

Editorial

The long-awaited celebrations of the 800th anniversary of the granting of Liverpool's first "charter" are now almost at an end, and our city is about to launch into its much-hyped year as European Capital of Culture. As we look back on the one and forward to the other, it is perhaps appropriate at this point to ask whether we are filled with warm memories and eager expectation, or with disappointment and foreboding. Sad to say, your editor feels compelled, on balance, to stand with those for whom the "birthday festivities" were something of an anti-climax, and those who expect that the forthcoming European Capital of Culture will not be dissimilar.

It must be admitted that there have been some worthwhile moments —the publication, sadly not without some subsequent criticism, of the quasi-official *Liverpool 800*, edited by Prof John Belchem; the opening of the new Heritage Centre at St George's Hall, the new International Slavery Museum and the Magical History Tour exhibition, both at the Maritime Museum, with the latter being a temporary "stand-in" for the much-missed Museum of Liverpool Life; the re-opening, after a two year, £1m refurbishment, of Sudley House; and the talks in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, organised under the aegis of the Liverpool Heritage Forum.

The high spot for many must have been the three day Big History event in St Georges Hall, when, alongside a major history Conference, a wide range of local societies etc came together to share their interests in the long history of our town, city and surrounding area with the general public, and to invite their future involvement. It would seem unlikely that any visitor could have come away without learning something, and, having able to recruit almost fifty new members, your Society is already looking forward to the next such event. It is to be hoped, however, that an even wider cross-section of Liverpool's many constituent communities will be represented, and smaller societies not discouraged by the cost, in terms both of cash and "person-power" of mounting a stall for two or three days. [A Family History Day Fair, also celebrating "08 Liverpool—European Capital of Culture" to be held in St George's Hall on 1st November 2008, is being organised by the North West Group of Family History Societies. Your Society plans to be there, so "watch this space" for details!]

Although disappointed by the Official Souvenir Brochure and Commemorative Medallion, and the paucity and drabness of the few street decorations in the City Centre, you editor's biggest disappointment was the August 28th celebrations themselves. Firstly, while he appreciates that 'St Nick's' is the city's (Anglican) parish church, it is relatively small, with the result that the Service of Thanksgiving was by invitation only. Should it not have been held in one of our two wonderful Cathedrals, and open to all who wished to give thanks?



The Civic Procession was fine, and it was a nice touch that members of the "oldest family" were carried in the Mayoral Coach. In contrast, the other, supposedly celebratory pageant, but more like a carnival, was, in his view, gimmicky and pretty appalling. Nowhere in his reading of Liverpool's history has your editor reference to a giant, but it was Jude the Giant (left) that headed the procession, followed by troupes of "imported" (and presumably, highly paid) performers from, he believes, the Republic of Ireland. No xenophobia here, but couldn't sufficient amateur performers be found from within Merseyside's Pool of Talent?

/continued on page 2

WX WX WX WX WX WX WX

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

Compliments of the Season & Best Wishes for 2008

as, together, we celebrate Liverpool's year as

European Capital of Culture.

WX WX WX WX WX WX WX

Editorial, cont.

There were, of course, some locally provided elements — for example, the Chinese dragon, the Sikh sword dancers, and the Batala drummers, but where were Liverpool’s other youth organisations, like Scouts, Guides, tri-Service Cadets, St John Ambulance, or the Emergency Services etc, etc. Were they even invited?

One final gripe about the procession—why oh why did Pete Price have to lead the Castle Street crowd, before it broke up, in the singing of “New York, New York” ? Doesn’t Liverpool have songs enough of its own? Or was this just another example of today’s obsession with all aspects of trans-Atlantic culture, an obsession often to the detriment of a proper appreciation of our own?

While he is sure that many will not agree with this personal, and somewhat jaundiced, viewpoint, it certainly did not seem to your Editor to be a pageant “of the people, by the people and for the people”, but rather just lots of whirling, twirling, and insubstantial fabrics, carried by imported performers on bicycles, with that very lack of substance epitomising the whole thing, and akin to a Mardi Gras carnival.. Readers who did not see the procession can judge for themselves by watching the extended video-clip that can be found on line at http://www.itvlocal.com/granada/newsextra/?player=GRA_NewsExtra_26&void=92965 or the forty four still photographs at http://www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool/content/image_galleries/cap_cult_800bday_gallery.shtml.

They can, if they are so minded, also compare this year’s offering with reports and images of the Pageant held 100 years ago, in celebration of Liverpool’s 700th Birthday, a description of which can be found on line at <http://www.old-merseytimes.co.uk/lplpageant1907.html>, and early cine-footage, with its obvious limitations, at <http://www.lulu.tv/?p=10269>. As not all of our readers have ready access to the Internet, a couple of pictures of the 1907 pageant (which, such was its popularity, was repeated five times), and of the obverse and reverse of the, in your editor’s opinion, far superior 1907 commemorative medallion are reproduced here.



King



John’s Car (left)



Liverpool’s Triumphal Car (right)

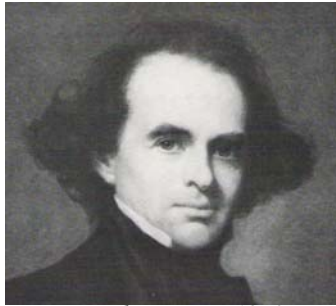


As its Birthday year ends, and with Stavanger in Norway, Liverpool begins its year as European Capital of Culture, we cannot help but wonder what 2008 will bring. Will it provide all that is promised, or will we (again?) be disappointed. Contributing whatever, wherever, and whenever we can, we shall just have to wait and see, but however it turns out, your editor hopes that you (and he) will enjoy it!

Mike Brian

Recent talks

September 2007 Nathanael Hawthorne and the Port of Liverpool Robert Currams



Hawthorne, ca 1853

Before telling us about the years that Nathaniel Hawthorne spent in Liverpool, Robert Currams, who, until a few years ago was a member of the American Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, very helpfully first told us something about the background and origins of this interesting 19th century visitor to England.

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in 1804, in Salem, Massachusetts, where his father (also Nathaniel, died 1808) was a sea captain, and his paternal great-great-grandfather, John Hathorne, had been a judge in the infamous Salem Witch Trials of 1692. After education at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Ma., where he became great friends with the future American President, Franklin Pierce, Nathaniel worked for the US Customs Service, firstly in a junior role in Boston, and then from 1846 to 1849, as Surveyor to the Port of Salem. In 1842 he married Sophia Peabody and they settled in Concord where he became involved in Transcendentalist Circles. He began to write in earnest, his books from this time including "Fanshawe", "Twice-Told Tales", "Mosses from an Old Manse", "Snow Image" and in 1850, his masterpiece "The Scarlet Letter". One of his neighbours was Herman Neville, who dedicated his book, "Moby Dick" to Nathaniel Hawthorne.

In 1852 his old friend Franklin Pierce ran as Democratic candidate for President, and to support him, Hawthorne wrote Pierce's biography, and when in 1853, perhaps as a "thank you", the newly-elected President offered him a post as Consul, 48 year old Hawthorne chose Liverpool.

Crossing the Atlantic aboard the *Niagara*, Hawthorne, with his wife, daughters (Una & Rose) and son, Julian, arrived in Liverpool on Sunday 17th July, to be greeted, Julian later recalled, by "wet tugboats with salty whistles...plashing in the brown wavelets manned by British mariners with burly foggy voices, uttering strange dialects" Unable to stay as planned with the well known Mrs Blodget at 133-135 Duke St, they first stayed at the Waterloo Hotel, adjacent to the Lyceum, and famed for its cuisine. They were soon persuaded to move to Rock Ferry, whence Hawthorne could commute daily by the regular ferry service across the River Mersey

In Liverpool, Hawthorne found a thriving American Association but from his Consulate in Washington Buildings (right) "a shabby and smoked stained edifice of four stories at the lower corner of Brunswick Street, contiguous to the Goree Arcade", he was also obliged to help all Americans who came to him for monetary help. Most of his income came from fees, such as the two dollars a time for he charged for signing documents. He found that many American ships were carrying mail without paying fees, and there was also a problem with captains being accused of ill treating crew members. (X marks the location of the Consular Office)



Hawthorne was "lionised" by Liverpool commercial community, and among the leading citizens he met were Henry Bright, John Bramley Moore and James Baynes., a ship owner, reputedly the model for TV's "James Onedin.". He also visited with the Heyward family (bankers), and Mrs. Heyward, invited him to visit an Orphanage of which she was a governor. He afterwards wrote an article about English poverty, which offended Joseph Picton, a friend of William Brown. It is said that one highlight of his time in Liverpool was his participation in the procession from the Town Hall to the laying of the foundation stone for Brown's Free Library in April 1857, and his subsequent speech at the celebratory banquet in St. George's Hall.

When Mrs. Hawthorne and her daughters went to winter in Portugal in October 1855, Nathaniel and Julian moved to Duke St until the end of the former's Consulship in 1857. Hawthorne later wrote of his time and extensive travels in Britain in a series of sketches in the *Atlantic Monthly*, and when these appeared as the book *Our Old Home* in 1863, his criticisms of English life, customs and women were widely condemned.

After leaving Liverpool Hawthorne had travelled to Italy, but became very ill. He returned to America and, seven years later, on 18 May 1864, while on a visit to Plymouth, Mass with Pierce, he died, aged 59, . He was buried in Concorde, Mass.

October 2007**Charles P Melly & his Drinking Fountains****Patrick Neill**

Pat, the Secretary of The Friends of Liverpool Monuments, first explained that he had come across the fountains by accident, while working at the Salthouse Dock, where he had noticed the remains of one attached to the dock wall. Later, during a project photographing churches, he discovered more, and learnt that they had been provided by Charles P. Melly in 1854. Pat subsequently set up Friends of Liverpool Monuments with Ron Formby, of "Scottie Press", and researched into the history of the fountains.

Charles Pierre Melly was born in Tuebrook on 25 May, 1829, his father being André Melly of Geneva, whom William Huskisson and Lord Langdale helped gain English citizenship, who with his mother, Helen Greg of Quarry Bank, had a total of seven sons and one daughter.

Charles Melly became a cotton merchant in Liverpool & Manchester, importing cotton from Egypt & America. A very active citizen, he was an officer in the Childwall Rifles (right) and a philanthropist. He was involved in planning Sefton Park, having persuaded Lord Derby to donate land. He founded the North East Mission; the first night school, in Beaufort Street; and the Liverpool Gymnasium, in Myrtle Street. Concerned for Liverpool's poor, he provided free playgrounds for children and way-side benches for the elderly, and, having seen the difficulties of the lamplighters, he introduced a system he has seen in Geneva, replacing ladders with long poles to do the job

Then in 1852 having been told of the dock workers' and immigrants' need for fresh drinking water - their only alternative being the public house - he proposed the provision of free drinking fountains, another facility copied from Geneva. Initially, he set up a number of taps near the docks, providing fresh water, but these proved so popular (on one occasion, in a 12 hour period, they were used by not less than 2336 people!) that they wore out in two years.



In 1854, at the south end of Princes Dock, Melly set up the first red granite fountain, and by 1858 he had supplied Liverpool with 43 such fountains, with water spouts such as lions', tigers' and satyrs' heads, and all at a cost of £10 each. Attached to dock walls, church walls, railway station buildings and bridges, and other places where they would be most useful for the poor, there were initial problems with the taps, which allowed water to run for 24 hours a day, but this was eventually overcome.

Melly's fame and example spread, and the picture (left) was published in the Illustrated London News in 1859. London's first fountain was set up in Islington by Samuel Gurney, a nephew of the Quaker prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, MP for Penryn, 1857-65, and a founder of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain & Cattle Trough Association which relieved alike the thirst of Londoners and the suffering of dumb beasts. At first the private water companies resisted, but finally over 600 were provided, and similar fountains were erected throughout Britain.

With John Hulley, Hon Secretary of the Liverpool Athletics Club, Melly, the Club's President, organised Liverpool's Olympic Festivals in the 1860s, some thirty years before Baron Coubertin established the Modern Olympics in 1896. It is hoped to give more details of these Olympics in a future Newsletter or Journal.

Sadly, after suffering from mental illness, Charles Melly, aged 59, committed suicide in 1888. A member of the Unitarian Church in Ullet Road, there is also a memorial to him in The Ancient Chapel of Toxteth

Pat showed us slides of most of the fountains, many of them are in a sad state, that he and his committee have discovered. Enthusiastic "Friends" are hoping to restore at least some of them, and we saw something of their successes, the result of many hours of hard work. Pat also gave us information concerning Alexander MacDonald (1794 -1860), whose Aberdeen firm, as well as providing the red granite basins of the fountains, had also produced the polished granite columns of St. George's Hall.

Thanked by John for this fascinating glimpse of our history, Pat finally challenged us to complete a questionnaire on Charles P. Melly, while we enjoyed our cup of tea.



November 2007

Britain's First Lifeboat Station

Barbara Yorke

Barbara Yorke, a lifelong Formby resident, told us that she had begun to research the history of its Lifeboat Station as a result of her husband being told by the local council that its scant remains were of "no significance", and had found that it stretched back at least to 1776, some 50 years before the start of the RNLI!

She explained that the exact date of its establishment was uncertain as the minute book of the Liverpool Dock Committee (LDC) Trustees prior to 1793 had long since been destroyed but that it was apparently between 1771 and 1776. The first documentary evidence of a 'boat and station for saving lives' was a footnote to Peter Burdett's 'Chart of the Harbour of Liverpool', 1771, corrected 1776, which was included by William Hutchinson, the Liverpool Dock Master, in his *Treatise on Practical Seamanship* (published 1776), and records that:

NB.: On the strand about a mile below Formby Lower Land Mark there is a boathouse, and a boat kept ready to save lives from vessels forced on shore on that coast, and a guinea, or more, reward is paid by the Corporation for every human life that is saved by means of this boat, etc.'

Furthermore,, Liverpool Common Council records for 5 March 1777 make reference to the need to repair the "Boat and Boat house which was (sic) formerly ordered to be built and kept at Formby in readiness to fetch any shipwrecked persons from off the banks" and the following month state that Richard Scarisbrick of Formby, sailor, was appointed to take care of them.

The 1781 edition of Burdett's chart, in addition to a similar footnote, shows the position of the boathouse and boat at Formby Point, and while little is known about this boat or her service, she was probably a two or three masted, sprit-sail rigged, Mersey Gig, with a crew of three or four, and capable of being rowed or sailed.

The original boathouse was rebuilt in 1793 on the same site at the end of what is now known as Lifeboat Road. and according to a survey of the bay, it was situated 100 yards inland, well above the high tide line, on land belonging to the lord of the manor, Revd Richard Formby, who was incumbent of St John's, Liverpool, from 1784 -92 and later of Trinity Church, Liverpool. Such was his beneficial influence & interest in lifesaving, he was as in 1798 presented with the Freedom of the Borough and Town of Liverpool "as a mark of respect for his unwearied and compassionate attention in a variety of instances to the unfortunate who have suffered shipwreck on the coast near Formby, both with regard to their person and property".

In 1799 the LDC appointed William Brown to look after the boat 'in room of Robert Whitfield, deceased, with the like allowances as enjoyed by his predecessor', and then on April 9, 1800, Robert Neale, the riding officer at Formby, was appointed to the care of the boat and boathouse in his stead.

Until 1803, the Formby lifeboat was the only one serving Liverpool Bay, but gradually, other stations were provided around its periphery. The boathouse had to be rebuilt, and even resited, on a number of occasions. By 1832 as a result of coastal erosion, the Boathouse, which had been built a little inland, was nearer the shore.

Closely related to the story of Formby's lifeboat is that of its lighthouse. Circa 1719, and mentioned in Nicholas Blundell's Diurnal, a remarkable 120 foot high landmark tower as built at the mouth of the River Alt as an aid to navigation by incoming vessels. Some 115 years later, this tower was converted into a lighthouse, and its first keeper, Lt Joseph Walker, RN, at the same time made responsible for supervision of the lifeboat.

Two years later, in January 1836, Walker perished with four of its crew when attempting to save the schooner *Bryades*. The Dock Company helped their widows and orphans financially with a pension of 2/- (10p) a week for life, the pension to Robert Formby's widow being paid until 1896, a total of 42 years!



Formby's last Lifeboat & her Crew, ca 1896

Walker's successor, John Christopherson, figured large in 1839 in the enquiry which censured the crew for their shortcomings during that year's Great Storm. Ralph Brooks, the 60 year old Master was retired and replaced by 35 year old crewman Joseph Formby.

Following an apparent reduction in need, and despite a large petition to the contrary, the LDC closed the Station in 1890, but reopened it in 1892 after SS *Hawarden Castle* was lost with no survivors. It was under the RNLI from 1894 until its final closure in 1918 and Barbara showed us a 1917 cine-film of the lifeboat still being launched with the help of horses.

The building was converted into a café but this too closed in 1935. Finally demolished in 1970, now only a few bricks and stones and a Council Notice Board mark this nationally significant and historic site

[Much has had to be omitted from this report. Members keen to know more may borrow the copy, given to the LHS Library by Dr & Mrs Yorke, of their *Britain's First Lifeboat Station*. Please contact Cynthia Stonall]

Our thanks to Netta Dixon & Mary Harrison for their help in the preparation of these three reports

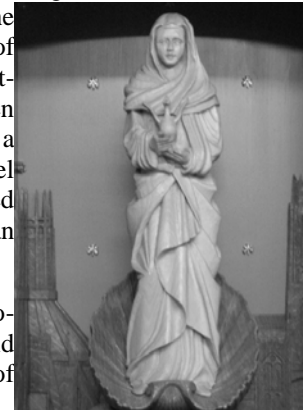
Another Anniversary

In the year when so many anniversaries have been commemorated, it would have been easy to overlook the fact that 2007 was also the 300th anniversary of the arrival in Liverpool of Fr William Gillibrand SJ, (1662-1722, the first Roman Catholic priest to take up residence there after the Reformation. In 1707, after six years as chaplain to his cousin Nicolas Blundell and his family and his tenants, at Crosby Hall, he moved, to a room above a grocer's shop in, what is now, North John Street, and it was from here he celebrated Mass for the town's small number of Catholics.



To mark this anniversary, a small shrine, has been erected behind the main altar in the Lady Chapel (the chapel of St Mary of the Angels and St Joseph) of St Francis Xavier's Church, Shaw St, Liverpool, and dedicated to St Mary del Quay – the name of Liverpool's first church and the forerunner of "St Nick's", the full dedication of which is the Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas.

The shrine, shown left before its erection in SFX, depicts Our Lady holding the Liver Bird, and standing in a shell, a symbol of pilgrimage, and a reminder that the church is always a 'Pilgrim Church' (right). The shell rests on the back of an eagle, the symbol of King John, the 800th anniversary of the granting of whose "charter" to Liverpool we have been celebrating this year. In its turn, the eagle rests on a quay above the River Mersey, where St Mary del Quay once stood, while in the background are carved images of Liverpool's Metropolitan and Anglican cathedrals



The side doors of the shrine carry symbols of the Society of Jesus - to which Fr Gillibrand belonged, and a carving of him saying Mass, above a shop typical of the period.

The shrine was designed and carved by Bernard Blackburn, who lives with his wife next to the Carmelite Monastery in Upholland and who has produced many statues and shrines throughout the country.

The new shrine was blessed by Bishop Tom Williams on Sunday, 3rd December 2007. Also present were representatives of the Blundell family of Crosby Hall, the Revd Steven Brookes, the Anglican Rector of Liverpool, and Pam Ashcroft, a seven-times removed niece of Fr Gillibrand.

(With thanks to Bro Ken Vance, SJ for the supply of the basis of the above text & the two photographs)

Society Library & other Book News (continued from page 7, opposite)

In connection with 2007's bi-centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and especially relevant to Liverpool, The Bodleian Library has republished *The Memoirs of Captain Hugh Crow* (2007, £15.99), in which a member of Liverpool 18th century merchantile class seeks to defend his trade and himself against the Abolitionists, and *The Slave Trade Debate* (2007, £12.99) a collection of 18/19th century writings for and against the Trade, including Revd R Harris, SJ (aka Raymundo Hermosa) *Scriptural Researches into the Licitness of the Slave Trade* but, regrettably not Roscoe's *Scriptural Refutation* of it, both first issued in 1788.

Very relevant to Barbara Yorke's talk last month is John & Dianne Robinson's *Lighthouses of Liverpool Bay* (Tempus, 2007, £15.99). Well illustrated with photos, maps and charts, this book primarily tells the story, not only of our local Liverpool Dock Trust & MDHB lighthouses, Formby & Crosby, Leasowe, Bidston, Hoylake (Upper & Lower) & Perch Rock, New Brighton but also of the two rather Dock Trust lighthouses in Wales, at Great Orme's Head, Llandudno and Port Lynas, Anglesey, the last mentioned being the only one still in use. Brief mention is also made of some non DT & MDHB lights such as Woodside, Hale Point and Point of Ayr.

As we go to press, we have had the pleasure of seeing Janet Hollingshead's *Liverpool in the 16th century*, Carnegie, 2007, £11.99, and *Georgian Liverpool: A guide to the city in 1797*, by Dr William Moss, with additional material by David Brazendale, Palatine, 2007, £7.99. Lack of both time and space prevent further comment on these two very worthwhile books at this stage, but it is hoped to provide this in a future Newsletter.

Society Library & other Book News

Books received

In addition to a copy of *Liverpool 800*, published late last year, Liverpool University Press has kindly donated a copy of Prof John Belchem's *Irish, Catholic & Scouse: The History of the Liverpool Irish, 1800-1939*, (LUP, 2007, £14.95). The publisher's "blurb" reads: 'Liverpool in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was a great cultural melting pot and processing point of migration from Europe to the USA. The Irish in particular crossed to Liverpool in their tens of thousands before setting out across the Atlantic. Here for the first time acclaimed historian John Belchem offers a ground-breaking and extensive social history of the elements of the Irish diaspora that stayed in Liverpool, enriching the city's cultural mix rather than continuing on their journey. Covering the tumultuous period from the Act of Union to the supposed 'final settlement' between Britain and Ireland, this richly illustrated volume will be required reading for anyone interested in the Irish diaspora.'

In addition, we have been very grateful to have received copies of the following:

Clarke, Mike *Liverpool & its Canal*, Landmark, 2007 (See flyer enclosed)

Fletcher, M *The Making of Liverpool*, Wharncliffe, 2004

Freethy, Ron: *Made up wi' Liverpool—A Salute to the Scouse Dialect*, and *Lancashire, 1939-1945: Working for Victory*, Countryside, 2007

Kell, B. *For what it's Worth: A Liverpool Childhood from the 1930's*. Sutton Pub, 2006

Kelly, Mike *Life and times of Kitty Wilkinson*, (New edition), Countywise, 2007 and

Liverpool's Irish Connection, (New edition), AJH Publishing, Formby, 2007

Kerrigan, John P *Liverpool The Gateway to America*. (AJH Publishing, Formby, 2007

McLeish, H. *Sunset over Cherbourg*, Countywise Pubs, 2001

Merseyside Archeological Society. *The Changing Face of Liverpool 1207-1770*, 2007

MTJC *The Story of the Mersey Tunnel officially named Queensway*. First pub 1934, rptd 1994.

Postance, Rev, R. *Old Liverpool*. (A facsimile of 1889 ed, with new introduction), LHS, 2007

Tulloch, A *Aintree Days*. Sutton Press, 2006

Wade, S *Foul deeds & Suspicious Deaths in Liverpool*, Wharncliffe, 2006

Also received

One visitor to our website, identifying him or herself only as "Jo" has given us two very early 19th century pamphlets: *An impartial collection of the Addresses, Songs, Squibs etc that were published at Liverpool during the election of Members of Parliament in November 1806*", and "*Letters on the subject of Half Price admission to the theatre*, published in 1810. These 200 year old documents are very fragile, and members are asked to understand why they cannot, at present, be borrowed. Conservation advice is being sought, and, it is hoped to make facsimile copies available shortly.

Another welcome gift through our website, from the effects of a deceased member of one of the city's Methodist Churches, was a collection of **nearly 500 35mm colour photographic slides** of Liverpool & area taken in the period 1960 to the 1984 Garden Festival. In a number of cases, they show aspects of the city that have disappeared only relatively recently, and should be of interest to most of our members. With that in mind, they have been converted into digital format, at no cost to the Society, by Tony Bonney of Formby Civic Society, (to whom our grateful thanks) and will be shown in full or in part at future meetings.

Pat Neil has kindly given us a spiral-bound folder of photographs and copy documents relating to *Liverpool's 'Melly' Drinking Fountains*, the subject of his October 2007 talk, reported above

Finally in this section, founder-member Austen Varney has donated a collection of papers from ca 1820, relating to **Liverpool's street lighting**. Mainly in the form of Acts of Parliament (the earliest from the time of George III), & annual reports of the responsible Engineers, these will repay careful study by someone with appropriate background knowledge interested in this often overlooked aspect of the city's infrastructure.

Books noted

Also published by LUP during 2007 was *The Making of the Middle Ages: Liverpool Essays*, edited by Marios Costambeys and others. Although "Liverpool is not a medieval city, it is a city in which the study and influence of the middle ages has often flourished, and it is this aspect of the city's culture, as well as its 13th century origins" that are covered by the eleven essays in this 252 page book. At £50 a copy, this may well be beyond the reach of many readers, but it is well worth ordering through their public library. **(Contd on page 6)**

PROGRAMME - JANUARY TO MAY 2008

January Winter Break No meeting

February 17

John Murden

The Making of 'The Magical History Tour' Exhibition

The Magical History Tour exhibition at the Maritime Museum, while seen by some as a temporary "stand-in" for the Museum of Liverpool Life, is nevertheless well worth a visit, and indeed more than just one. John Murden, a member of our Society, and an authority on Liverpool's 20th century history, was responsible for the conception and mounting of this exhibition, and, as well as describing its form and content, he will recount some of his experiences and the trials and tribulations encountered on the road to its opening in early 2007.

March 16

Hannah Barker

Medical Advertising in North-West Newspapers, 1760-1820

Anyone who has seen the film *The Madness of King George* will probably have formed some personal idea of the state of medical knowledge during that unfortunate king's long reign. From the highest to the lowest, there were many sincerely held, but nevertheless thoroughly erroneous, views as to how illness, physical as well as mental should be treated. Dr Hannah Barker of Manchester University will today tell us how newspapers spread some of the more interesting and sometimes bizarre ideas in our part of England.

April 20

Robin Riley

Monuments Lost and Found

A well known sculptor, and Chairman of the Friends of Liverpool Monuments, Robin Riley will today tell us about some of the City's best and/ or less famous public sculptures, the threats facing them, and what is being done to preserve them for future generations.

May 18 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(1.45pm start) followed at approx 2.15pm by

Liverpool—a True Capital of Culture

Ken Pye

(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.

New Editor Wanted

Having been responsible for the compilation, production and distribution of all but the first of the Society's twenty Newsletters since 2001, your Editor feels that it is about time to hand over the chair to someone else, who, preferably, is younger than him.

Because the next issue, due out in April, involves the Agenda for the AGM and the Summary of the 2007 Annual Accounts, he has agreed to be similarly responsible for it, but Issue no 22, containing the minutes of the AGM will be the responsibility of A N Other. If you think that that person might be you, please contact John Tiernan, Jo McCann or Mike Brian as soon as possible.

The Society's Officers & Committee, 2007-08

Officers

Chairman : John Tiernan (2009) Administration Secretary: Jo McCann (P) (2010)
Treasurer & acting Membership Secretary Michael Brian (P) (2010))

Committee

Rob Ainsworth (2010) Sheila Binks (2008) Charles Collier (2010) Joyce Culling (2009) Netta Dixon (2010)
Mary Harrison (2010) Brenda Murray (2010) Cynthia Stonall (2008) Marie McQuade (P) 2009

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

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