

Editorial

Central Library Update

Your Editor's question in Newsletter No 16, about the proposed closure, for re-development, of our city's Central Library complex elicited a 'none-too-happy' response from Joyce Little, Head of Libraries and Information Services. To repair any unfortunate damage that might have inadvertently been done to the Society's relationship with the Library, John Tiernan, our Chairman, wrote to Ms Little on 4 October and the following paragraphs form the core of the reply that he received:

I am pleased to inform you the the government have now given approval to the library scheme and a European notice [of?] procurement was posted yesterday [31 October]. The current programme would be for a two year closure between **March 2008** and **March 2010**, but there may be slippage of course. Public information regarding alternative services and access to archives will be provided once arrangements have been formalised. This is unlikely to be before the summer of 2007 and I will ensure that the Liverpool History Society is on the circulation list.

In developing the Transition Plan for the closure, Kenny Kay will be consulting our stakeholders to seek views on their requirements and to provide information on progress with the Plan. I have copied this letter to Kenny in anticipation of this consultation. Please feel free to contact David Stoker regarding current access to archives and progress with the scheme.

I hope that this information allays any confusion and worry suffered by your members.

It is encouraging to know that closure should not occur during the first of Liverpool's two great celebratory years, and that slippage may well cause it to avoid the second. As soon as we know more, we will inform the membership at meetings and by the medium of future Newsletters.



The Officers & Committee of the Liverpool History Society
wish all Members & Friends



Other 2007 Anniversaries

Acknowledging its responsibility for its involvement in three centuries of the slave trade, and the continual effect of slavery on the City's black communities, Liverpool City Council formally apologised on 9 December 1999 for the City's part in that trade. Nearly seven years later, on 27 November 2006, the Prime Minister, writing in the *New Nation*, Britain's *soi disant* 'No 1 Black Newspaper' called the trade 'one of the most inhuman enterprises in history', adding that 'it is hard to believe that what would now be a crime against humanity was legal at the time.' To the anger of some activists, he did not actually use the word 'apology', (**can anyone, we ask, apologise, or forgive, on behalf of another?**) and we must recognise that his candid words were expressed against the current background of enhanced racial tension.

Nevertheless, they also drew attention to the fact that 2007 is the bi-centenary of the **Abolition of the Slave Trade** in and by citizens of Great Britain, but not, of course, of Slavery itself. Liverpool will be marking this anniversary in a number of ways, not least (slippage permitting!) by the opening, on 23 August 2007, of the new £9.5m International Slavery Museum in the former Dock Traffic Office at the Albert Dock.

Less well-known, perhaps, is the 2007 bi-centenary of the **death of John Newton (1725-1807)**. Now chiefly remembered for his authorship of the hymn 'Amazing Grace', for much of the time from 1742-55 he worked in the Slave Trade out of the port of Liverpool on behalf of Capt Joseph Manesty, and then, after a health scare, he was employed, until 1764, as a Liverpool Tide Surveyor, inspecting ships for taxable goods.

In April of that year that he was ordained as a C of E clergyman, and became curate of Olney, Bucks, where he remained until his appointment as Rector of St Mary Woolnoth in the City of London in 1779. It was here that, in 1788, he wrote his *Thoughts on the African Slave Trade*, a work of considerable benign influence in the ongoing campaign for the abolition of that trade. Truly a 'Poacher turned Gamekeeper', worthy of remembrance.

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

Members will know that most of our meetings are held in the Cornerstone Building of **Hope at Everton**, the secondary city campus of Liverpool Hope, an ecumenical Christian educational institution, which was granted full university status earlier this year. They may not, however, be aware that in keeping with this high status, the new University has also been granted its own "Coat of Arms" (officially an "Achievement of Arms", consisting of various parts: a shield, helmet, mantling, wreath, crest, motto and supporters), which was formally presented in a ceremony in the Senate House on their Taggart Avenue campus on 17 Oct 2006.

Heraldry, regarded today by some as an arcane anachronism, but fortunately still greatly valued by others, both for its historical interest and as a means of community cohesion, came into being primarily as a way of identifying knights, who, when wearing armour and with their faces covered by a helmet, undoubtedly looked very much alike. Over the outside of his armour, the knight would wear a "surcoat" containing a specific design, and elements of this design and/ or its colours would be echoed in the dress of his followers. (The "surcoat", or tabard, is still worn nowadays on ceremonial occasions by the Kings of Arms, Heralds and Pursuivants.) Over many centuries, heraldry developed its own rules and detailed terminology, and all achievements of arms, which very frequently include allusions to the bearer and his history or function, are described, or blazoned, in these terms.

Hope's arms, a monochrome representation of which is reproduced here by permission of the University, was granted by Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy and Ulster Kings of Arms by Letters Patent dated 10 April 2006. Designed to reflect the University's distinctive mission as a Christian educational foundation and incorporating components reflecting its Christian values and way of life, learning, light, growth, personal development and culture, the Arms are blazoned thus:

Gules a Cross engrailed of one point on each limb Argent surmounted by an open Book proper bound Azure and in the first quarter a mullet radiated Argent.



The Crest is Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Gules

Upon the Capital of an Ionic Column a Lamb passant Argent supporting with its dexter forefoot over the shoulder a Staff Or entwined with Sprigs of Laurel and Olive alternately both proper and terminating in an Escallop Or Mantled Gules doubled Argent.

The Badge is blazoned

A Liver Bird volant to the dexter Sable beaked and membered Or holding in the beak a Mullet radiated Argent.

Translated into everyday language, this means that, on a red background, there is a simple white (or silver) cross, reminiscent of the wooden cross of Christ, surmounted by an open book, (a reference both to the Bible and to learning,) and with, in the top left corner (dexter or right side from behind the shield), a Mullet, a radiant white star alluding to the light burst of the University's logo, translated into heraldic form. Above the shield is a Helm, or helmet, which 'sits' on a twisted circlet of red and white cloth, which forms part of the mantle that would sometimes have been worn to provide protection from the sun.

Immediately above the Helm is the Crest. This consists of a lamb, standing upon the capital of an ionic column and holding a staff entwined with laurel and olive and surmounted by an scallop shell. The Ionic capital represents learning and culture, while the lamb, a traditional symbol of the paschal lamb of Christ, and the staff symbolising pilgrimage and the Christian way of life.

The highly distinctive Supporters, which are a signal honour, show two Liver Birds (cormorants) indicating the University's heritage, location and commitment to the great City of Liverpool.

The motto, shown in the Koiné (or vernacular) Greek of the New Testament, but sadly not clear in our illustration, is derived from 1 Corinthians 13:13. In traditional translation, it means "**in faith, hope and love**" although, according to the Hope web-site, a better translation of the word 'agape' would be 'fellowship'.

At the bottom of the picture can be seen the Badge, a Liver Bird, flying to the heraldic right, with the radiant Mullet in its golden beak

Recent talks

[Our thanks to Netta Dixon & Mary Harrison for the preparation of these three reports]

September 2006

LIVERPOOL AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Gerry Williams gave us a fascinating account, illustrated by excellent slides, of Liverpool's connection with the American Civil War. Up to the start of the war 60% of the cotton grown in the southern states was imported into the Lancashire cotton towns through Liverpool. The North's blockade of southern ports was disastrous for the Confederates and for the mill workers of Lancashire, and the port of Liverpool. So when the South looked to Liverpool for ship building facilities, help was immediately forthcoming.



James D Bullock

During his long career at Cammel Lairds, Gerry discovered and retrieved a ledger referring to one such ship. This sparked his interest, and contact with the American Civil War Round Table enabled him to undertake extremely detailed research into the subject. He told us of some of the personalities involved in the Liverpool end of the story, including Charles Kuhn Prioleau, a representative of the cotton states, who had lived here since 1856, and married a Liverpool lady; the South's agent Capt. James Dunwoody Bullock [left] who was sent to Merseyside to negotiate the building of ships; and the company of Fraser Trenholme who became the Confederacy's local bankers., and who, perhaps inspired Rhett Butler's remark in *"Gone with the Wind"*, "My funds are in Liverpool, not Atlanta". Also present here was the Union Consul, Thomas Dudley, busily seeking evidence of infringements of the British Neutrality Act, which forbade the building of armed ships for foreign governments.

We heard the details of two of the many ships built on the Mersey. The first was the *S.S. Arreto*, which sailed from Brunswick Dock, ostensibly a merchant ship, but which was swiftly fitted with her armaments in the West Indies. The second was the ship detailed in the ledger rescued by Gerry, Order no 290, later named *C.S.S. Alabama*. On 26 July 1862, crewed by British seamen and captained by Raphael Semmes, [right] she sailed on a "trial voyage", to the Azores, where she, too, was fully fitted with guns. Meticulous research allowed us to follow the *Alabama's* successful voyages as a "Commercial Raider" over the next 20 months until she had to put into the French port of Cherbourg for a refit. Here she was trapped and sunk by the Union ship, "Kearsarge" in an action later painted by Edouard Manet. Captain Semmes and his officers were picked up by a Wigan coal ship, and carried to Liverpool. One of the seamen killed during the battle, Frederick Matthew Mauner, is buried in St. James' Cemetery.

S.S. Arreto, which



Capt Semmes

Meanwhile the cotton spinners of Lancashire were starving, and although the Northern states sent corn to help ease the situation, sympathy for the South remained high. About 50 blockade runners were built, some of which were impounded by the British government. A bazaar in aid of the Confederacy was held at St. George's Hall, and Prioleau's house in Abercromby Square, (later the Bishop's "Palace", and now part of the University) and no doubt many others displayed the Confederate flag, "The Bonny Blue Star".

After the end of the war the British Government was sued by the US Government and had to pay over £3 million in compensation for depredations caused by Confederate ships built in Liverpool. Later the Union General, Ulysses S. Grant, was entertained to dinner in Liverpool Town Hall.



Gerry answered questions from our interested and appreciative members, then John Tiernan proposed a vote of thanks which was warmly applauded by the audience.

Sinking of the Alabama (Manet)

October 2006

MRS. TINNE'S WARDROBE

On October 15th we welcomed Pauline Ashton, Curator of Costumes and Textiles at Liverpool Museum, to talk about the recent, very successful exhibition "*Passion for Fashion*". She told us that her career has been with the Museum since she joined the Dept. of Decorative Arts as a volunteer straight after graduating in History at Liverpool University.



Part of her early work was to catalogue a huge collection of clothes, all bought between the two world wars by one lady, Mrs. Emily Tinne [left]. These had been donated to the Museum by Mrs. Tinne's daughter, Alexine, following her mother's death in 1966. As Pauline became immersed in this fascinating collection of about 700 dresses, coats and accessories she realised what a unique insight she was getting into the life and times of a middle class Edwardian lady. Mrs. Tinne's two surviving children, Alexine and Helen, were able to tell Pauline fascinating details of their mother's life, and gave her family

photographs showing some of the clothes in the collection being worn. Pauline decided to write a book about Mrs. Tinne and her clothes, and this has just been published as "Mrs. Tinne's Wardrobe." and as she worked on this it was decided to show the collection as a full exhibition. .

Emily McCullough was born in 1886 in Calcutta, daughter of Scottish Missionaries, but was sent home to be educated in Edinburgh. After training as a Domestic Science teacher, she came to teach in a school in Colquhoun St, Liverpool. Through her uncle, who was a surgeon, she met and married, in 1910, Dr. Philip Tinne, a younger son of a wealthy merchant and ship-owning Dutch family. Emily had to leave teaching, of course, and they set up home in a modest semi until they inherited money after Phillip's father's death, in 1923, when they moved to a larger house in its own grounds, in Aigburth. They had seven children, six of whom survived.

From 1923 to 1939 Emily shopped with great fervour in the best shops in Liverpool, but as her daughters revealed, sadly she had few opportunities to show off her lovely clothes. She had a very restricted social life, but she did hold garden parties in aid of local charities, and was a friend of Mrs. Bessie Braddock. She led a comfortable middle-class life, with her sons educated at Eton and her daughters at private schools in Liverpool. When war started in 1939, she had all her finery packed and stored in the basement of her house, where they remained there until her death in 1966. Alexine told Pauline that Emily was convinced that the Germans would soon land in Liverpool, and would, naturally, make straight for her collection. With the war came rationing and coupons, and shopping must have lost its charms as she grew older.



*A favourite shop in Church Street:
Mme Val Smith*

Pauline treated us to slides illustrating the history and some of the highlights of the collection. They showed us a young, slender Mrs. Tinne, with her children, and Pauline pointed out, and dated, various interesting garments. She told us that while the children's clothes were passed down through the family, Emily bought prodigally for herself, often buying up to six colour versions of one dress. However many of the clothes were never worn, and many have their original tickets still attached. The later slides showing advertisements in the local papers, and later purchases, showed that Emily had progressed to the Outsize and Matron's departments; - no tactful euphemisms in those days (!).

This really was a rare glimpse of the life, and style of living, of a middle-class woman of that era, but perhaps a rather unusual one, which Pauline so ably brought to life for us. Brenda Murray proposed a vote of thanks, which was warmly applauded by the appreciative members. Brenda made us laugh by revealing that as a child with her mother and aunt, she had herself shopped in Mrs Tinne's favourite shops., most of which no longer exist. There followed many questions and comments from the members.

Thanking Pauline for a most interesting talk, John informed the meeting that she had brought along some of her books, and several members were able to purchase copies. We then dispersed to enjoy tea and coffee, provided as always by Netta.

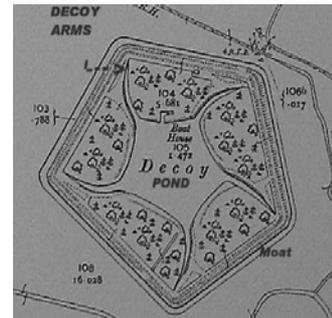
[Note for 'fashionistas': A new exhibition of British & French designer garments from the 1960s to present day, opened at the Walker Art Gallery on 2 December 2006. Ed]

November 2006**LOCAL RADIO AND LOCAL HISTORY.**

As Angela Heslop was unable to be with us, owing to professional commitments, she had asked Jenny Collins to stand in for her. Jenny gave us a real treat, telling us of her time with Radio Merseyside's Sunday Local History Shows during 2005, when she presented 15 two hour programmes, which were a mixture of studio interviews and outside recordings.

Jenny had brought with her recordings of some of her favourite interviews, one of which was with 97 year old Olive Edwards. Olive remembered her grandmother being confined to bed because she had had one leg amputated, and this seems to have inspired Olive to become a nurse. When she was 17 her mother took her to be interviewed by the matron of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and soon afterwards she embarked on her career. Her mother had to buy her fairly extensive uniform. Olive recalled Christmas crises, and parties, including the appearance of no less than three Father Christmases on the same day (!). Jenny said Olive was a wonderful woman.

At Hale Bank, at Pickerings Pasture Local Nature Reserve, Jenny met the warden, Rob Smith who told her about the duck decoy, which dates from the 17th. Century, and is one of only 3 or 4 remaining in the country, out of about 200.. It consists of a lake in the centre of a small island, surrounded by trees, from which pipes lead out into ditches, and into which ducks were enticed to be captured. Jenny watched the many ducks from the hide as Rob told her its history. The Nature Reserve is free to visit, but an appointment is needed to see The Decoy. [A Society visit may be organised next year. Ed.]



Jenny made us chuckle over her recordings of the reactions of junior school children to a World War 2 exhibition in St. Helens., but made us shiver with the sailors who had manned the Russian convoys during the same War. In this connection we were surprised to learn that the ice which formed on the insides of the bulkheads of their ships had, to some extent, acted as insulation.

Tony Brown told Jenny that the Friends of Liverpool Monuments are trying to restore the ten parochial drinking fountains remaining in Liverpool. He told us that Charles Pierre Melly spent £500 erecting more than 40. The existing one in Byrom Street was erected in 1857. We were also entranced by the story of Hannah May Thom and the monument to her memory [left] erected by the grateful women of the Holy Cross area of Scotland, after her work to improve maternity care..

Hoylake was the scene of a beach walk with Jim O'Neil. Here 100.000 soldiers camped en route to Ireland, in such conditions that more than half died. In 1690 King William III joined them to sail to Ireland, and is said to have ridden through a gap in the sand hills, which even today is known as King's Gap. In 1736, the canal from Chester to Flint was dug, in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the silting of the Dee..

Another fascinating walk was with Stephen and David Guy, around Liverpool landmarks connected with their family history. This was family history brought to life, as they were able to show Jenny the very places where their grandfather and great grandfather had lived.

Sefton Church, which we all admire was the subject of another broadcast, when Mike Stammers showed Jenny the impressive rood screen and original 16th. century choir stalls and candelabra, and explained the connection with the Molyneux family.

The two final recordings were with our own Brenda Murray, round Seaforth, and Stephen Guy, in West Derby Village. We learned that the name Seaforth was chosen for the house built in the area in 1814, by John Gladstone, father of William, as a compliment to his wife, who was the daughter of Lord Seaforth. We also heard about the West Derby Courthouse, which was built in 1586, and remained in use until the mid 19th. century. It is possibly the only remaining mediaeval courthouse in Britain.

John Tiernan thanked Jenny for her entertaining presentation, which was warmly endorsed by our members, who then contributed some memories of their own. The room was buzzing with animated conversation as the 60 or more members enjoyed tea and biscuits dispensed by Netta and Sheila.

Book News

The writer of the biblical book Ecclesiastes tells us that “of making many books there is no end” (Eccl 12:12), and as Liverpool’s 800th anniversary, and Capital of Culture years approach, that certainly seems to be true of books about the city, its past and its present. Covering a wide gamut of topics, prices, formats and level of popularity, ranging from what are probably best described as “coffee table books” to texts for ‘serious’ historians, whether professional or amateur. Just a few of them are mentioned below.



Perhaps the most eagerly awaited was *Liverpool 800 – Culture, Character and History*, edited by John Belchem, and published by Liverpool U P in hard and soft back editions. With over 500 pages of text, and profusely illustrated in both colour and monochrome, its six chapters cover ‘Celebrating Liverpool’ [L]; Small Beginnings, 1207-1680; Civic L, 1680-1800; Living in L, the Modern City; Maritime L; Cosmopolitan L; and ‘City of Change and Challenge’, L since 1945. Each of which deserves a careful and thoughtful read, but not in bed, as even the softback volume weighs nearly 2kg, (5lbs)!

The Society has been promised a complimentary copy for its library, and with the softback edition selling at less than £15.00, this new volume should be within the reach of almost all, and found amongst the treasured books of every Liverphile.

Also recently published by LUP is *Liverpool 1660-1750 – People, Prosperity and Power*, by Diana Ascott, Fiona Lewis and the late Michael Power. This slim (224pp) hardback claims to provide the first significant detailed published study of the social and political structure of the town during this crucial period. However, at £50.00, it appears to be primarily aimed at a restricted academic readership rather than the wider community of Liverpool history enthusiasts, who must content themselves with borrowing it through their local library.

Our Society library has recently benefited from a number of generous donations. Our October speaker, Pauline Ruston, kindly gave us a copy of the very nicely produced catalogue relating to the exhibition of the late Emily Tinne’s clothing and accessories. Entitled *‘Mrs Tinne’s Wardrobe: A Liverpool Lady’s Clothes, 1900-1940’*, the book features nearly 300 items in full colour, and helps recapture both the exhibition and Pauline’s talk.

Harry McLeish, whom we were recently pleased to welcome as a new member of our Society, has given us a copy of his *Sunset over Cherbourg, or the Adventures of Jamie on the Alabama*. Published in 2001, this novel weaves the story of the fictional Merseyside engineer Jamie MacPherson around the true story of the building by Laird’s of “vessel no 290”, later to be known as *CSS Alabama*, and the exploits of that ship until its sinking, off Cherbourg, in June 1864. [Our September talk refers].

Wharncliffe Books, whose ‘flyer’ we are pleased to enclose with this newsletter, have donated two books of local interest referred to therein. One is *The Making of Liverpool*, by St Helens author Mike Fletcher, a paperback of 192 pages, first published in 2004 at £9.99. Many of its illustrations, taken from prints, postcards and photographs are very familiar, but others are less so, and all the better for that. Unfortunately marred in places by grammatical and other solecisms, (eg the reference to the Pope as ‘His Eminence’ instead of the more usual ‘His Holiness’), the book is a useful introduction to Liverpool’s history.

Also from Wharncliffe, we have received *Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Liverpool*, by Stephen Wade. Published earlier this year as part of a series of ‘Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths’, and priced at £10.99, this is an handy appetiser for those unfamiliar with aspects of Liverpool’s historic darker side. Like *The Making of Liverpool* mentioned above, the reader’s enjoyment is reduced by grammatical and other mistakes (for instance, was The Bluecoat School ever an ‘Infirmary’, as stated on page 26?). Despite its preoccupation with the careers of the various Public Hangmen involved, and the retelling of some familiar tales, the book does introduce its readers to some of the less well known murder etc cases of former days.

In a similar subject area, another 2006 volume is *The Gangs of Liverpool*, by Michael Macilwee (Milo Books, Wrea Green, £9.99). Apparently free from proof reading slip-ups, this easy read studies some of the gangs of ruffians who terrorised parts of Liverpool in the latter half of the 19th century, and the moral panic that they engendered. It is made all the more valuable by the parallels that it draws with aspects of the modern crime scene.

Also noted, but not yet seen, are *The Little Book of Liver Birds* by Dave Cottrell (Beedon Books, £9.99) and *(Liverpool’s Irish Connection)*, by our own Mike Kelly, a revised edition of his earlier work of similar title (AJH Publications, Formby, £9.99).

Reading maketh a Full Man (Francis Bacon, 1521-1626)

2007 PROGRAMME

January

Winter Break

No meeting

February 18 The Crimean War - Merseyside Connections

Neville King

Apart from vague recollections of Tennyson's *Charge of the Light Brigade*, images of The Lady with the Lamp, and mentions of Inkerman Terrace on "Corrie", the story of the Crimean War, 1854-56, between, on the one side, Britain, France, Turkey, and from 1855, Piedmont-Sardinia, and on the other Russia, is probably largely forgotten. Unless, that is, you, like Neville King, had an ancestor who took part, in which case it becomes much more real. His talk will tell us why.



Our illustration shows the reverse of the Crimea Medal, sanctioned by Q. Victoria on 15 Dec 1854, which was worn on a pale blue ribbon edged in yellow, with one or more of the ornate clasps commemorating the Battles of Alma, Sebastopol, Inkermann, Balaclava and naval operations in the Sea of Azoff

March 25

Child Emigration

Pat McEvoy

(NB: 4th Sunday)

Emigration was for many years seen as the answer to many of this country's problems, as well as a means of supplying a much needed labour force for the burgeoning economies of our overseas colonies etc. Amongst those who went were many thousands of children, sent out to a 'better life' by charitable institutions in whose care they had been placed. Often run by the various churches, bodies such as The Salvation Army, Barnardo's, and, locally, the Liverpool Catholic Children's Society were expected to provide a loving and caring home for their charges, but this comfortable image has been marred by controversy and tales of unhappiness and horrific abuse.

Pat will perhaps tell us more of both sides of this sad story.



Young emigrants on route to Canada

April 15

Liverpool Ferries

Malcolm McDonald



An unidentified inter-war ferry

Probably from even before the granting in 1318 of a charter to the Prior of Birkenhead right up to the present day, passengers have been ferried across the Mersey, some for trade or business, and some just for pleasure. The craft used have ranged from tiny rowing or sailing boats, through early steam ships (the first, *Elizabeth*, a paddle steamer introduced in 1815), the original *Royal Iris* and *Royal Daffodil*, which earned their honorific prefix for their part in the raid on Zeebrugge in 1918, to the three diesel vessels that shuttle back and forth today

Malcolm will no doubt tell us how, while perhaps a less vital link now than in former years, the Mersey Ferries are world famous and a major attraction for visitors to our City.

May 21

6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(1.45pm start)

followed at approx 2.15pm by

Adolf Hitler – Did he visit Liverpool in 1912/13

Mike Royden

(More details in next newsletter)

All members living within travelling distance of Liverpool are warmly encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting, as it is their chance to say what they do and do not like about how their Society is run and, if they wish, to become more involved in the many essential "behind the scenes" tasks.

Liverpool's history to go online

Following on from the partnership between the city council and the University of Liverpool to create the new book *Liverpool 800*, the Arts and Humanities Research Council has awarded over £335k to Liverpool Record Office and the University to enable a team of five staff to build a "Liverpool in Print" web-site.

Professor John Belchem from the University of Liverpool's School of History said:

Building upon the knowledge and expertise acquired during the research for the book 'Liverpool 800', Liverpool in Print will become the indispensable point of reference for all aspects of Liverpool's remarkable culture, character and history.

At the heart of the new site will be 156,000 references, including newspaper articles, documents and other print material from the city's increasingly fragile local studies 'sheaf' catalogue together with the results of a world-wide search that will be made to find additional material held in libraries and repositories elsewhere.

Although the whole project will take three years to complete, a significant amount of material will be made available on the web-site during the city's 800th birthday year. The site will also include reader guides, descriptions of the items and essays on key themes, and will, according to Cllr Warren Bradley "enable people from Garston to Goa to find out more about the city's unrivalled heritage, at the click of a mouse."

Soon to be seen at the Walker

An exhibition called 'The Cathedral That Never Was: Lutyens' design for Liverpool' featuring the huge model of the RC Cathedral designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, but abandoned on cost grounds, will be held at the Walker Art Gallery from 27 January to 22 April 2007. Although briefly on show a few years ago, this is the first opportunity to see the 11ft 9 inches wide, 17 ft long and 12 ft 6 inches high wood, plaster and metal model, with Lutyens' breathtaking interior, fully restored by conservators at the National Conservation Centre in Liverpool at a cost of £500,000, which included a major grant of £268,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Julian Treuherz, N M L keeper of galleries and the curator of the exhibition, says:

This is one of the largest and most elaborate architectural models ever made. It gives a vivid idea of what the cathedral would have looked like, towering over the city's skyline. If built, [it] would have been one of the greatest Catholic cathedrals in the world". {He continues] "We are fortunate that, at least, we still have the model of what would have been Lutyens' supreme creation.

More about John Rotherfoot

The invitation in the last issue to find out more about correspondent of William Roscoe's was taken up by one of our members (to whom our thanks both for the information and the copy documents) who discovered that he was in all probability also known as John Rutherford, a Manchester born lad who went to sea at the age of about ten in 1806. Limitations of space in this issue mean that further details of his life, and a reproduction of his portrait, by George Scharf, will have to be held over to a future issue, and this may, hopefully, give some keen member the further opportunity to find out more about "Mr Calvert's exhibition in the Market, Liverpool"

And finally

We understand from Brenda Murray that there will be a Viking display in St John's Gardens, Liverpool, all day on Sunday, 28th January 2007, and a English Civil War presentation by members of the Society of the Sealed Knot in the same location on Sunday 11 February. While not under the aegis of the Culture Company, these two events nevertheless promise to be of considerable interest. For further details please contact Ms Murray by email at the following address: brendamurray@merseyrail.com

The Society's Officers & Committee, 2006-2007

Officers

Chairman:	John Tiernan	(2009)	Administration Secretary:	Jo McCann (P)	(2007)
Treasurer:	Mike Brian (P)	(2009)	Membership Secretary:	Jon Murden	(2009)

Committee

Sheila Binks	(2009)	Charles Collier	(2007)	Joyce Culling	(2006)	Netta Dixon	(2007)
Mary Harrison	(2007) (P)	Marie McQuade	(2009) (P)	Brenda Murray	(2007)	Cynthia Stonall	(2008)

NB (P) denotes member of Publications Sub-Committee & and the year is when current term of office ends

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