

# LIVERPOOL



REG CHARITY

HISTORY SOCIETY

1093736

NEWSLETTER No 15

SPRING 2006

## 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

#### **Fifth AGM of the Liverpool History Society**

will be held at

The Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw St, Liverpool, on  
**Sunday, 21st May 2006 at 1.15 p.m.**

### AGENDA

- [1] Chairman's welcome, introduction, and Report
- [2] Minutes of 4th AGM, held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005 (see Newsletter No 13)
- [3] Secretaries', Editors' and Librarian's Reports
- [4] Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Accounts (see page 2 within)
- [5] Appointment of Examiner for 2006/07 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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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 **4<sup>th</sup> May 2005**. (Constitution, paragraph 10.3.5 refers)

Members are reminded that to be eligible to vote, **Subscription Renewals for 2006/07**, which fell due for payment on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

[For security, facsimile signature has been omitted]

Jo McCann,  
Administrative Secretary, LHS

17th April 2006

**Please make every effort to be present at this AGM, as it is your opportunity to say how you want your Society to be run. Please bring this Newsletter with you as spare copies may not be available.**

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

	2005/06	2004/05
	£ p	£ p
<b>Balances b/fwd from 2004/05</b>		
At Bank	4320.80	6681.70
Cash in Hand (Treasurer)	27.07	22.82
Cash in Hand (Memb. Sec)	<u>6.01</u>	<u>16.29</u>
<b>Income</b>	4353.88	6720.81
Subscriptions for Membership Year 2005/06	520.00	519.00
Subscriptions for Membership Year 2006/07	<u>1135.00</u>	<u>1040.00</u>
	1655.00	1559.00
Sale of Journal: 2002 to 2005 (inc. post)	583.50	571.58
Sale of WW2 booklet	<u>142.00</u>	-
	725.50	571.58
Donations	59.50	67.90
Gift Aid recovery for 2004/5	<u>301.79</u>	<u>273.03</u>
	361.29	340.93
Refreshment sales	137.95	137.70
Bank interest [A&L Savings A/c]	112.97	-
Postage	5.00	-
'At Home' Liverpool Cathedral, (inc £500.00 grant from Liverpool Culture Co.)	-	1949.50
<b>Total</b>	<u>7351.59</u>	<u>11279.52</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Hire of meeting rooms	480.00	580.70
Speakers	195.00	195.00
Printing of Journal 2004 [Reduced no]	365.00	408.00
Printing of WW2 booklet	86.00	-
Printing of Newsletter etc	<u>119.82</u>	<i>(inc in stationery etc)</i>
	570.82	
Postage	164.17	174.71
Stationery & miscellaneous	91.85	252.56
Web site charges	<u>85.49</u>	80.92
	177.34	
Lottery Grant expenditure and special equipment	866.61	3369.86
Refreshments (incl. 2 special events)	198.04	107.13
Subscriptions to other societies & insurance	60.00	60.00
'At Home', Liverpool Cathedral, Oct 04	-	<u>1696.76</u>
	<u>2711.98</u>	<u>6925.64</u>
<b>Balances c/fwd to 2005/06</b>		
At Lloyds TSB	64.40	4320.80
At A&L Cheque a/c	400.66	-
At A&L Savings a/c	4112.97	-
Cash in hand (Treasurer)	60.50	27.07
Cash in hand (Memb Sec)	<u>1.08</u>	<u>6.01</u>
	<u>4639.61</u>	<u>4353.88</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>7351.59</u>	<u>11279.52</u>

### Prepared and certified correct by

[For security, facsimile signatures have been omitted]

Neville H King  
(Hon. Treasurer)  
7th April 2006

Michael E Brian  
(Hon. Membership Secretary)  
7th April 2006

**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

Readers will note from the bottom of page 4 that the terms of office of Joyce Culling, Neville King, and John Tiernan, come to an end at the forthcoming AGM. While, for personal reasons, Neville is unable to stand for re-election, (an appreciation of his contribution to the life & work of the LHS will given in our next Newsletter), both Joyce Culling and John Tiernan have agreed to do so, and your Committee has pleasure in recommending both of them as candidates, and that if re-elected, that John should continue as the Society's Chairman.

While making these recommendations, the Committee would remind Members of their right, under paragraph 7.2 of the Society's Constitution, to nominate other candidates for election to either of these positions, to that created by Neville's departure, or to the vacancy remaining unfilled from last year's AGM, a total of four in all.

While someone with an aptitude for figures would be especially welcome to take over as Treasurer, no special skills are otherwise required for membership of the committee – just the ability to work hard as a member of a team and a commitment to our declared aim of

**“promoting and encouraging an interest in, and the study of, the history of Liverpool and its environs”.**

As most existing members of the Committee are [well] above retiring age, some younger members would be extremely welcome, not least of all to ensure the future of the Society as it enters its second quinquennium.

## Society Meetings

### Dr Geoffrey Place

We regret to have to advise members of the death on 16th March, of the above named, who was due to talk to the Society on “Chester – the Gateway to Ireland” after the May AGM. An appropriate message of condolence has been conveyed to Mrs Place.

### 21st May

#### A PICTURE POSTCARD HISTORY OF LIVERPOOL

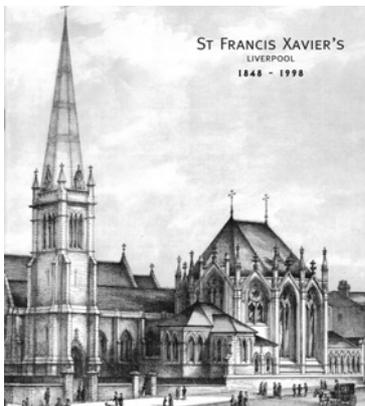
**Roger Hull**

Roger Hull, Secretary of the Council of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, has agreed to come in Dr Place's stead, and we are very grateful to him for assisting us in this way. Beyond its title, details of Roger's talk are not yet known, but if the experience of those who have heard him speak in the past to the LHS or elsewhere is anything to go by, we can be assured of an very interesting afternoon.

### 18th June:

#### A VISIT TO ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH, EVERTON

**with talk by Bro Ken Vance, SJ**



Built largely to the design of the architect J J Scholes, and opened in 1848, the church of St Francis Xavier, or 'SFX' as it is fondly known, forms the heart of a major group of Liverpool buildings that have long served as an important centre of education in the city. Although perhaps rather too ornate for some, the church remains a fine example of Victorian Catholic taste and is well worth a visit.

The church and the former college, the latter now occupied by Liverpool Hope University's Creative & Performing Arts departments, was previously run by the Jesuits (the Society of Jesus). Our guide and speaker, Bro Ken Vance, is a present day member of that famous Order, and he will also tell us why its members and friends, both abroad and in the UK, are celebrating the year 2006 as one of especial significance.

*“SFX” as shown on the church's sesqui-centennial history*

**This will be the Society's last meeting before the Summer Break.  
Our regular meetings will resume on**

### 17th September:

#### LIVERPOOL & THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR –

**EXPLORING THE ‘GONE WITH THE WIND’ CONNECTION” Jerry Williams**

**We look forward to seeing YOU there!**

## The Society's Website

We are pleased to be able to announce that the Society's Website ([www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk)) is at long last up and running again. While it is somewhat less sophisticated than in its previous incarnation (the new webmaster is less a lot skilled in these matters than his predecessor), it is hoped that members and friends will support this renewed venture and make it known as a source of information about us and our special City.

## Books Received

Since our last Newsletter, two new books have been donated to our Library by the publishers, and it is with pleasure that they are drawn to the attention of our readers.

The first, *Eyes of the Night* by Joe Bamford and Ron Collier, is published in hardback by Pen and Sword (Aviation) Books of Barnsley at £19.99 and describes the part played by No 9 Group, RAF, in the Air Defence of NW England between 1940 and 1943. Generously supplied with photographs and maps, the book concentrates on the men and the machines they flew from airfields at Speke, & Woodvale within the Liverpool GDA, and from numerous other sites further afield, rather than on the havoc wrought on the cities and civilian populations on the ground. While those who lived through them need no reminder of the horrors of dark years, this book is some small tribute to those who sought to defend them. For those who were not there, it gives a limited but vivid glimpse of what it was like, both in the air and on the ground.

We are pleased to enclose a publishers "flyer" to facilitate the purchase of copies of this book.

The second addition to our Library is Bob Pixton's *Liverpool & Manchester – The LNWR Lines*, a softback published by Kestrel Railway Books, Southampton, at £14.99. In 124 pages and with over 200 black and white illustrations and maps, it takes its reader on two imaginary journeys between those two cities along the lines previously operated by the London & North Western Railway, some 120 miles of which remain in use today. With most photos taken before the 1980's, steam traction is the main means of motive power shown, and the book will thus delight both the confessed railway enthusiast, and the 'train spotter' seemingly hidden within most men (and some ladies?) above a certain age.

Further volumes, dealing with the old Cheshire Lines and 'LancyYorky' routes are expected to follow this one, and it is hoped that the publishers will again be kind enough to donate copies to the Society.

## Forthcoming Conference

### Entertainment, Leisure and Identities

to be held at

**Edge Hill College, Ormskirk, Lancashire on Friday 26 May 2006**

The character, forms and patterns of entertainment and leisure pursuits have been an important part of historical culture. They have 'played' a prominent role in shaping and defining individual, group and broader social identities. Organised by The Identities Network (part of the Centre for Liverpool & Merseyside Studies based at Liverpool John Moores), this conference will examine the importance of these aspects of popular culture in local, national and indeed international spaces. Papers to be given include:

Brian Ward (Univ of Manchester) **'From the Mississippi to the Merseysippi: The Beatles, British Popular Music and the American South'**, and  
 Vanessa Toulmin (Univ of Sheffield) **'From Barnum to Edison: The Impact of the American Showman on British Popular Culture 1840-1920'**

Further details can be obtained from Dr Alyson Brown, *Identities*, History Dept, Edge Hill University College, St Helens Rd, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 4QP, E-mail: [browna@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:browna@edgehill.ac.uk).

### The Society's Officers & Committee, 2005/6

#### 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

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**Website:** [www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolhistorysociety.org.uk)

## RECENT TALKS - No 6

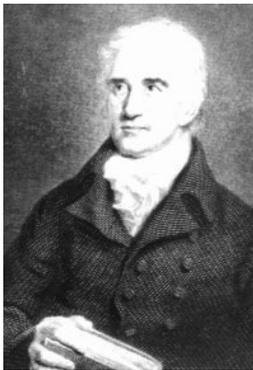
### *February 19<sup>th</sup>* **The Rathbone Family - From Welfare to Politics** *Brenda Murray*

Brenda started her talk by informing us that there have been 13 generations of Rathbones so far, and gave us a fascinating insight into the lives of the first seven of them before we sadly ran out of time.

The founder of the family, **William (I)** was a yeoman farmer in Gawsworth. The worth of his possessions was £25

**William (II)** came to Liverpool in 1720, and died in 1746. He worked in the timber industry as a sawyer. In the rapidly expanding town, wood for building was in great demand, and William soon expanded his activities and became a timber merchant. In 1731 he joined the Quakers and from that time the family remained loyal to that movement, except for an occasional member being excluded because of public endeavours to get reform.

**William (III), 1726-1789**, besides being a very conscientious member of the family firm, loved to help less fortunate people. He was very aware of the deprivation in the town. He was a friend of many philanthropists of the day; Dr. Rutter, of Ironbridge, (whose daughter, Rachel married William), Elizabeth Fry, the Darbys of Coalbrookdale and others. William was much admired and was renowned for his "diligent, calm and composed" manner. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Temperance movement and he was firm in refusing "Honours". One blot on his reputation is held to be that he once sold a slave. It was well known that he opposed the slave trade and documents show that the sale was on behalf of a friend, and that the slave in question was healthy and even quite prosperous.



**William (IV), 1757-1809**, (left) married Hannah Reynolds from Ironbridge, near Coalbrookdale. In 1786, they built the house *Greenbank*, three miles from the centre of Liverpool, as a country residence. William was in favour of the French Revolution, until Napoleon made himself Emperor. William, friend of William Roscoe, opposed the Slave trade and was unpopular with Liverpool seamen who accused him of ruining their livelihood. When Roscoe returned to Liverpool after the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Bill in 1807, he was stoned by merchants and seamen. As well as being the largest importer of cotton from America, William was also interested in many other reforms. One was postal deliveries, as in 1775 mail from the South came via Warrington and there was just ONE letter carrier for the whole of Liverpool.

**William (V), 1787-1868**, (right) married Elizabeth Greg from Styal. He was intent on reforming the voting system. Much of his zeal was focussed against the bribing of voters during the lengthy voting period, which encouraged drunkenness, and he



succeeded in having it cut from 2 weeks to 2 days.

In 1837 he was made Mayor of Liverpool, and was involved in reforming the school system, particularly religious education, making it possible for Catholic children to be taught their faith as well as Anglicans. He and his wife entertained lavishly at *Greenbank*, which was luxuriously improved by Hannah, widow of William IV. One of their guests, who often stayed for very long spells, was the American painter, John James Audubon, whom William helped to have his *Birds of America* eventually published in Edinburgh. A copy was bought for the new Library of Liverpool for an even then seemingly large sum, but although it was damaged during WW 2, it is now estimated to be worth £ millions. Other guests included the Rev. Joseph Blanco White, a Spanish priest, who converted first to Anglicanism and then to Unitarianism, Robert Owen, the philanthropist mill-owner from Scotland, and Lady Byron, wife of the poet. It is apparent that the Rathbone family helped people of all faiths and classes.

**William (VI), 1819 –1902**, (right) was born in a cottage on the site of the Albert Dock. In 1847 he married Lucretia Gair and had a house in New Brighton, Wirral. He was in the cotton trade, and he and his brother travelled extensively in the United States, where they were persuaded by slave owning plantation owners that slaves were necessary for the cotton industry. Very aware of the poverty prevalent in Liverpool, he started the Liverpool Provident Society to help the very poor to help themselves by saving a little each week, and he and others regularly visited the participants to help and advise. In 1852 he got involved with local politics, joining the Liverpool Council and the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board.



When his wife fell ill, he paid Mary Robinson to nurse her, and when Lucretia died, he asked Mary to organise a system of district nursing. The only place for the sick poor to go was the Workhouse, which then “housed” 1200 inmates, many sleeping three to a bed. William knew Florence Nightingale and sought her advice. Telling William that the “pauper nurses” could not be trained to her methods, he started a nurses training school in 1863, and through Florence he persuaded Agnes Jones to train the nurses and reorganise the Workhouse. This she did, brilliantly, but after only four years she was struck down by typhus, and died. William continued his welfare work co-operating with George Melly to relieve impoverished cotton workers during the cotton famine caused by the American Civil War. They collected so much money that once the crisis had passed, there was enough left to found a convalescent hospital in Woolton.

In 1868, William (VI) was elected M.P. and lived in London, where his daughter, Eleanor was born. He worked tirelessly with his second wife, Emily Lyle, and helped establish the Universities of Liverpool and Wales. He also fought to change the tradition system of casual labour for dockers to one of weekly wages, but in this, unusually, he failed and it was not until 1950 that this was introduced.

**Eleanor, 1872-1946**, read Philosophy at Oxford, where, at her second attempt, she gained a second class degree. (On the first occasion, her handwriting was declared

illegible, so she paid a typist to type at her dictation.) She returned to Liverpool and was the first woman to join the Council, being elected in 1909 for Granby Ward. During WW1 she observed the poverty of soldiers wives, who received no income for the first month of their husbands' service. She and others hired a building in Commutation Row, where wives could obtain help until their allowance became available.



Elected to Parliament in 1929, Eleanor was passionate about democracy and social problems, and tried to improve conditions in many countries where she observed injustice. She also tried to ease the difficulties of immigration into England of Jews seeking to escape from Nazi Germany. She fought for the support of housewives, holding that they deserved wages for raising their children. She managed to establish child allowance in 1945 and insisted it be paid directly to mothers. Eleanor (left) died the following year, aged 74.

Sadly, Brenda had to suspend her account at this point as time had run out. John said it was a great pity, and expressed the hope that she could be persuaded to tell us about the later generations of this wonderful family on another occasion. He thanked her on behalf of the appreciative members for a most informative and wide ranging talk.

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**March 19<sup>th</sup>                    “And now we are ...five”                    John Belcham & LHS Members**

John Tiernan, the LHS Chaiman, welcomed members to the very different sort of meeting that marked the Society's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday by reviewing the “ups & downs” of the past five years. These included using (or being compelled to use) different venues before settling in our present comfortable “home”; building up the membership and steady attendance each month; achieving charitable status and a National Lottery “Awards for All” grant which bought our technical equipment; hosting the Lancashire Local History Federation Conference in Sept 2004 and publishing four annual journals and a booklet of World War Two Memories. On balance, he felt that this amounted to more highs than lows, a view with which all present agreed.

He then introduced Professor John Belchem, Head of History, Liverpool University, {pictured right) who amused us with a brief but witty account of the 1907 and 1957 celebrations of Liverpool's first charter, which, he reminded us, should correctly be called, “Letters Patent”. In 1907 Liverpool, the proud and bustling second port of the Commonwealth, marked the occasion with a pageant of our history, somewhat marred by unintentional anachronisms in the costume department. In 1957, after two world wars, a severe battering in the second, and a devastating down-turn in the port's economy, the emphasis was on the unbowed spirit of the inhabitants. Music and comedy from some of our world famous performers invited interest and investment in our renewal.



He continued with a slightly downbeat look ahead to 2007, which he felt was being adversely affected by the 2008 Capital of Culture programme, and some of the emphasis on the special character of Liverpoolians is being lost. He told us a little about the new book. *Liverpool 800*, due out later this year, and joked with Mike Kelly and Jon Murden about the contents of Jon's chapter in it, including reference to Lita Rosa's No. 1 hit, of 1951, "*How Much is that Doggie in the Window*".



Advised by the Chairman that wine and cake were to follow, Prof. Belcham thought that this was an appropriate point at which to conclude. All present joined John Tiernan in expressing their appreciation to Prof Belcham and then dispersed to collect wine, tea or coffee, and admire the cake, which had been made and decorated by Mary Harrison's sister-in law. Having been cut, distributed, and pronounced to taste as good as it looked, [a sentiment with which all agreed.Ed.], all drank to the toast of

***Our birthday cake:***

**“the continuing success of  
The Liverpool History Society”**

We were then able to circulate and enjoy the table-top exhibitions of members' interests and research. These included:

Liverpool 800 Project	Jon Murden
Women's History Group	Ann Roberts
Society Equipment demonstrated by	Neville King
Society Library	Cynthia Stonall
The Paintings of James William Carling	Michael Kelly
A First World War Diary	Jo McCann
Family History	Joyce Culling
The Blundell Families of Crosby & of Ince Blundell	Brenda Murray
Mike's Mini Museum	Michael Brian
Civilian Awards 1939-1945, and City Walks	Sheila Binks
A Letter from W E Gladstone	Mary Harrison

We all enjoyed talking to the exhibitors and to each other until it was time to go home, after a very different but thoroughly enjoyable meeting.

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*Our thanks to the Special Collections & Archives of Liverpool University for the use of certain of the Rathbone photographs, & to Mary Harrison for preparing the accounts of these two recent meetings.*