleasure in commending both of these candidates, but reminds members of their right, under para 7.2 of the Society's Constitution, to nominate other candidates should they wish to do so.

Nugent Centenary

27th June 2005 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Liverpool born James Nugent. Ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1846, he was a pioneer of child welfare, social reform and poverty action, in recognition of which he was created a Domestic Prelate by Pope Leo XIII in 1892, (whence the honorific 'Monsignor'). So much was his work valued in his home city, that, even during his lifetime, it was proposed to erect a statue in his honour. His death, from pneumonia, intervened, and it was not unveiled until 8 December 1906.

Monsignor Nugent's invaluable work is continued to this day by the Nugent Care Society, and it was under their auspices that a Memorial Celebration was held by his statue (shown right) in St John's Gardens on 4th March. A Good Shepherd Mass will be celebrated in the Metropolitan Cathedral on 20th April, and a Centenary Mass on 9th November. Also, during June and July there will be an exhibition regarding his life and work and that of the Care Society at the Museum of Liverpool Life. Further details can be obtained by ringing 0151 261 2000.



Forthcoming Society Meetings

The Society's last meeting before the Summer Break will be on

19th June: 1000 YEARS OF HISTORY - A VISIT TO ST MARY'S, WALTON,
with illustrated talk by the Rector, Revd Trevor Latham



Until 1699, St Mary's, Walton was the Mother Church of Liverpool, with "St Nick's" (The Chapel of Our Lady and St Nicholas) merely a Chapel of Ease, albeit of old foundation. That of St Mary's dates back, almost certainly, to before the Conquest, and the shape of the church yard, and the remains of a Saxon Cross remind us of those early days. The church was rebuilt in 1326, and our illustration, from a 1977 church guide book, shows how it appeared circa 1760. Today, both "mother" (St Mary's) and "daughter" (St Nick's) are relatively modern structures, having been largely rebuilt after World War 2.

During our visit, Mr Latham, who is a LHS Member, will tell us more of the long and interesting history of St Mary's, and show us some of her treasures. If the weather is fine, perhaps he will also allow some of the more intrepid and energetic of our number to enjoy the panoramic view from the top of John Broadbent's 118 foot tower, built in 1830 and the only part of the church to survive the May 1941 blitz.

It is regretted that there will be no Summer Extra this year

Our regular meetings will resume on

18th September: 'The Last Weekend of Peace & the First Weekend of War' Geoff Scargill

We look forward to seeing YOU there!

Liverpool Central Library & Record Office Opening Hours

Members will probably have heard via local media that, faced with a budget shortfall for 2005/6 of £20m, the City Council has agreed to reduce the opening hours of the Central Library (including the Record Office) by ten hours per week (saving £575,000).

This change took effect on 4th April and the opening hours on Mondays to Fridays are now 9am to 6pm. (Saturdays and Sundays are unaffected, and remain at 9am to 5pm. and 10am. to 4pm. respectively)

The LHS Committee has discussed this matter and formally resolved to express, most forcefully, to the Leader of the City Council, its concerns about the cuts and their effects, and to copy the letter to the appropriate Secretary of State, and local MP's.

Hale Duck Decoy

Amongst many other treasures, we are fortunate to have nearby, at Hale, to the south of the City, one of only three surviving Duck Decoys in the country. Originally designed to trap wild duck for the dinner table, and dating back to the 17th century, it has recently been restored through a Heritage Lottery grant, and for the first time, is now publicly accessible

The local organisation, "Friends of Pickerings Pasture" plan to interview local people, record their memories for future generations, and to create a display of this work inside the Gamekeeper's Cottage. Outside there will be a 'history tree' and a bench for visitors. They hope to create a museum environment at the cottage which will give visitors from Merseyside, Cheshire and further afield a taste of what life and work at the decoy used to be like, and to raise awareness of the duck decoy's unique nature.

Friends of Pickerings Pasture would love to hear from anyone with memories of Hale Duck Decoy or who would like to join them. Contact the ranger, Rob Smith on 0151 425 4706 or e-mail him at Rob.Smith@halton.gov.uk.

Forthcoming Conferences

16 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2005 – IRISH PROTESTANT IDENTITIES

Jointly organised by The Irish Studies Centre of Salford University and the British Association for Irish Studies, this international and interdisciplinary conference will be held at the University of Salford on the above dates. Amongst those organising this important event is Professor Frank Neal, whom the LHS was privileged to welcome last year as one of its speakers.

The Plenary Address at 6pm on Friday 16th will address the question "*Whatever happened to Protestantism in Ireland?*". For the rest of the three days, some 47 "Paper Sessions" (unfortunately too many to be listed here) on a wide range of inter-related subjects are planned

For further details, please contact: D Hughes at Salford University (email: d.hughes1@salford.ac.uk)

13 – 15 OCTOBER 2005 – LIVERPOOL AND TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY,

This international conference, organised by the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, will be held at the Merseyside Maritime Museum from Thursday 13 October to Saturday 15 October 2005. The keynote address "*Liverpool, the African slave trade and abolition: 30 years on*" will be given on the evening of 13 October by Professor David Richardson of the University of Hull, who was one of the original contributors to the volume of essays on *Liverpool, the African Slave Trade, and Abolition*, published by the HSLC in 1976

The conference on Friday 14 & Saturday 15 October, between approx 9.30am and 5.00pm, will be addressed by leading scholars of international reputation on four main themes: 'The memorialisation and representation of slavery', 'Abolition', 'Liverpool, the slave trade and slavery', and 'Africa and African agency'.

For further details, please contact: Dr S Schwarz, at Liverpool Hope Univ. College, (email: schwarz@hope.ac.uk)

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

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

Postal Correspondence

Administration Secretary, L H S, 46 Stanley Avenue, Rainford, Merseyside, WA11 8HU
Membership Secretary, L H S, 55 Greenloons Drive, Formby, Merseyside, L37 2LX

eMail: liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com

Website: www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk

RECENT TALKS, No. 4**December 2004****200 Years of Liverpool Music****Cheniston Roland**

It is regretted that no report of this talk, illustrated by pictures and rare recordings, is yet available.

February 2005**The History of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment****Simon Jones**

Instead of an actual summary of Simon's most interesting and copiously illustrated talk, this brief synopsis of the Regiment's complex history, based mainly on material available on the Internet, has been compiled by the editor.

The King's Regiment, as it is at present known, can trace its proud history back for 320 years. Originally raised in 1685 under King James II, it was initially named The Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment of Foot, after his second daughter, who was married to Prince George of Denmark. It first saw service at the siege of Carrickfurgus in 1689, and when Anne became Queen in 1702, the regiment, which was also sometimes known by the names of its colonels, was re-designated The Queen's Regt. of Foot, and fought under Marlborough in Flanders and Germany. For its part in quashing the previous year's Jacobite Rebellion against the coming of the first Hanoverian Sovereign, George I, it was in 1716 renamed The King's Regiment of Foot and awarded the White Horse of Hanover within the Garter to be borne as the regimental badge.

When the numbering of regiments was introduced in 1751, it became the 8th (The King's) Regiment of Foot, and a second battalion, raised two years before, entered the line in its own right as the 63rd Regiment of Foot in 1758. The 8th of Foot, meanwhile, continued to serve with distinction in places as far apart as Europe, North America, the West Indies, and India.

In the reforms of 1881, when territorial rather than numerical designations began to be used, as the city regiment of Liverpool, encompassing also its Militia and Volunteer infantry, it became The King's (Liverpool Regiment). During WWI, it underwent massive temporary expansion, and among the many battalions created were the 17th to 20th (Service) Battalions formed by Lord Derby and known as "Liverpool Pals", the 1/ & 2/8th Liverpool Irish and the 1/ & 2/10 Battalions (Liverpool Scottish). Capt Noel Chavasse, RAMC(V), a son of the City's Anglican Bishop, was an MO with the 1/10 Battn, who in August 1916 won a Victoria Cross at Guillemont, and a year later, at Weiltje, near Ypres, posthumously gained a Bar to it, one of only three ever to be awarded.

After the war, the Regiment returned to its peacetime complement and in 1921 became The King's Regiment (Liverpool). In World War II, the Regiment served world-wide, with different battalions serving in France in 1940, the heroic defence of Malta, the D-Day landings, the jungles of Burma, in Italy and across Northwest Europe.

In 1958 The King's (Liverpool Regt) amalgamated with The Manchester Regiment, (which itself was a merger in 1881, of the old 63rd Regt. (from 1782 the 63rd (The West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot) and the 96th Regt of Foot, founded in Manchester in 1824), and became known as the King's Regiment (Manchester & Liverpool), or more simply, from 1968, The King's Regiment. At the time of the amalgamation, the White Horse of Hanover was superimposed on the Manchesters' Fleur-de-Lis (taken by the 63rd as a battle honour after their excursions of 1759 and 1810 to capture the island of Guadeloupe from the French), to form the badge in use today.

In the last 60 years, regular battalions, often reinforced from territorial battalions, have served on operations in Korea, Malaya, Kenya, Kuwait, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Belize, the Balkans and the Iraq War. Garrisons have been provided for Guyana, the Falklands and of course for extended periods all over Germany

During 320 years of world-wide service by the Regiment and its constituent predecessors, no less than one hundred and ninety two battle honours have been awarded, and 23 VC's and one GC won.

The title "King's (Liverpool)" has not entirely disappeared from today's Army, as two companies and part of the battalion HQ of the King's and Cheshire Regiment of the Territorial Army are badged King's Regiment, and one has its base in the city.

Liverpool also is fortunate in having a number of memorials to the Kingsmen, amongst them the twice relocated cross in Whitley Gardens on Shaw Street, and the splendid memorial in St Johns Gardens commemorating the Regiment's dead in Afghanistan, Burma and South Africa. A memorial of a different kind is the comprehensive exhibition entitled "City Soldiers" at the Museum of Liverpool Life at the Pier Head. With an extensive collection of uniforms, medals, trophies, weaponry and other artefacts, it vividly presents the life and history of the City's own soldiers.

The King's face further change in the near future, with planned amalgamation with the King's Own Royal Borderers and the Queen's Lancashires, to form the King's Lancashire and Border Regt. The King's motto, "Nec Aspera Terrent", translates as "Nor do difficulties deter us". Although unsettling and unpopular, their approach to this new challenge will, no doubt, be as expressed in the motto's more colloquial and better known translation: **"Difficulties be damned"**.

March 2005**'Cause of Death'****Angela Brabin**

In 1884 Catherine Flanagan and Margaret Higgins were tried in Liverpool for the murder of Margaret's new husband Thomas. He had been a healthy 36 year old when they married on 28 October 1882 yet by the following October he was dead, poisoned by arsenic from flypapers and had been insured in 5 separate societies for over £100. At the trial the prosecution brought evidence of three other deaths. Three people who had lived with the sisters, been insured by them and died of arsenic poisoning. In each case doctors had been misled into diagnosing a natural cause of death and only post mortem examinations on their exhumed bodies revealed the doctors' errors. The inevitable guilty verdict sent the two sisters to the gallows but the contemporaneous documents reveal that they were not the only killers nor were there just four victims.

March 2005, "Cause of Death" (contd)

The evidence documented in the court papers and the Home Office file is incontrovertible. The sisters were involved with other women living in the poor Catholic Irish area of Liverpool who had been, for some years past, perpetrating a sophisticated system of insurance fraud and murder. Neighbours and relatives were insured, killed by administering arsenic derived from flypapers and a large profit made on the deaths. Although, in this instance, these documents relate specifically to Liverpool, the concern of the Government ministers of the day and the comments of the respectable press and learned journals such as *The Lancet*, made it clear that the practice was widespread and had been a problem in poor areas of the country for a great many years.

On her arrest Catherine Flanagan made a statement to her solicitor blaming her sister Margaret and two other women of poisoning six more victims. The police report into these additional suspicious deaths implicated two other neighbours as being actively involved in the poisonings and several more who were involved solely in the insurance aspect of the conspiracy. They may not have administered the poison but they knew what was going on and paid their pennies to the collectors week by week, anticipating an early return on their investments. Unfortunately there was insufficient evidence to justify charging any of those other women and they escaped justice, only the two sisters hanged.

Using the press reports and the transcripts of the court proceedings, a list of yet another seven people emerged who could well have been murdered in the same way and for the same motive. Naturally the wisdom of hindsight suggests that anyone dying young or unexpectedly whilst living in the sisters' household might have been murdered, especially if their lives were insured. Nevertheless gossip had abounded in the community even before the arrests so it is right to examine the possibility of additional murders. As Mr. Justice Butt said in his summing up to the jury at the trial of Catherine Flanagan and Margaret Higgins "How many people lying in the burial grounds of this and other large towns are there who, if their lives had not been insured, might be alive at this moment?"

The documents as a whole have revealed evidence showing that illiterate and impoverished women were entrepreneurs, capable of sophisticated insurance fraud involving manipulation of the medical profession and multiple deceptions of the insurance companies. Far from killing for pennies, they were acquiring relatively large sums of money, their outlay being a few months' insurance premiums coupled with 'tuppence worth' of flypaper. They convinced the doctors that their "loved ones" were suffering from dysentery or lung disease by anticipating the doctors' questions and providing the answers consistent with such a diagnosis. They fell at few stumbling blocks: as Thomas Higgins became unwilling to have further insurances taken out on his life, his wife and sister in law simply persuaded another man to impersonate him to satisfy the insurance rules. That deception came to light when the same insurance agent, attending to pay out the insurance money after Thomas' death, glanced at his corpse and realised it was the wrong body.

Memoranda from the Home Secretary to the DPP and the Treasury Solicitor reveal the extent of the concern engendered by the case and its aftermath. There was a determination at Whitehall to tighten up regulations for burial clubs and friendly societies and to restrict and regulate the sale of poisons. Yet a sense of frustration pervades the documents and it is clear that however good the intentions of the legislators they knew that there would always be a way for the unscrupulous and determined to thwart the proposed regulations.

The above synopsis was kindly provided by Angela Brabin. Her book *The Black Widows of Liverpool* is available at major booksellers at £8 per copy, or direct from the publishers, Carnegie Publishing Ltd., FREEPOST NWW3617a, Lancaster, LA1 4ZY or on line at www.carnegiepublishing.com. If ordering direct, please include additional £1.50 postage and packing, and quote "ISBN 1-874181-21-7". Alternatively it can be ordered from the author by sending a cheque for £9.50, payable to A.Brabin, at "Rosewood", Puddington Village, Neston, Cheshire, CH64 5SS

Whilst researching her book, Angela came across the names and families of many people connected in some way with this gruesome story. Some were witnesses, doctors or others engaged in the murder investigation but others were victims or killers. Although not all of them get a mention in the book, she feels that it would be a pity to waste the information she has gleaned, and has kindly agreed to make such details as she has on persons with the surnames listed below available to others, if they think it might help them with their research. They can either e-mail her at angela.brabin@tesco.net, or write to her, enclosing a SAE, at the address given in the previous paragraph.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Aspinall | Barr | Barrett | Barrow | Begley | Bennett | Bond |
| Booth | Bowles | Boyes | Brown, Dr. | Burns | Butt | Campbell Brown |
| Carroll | Cartwright | Clarke | Clifford | Cope | Court | Cuffe |
| Davies, Edward | Dolan | Donnelly | Evans, Margaret | Fallon | Finegan | Fisher |
| Flanagan (various spellings) | | Gaskell | Godfrey | Gough | Griffiths | Gwynne |
| Harcourt | Hargreaves | Higgins | Hill | Hivey | Hoare | Hoolihan |
| Houlgrave | Howley | Jennings | Jones, Richard | Lawton | Leggett | Liddell |
| Lowndes | Lukeman | Lushington | Mackenzie | MacNamara | Manville | Marks |
| Marshall | Maule | Maxwell | McConnell | McCormick | McGovern | Muir |
| Musgrave | Neale | Neillan | Nicholls | O'Brien | Parkhouse | Pickford |
| Potter | Pugh | Quelch | Raffles | Rafter | Ryan | Shallcross |
| Shee | Smith, John | Stanton/Staunton | Stevenson | Thompson | Ward | Wharton |
| Whitehead | Whitford | Williams | | | | |