

Tuesday, 28 August 2007

is almost here, and we shall soon know whether the wait for the official celebrations has been worth it.

While comments on April's "*Son et Lumière*" at St George's Hall have been favourable, your editor has received mixed opinions of the Hall's new Visitor Centre (fuller report next issue), the souvenir brochure and the commemorative medallion, one which is to be given to each of Liverpool's 74,000 school-pupils as a "birthday present", courtesy of the Liverpool Culture Company.

By the time you read this, the long-awaited

Magical History Tour

will be open at The Merseyside Maritime Museum. Running from 28 July 2007 to 27 Sept. 2009, it will look at the events which have shaped the town & city over the centuries and take visitors on a journey to discover the amazing story of Liverpool and its people.

We are told that that there will be street parties, a "dazzling" civic and community procession, a thanksgiving service and what is said to be the city's largest-ever firework display, but except for the fact that tickets for the special ferry sailings to watch the display are already sold out, precise information about these events seems difficult to find. (It is of course, somewhat easier to find information about Liverpool's coincident International Beatles Week!)

With what he has seen so far, and the problems said to be being experienced by the Culture Company, your editor is, perhaps not surprisingly, somewhat apprehensive as to whether what is planned will be worthy of our heritage & history.

Within the bounds of its limited resources, the LHS has been "doing its bit", our primary achievement being the publication in May of our 2007 Journal, specially enlarged to 130 pages, and we gratefully acknowledge the help of the Culture Company towards meeting the extra costs involved.

In addition to pieces dealing with aspects of the story some of the later Royal Charters, and illustrated

of Liverpool and its environs from pre-history to the 20th century, this sixth issue also has a series of linked articles based on the Letters Patent of 1207 and some of the later Royal Charters, and illustrated (sadly, only in black & white) with the highly-decorated initial letter of each charter.

In the Summer (such as it was!), we celebrated by devouring, in double quick time, a beautifully baked and decorated Birthday Cake (see report of June meeting, within), and wished it were practical to share its delights with absent members.

We have continued to work with the

Liverpool Heritage Forum,

as it tries to co-ordinate and publicize the activities of some of Liverpool and its environs many cultural societies, and, under their aegis, were privileged to host and provide the speaker (our Chairman, John Tiernan) for the first of three free Local History talks in the prestigious Council Chamber of Liverpool Town Hall.

From the attendance of about 120, we were able to recruit at least six new members, and sell a considerable number of our 2007 Journals.

We look forward to taking part in

The Big History Show - 800 Years of Liverpool

from 14 to 16 September. Billed as "the biggest-ever celebration of history in the city's 800th birthday year", St George's Hall and other buildings in the city's so-called Cultural Quarter will house an exhibition of local cultural heritage organisations, a display of historical vehicles, and in the refurbished Small Concert Room and other rooms, a conference entitled

'Liverpool: a sense of time & place'

We look forward to seeing you visiting our stand., where we hope to have copies of all past Journals, the World War Two Memories booklet, and at least one new publication on sale

Mike Brian (Editor)



MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LHS**20TH. May, 2007,****Held at The Cornerstone Building, Hope University, Shaw Street, Liverpool**

- 1a Before formally welcoming members to the Society's 6th A.G.M., the Chairman, John Tiernan, regretted to have to announce that, owing to a catering staff mistake, there would be no tea/coffee during the break, and that, even worse, our Speaker, Mike Royden's car had broken down *en route* to the meeting, and that we would, after all, receive no word on Adolph Hitler either. However Cynthia Stonall suggested that Ken Pye be asked to agree to our watching part of the DVD of his book, "Discover Liverpool" instead.
- 1b John then delivered his **REPORT** on the previous year, which, once again, was upbeat. We had enjoyed many interesting talks, and were looking forward to our summer visit to St. Nicholas's Church on June 17th. He thanked his fellow Officers and Committee members for all their hard work, and Netta Dixon and Mary Harrison for taking the Minutes of all meetings. He also thanked Father Connors and Bro. Ken Vance, SJ, for continuing to allow the Committee to hold their meetings in SFX. At no cost to the Society.
- 1c **APOLOGIES** were received from Jo McCann, on family duties, Joyce Culling, who has been in hospital following two falls, and four other members. Sympathy for Joyce was warmly expressed and after a proposal that flowers be sent from the Society, Sheila Binks volunteered to deliver them.
- 2 John then read the **MINUTES OF THE 5th A.G.M.**, which had been distributed with Newsletter No 16, and proposed their acceptance. Paul Evers Swindell seconded this, and the meeting agreed, *nem con*.
- 3a **SECRETARY'S REPORT** was read by John, in Jo's absence. She echoed the chairman's remarks on our successful year, and paid tribute to the extra tasks carried out by committee members, including a fortnightly helping hand given by Sheila Binks and Mary Harrison at the Liverpool Central Library Archive Dept. . Members were asked to support the series of talks, organised by The Liverpool Heritage Forum, to be given in the Liverpool Town Hall Council Chamber. The first talk would be given by John Tiernan, on June 21st. Also, help would be needed with the Society's table at the Big History Show to be held in St. George's Hall, over 3 days in September.
- 3b **EDITORIAL REPORT** The Journal was now ready for distribution. At the beginning of the current year the resignations of Neville King & Mary Harrison had reduced the sub-committee to three; Jo McCann, Marie McQuade, and Mike Brian. Excellent essays on Liverpool history had been received from a variety of contributors, which together had made a very worth while Journal for 2007. Jo thanked the Culture Co. and MRUG for their financial contributions and Alan Roberts, our new journal printer for his help. She also paid tribute to Marie for the computer skills which had brought the Journal to completion.
- 3c **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT** Cynthia Stonall reported that this summer would see the library collection moved from her house to our cupboard in the Shaw Room in SFX church. Space remains limited and the Society can only accept donations of a "modest size." The Library Catalogue is displayed on our web-site, with details of most additions being given in our Newsletters. Members were reminded of rules about borrowing and returning books. Members could keep up to date online, and, through her, could also receive news online, from The Liverpool Heritage Forum. Cynthia then appealed for the member who recently donated a large album of photographs to contact her.
- 3d **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT.** Mike Brian reported that the past year had been difficult when heavy pressure of his work with Liverpool Museums had forced the newly appointed Memb Sec., Jon Marden, reluctantly to resign from that post and the LHS Committee. With the support of the Committee he (Mike) had, *pro tem*, taken on the post of Mem. Sec. in addition to the Treasurer's duties. He said that no offers had been received to take over the duties of Memb Sec., but that, until one was, he was willing to continue to fill both roles, subject to membership approval, the necessary amendment to the Society's Constitution, and the approval of that amendment by the Charity Commission.

Mike further reported that Membership Year 2006/07 had started with 177 members, and finished with 182. Unfortunately there were, he said, still 29 current year subscriptions. unpaid, and the new Journal would not be issued to those concerned while this remained the case.

2007 AGM MINUTES, contd

- 4) **TREASURER'S REPORT** Mike Brian presented his report and said that having been examined by Brian Coghlan, a certified copy of the accounts was now available for inspection by any member who wished to do so. Brian had questioned a couple of procedural points, which it had been agreed would be brought into line with his recommendations immediately.

Thanking him for his work, Mike assured the members that in Brian Coghlan they had a most assiduous "watchdog", and expressed pleasure that he was willing to continue next year.

Mike said that finances continued to be healthy, and, with a total balance of £5815.64 carried forward on 31st. March 2007, there was no need yet to increase subs. Gift Aid recovered from HMRC had amounted to £306.03, but following the forthcoming reduction in the Basic Rate of Income Tax, future sums would be reduced. A number of additional donations from members had been gratefully received, especially that of over £100 from Harry McLeish, from the sale of his book, "Sunset over Cherbourg".

£1000 had been transferred from Savings to Current A/c to meet the printer's bill for Journal. This had included the money received some time ago from MRUG and had been supplemented by the contribution from the Liverpool Culture Company. Mike said that this year we might not recover the full cost of production, but added "It is our birthday, so why not celebrate." If a further approach to LCC is successful we have in mind to produce a similar size issue to mark Capital of Culture year.

Finally, Mike said that, to reduce his work load, and save paper, he would not normally issue receipts for subs paid, unless payments by post were accompanied by an S.A.E.

John Tiernan proposed and Sheila Binks seconded that the accounts be accepted. Agreed, *nem con*.

- 5) **APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINER FOR 2007/08 Accounts.** John Tiernan proposed that Brian Coghlan be re-elected as "auditor". This was seconded by Mary Harrison; and agreed, *nem con*.
- 6) **ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Jo McCann had agreed to serve for one more year as Secretary, and Mike Brian confirmed that he was willing to serve as Treasurer for next the three years, and to continue to act, *pro tem*, as Membership Secretary, subject to the previously stated provisos. Thanking John Murden for his spell as Membership Sec, the Chairman proposed and Netta Dixon seconded that Jo and Mike be so re-elected. This was agreed, *nem con*.

In the absence of any other nominations, the Chairman declared that Brenda Murray, Charles Collier, Netta Dixon and Mary Harrison were re-elected to the Committee for a further three years, and on behalf of the Committee recommended that Rob Ainsworth be elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jon Murden. This was also agreed, *nem con*.

6a AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION .

Mike Brian then explained the significance of the various changes to the Society's Constitution as shown in the document circulated with Newsletter 18. Other than Brian Coghlan's concerns, expressed in a recent letter to the Chairman, lest the combining of officers' duties come to be regarded as the "norm", there were no comments or objections. Seconded by the Chairman, he then asked the meeting to approve and accept the changes in the Constitution, and this too was agreed, *nem con*. Mike further explained that the changes would not become effective until approved by the Charity Commission.

- 7 No matters had been previously raised by members for discussion
- 8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Paul Evers-Swindell thanked the Chairman, Officers and Committee for their work for the Society

Brenda Murray proposed a special Vote of Thanks to the Editorial Committee for the excellent Journal

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the AGM closed at about 2.30pm.

REPORTS OF RECENT MONTHLY MEETINGS

(with our thanks to regular reporters Netta Dixon & Mary Harrison, and to guest reporter Julie Kershaw)

April 15th. 2007

Mersey Ferries

Malcolm McDonald

Mr McDonald treated us to a detailed and well-illustrated account of ferry services on the Mersey and began by reminding us that ferries had been plying between Birkenhead and Liverpool almost since the founding of Liverpool. His talk focussed, however, on the regular services since the St George Co. had begun, in 1822, to



transport passengers, goods and livestock along the coast of North Wales, on the *SS Prince Llewellyn*”, which must have been a great improvement on the road transport of the time. About the same time services to the Isle of Man and Ireland had been introduced, initially by the same company, but subsequently by such organizations as City of Dublin Co., Liverpool and North Wales Steamship Co. Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. right through to “B.& I.” and M.P.T.A.

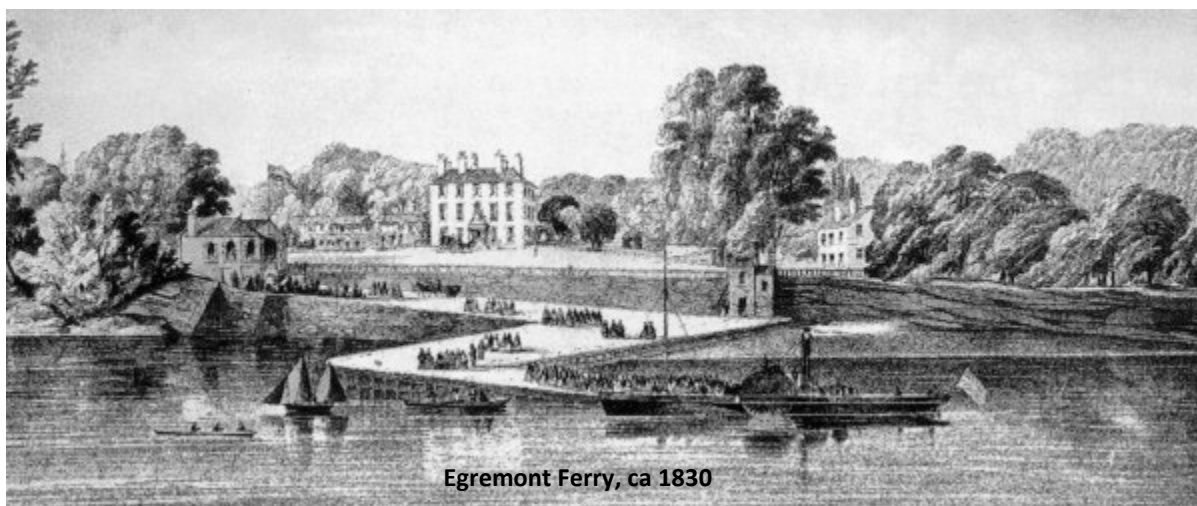
Happy memories were evoked by the excellent slides of many of the steamships and M.V.s, bearing famous names such as *St. Tudno*, *St. Trillo*, *La Margarita*, *Mona’s Isle*, *Manx Maid*, *St. Patrick*, *Leinster*, *Munster* and many more. Some of these having been built at Cammel Laird’s, and we saw how, with each change of ownership, the ships were repainted in the colours of their new owners.

In recent times fast hovercraft and jetfoils have been introduced for ferrying cars to Ireland and the IoM. Not all have been successful, but there are now regular sailings to many of the old destinations. No new ships are planned, but the present ships are probably good for another 20 or 30 years.

The Mersey Ferries, in particular brought smiles to our Liverpool faces, with memories of exciting trips to Seacombe, Egremont and New Brighton, aboard the “*Royal Iris*” and the “*Royal Daffodil*”. These “Royal” prefixes had been granted in recognition of their part in the famous raid on Zeebrugge on 22nd/23rd April 1918. A later “*Royal Daffodil*” was also involved of the evacuation of troops from Dunkirk. The present triangular service, Liverpool, Seacombe, Birkenhead, Liverpool, certainly does not have the same magic.



John thanked Mr. McDonald for his wide ranging and informative talk, which had once again made us think about treasures which we tend to take for granted.



[Illustrations supplied by Editor]

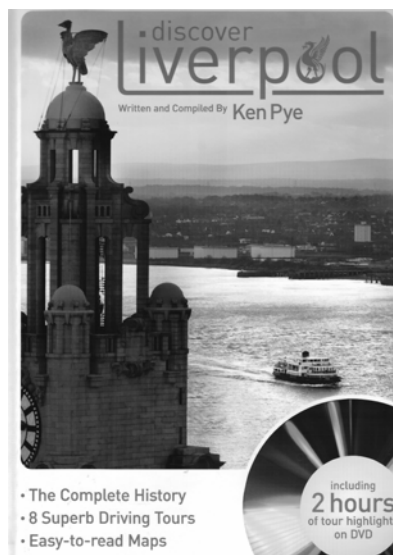
20 May 2007

"Discover Liverpool"

Ken Pye

As reported elsewhere, we had arrived at the AGM to be greeted with news that the car of the scheduled speaker, Mike Royden, had broken down on the motorway and he therefore would be unable to attend. With the news also that there was no tea urn, matters looked grave indeed, until Cynthia Stonall, our Librarian, remembered the DVD that accompanied the book "Discover Liverpool" which had recently been presented to the society by its author, Ken Pye, a long-standing member of the LHS. A quick call to Ken to ensure that he had no objections resulted, not just in permission immediately being granted, but also in a generous offer to come down straightaway and talk us through the showing.

The DVD has 8 different tours and a quick show of hands saw us opt to view the one called "A Lordly Heritage" which covers the Stanley and Molyneux family seats of Knowsley and Croxteth Halls, as well as nearby places such as West Derby Village, Knotty Ash and Knowsley Safari Park (where an elephant showed a bit too much curiosity about the presenter!) After viewing this section of the DVD, there followed a very interesting talk about the book itself, and how it had come into being, as well as a question and answer session with Ken, which led to calls for him to be invited to speak again on a less *ad-hoc* basis. The vote of thanks was warmly supported and the general consensus of the afternoon was that "victory had been snatched from the jaws of defeat."



The book itself (256pp, ISBN 1905266359, £20.00) is one of the best I have read about Liverpool. If John Belchem's "Liverpool 800" is the academic work of the year, then this book is definitely Everyman's tome. Well-researched and knowledgeable, it is nevertheless extremely accessible. It is divided into 8 themed driving tours that cover both the centre and the historic suburbs of the city but it is of equal use to pedestrians and locals. It can be read cover-to-cover or dipped in to at will, as the various attractions and in-depth articles are clearly defined. Colour photos and maps accompany each section but for me, perhaps the most useful extra is the numerous related website addresses that are provided, and which assist those who wish to, to carry out further research.

The accompanying DVD, over 2 hours long, shows highlights from each tour and the team have been accorded enviable access to places such as Knowsley Hall, which is generally not open to the public. Despite his assertion that he had no previous experience of presenting, Ken Pye comes across as highly professional with a knack of making the history of the city accessible, and his passion for his city shines through. Being able to see the places referred to rather than just read about them, brings the book to life and there is no sense of a lecture being delivered, the style being more than of an enthusiastic friend.

In short, this book, of which Ken says "it is a celebration of the city I love and which I wish to share with you" is a very worthwhile addition to the library of any enthusiast for Liverpool. The web links provide an ideal starting point for individual research, and the DVD, superbly produced by Colin McKeown's highly respected and city-based LA Productions, is an inspired extra of interest to visitors and locals alike. [JK]

A little about Ken Pye A Scouser born and bred (& proud of it), Ken spent much of his working life to 1990 with various charities seeking to support those suffering from different aspects of social disadvantage. He successfully ran his own project management company from 1990 until 1997 when he was invited to become the National Partnership Director for the Business Environment Association. In 1999, Ken was invited to accept the post of Programme Director for Common Purpose on Merseyside. Previously unaware of this specialist, educational, leadership-development organisation, he realised that here was an opportunity to draw together all the previous strands of his career, while the prospect of being in a position to influence, the emerging and current leaders of a City and region to which he is passionately committed in an imaginative, creative, and enabling way, proved irresistible. He is now Senior Programme Director with Common Purpose. In his spare time - apart from local history - Ken is an enthusiastic collector of music of a very eclectic nature. He also enjoys theatre, concerts, photography, and travel; is a renowned chef; and an enthusiastic 'bon viveur'! [Ed]



17th June 2007 VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST. NICHOLAS David Brazendale

John Tiernan introduced David Brazendale, who is both a Churchwarden of the Parish Church of Our Lady and St. Nicholas, and a well-known local historian. Speaking from one of the two Ambos (reading desks), installed instead of Pulpits when the church was rebuilt in 1953, David welcomed us and then treated us to an interesting and entertaining look at the shared history of Liverpool and St. Nick's, over the past 800 years.

We learned that St. Nicholas was a 3rd century Bishop of Myra (in present-day Turkey), with a great reputation as a poet, and was famous for his work on behalf of children, and vulnerable young women. Legend tells us the story of his gift of three bags of gold to poor families, from which comes the traditional "Santa Claus", and is, some say, the origin of the pawnbrokers' sign. He was also adopted as patron saint of a very diverse collection of groups of people: sailors, children, perfumiers, bankers, pawnbrokers, prostitutes and burglars. In 1087 his remains were abducted and removed to Bari in southern Italy.

When Liverpool was granted its "charter" in 1207, the new township was within the parish of St. Mary, Walton-on-the-Hill, and all ceremonies such as burials had to be conducted there. The first reference to a church in Liverpool dates from 1257, when Chapel Street is named, but it is almost certain that a chapel, St. Mary del Key, existed from 1207, and possibly before then, standing approximately on the site of the present tower. In the years 1355-61 a new chapel, dedicated to St Mary & St Nicholas, was built alongside on land granted by the Duke of Lancaster. During a local plague in 1361, the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (in whose diocese Liverpool then was) licensed the burial ground, and the following year the chapel itself was consecrated. As elsewhere, it soon became a social centre for the townspeople, and a school was endowed by the Cross family, all boys of that name being entitled to a free education.

By the late 15th century a north aisle, the same size as the nave, had been added and three chantry altars had been endowed. In 1515 a fourth chantry was founded, but at the Reformation some few years later, all chantries were abolished and the building was by stages adapted to Protestant forms of worship.

In the 16th century, the chapel's officers became involved in the town administration, taking on responsibility for social work, street cleaning, policing, and many other duties. During the Civil War, the building was used as a prison, and was stormed when Prince Rupert entered the town, killing 300, and, so the parish reckoned, taking £25,000 worth of plunder. The town's claim for compensation was answered by the granting of land in Ireland, which, said David, was a very mixed blessing.



Between 1673 and 1718 the building was further extended piecemeal. Galleries were built to house the increasing population, and a ring of bells purchased. In 1699 Liverpool became an independent Parish, with two parish churches (St Nick's, and a new church to be named St. Peter's) and two rectors who were granted equal status, and required to preach at both churches on alternate Sundays. It seems that the sailors and the poorer workers remained loyal to St. Nick's, while "posh folk" attended St. Peter's.

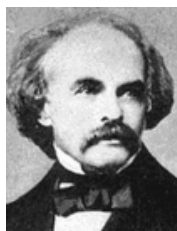
In 1746 a spire was added to St. Nick's tower, and crowned with a golden, ship weathervane. In 1770 the nave was rebuilt in Georgian Gothic style, but, despite doubts about its safety, the tower was not replaced. On Sunday, 11 February 1810, as the bells were ringing for morning service, the steeple crashed into the nave, killing 25 people (21 of them aged under 15, mostly girls from the Moorfields Charity School) and injuring as many others. Between 1811 and 1815 a new tower and lantern, [seen here in an early 19th century print] was built to the north of the old one, to the design of Thomas Harrison of Chester; and crowned with the recovered and restored weather vane. The final remains of the old chapel of St Mary del Key, long in secular use, were also demolished.

The Anglican Diocese of Liverpool was created in 1880 at a time of religious and political upheaval, and when the outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli appointed the Evangelical, John Charles Ryle, as its first Bishop, the family of the incoming PM, W E Gladstone, purchased the advowson (the right to appoint the incumbent) of St. Nick's from Liverpool Council and appointed a High Church vicar. Subsequent to the consecration of the Lady Chapel of the new Cathedral in 1910, Our Lady & St Nicholas' became Liverpool's parish church in 1916, and its incumbent, the sole Rector of Liverpool. St. Peter's, the pro-cathedral since 1880, on the other hand, became redundant and was sold, and was demolished in 1922. [Continued on p 8]

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 2007

All meetings are on Sundays at the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw St, Liverpool.

September 23 {NB} Nathaniel Hawthorne & The Port of Liverpool Robert Currams



Born in 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne added the 'w' to his name in 1830, perhaps to distance himself from an ancestor who had been a judge at the infamous 17th century Salem witch trials. In 1842 he married Sophia Peabody, by whom he fathered three children. In March 1853, Franklin Pierce, the somewhat inept 14th President of the USA, appointed Hawthorne, who was already an established author, as US Consul in Liverpool, a position which he held until 1859. Returning to America, he continued his writing career until his death in May 1864, while on a trip with Pierce.

Hawthorne devoted part of his *Our Old Home* to his consular experiences, and in 1983, J O'D Mays retold the story in *Mr Hawthorne goes to England; The Adventures of a Reluctant Consul*. Today Robert Currams will tell us more of this visitor from "across the pond."

October 21 Charles P Melly and his Drinking Fountains Patrick Neill

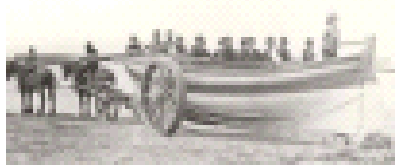
Jazz-lovers were saddened to hear in July of the death of 80 year George Melly, wit, raconteur, and wearer of "flamboyant suits", but probably few knew of his blood-relationship (great-grand nephew?) with the subject of today's talk, Charles Pierre Melly (1829-1888). A successful Liverpool cotton merchant, of Swiss descent, he was deeply concerned with social issues and took an abiding interest in the Nat. Assoc. for the Promotion of Social Science, the Working Men's Improvement Society, the "ragged schools", the Unitarian Mission, and the provision of infirmaries, public parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, benches and drinking fountains.



Over 40 fountains were erected in Liverpool, of which a number still remain, albeit not functioning. The one that has recently been restored to working order will no doubt feature in Patrick Neill's talk today.

November 18 Britain's First Lifeboat Station Barbara Yorke

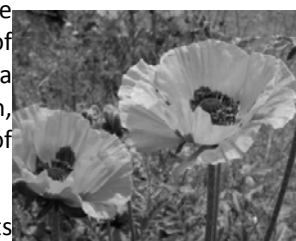
For almost 50 years before the establishment, in 1824, of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck (later the RNLI), Formby, a little to the north of Liverpool at the mouth of the River Mersey, kept one of its own local boats (not a specially constructed 'lifeboat', for neither these nor the name had been invented), "ready to save lives from vessels forced on shore on that Coast" (Burdett's chart of 1776)



Barbara Yorke, MBE, co-author with her husband, LHS member Dr Reg Yorke, of a first rate history of Formby's lifeboat station, will today give us a Powerpoint presentation of how it came to be established, some the many achievements of the Formby lifeboats and their crews (those of 1874 is shown here) until the closure of the station in 1918, and the subsequent sad fate of the, now virtually disappeared, boathouse.

December 16 Poppies—The Discovery of a Liverpool Journal Rosamund Ridley

When Rosamund Ridley bought an old hand written journal and a lot of old photographs in a Cumbrian second-hand bookshop, she little knew what an interesting story of a forgotten age she was about to discover. The journal turned out to be an account of the travels of a group of Liverpool young people in those northern parts of France which, in just a few years, would be changed for ever by the horrors of the Great War, and which, with Flanders, would thereafter always be associated with the Scarlet Poppies of Remembrance.



Rosamund Ridley has reconstructed this story and, with help, has identified its participants, even tracing some of their descendants. She hopes one day to publish the story in book form, but today will give us a foretaste of what it will contain.

As is our custom, this final talk of the calendar year will be followed by appropriate seasonal "goodies"

June meeting, cont from page 6

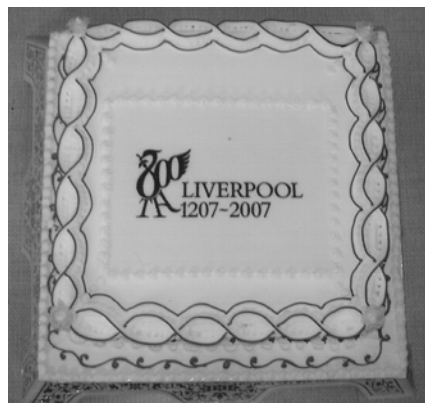
In December 1940 the church was hit by incendiary bombs, and, beyond repair, had to be pulled down. The tower and bells, however, escaped. Despite some opposition, the congregation raised the money to rebuild, and, with its liturgical orientation reversed, and the altar at the west end, under the tower, the new St Nick's was consecrated on the feast of St. Luke, 1953.



*Interior of St Nick's, December, 1940
(Photo courtesy Liverpool Museum)*

His talk completed, David then conducted us all round the church, inside and out, telling us stories about the many treasures of this beautiful building, and explaining the symbolism of the sculpture, carving, and the exquisite, decorated glass doors.

St. Nick's is a well loved, busy parish church, with daily services including a Roman Catholic Mass each Friday (except during August), and David is obviously, and quite rightly, proud to be a St Nick's Churchwarden. Ending this treat of a tour in the Vestry David showed us a number of other interesting items, including his silver-topped Warden's Staff, and explained that the post is one of the oldest elected church offices.



We then adjourned upstairs to the Refectory, we were served with very welcome tea and biscuits. Sheila Binks brought out the magnificent cake she had baked and decorated for us in honour of the city's 800th birthday. She had cleverly used the celebratory logo on the top, and edged the delicate icing-sugar garland in the city's colour, purple. [Is it true that this colour was chosen as an amalgam of those of our two famous football teams?] After we had all admired and photographed it, Sheila sliced it for us, and it tasted just as good as it looked – this black and white image fails to do it justice

John thanked and warmly congratulated Sheila on our behalf. He also thanked the Rector of St Nick's, David or the fascinating talk and tour, and the ladies who had kindly prepared the other refreshments, after which, with the usual reluctance we departed for home.

Other forthcoming events

The Lancashire Local History Federation's annual "At Home" will be on Saturday 6th October, hosted by our friends of the **Formby Civic Society History Group** in the Formby Hall Golf Club, For more information, please complete and return the reply slip at the foot of the enclosed "flyer" to the address shown, as soon as possible.

"New Irelands" An international & interdisciplinary conference organised by the BAIS, the Institute of Irish Studies and the Department of Politics of the University of Liverpool will take place on 14/16 September 2007. For more information ring 07789 990 725 or e-mail mervynbusteed@hotmail.com

Apology

It is regretted that lack of space prevents the inclusion of any details of "Recent Library Acquisitions" or other "Book News" in this issue of the Newsletter.

The Society's Officers & Committee, 2007-2008			
Officers			
Chairman:	John Tiernan (2009)	Administration Secretary:	Jo McCann (P) (2010)
	Treasurer & acting Membership Secretary:	Mike Brian (P)	(2010)
Committee			
Rob Ainsworth (2010)	Sheila Binks (2009)	Charles Collier (2010)	Joyce Culling (2009)Netta Dixon (2010)
Mary Harrison (2010) (P)	Marie McQuade (2009) (P)	Brenda Murray (2010)	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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