



Editorial

The eagle-eyed amongst our readers may have noticed a minor, but **very important** change in our title above – the addition of the number allocated to the Society by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, on our becoming a Registered Charity, with effect from 6th September 2002.

To be registered as a Charity was always the Society's intention, but we had to wait until our annual income had passed a minimum threshold, and it was clear that we had a viable existence. This was amply proved at last May's AGM.

All officers and members of the Society's Committee have had to agree to act as registered Trustees of the Society, and to observe various rules and guidelines laid down by the Commissioners. In all fairness, these are no more onerous than any prudent (sorry to borrow your favourite word, Chancellor!) person would follow on taking up such a position of trust. Our accounts and transactions are now also open to the scrutiny of the Commission, and this is a further safeguard to members' interest in the funds and other assets of the Society.

It also means that, subject to certain formalities, the Society can benefit under the Government's **GIFT AID** scheme, and reclaim the amount of Tax that members have paid on their annual subscription. The Charities Section of the Inland Revenue has agreed that we may do so on all subscriptions paid on or after our Inaugural Meeting on 18th February, 2001.

Gift Aid could increase the Society's income by over a fifth, **without costing its members one extra penny**, but (yes – as so often in life, there is a "but") the Society can only claim this money in respect of people who, in the year of membership, have also paid tax equivalent to or more than the cost of their subscription (normally £10.00 or £15.00 per year), and have completed a simple Declaration Form.

Subscriptions for the year 2003/2004 fall due for renewal on 1st April 2003, and as last year, members are being invited to pay these as soon as possible, using the tear off slip on the enclosed Renewal invitation. It would be very helpful to the Treasurer and Membership Secretary if all members of the Society who are eligible and willing to help us in this "painless" way, would also complete and return the Gift Aid Declaration, but there is, of course, no obligation to do so. All details given will be known only to the Membership Secretary and the Inland Revenue, and will remain strictly confidential. Should a member's circumstances change, or s/he no longer wishes to participate in the scheme, the Declaration may be cancelled at any time.

Many charities, large and small, benefit from this generous scheme, and are enabled to do more to promote their aims and objectives. Ours, as you all know, is to promote the study of the history of Liverpool. As our great city approaches its 800th birthday in 2007, and works on its bid to be **European Capital of Culture** the year after, your Society wants to contribute in any way it can. Although your Committee has not yet considered any proposals for suitable projects (and suggestions for this are invited), the additional funding that is potentially available through the Gift Aid scheme will assist us when we come to do so.

Meanwhile, the Officers and Committee of the Liverpool History Society wish all readers of this newsletter

**The Compliments of the Season,
and a peaceful & prosperous New Year**



Programme to April 2003

All meetings are at the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts, starting at 1.30 for 2.00p.m.

19th January: Downey: The Forgotten Prelate

Speaker : Frank Boyce, Chairman, LHS



Born in Kilkenny on 5 May 1881 and ordained priest on 25 May 1907, Richard Downey was appointed as Liverpool's sixth Roman Catholic prelate on 3 August 1928, succeeding Archbishop Frederick Keating. He was ordained Bishop on 21 Sep 1928, and served the archdiocese for over 24 years, until his death in 1953 in the 72nd year of his age and the 46th of his priesthood.

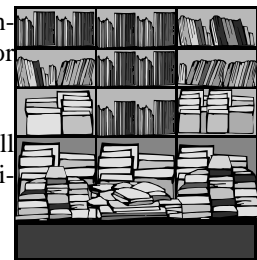
These bald facts of the life and ministry of Archbishop Downey are easily obtainable. His 25 year reign was second only in length to that of Bishop, later Archbishop, Thomas Whiteside's 26 years. In this first talk of the Society's 2003 programme, our Chairman will explain why, despite that distinction, he calls Abp Downey, shown here at Thingwall.Park in 1930, "the forgotten prelate".

23rd February (4th Sunday) Publishing Local History

Speaker: Tom Morley

Laying aside the frustrations of missing records and lost opportunities, the study of Local History, especially when undertaken as a hobby, is a joy in itself, and to share it with others is to multiply that joy many times over.

One way of sharing is by meeting together regularly as many LHS members do, and another is to put the results of your research into print – perhaps in our Journal, (offers for the 2004 Journal to the editor, please!), or even in a book.



Tom Morley has spent many years helping others to publish their work, and he will tell us of some of pit-falls that need to be avoided, and of the trials, tribulations and umphs that he and those he has assisted, have experienced.

16th March: William Roscoe

Speaker: Michael Kilroe, (Liverpool Hope University College)

The 250th anniversary of the birth of William Roscoe, rightly regarded as one of Liverpool's greatest sons, fell on 8th March 2003. Michael Kilroe's talk today is our Society's modest tribute to this remarkable man.



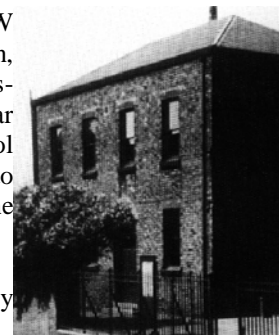
Our illustration shows the obverse of a commemorative medallion, issued in 1831, the year of his death. The reverse reads:-

*SELF TAUGHT AND SELF DIRECTED, HE OBTAINED AS
A POET AND A HISTORIAN, A CRITIC AND A PHILANTHROPIST
AN IMPERISHABLE NAME
BORN MDCCLIII DIED MDCCCXXXI*

27th April: Liverpool Quakers

Speaker: John Highfield

2002 was the 350th anniversary of the beginning of the Society of Friends in the NW of England, when George Fox made his first visit to Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston, in 1652. Two years later, Thomas Holme, a Kendal weaver, brought the Quaker message to Huyton and when Fox passed through in 1657, there was already a regular meeting in Knowsley. The first purpose-built Friends Meeting House in Liverpool was erected in Hackins Hey about 1707. Our illustration shows the meeting house into which they moved in 1796 and which lasted them until its demolition as part of the preparations for the new Mersey Tunnel, and their move to Paradise St in 1982.



John Highfield will tell us something of the contribution made to the life of our City by members of the Liverpool Society of Friends during those 350 turbulent years.

Remainder of Programme for 2003

(All details are subject to confirmation – watch for more information in Newsletters 6 & 7).

18th	May	2nd Annual General Meeting (1.15 p.m.) followed, at 2.00 pm, by Nicholas Blundell's Diaries, 1702-1728	Brenda Murray Dr D Ben Rees
15 th	June: July August	The early presence of the Welsh in Liverpool Summer Break Summer Break	No meeting No meeting
21 st	September	James Irving & the Liverpool Slave Trade	Dr Suzanne Schwartz
19 th	October	Liverpool Castle	Susan Nicholson & Sarah Jane Farr
16 th	November	William Gawin Herdman	Colin Simpson
14 th	December	Liverpool as represented in Literature	John Tiernan

Meeting Dates and Times

Members and visitors are asked to note that while we **normally** hold our meetings on the third Sunday of the month, this may not always be possible because of the availability of a particular speaker or of our venue at LIPA, or because the third Sunday coincides with a major religious festival, such as Easter.

The date given in the most recent newsletter should always be taken as correct unless a “last minute” notification of any change is issued

Help wanted with Research

Requests for help and for information about different aspects of the history of Liverpool and its immediate area are often received from visitors to the Society's website. These enquiries have ranged from the origin of the name “Liverpool” to past occupants of specific houses. Sometimes we are able and happy to help, but, as we are not really not here or equipped to undertake local history or genealogical research on behalf of others, we frequently have to refer enquirers to either the Liverpool Record Office or to the Liverpool & S W Lancs FHS

Amongst those that have been submitted recently, and remain outstanding, are:

- Location of Pillar Boxes with Edward VIII insignia. (Fred F)
- A WW II anti aircraft gun platform off the coast of Formby. (Ray M)
- The demolition of a chimney stack in the Cockburn St area, during the 1960's, and the strange discoveries that followed. (Joe C)
- Location and details of any WW II POW camps in or near Liverpool (Chris C)
- Britannia Bottling Co Ltd

If you think you can help, please let Mike Brian know, and he will put you in touch with the enquirer

Liverpool on line

As promised in our last issue, here are some updates and more useful **web-sites** about Liverpool and its history

'**Liverpool Links**' has been renamed 'Liverpool Plus' and is now at..... www.lpool.plus.com www.liverpoolphotos.com
 Some superb **photographs** of our City by Guy Woodland are at..... [liverpoolphotos.com](http://www.liverpoolphotos.com)
 Liverpool's **trams**, and the City either side of 1900, feature at..... www.home.clara.net/ronsmith/liverpool
 The history of **St James' Cemetery**, in the former quarry behind the Anglican Cathedral, (with genealogical links), is at.....An www.stjamescemetery.co.uk
 award winning site, on **Little Crosby**, its church & graveyard (with genealogical links), run by 14 year old Anna Tumilty, is at..... www.sunnyfields.freeserve.co.uk/church

“There is nothing new under the Sun”

Anyone who experienced the earth-tremor felt in and around Liverpool in September, or was anxious about those felt the following month in Manchester, may be interested in the extract opposite, copied from an issue of the Gentleman's Magazine dating from 1750:

MONDAY April 2.
Liverpool, About 10 at night was felt a smart shock of an earthquake; it extended near 40 miles N. and S. and about 30 leagues E. and W. it was a vibratory motion, and continued about 2 or 3 seconds; a person apprehensive of what it was, went out to observe the air, and saw multitudes of blood red rays converging from all parts of the heavens to one dark point, but no luminous body; this phenomenon disappeared in 15 minutes.

The Society's Library

Members will be pleased to know that Cynthia Stonall, who was elected to the LHS Committee at the May 2002 AGM, has agreed to be the Society's Librarian, and look after its growing collection of books and journals. Some of these have been acquired by purchase, others have been presented by their authors, and the remainder by members and friends from their own collections or picked up "on their travels".

With the assistance of John Tiernan, a retired librarian, Cynthia is currently drawing up a catalogue of our collection, together with a simple set of Library Rules, and it is expected that these will be issued to members at the beginning of the next Membership Year (April, 2003), with most books being made available for loan at the same time. In the meantime, if any member has any local history books or journals that they no longer require, (collection can be arranged, if required), or hears of a new book that they think will be of interest to their fellow members, they are asked to contact Cynthia, c/o .liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com.

Amongst the new books presented to the Society by their respective authors and placed in our library are:

Lever versus Liverpool by Michael Hope

A fascinating story of Liverpool's growing need for pure water in the 19th century, the building of the reservoirs above Horwich, and the long and costly battle with William Hesketh Lever (Lord Leverhulme) to prevent building development that might lead to an unacceptable reduction in the quality of the new supply.

Mr Hope tells of Council misjudgement, attempts by others to mislead the subsequent enquiry, and suggests that Lever's generous gift of Lever Park to the people of Bolton was, in effect, paid for by the people of Liverpool.

Copies of this 72 page book, (including ten pages of monochrome illustrations and maps) can be purchased at £5.99 from Liverpool Connection, Bluecoat Chambers, Liverpool; Bolton Library, and at Rivington Barn. They can also be obtained direct from the author, whose address is

20 St Bernards, Chichester Rd Croydon, CR0 5UL Tel: 020 8681 2868 eMail: vf.hope@virgin.net

Insignia of the King's Liverpool Regiment, Volunteers and Territorials by Peter Brydon,

With 15 pages of full colour illustrations printed on coated paper and showing hundreds of badges, Peter Brydon traces the history of the badges, buttons and other insignia of the various volunteer and territorial units that, since the foundation of the Liverpool Drill Club by Nathaniel Bousefield in 1852, have gone to form part of what is now the King's Regiment, of which our City and County are so justly proud.

A timely reminder of the importance of our "Citizen Soldiers" in both peace and war, this book will be of interest to local, military & family historians and militaria collectors. Copies can be purchased, at £ 15 inc p&p, direct from the author at

8 Edinburgh Rd, Crewe, CW2 8JH Tel: 01270 568542: eMail: Peter.Brydon@btinternet.com

A Lancashire Squire – The life of Nicholas Blundell of Crosby (1669-1737) by Margaret Blundell

As we go to press, we have also been promised, but have not yet seen, a copy of the new 50th anniversary edition of Margaret Blundell's *Blundell's Diary and Letter Book*, first published in 1952. For those who have not ventured into the three volumes of the reprinted version of the *Great Diurnal* [published by Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire in 1968-1972] this book will provide a charming and readable account of the life and preoccupations of a Catholic squire in 18th century Lancashire. Copies can be obtained at £9.99 inc p&p, from

Mark Blundell, Crosby Hall, Little Crosby, L23 4UA, or by calling in person at the

Crosby Hall Educational Trust Centre, Back Lane, Little Crosby

The Society's Officers & Committee, 2002-3

Officers

Chairman:	Frank Boyce	Administration Secretary:	Jo McCann (P)
Treasurer:	Joyce Culling	Membership Secretary:	Michael Brian (P)

Committee

Charles Collier	Brenda Downey (P)	Peter Jones (C,P)	Neville King (C,P)
Marie McQuade (C,P)	Brenda Murray	Cynthia Stonall	John Tiernan

NB (C) & (P) denote Co-opted Member and member of Publications Sub-Committee, respectively)

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