



HISTORY SOCIETY

WINTER 2010/11

NEW TEMPORARY ARCHIVE SERVICE NOW OPEN

LHS Members will be delighted to hear that the new temporary 'City Satellite Archive Service' opened for business at the beginning of November. Housed in the enormous former Greenberg Glass facility in Unit 33, Wellington Employment Park South, Dunes Way – off Sandhills Lane and close to Merseyrail Train Station – the unit is surprisingly easy to get to. It's less than 5 mins on the Northern line or by car from the city centre. An extra bonus is that car parking is both free and plentiful.



(Photo: Ron Jones)

The important point to remember is that the service is by *prior appointment only, with at least 24 hours notice required*. Most of the material from Wm. Brown Street is now housed on-site. However, some items are stored off-site in longer-access storage. These include the Earls of Derby and Sefton papers, Roscoe's papers and the Moore and Norris families and Bishop David Shepherd papers. Ogden's Tobacco business records and some Chambre Hardman and Everton FC material are also in this longer term store.

The new facility is open between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday. The Search Room is restricted to eight places, so you are asked not to bring anybody else with you unless it is absolutely necessary. Places are booked out in half-day blocks.

Whilst there are no on-site catering facilities, there is a reception area where visitors can consume their own refreshments. There's also a café a few minutes' walk away at the Liverpool Film Studios.

Coin-operated lockers are available for your belongings and there's a photocopier where you can copy items up to A3, for which a modest charge is made.

So, between now and when the new Central Library at William Brown Street is ready to open in approximately two year's time, how will the new system work in practice? First, you need to think whether what you are looking for is available in the temporary Central Library and Archive on the 2nd floor of the World Museum, Wm Brown Street. Here's what you will find there:

- 23 Microfiche / Microfilm Readers
- UK Online Centre with 22 public computers with free internet access
- Births, marriages and deaths indexes for England & Wales 1837-2004 (microfiche)
- Census returns for Liverpool & Wirral 1841-1901

- Parish registers 1550s onwards (microfilm)
- Cemetery registers 1850s onwards (microfilm)
- Cremation registers 1908-1992 (microfilm)
- Liverpool Electoral Rolls 1832 -1900 & 1919-1939 (microfilm) 1971-2002 (hard copy)
- Liverpool and surrounding area street directories 1766-1970 (microfilm)
- Probate Indexes for England & Wales 1859-1957
- Local newspapers 1750s onwards (microfilm inc. Daily Post June 1855-July 2010 and Liverpool Echo October 1879-July 2010)
- Liverpool Coroners Inquests 1898-1970 (microfilm)
- Online subscriptions via Digital Library on the public computers or the Reference and information services webpage. This includes fully searchable and viewable images of the *Liverpool Mercury* from 1811-1900 as part of the British Library Online 19th century newspapers site. If you have a Liverpool Libraries ticket, you can access it from home.
- Small selection of historical maps
- Small selection of lending books and audio visual items
- Small collection of handbooks and directories
- Popular newspapers and magazines
- Printing
- Photocopying.

Can't find what you are looking for there? Time to try the City Satellite Archive Service. First, search the Liverpool Local Studies Collection – the entire catalogue is now searchable online at:

<http://archive.liverpool.gov.uk/dserve.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Search.tcl> The archives (manuscript material) catalogue is also partially online via the libraries website pages but there is hard copy at Sandhills. If you've found what you are looking for in the online catalogue, or even if you haven't found it, contact the Satellite Service staff to book a visit or to get advice and help with your search. You can do this either by 'phone (0151 233 5817) or by emailing – archives@liverpool.gov.uk

David Stoker, Manager of the Liverpool Record Office, commented – "In one sense, these temporary arrangements are an improvement on the old system in as much as the staff will be better prepared for your visit and the material you ordered will be waiting for you when you arrive." He added – "The closure of the Central Library has also meant that some members of staff have been freed up to take on much-needed additional conservation work and digitisation of the collections for online use."



Search Room (Photo: Ron Jones)

17 October 2010 – Dr Jennifer Taylor

HUYTON ALIEN INTERNMENT CAMP

Dr Taylor is with the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London.

She posed the question “What can be known of this transit camp without a newspaper?” Unlike other internment camps, Huyton did not produce a camp newspaper. All our information comes from official reports and diaries and other documents written by some of the internees. This transit camp was in place from May 1940 to October 1941 and occupied the newly-built Liverpool Corporation Woolfall Heath Housing Estate, where up to 5,000 enemy alien detainees were held, awaiting transfer to the Dominions or the permanent internment camps on the Isle of Man. However, on 2 July 1940, the Cammell Laird-built Blue Star liner *Arandora Star*, carrying mostly German and Italian detainees from Liverpool to Canada was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland with the loss of over 800 lives and overseas deportations came to an end. The camp was heavily militarised, surrounded by 8 metre-high barbed-wire fencing, with searchlights mounted on platforms, and patrolled by sentries.

Jennifer’s illuminating article in the Society’s 2009 Journal, which took us through some of the diaries written by detainees, had told of the harsh conditions suffered by the first detainees during the first few months. One, Robert Neumann, said – “Huyton was just like hell.”; he volunteered for the first transport to the Isle of Man. It seems evident that the camp was set up in haste, as fear of invasion spread as the Germans advanced into Western Europe, and also that the first commandant (whose name we do not know) was not up to the job. Later diaries showed that many of the conditions were improved, albeit slowly. Sadly, the internees were predominantly refugees from Hitler who had been persecuted on racial or political grounds, which made their incarceration all the more stressful.

Among prominent internees was the Austrian composer Hans Gal, whose *Huyton Suite*, composed for a flute and two violins, the only available instruments, we were able to hear at the beginning and end of the talk. There were also two young artists, Walter Nessler, and Hugh Dachinger who painted scenes of camp life on old newspapers and wallpaper. Examples of the work of both artists are in the Walker Art Gallery’s collection and Jennifer was able to show us slides of two of the pictures.

Jennifer told us that the British public learnt of the internment policy through a government sponsored film and articles in the press. Some of these sources suggested that – “To be interned in Britain is like paradise when compared to the Nazi concentration camps, so there should not be any complaints here”. The *Liverpool Daily Post* showed a picture of smiling young internees stuffing mattresses with straw and gave the impression that they were permitted plenty of freedom. The *Daily Mail*, 18 May, 1940, had for its headline, “Luxury War for Aliens, Bathing, No Work”. Alas, the reality was very different!

One account, “Diary of an Austrian Refugee at Huyton Camp”, 12 May-6 July, was submitted by the Council of Austrians to Eleanor Rathbone and was used as evidence in her campaign against the policy of internment. This and other reports revealed the inadequacies of provision, including a lack of medical facilities in the first two months. There was muddle and mismanagement evident in May and June until a new Commandant, Lt. Col. S.W. Slatter, was appointed. He was able to institute improved organisation, including a slightly better postal service, but the censorship problems remained. One of his reforms was to provide more recreational facilities to raise morale. The diary of Paul Bondy, unpublished, covering 6 months from 28 June to 7 December 1940, when he was released, describes the distress of selection for transportation to the Isle of Man, but also the gradual improvements in food and the introduction of cultural activities, such as an art exhibition, lectures and concerts.

Jennifer concluded her talk by saying that she hoped that she had shown us that Huyton camp has not passed into history without trace. Her talk sparked off quite a few questions by LHS members, some of which related to the nearby prisoner of war camp in Longview Lane, Huyton.

Meeting report: Mary Harrison

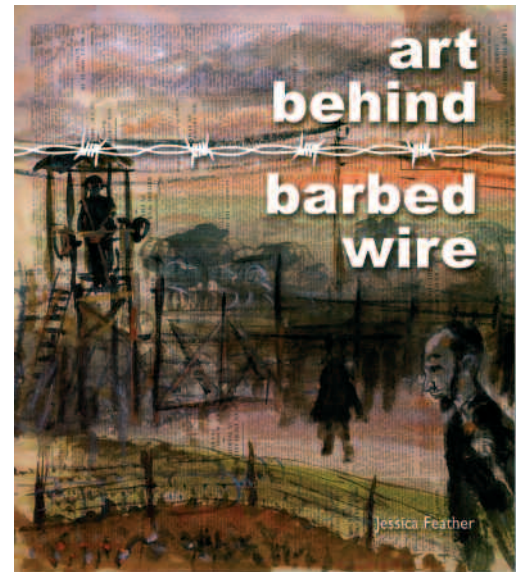
19 December 2010 – John Tiernan

“MODERNISE EVERYTHING” – THOMAS SHELMDERNE, LIVERPOOL ARCHITECT

Joint meeting with the Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire. John introduced Nick White, President of the HSLC.

John then gave us an excellent and detailed illustrated account of the life and work of the Liverpool architect Thomas Shelmerdine (1845-1921) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. John had worked in all of the libraries designed by Thomas Shelmerdine and in our 2008 Journal he wrote an article on the connection between Thomas Shelmerdine, the Corporation and Andrew Carnegie.

Thomas Shelmerdine came from an architectural dynasty; he was the eldest son of Thomas Senior (c.1820 –1895) who was an estate agent, valuer and controller of the Leigh estate in Cheshire before working in Liverpool where he dealt with the Stanley estate



Above: “Art Behind Barbed Wire” by Jessica Fisher, produced by National Museums Liverpool to accompany the exhibition of the same name held at the Walker Art Gallery between February and May 2004. No longer available at the Walker, this excellent book/exhibition catalogue can still be obtained from the likes of amazon.co.uk and abebooks.co.uk

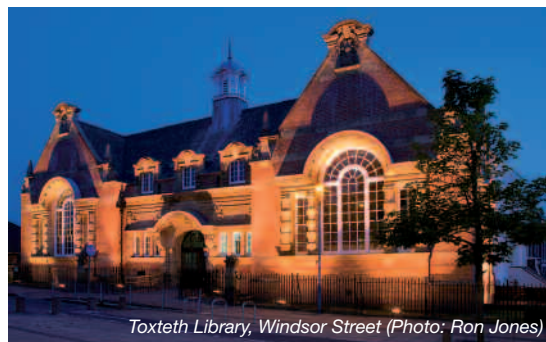
and was an advisor to the Liverpool estates of Lord Salisbury and those of the Watt family of Speke Hall. Four of his 10 children became architects, including Henry who designed Exchange Station (1884-6) and, in partnership with his brother Edward, designed Imperial Buildings at the corner of Victoria Street and Whitechapel in 1872, as well as several other important commercial buildings in Liverpool.



Thomas junior, the eldest son (1845-1921) was educated at the Royal Institution Schools in Colquitt Street before he was apprenticed to Liverpool architect Walter Scott, and subsequently worked for his father, from whom he acquired detailed knowledge of estate management. In 1871, at the age of 26, he was appointed as the land steward and surveyor to the Corporation of Liverpool at a salary of £700 p.a., a post he held for the next 45 years. He was responsible for innumerable corporation projects including slum clearance, public housing in Eldon and Bevington Streets, school buildings including Dingle Lane, Gwladys Street schools, and Penrhyn Street Industrial School, as well as several hospitals, for example the Northern (the 'David Lewis'), Fazakerley and Rathbone Hospital, Old Swan. In 1887 his ingenuity was expressed in the design of portable polling apparatus for elections, as well as by a stand for 3,000 people to watch the laying of the foundation stone of the Walker Art Gallery by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Shelmerdine was a very versatile and prolific architect of public buildings. He designed the lodges in Sefton Park and was involved in plans to widen Princes Road and improve St. Peter's Churchyard. He was also responsible for the layout of St. John's Gardens following the church's demolition. He designed massive triumphal arches for the visit of Queen Victoria in 1886, an Exhibition Hall in Edge Lane, the City Analyst's Laboratories at 126 Mount Pleasant (now part of Liverpool University), the City Transport offices and Fire Service HQ in Hatton Garden, a wholesale Fish Market in 1888 and a memorial to William Roscoe on the site of the old Unitarian Church in Renshaw Street. He also enlarged and redesigned the interior of the Council Chamber in Liverpool Town Hall.

Sir James Picton, who had been Chairman of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Committee from 1849 until his death in 1889, had been mainly interested in the Reference Library and had not favoured the building of branch libraries, leaving Liverpool behind Manchester and Birmingham in that respect. Freed from Picton's iron control Peter Cowell, the Chief Librarian, with the support of his new Chairman, embarked on an ambitious programme to build a number of branch lending libraries, most of which were designed by Shelmerdine. Kensington Library was the first erected in 1890 at a cost of £2,944, followed by Everton Library (1895-6) at a cost of £12,126; Toxteth Library in 1902, Wavertree Library (1902-3) at a cost of £9,281, Kirkdale (1911) and West Derby in June 1905 at a cost of £15,750. He also designed the Hornby Library, built in 1906 to house the splendid art history collections of Hugh Frederick Hornby. Sefton Park Library (1911), was opened by Andrew Carnegie, who paid the construction cost of £5,000. Most of these libraries are still used today, although Everton is no longer used as a library and Kirkdale was destroyed in the May Blitz. Shelmerdine used a variety of styles including Italian Renaissance at the Everton Library and Arts and Crafts style at the Garston Library. The Hornby Library, Garston, Sefton Park and Toxteth Libraries have Arts and Crafts plaques in beaten copper which commemorate their opening ceremonies.



Toxteth Library, Windsor Street (Photo: Ron Jones)

Thomas Shelmerdine was presented to King Edward VII at the stone laying ceremony of the Anglican Cathedral in 1904, having been a member of the Cathedral's Building Committee since its inception. He moved to Rock Ferry and later to Blundellsands and was retained as a consultant to the Council after his retirement. Both Pevsner and Quentin Hughes admired his work and, according to the latter, he was credited with recommending to the Council that they should adopt and live up to the motto: "Modernise Everything"!

Meeting report: Netta Dixon

New Liners of Liverpool DVD charts port's great history



The Cunard White Star Line's Mauretania II, built at Cammell Laird's and pictured departing on her maiden voyage 17 June 1939 (Photo: Collection Ron Jones)

Some of Merseyside's most respected maritime figures gathered at the Liverpool Echo recently for the launch of a DVD telling the stories of the city's great ships.

The *Liners Of Liverpool* charts the history of the port's passenger ships, from 1840, when Cunard's *Britannia* sailed from the

Mersey, to the modern era. Liners such as *Aureol*, *Britannic*, *Empress of Canada*, *Mauretania*, *Reina del Pacifico* and *Titanic* are featured in the film.

Along with archive footage and historical images, the DVD brings us up to date with the resurgence of Liverpool as a cruise liner port and includes the maiden arrivals of *QM2* and *Queen Victoria*.

Written and presented by Peter Elson, British Maritime Writer of the Year and the Daily Post & Echo's shipping correspondent who said: "It will touch the hearts of everybody in the city – the River Mersey, after all, flows through our veins."

Also at the launch was Captain Robin Woodall, of Hoylake, former Master of the *QE2*, who brought the liner here on her maiden visit in 1990. He was joined by Sir Michael Bibby, who features in the film and is head of the Bibby Line Group, part of the Port's maritime history since 1807.

The Liners of Liverpool DVD runs for one hour, costs £12.99 and is available online from: – www.merseyshop.com (or Tel: 0845 143 0001)

LIVERPOOL HISTORY SOCIETY – 2011 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

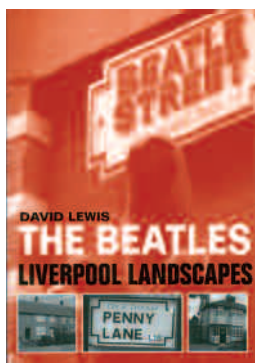
20 Feb	Liverpool Tales	David Charters
20 Mar	The Orange Lodge in Liverpool	William Owens
17 Apr	Sefton Church and the Molyneux Family	Keith Thomas
15 May	Ninth Annual General Meeting followed by – John Moss and the Liverpool Railway	Graham Trust
June	Visit – Details to be announced	
Jul/Aug	No Meetings	
18 Sep	Liverpool Sailors on the Waterfront in 19c.	Graeme Milne
16 Oct	My Year as Lord Mayor of Liverpool	Gerry Scott
20 Nov	Josephine Butler & Women's Rights	Brenda Murray
*11 Dec	Musical Memories of the Sixties	Ray O'Brien

*The meeting in December will be held on the second Sunday of the month and not, as normally, on the third Sunday.

With the exception of our June meeting, all meetings will take place in the Grace Room, 1st Floor, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. This is the former St Francis Xavier College building. All meetings start at 2pm (doors open 1.30pm).

Another date for your diary: BBC Radio Merseyside Big History Weekend – 23/24 April 2011 at St George's Hall

Bookshelf



The Beatles' Liverpool Landscapes by David Lewis. 192pp paperback. £9.99. Derby Books Publishing Co. 2010. ISBN 978-1-85983-790-0.

In this book, Lewis is trying to re-create, in both time and place, the Liverpool landscapes that the Beatles knew as they grew up in the 1940s and 1950s. He also attempts, in a more limited way and with less success, to do the same thing for some of the Beatles' ancestors. This lesser success with the ancestors is because the areas involved, largely Vauxhall and Everton, have changed so much in the past sixty years that Lewis often found himself

visiting re-built or grassed over areas where sometimes even street names had not survived.

His writings about the Beatles' landscapes in the south of the city (where Lewis was also brought up) - from the city centre via today's 'Cultural Quarter', Toxteth, Wavertree, Aigburth, Allerton, Woolton and Garston to Speke - are much more successful. The old pictures help in re-creating the time element as do Lewis's novel approaches of observing landscapes from the top decks of buses (as the Beatles as smokers would have done) and also of early morning walks to help re-create the tranquility of the suburbs in those relatively car-free days. It is a thought-provoking book in parts but probably not one from which the avid Beatles' fan or Liverpool local historian will be told much they did not already know.

(Fred Forrest)

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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HISTORY
SOCIETY**

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N.B. () denotes end of current term of office.

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LHS would like to thank C3imaging, Liverpool, for generously printing this issue of the newsletter at a reduced cost to the Society. Visit the company's website for full details of the wide range of photographic, digital printing, exhibition, display and signage services it offers – www.c3imaging.com

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