

NEWSLETTER No 22

**6TH ANNUAL GENERAL
LHS**
Reg Charity

OF



**MINUTES SUMMER 2008
THE SEV-
MEETING OF THE** 1093736

18th. May, 2008,

held at The Cornerstone Building, Hope University, Shaw Street, Liverpool

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION & APOLOGY

This smaller and, to save space, un-illustrated Newsletter has been produced to coincide with the belated issue of the Society's 2008 Journal.

To make up for this shortfall in size, it is hoped that the Winter issue (#23) will be larger than usual, with additional material.



1. The Chairman, John Tieman, welcomed members to the 7th. AGM of the Society, and **Apologies for Absence** were received from Jo. McCann, Sylvia Lamb and Kathleen Gribble.

2 **MINUTES OF THE 6th A.G.M.** These had been distributed with Newsletter No 19, and John proposed and Paul Evers-Swindell seconded that they be taken as read and accepted. The meeting agreed, *nem con*

3 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** John reported on another successful year, recalling Ken Pye's timely talk which had saved the 2007 AGM, Society visits to St. Nicholas' Church and the Hale Duck Decoy, the series of Talks in the Town Hall Council Chamber and The Big History Show. John thanked his fellow Officers, committee members, and the editors of the Journal for their work on behalf of the society. John then thanked all members for their enthusiastic support and appealed for new committee members etc to come forward next year. He also thanked Brother Ken Vance and the clergy of SFX for allowing the committee to hold their meetings in the community rooms and for the use of a storage cupboard.

3a **SECRETARY'S REPORT** In Jo's absence, this was read by John. Monthly meetings continued to be well attended, and there had been only a few problems with access to the Grace Room, or supply of the refreshment trolley. Jo thanked Netta and the other members who help to organise the refreshments. Jo echoed John's remarks about the highlights of the year, pointing out that it was John who had given the first of the Town Hall Talks, marking Liverpool's 800th. Birthday and organised by Liverpool Heritage Forum. Entitled "The Streets are Faire and Long", the talk had been very well received.

Paul Clarke from the National Archives in Kew had attended a committee meeting to recruit volunteers to transcribe those Liverpool Poor Law records which are still held at Kew. At the next Sunday meeting nine members offered their services; funding was in place, and the work should soon start. Jo asked if any newly interested members would ring her.

3b **EDITORIAL REPORT** (also read by John). It was very much regretted that the Journal was not ready for the AGM. It has been delayed by "technical problems" but was now with the printer, and should be available at the June meeting. Jo thanked all contributors and asked for "more of the same" for next year. Anyone unsure of how to go about it was welcome to ask for help. Jo particularly thanked her technical co-editor, Marie McQuade, without whom, she said, "the journal just would not happen"

3c **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT** Cynthia Stonall said the books in the collection were listed on-line, but regretted that we did not have enough storage space for all of them. She thanked all who had donated material to the Society, but asked that, for the immediate future, donations be kept small. Members who attend meetings regularly were able to borrow many of the books, although some must remain for reference only. Cynthia asked for members wishing to receive information about the Library, to leave email addresses with her .

3d **WEB MASTER'S REPORT** Rob Ainsworth reported that he had taken over, largely redesigned and expanded the Society's Web site, which had had over 8000 visitors in the last three months.

3e **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT** Mike Brian reported that membership on 1st April 2007 had been 182, and during the past year we had recruited 83 new members, including over 40 at the Big History Show. Contrariwise, we had lost 10 through non-payment of subs or resignation, making our present membership 256. This is comprised of :5 corporate members, (LRO, Museum of Liverpool, Sefton Libraries, The Athenaum and The Bibby Group), and 251 personal members (7 Life , 48 Joint, 191 individual and 5 student). Of these, some 46 had still to pay their 2008/2009 subs.

Some 177 [70.5%] of the 251 personal members had kindly signed up to Gift Aid, and this year, just over **£595** rebate had been claimed (but not yet received) from HMCIR

The Chairman then invited formal acceptance of these five reports. Seconded by Neville King , this was agreed, *nem con.*

4) **TREASURER'S REPORT** Mike Brian reported that the full accounts for 2007/08 (summarised in the provisional Statement of Accounts in Newsletter #21) had been examined, approved and signed-off by Brian Coghlan. He then explained any substantial differences between the figures for 2006/7, and 2007/8, and concluded by saying that, in his opinion, with £ 7,500 reserves being held in an interest bearing account, the Society's finances were in a satisfactory state. Offered the opportunity to comment on his examination, Brian declined to do so.

The Chairman invited formal acceptance of the Accounts. Seconded by Mary Harrison this was agreed, *nem con.*

5. **APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINER FOR 2008/09 Accounts.** Thanking him for once again examining the Society's accounts, John Tiernan proposed that Brian Coghlan be re-elected as "auditor" for 2008/09. This was seconded by Brenda Murray and agreed, *nem con.*

6) **ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

John explained that the Committee has agreed that, as Jo McCann's job as Secretary was by far the heaviest of any of the officers, it should, subject to agreement of members, be split, with programming responsibilities being passed to another. Rob Ainsworth had agreed to assume this task, alongside those of Webmaster, and to fill the currently vacant chair as the fourth officer of the Society. Furthermore, in recognition of all her work over the past seven years, the Committee recommended that Jo be elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Last year, Mike Brian had, despite his concerns over the possibility of criticism of his having charge of the bulk of both incoming & outgoing moneys, assumed the role of acting Membership Secretary in addition to those of Treasurer. Brian Coghlan, had also expressed reservations lest this non-separation of duties, and the reduction of the number of officers to only three, become permanent, but had been reassured by John on both scores. Although not strictly in accordance with the letter of the revised constitution as approved by the Charity Commission, given that (a) there were no pressing offers from suitable volunteers, (b) that the Committee had formally agreed that it had no concerns as to Mike's ability or probity, and (c) that the arrangement had worked very satisfactorily for the last year and a half, it was felt that any such criticism could easily be refuted. It was therefore proposed that, subject to agreement of members, and his being willing to do so, Mike should be asked to continue to carry out these combined duties for not more than two more years, ie the remaining two years of his current term of office.

Agreeing, Mike reminded members that he was still looking for a volunteer to take over the Newsletter, and took the opportunity to thank Netta and Mary for writing the reports of meetings.

While remaining as co-editor of the Journal, Marie McQuade had stepped down from the committee, thus creating a third vacancy. There being no other offers, the committee proposed that, as well as re-electing Sheila Binks and Cynthia Stonnal, Kathy Donaldson be elected, all to serve for 3 years', until 2011

The Chairman therefore proposed a **Vote of thanks** to Jo McCann for her work as Secretary over the past seven years, **formal approval** of her being made an Honorary Life Member, and of these new arrangements and appointments, with immediate effect. Seconded by Neville King , these were all agreed, *nem con.*

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

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

Recent Talks

18 May 2008

Liverpool—a True Capital of Culture

Ken Pye

Thanking Rob Ainsworth for his expertise in technology, which made it possible, Ken showed us the first “Tour” in the DVD that accompanied his book “Discover Liverpool”, . This is a brief look at some of the aspects of the City - our Hospitals, Libraries, Galleries, Buildings, Cathedrals, Tunnels, Sculptures and above all the citizens of Liverpool - which make it deserve the title of European Capital of Culture. He told us of his love for Liverpool and the people of his favourite city, and took us through a very brief account of the trials and tribulations of the 20th. century, when the city had declined from the summit of success to almost despair. He then pointed out that the people of Liverpool have since pulled themselves up and were once more moving forward. It had been this spirit which had convinced the award committee to share their faith.

Ken told us many funny tales of his experiences while writing the book and making the DVD, and the further one which expanded some of the material in the book that was now on sale and concluded with a passionate declaration that “Culture” meant People, and that Scousers were the Best People he knew!

Members’ Enquiries

From time to time the Society receives enquiries from both Members and non-members seeking help with research etc. Some can be, and are, dealt with quite quickly & easily, but others require more time and effort. Two recent e-mails from members are reproduced below in the hope that readers may be able to assist them:-

“Child Labour in Liverpool As one of your newer members, I am about to conduct some research that may be of interest to the Society in the future. A little bit about myself; I am from Maghull, but now living in Kew Gardens in Surrey, and am currently studying for an MSc English Local History at Oxford University, part time. Part of the course is to produce a short dissertation, and this summer I will be investigating urban child labour in Liverpool.

This proposed topic has come about following detailed study of child labour during the industrial revolution. We are all familiar with the image of children working in the mines and factories, but in fact there were many other forms of child labour. From my initial background reading, I am not aware of any detailed research about Liverpool itself. There are many references to Liverpool having a problem with lack of employment for children, and many from the Liverpool Workhouse were sent to Styal Mill in Cheshire. I want to investigate areas such as domestic service, street trading and also employers such as the Herculaneum pottery. The time frame is not yet fixed, but broadly I will begin looking from late eighteenth to early twentieth century.

If anyone in the Society has done any similar research, or is interested in the subject, any advice/tips/recommendations would be warmly received. You can contact me on 0208 392 6940 or by e-mail at caroline.withall@btinternet.com The dissertation is due for submission in 2009, and I look forward to sharing the results of my investigations with the Society”

“Allerton Hall (Clarke's Gardens) has had a chequered history since falling into the clutches of Liverpool City Council but as you are probably aware it now is in the keeping of the Pub in the Park. There are 3 large paintings {2 above the stair and 1 in the dining room} which are intriguing. All my enquiries have drawn a blank - the pub have no knowledge or interest in them, the Walker Art Gallery staff are totally disinterested {Capital of Culture?} and I can find only sketchy information on the Internet. I have a gut feeling that these paintings are of historic value but it is difficult to identify them because they have been re-framed and any signatures are hidden. However, I have tentatively identified one of the pictures as a portrait by the artist Robert Fagan. One of the pictures is a Knight of the Garter and could be one of the "Georges" but the really tantalising picture is of a beautiful lady circa 1860's possibly. I have hit a brick wall on this one and I wondered if any members would be as intrigued as I am -alternatively can anyone suggest new avenues of identification?

I am surprised and disappointed that I can get no interest from the Walker—although I am not an art historian I know quality when I see it and these paintings just could be of value. The Walker [staff] seem to operate within their own elite little world -shouldn't someone tell them that they are custodians on our behalf ? I could go on. Hope that this piques your curiosity “

While the Society does not necessarily share this member's negative view of the Walker and its staff, it would be good if we could help him identify these paintings. If you have, or can obtain, any information about them, please let the editor know, so that it can be passed on.

LHS PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 2008

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

Doors open 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm start

21st September **Liverpool's Classical Music Venues---Then (1700) & Now.** Cheniston Rowland

19th October **18th. To Early 20th. Century Liverpool.** Michael Murphy

16th November **Gardens of Stone: The Rise and Fall of the Tenement Blocks** Paul Sudbury

14th December **Traditional Liverpool Music.** Kevin Bargaen

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

Forthcoming Conferences

Merseyside Archaeological Society

Building the Future, Revealing the Past: The Archaeology of Merseyside 1750 to 1900

Saturday 18 October 2008 at Liverpool Hope University, Childwall, Liverpool

Topics include: Liverpool One redevelopment site; Liverpool Docks; Warehouses in Liverpool; Pottery production in Merseyside; The Hotties Glassworks, St Helens; and Stanley Bank, St Helens

For further information, please contact:- Conference Secretary, 3 Calton Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 1EL, or e-mail: estcarp@hotmail.co.uk

Centre for Liverpool and Merseyside Studies—2009 Conference:

The Gladstones and Liverpool

To commemorate the bi-centenary of the birth at 62 Rodney Street, Liverpool on 29th December 1809, of the controversial 19th century statesman William Ewart Gladstone, the Centre for Liverpool & Merseyside Studies (CLAMS) is planning to hold a conference dedicated to the Gladstone family and the historical issues upon which their lives shed light. Both his father, Sir John, and mother, Anne (née Mackenzie Robertson), were members of Liverpool's Scottish commercial community. A merchant who championed the rights of slave owners, of which he was one, John was also instrumental in channeling trade between the port and Asia. Unlike his three brothers, their second son Robertson did not enter politics and pursued the family's commercial interests. Anne, who gave birth to six children, provides a fascinating example of religious devotion and notions of femininity. Her youngest daughter, Helen, has been described as a rebel 'against a Victorian patriarchy which sought to manage her aberrant behaviour by grinding her into submission' ('Trouble with Helen: The Gladstone family crisis, 1846–1848', *History*, 88:290 (2003), p. 249). Migration, commerce, gender and, of course, politics are just some of the facets illustrated by the Gladstone family. Yet underlying their lives was the commercial hub of Liverpool. It was fitting that Gladstone's final public address was in the city.

Further details of this important Conference will be given in this Newsletter when known., but meanwhile, for more information, please e-mail Dr Mike Benbough-Jackson at m.benbough-jackson@ljam.ac.uk

The Society's Officers & Committee, 2008 – 2009

Officers

Chairman: John Tiernan (2009) Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Mike Brian (P) , (2010) Admin Secretary: Jo McCann (P) (2010) Programme Secretary & Webmaster Rob Ainsworth (2010)

Committee

Sheila Binks (2011) Charles Collier (2010) Joyce Culling (2009) Netta Dixon (2010)
Kathleen Donaldson (2011) Mary Harrison (2010) Brenda Murray (2010) Cynthia Stonall (2011)

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

Co-opted as Technical Editor: Marie McQuade (P)

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