

LIVERPOOL



NEWSLETTER N^o 4

SUMMER 2002

HISTORY SOCIETY

Editorial

This Newsletter comes to you at the end of the first half of the Society's 2002 programme, and details of the four meetings from our resumption after the summer break to the end of the year are within. As mentioned in Newsletter No 3, the talks for September to November are the start of a series that will tell something of the history of the many diverse communities and minority groups that form part of Liverpool's rich fabric, & whose contribution has so often been overlooked. (It is planned that our 2003 & 2004 meetings will include further talks on other communities and groups to be found within the City.)

Three significant items stand out from the first half of a busy 2002. These were

The enrolment of our hundredth member (as we go to print, we actually have 106 paid up members)

Our first Annual General Meeting, a brief account of which appears on page 3, and

The successful launch of our first annual Journal, for which its editor, Neville King, is to be both congratulated and thanked.

Our thanks also go, of course, to the individual contributors, and now that members have seen the sort of articles that we aim to include, it is hoped that they will want to offer similar material for use in Journal No 2 and beyond. Neville would be delighted to receive offers!

Liverpool is rightly preparing to celebrate its eighth Centenary in **2007**, and working towards being declared European Capital of Culture in **2008**. The LHS supports both of these events, but is anxious that other anniversaries, important to the city's history, should be not forgotten.

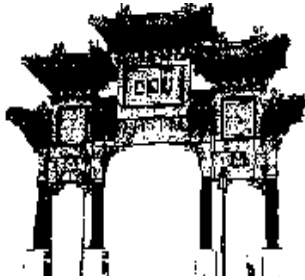
Three dates come quickly to mind. **2003** is the 250th anniversary of **William Roscoe**, born on 8 March, 1753, 19 July **2004** marks the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the **Anglican Cathedral**, and 13 March **2005** will be the bi-centenary of the birth of the artist **William Gawin Herdman**. Roscoe is relatively well known [see Journal No 1, p8], but little of Herdman's work seems to be on public view, even though his characteristic paintings and drawings give us some idea of the Liverpool we had lost, even before Hitler's bombs, shameful neglect and the developers' bulldozers had begun to do their worst.

While the Society will seek to mark all these anniversaries with appropriate talks or visits, and invites its members to draw the attention of the Committee to other impending significant dates, especially in **2006**, it also politely asks the City Council, its Libraries, the National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, and the Local Press what they, in their turn, will be doing to ensure that these and other Liverpool "milestones" will be suitably celebrated?

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 2002

The following meetings will be held at LIPA, Mount St, Liverpool, at 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start

22nd September **The History of the Chinese Community in Liverpool** **Speaker: Brian Wong**



Liverpool's famed Chinese Arch brought from Shanghai in 2000

It was the trade links between Britain and China which started in 1834, via the ports of Liverpool and Shanghai that led to the establishment of what is arguably the oldest Chinese community in Europe. From 1866, Chinese sailors began to live in and around Cleveland Square, Liverpool, some in boarding houses opened by the Holt Shipping Company, and within five years, some 200 were settled there.

Brian Wong, the Chief Executive of the Liverpool Chinatown Business Association, will tell us more of the history of that Community, the problems it has faced and surmounted, and how it has become such a vital part of our city.

20th October **Black Liverpudlians – a hidden history** **Speaker: Ray Costello**

We all know that during the 18th century, Liverpool became one of the richest trading centres in Europe, but did we know that this when it emerged as a centre for the education of early black students, and the home of a free black community drawn from many sources which pre-dates the American War of Independence?

Ray Costello is a retired local teacher and his recent (2001) book, **Black Liverpool**, is a testimony to how those early black Liverpudlians, whose lives were seemingly undramatic, yet dealt heroically with the daily struggle of life in what were often hard times for black people. He will perhaps tell us why James Brown, John Archer (Liverpool born and Britain's first black Mayor [Battersea, 1913]), Charles Wootton and Jim Clarke, now generally forgotten outside their own community, should be more widely known and celebrated.



John Richard Archer, 1863 – 1932

24th November **The establishment of Liverpool's Jewish Community** **Speaker: Joe Wolfman**



Seel St Synagogue, 1807 – 1874

Unveiling a plaque in Seel Street on the site of Liverpool's first purpose-built synagogue, our Lord Mayor recently said that the city's Jewish community had played a very significant role over many years and that its members had been prominent in public life and contributed an enormous amount to the city. The plaque forms part of the new Jewish Heritage Trail, which, the Lord Mayor said, will provide "a fascinating look at part of [our] heritage and demonstrates the importance we attach to the multi-cultural nature of the city." (Free Guide Brochures for the Trail can be obtained from the city's two Tourist Information Centres.)

Joe Wolfman, who supplied this illustration, is the Chief Archivist of the Liverpool Jewish Archives, the author of several papers relating to the city's Jewish history and a well known lecturer on this important subject.

15th December **Yuletide Special – another mixed**

As well as appropriate Seasonal Goodies, our December celebrations will include a further quiz (with prize) on our Liverpool Knowledge, a visit from Punch & Judy, and a talk about this traditional form of entertainment, with which the Codman family has delighted Liverpool's citizens and visitors for 142 years.

Our illustration shows our speaker's father and Mrs Bessie Braddock, MP in the booth, with part of Ron's own head in the bottom left hand corner.



AGM REPORT & OTHER NEWS

Annual General Meeting

Well over 50 members attended our first AGM at 1300 hours on 26th May 2002, and a number of apologies were received from those unable to be present. A further seven new members joined at the end of the meeting.

Reports were received from the Chairman, the Administrative and Membership Secretaries and the Treasurer, and the Accounts to 31 March 2002, as examined and certified by Brian Coghlan, and summarised in Newsletter No 3, were accepted without demur. Although it had erroneously been omitted from the Agenda, (apologies), a report was also received from Neville King, the Journal Editor, and it was announced that the results of his labours would be available for distribution and sale at the end of the meeting.

The proposed changes to the Constitution were explained and accepted, *nem con.* (A copy of the Revised Constitution is being distributed with this Newsletter and will be given to all new members on joining)

Although shown in the Agenda that one, unspecified, officer would need to be elected, the Committee had subsequently decided that, to ensure continuity during the Society's second year, none of its officers should resign at this time, but that two would need to do so in 2003. Partly as a result of the changes to the Constitution, there were five Representative Member vacancies to be filled on the Committee. No postal nominations having been received by the Secretary, two nominations from the present Committee, of Cynthia Stonall and John Tiernan, were agreed unanimously, with three vacancies remaining unfilled.

Having received the thanks of the meeting and expressed his willingness to do so again, Brian Coghlan was appointed Accounts Examiner for the coming year.

No prior notice of Motions or matters for discussion had been received by the Secretary, but in response to an invitation from the Chairman, one member asked if it could be ensured that **all** Society meetings were held on the same Sunday of each month (e.g. the third as most of our meetings to date have been) After a brief discussion, it was stated that wherever possible this would be done, but, as there were often practical difficulties, no guarantee could be given that other Sundays would never be selected.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the AGM at approximately 1345 hours.

Another facsimile reprint

Following the success of its reprint of Griffiths' 1907 **History of the Royal and Ancient Park of Toxteth**, Liverpool Record Office has announced the publication in December 2002 of a facsimile reprint of James Stonehouse's **The Streets of Liverpool**, first issued in 1869. Further details of its content and of a money saving pre-publication offer are given in the enclosed "flyer", issued by the Record Office.

Help with Research

From time to time, the Society receives requests for help with research, either through its web- site, or perhaps as a result of a contact made elsewhere. Although we are not really equipped to deal with such requests, we are happy to help where we can, but when, as they so often do, enquiries relate to Family History (which is not proper to the LHS), enquirers are referred to the Liverpool & SW Lancs FHS, or the Liverpool Record Office.

Some non-Family History enquiries are quite simple and can be answered either from personal knowledge, by a quick reference to the appropriate book, or pointing the enquirer in the right direction. Others, however, are of a more taxing nature, and outside our limited resources to help.

One such has been received from a University student writing her dissertation, requesting information about Liverpool's tobacco industry and in particular, the firm of Ogdens. If any reader knows of any research already done on this subject or thinks that they or a member of their family might be able to assist, please let the Editor know, or eMail the Society at liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com The student concerned has, by the way, promised the Society a copy of her dissertation, when it is completed.

Liverpool History on the World Wide Web

Just about a third of our Members appear to have their own eMail address (and, presumably, access to the WWW). It occurs to the Editor that readers may be as confused as he is as to which web-sites are the best for information about Liverpool's history. The following, in random order, are a few of his personal favourites.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool/localhistory> <http://www.liverpool2007.org.uk>
<http://www.lmu.livjm.ac.uk/etms> <http://www.liverpool-genealogy.org.uk>
<http://www.merseyworld.com> <http://www.pastliverpool.com>
<http://freespace.virgin.net/m.royden> (Mike Royden's History Pages)
<http://www.ladt.org.uk> and for further links, add </links/catagories/localhistorylinks.html>

There are of course many more web-sites, some of which can be reached by links from those listed here. If you have particular favourites, please let the Editor know. (He does, by the way, know the proper way to spell "categories", but the web address is as shown above!)

We hope shortly to develop the Society's site to more than its present single page. Is there any Member with the appropriate skills who is prepared to help us in this worthwhile venture? Offers to the Editor, please.

More History – still local, but this time “Natural”

Although strictly speaking not within the ambit of our Society, we are pleased to have been given a copy of the book **A Guided tour of Merseyside, its wildlife and Natural History** by Bill 'The Birdman' Hughes, (Radio Merseyside & Avid Publications, 2002, £6.95), which may be borrowed by any member wishing to do so.

Its 122 pages record many of Mr Hughes' and his Nature Watch listeners' sightings of flora and fauna on either side of the river during 2001, – some times in the most unexpected places. As one correspondent puts it "Living in an urban area often gives the impression that all we see is pigeons and the Liver Birds.....Nature Watch News certainly shows that this is not the case". This derivative book does the same, and demonstrates just how rich an area we live in, if only we keep our eyes and ears open (this also applies to our built environment!) Except where it points out cases of unnecessary cruelty to wild creatures, this book warms the hearts of its readers and reminds them of this other vital inheritance.

We are very glad to commend to our readers both the book and the idea that it extols of a
[Merseyside Maritime and Urban Wildlife National Park](#).

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

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

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

Postal Correspondence

Administration Secretary, L H S, 46 Stanley Avenue, Rainford, Merseyside, WA11 8HU
Membership Secretary, L H S, 55 Greenloons Drive, Formby, Merseyside, L37 2LX

eMail: liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com **Website:** liverpoolhistorysociety.merseyside.org