



# LIVERPOOL

Newsletter No 8

Winter 2003-04



Regd Charity

**HISTORY SOCIETY**

No 1093736

## Editorial

### LHS on the move – yet again

By now, all Members, whether they be able to attend our regular monthly meetings or not, will have realised that the Society has had to move again, and that we have returned to Hope at Everton, where we met from October to December 2001.

Like our move from Hope to LIPA in January 2002, this latest move from LIPA back to Hope was dictated by the changing operational needs of a vibrant educational establishment. Our time at LIPA was a happy one, for we were well looked after by their courteous and efficient staff, to whom we offer our warmest thanks. Foremost amongst these, invariably ensuring that our meeting place and AVA equipment were ready for use, and our welcoming drink available, was Joan Burnett. She has now moved to another post in the City, (in which we wish her well) but so much did she enjoy our meetings at LIPA, that she has now joined the Society as a member.

The Hope complex at Everton is just one part of Liverpool Hope University College, whose main premises are at Hope Park, straddling Taggart Avenue in L16. We now meet in what is known as the Cornerstone Building, on the left as you enter the Everton complex from Shaw Street.

To the right, the visitor sees the exterior of John Joseph Scholes' magnificent Victorian Gothic church of St Francis Xavier, built in 1849-50, which Picton calls "one of the most successful specimens of church architecture" in Liverpool. Pevsner is rather less complimentary, but both the exterior and interior of the church, which now stands unattached as Scholes intended, and is now used by both the local Roman Catholic and other Christian communities, deserve closer examination.

Hope at Everton occupies what remains of the premises formerly occupied by the St Francis Xavier College. Following a project of conversion and refurbishment or demolition and new building, which began in October 1988 and is costing in the region of around £20 million, the complex houses Hope's School of Creative and Performing Arts. Within the Grade II listed Cornerstone Building, where LHS now meets, are the splendid Great Hall, workshops for sculpture, wood, ceramics, metal, textiles and printmaking and seven studios for a similar range of activities, as well as a suite of teaching, seminar, tutorial and study rooms, and a restaurant. 188 en-suite study bedrooms have been provided in the Gerard Manley Hopkins Hall, so named to commemorate the Victorian poet who served at SFX as a curate in the early 1880s, while outside, across the newly built Josephine Butler Square, is the site for a new Rehearsal Room block.

Hope's intention is that some of these facilities will be available to the wider community, and as part of that group, we look forward to our further, and hopefully longer, association with the college. Meanwhile

*The Officers and Committee of the LHS  
wish all Members and Friends the  
Compliments of the Season.  
and a peaceful & prosperous New Year* and hopefully longer associa-



## Programme for 2004

**Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held on Sundays at the  
Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw St, Liverpool.  
Doors open at 1.30 for the talk at 2.00p.m.**

**18th January: 'STYLE BATTLES - 19th CENTURY ARCHITECTURE IN LIVERPOOL'**

**GRAHAM FISHER**

Scholes' St Francis Xavier's Church, mentioned on the previous page, Elmes' St George's Hall, possibly the "greatest classical monument" of the period, Waterhouse's red brick Victoria University building on Brownlow Hill, Shelmerdine's Art Nouveau Library in St Domingo Road, and the "cellular habitation for the human insect" that is Ellis' "prophetic" Oriel Chambers on Water Street (pictured) are just a few of the buildings that still grace Liverpool's streets. While all dating the 19th century, in style they could hardly be more different.



Our speaker, who is the Chairman of the local branch of The Victorian Society, will guide us through the struggles between the proponents of these different styles thanks to whom our City has some of its many architectural gems.

**15th February: THE LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL**

**RON RIGBY**



The 127 mile long Leeds – Liverpool Canal (our illustration shows a milepost marking the half-way point) crosses the Pennines, or perhaps we should say in respect of the Foulridge Tunnel, some 487½ feet above sea level, goes under them, and links the Red and White Rose Counties. Originally built about 200 years ago, at a cost of some half-million pounds, by linking with the Aire and Calder Navigation at Leeds, it provided a through route between the Irish and the North Seas, and has left us a heritage both of beauty and of industrial historic interest.

It is not just an interesting relic of the past, for after a period of neglect, the canal has, in recent years, undergone much restoration and a transformation. There are even plans to develop its western end into a controversial part of Liverpool's Pier Head complex. Ron Rigby, from the L&LCS will, perhaps, tell us about these plans and much more too from the canal's long his-

**21st March: 'THE WALTON EXPERIENCE, 1915-1946'**

**DOREEN McGIVERON**

In 1864-9, a new workhouse, designed by William Culshaw, and with a construction cost of £65,000, was built on Rice Lane at Walton-on-the-Hill to serve the northern part of the West Derby Union. This Walton workhouse initially accommodated 1,200 inmates, but it gradually expanded until by 1930 it could hold up to 2,500.

Doreen Mc Giveron, a member of our Society, has made a close study of the final years of the workhouse's existence before the coming of the NHS, and in particular the remarkable co-operation between its Master, Matron and Medical Officer. Her talk will describe those final years, and at the same time perhaps shed some light on the fear that the very word "workhouse" engendered in the hearts of our parents and grandparents.



**18th April: "SERVING INDUSTRY WORLDWIDE" - A HISTORY THE OF BIBBY LINE**

**CHRISTINA SPENCER**



John Bibby, pictured here, was born at Eccleston, near Ormskirk in Lancashire on 19th February 1775. In 1807 he founded in Liverpool the company which, while still bearing his name, has grown, in the succeeding two centuries, into a leading business to business services group involved in shipowning and operation, oil field services, shallow water accommodation, contract logistics and debt factoring. Bibby Line Group remains proud of its Liverpool heritage and still has its elegant head office there, in Duke Street.

Throughout its history, a key part of the Bibby philosophy has been to maintain its reputation for high quality, integrity and safety of operations. Christina Spencer, the Group's archivist, will tell us how that philosophy has promoted its growth, and some of the "ups and downs" Bibby's have encountered on the way.



## Programme for 2004, continued

**16th May: 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (starting at 1.45pm)**

Be sure to come to the AGM. It's your opportunity to hear your Committee tell you how things have gone over the past year, and for you to tell them what you have or have not liked. If you feel very strongly about anything, you might even find yourself elected to the Committee!



The AGM will be followed, at approx 2.15 pm, by

**'HUGH SHIMMIN AND LEISURE IN VICTORIAN LIVERPOOL'**

**FRANK BOYCE**

Afterwards, our former Chairman will tell us something of the Manx born Liverpool bookbinder Hugh Shimmin (1820–1879), who, with others, founded the local journal, the "Porcupine." While colleagues attended to the amusing side of the paper, he developed it into paper of considerable influence in transforming poor conditions in the town. Of their efforts, Sir Edward Russell wrote, "I never knew a small combination of men who did such great things." It will be interesting to learn of another aspect of this near forgotten "worthy" of our community.

**20th June: 'ASPECTS OF MOSSLEY HILL, ALLERTON AND AIGBURTH'**

**JOHN DERBYSHIRE**



A casual visitor to Liverpool driving through these southern suburbs of our City might be forgiven for thinking that they are just pleasant but anonymous dormitories for those working elsewhere. With gems like Calderstones Park and its Japanese Garden, Sudely House, (our illustration shows the Liverpool ship-owner, Alfred Holt, Sudley's one time owner), memories of a former zoo and other less obvious charms, John Derbyshire will tell us just how wrong such thoughts are.

### SUMMER BREAK AND AUTUMN PROGRAMME

As usual, there will be no meetings during July or August, but please make a note of the following dates, subjects and speakers for the remaining months of 2004:

19th Sep:	<b>'ON TRACK—two pioneering railways and a tramway system'</b>	GLYNN PARRY
17th Oct:	<b>'THE FIRST MOSQUE IN BRITAIN'</b>	ZIA CHAUDHRY
21st Nov:	<b>INFLUX OF IRISH INTO 19th CENTURY LIVERPOOL</b>	FRANK NEAL
19th Dec:	<b>200 YEARS OF LIVERPOOL MUSIC</b>	CHENISTON ROLAND

### OTHER EVENTS

This year's Summer Extra, when we make a visit to a local building of interest, will be held on THURSDAY 3rd JUNE, at 10.30a.m., when we hope to visit PRINCES ROAD SYNAGOGUE. It was built in 1874 to the designs of the architects W & G Audsley, whose work was recently the subject of a small exhibition at the Walker. Further details of the arrangements for the visit will be given at the April and May meetings.

Gentlemen hoping to join us on this visit are reminded that they will be asked to comply with the Jewish practice of covering their heads whilst in the Synagogue.

### LHS AT HOME

On Saturday, 9th October, the Society will be "At Home" to the fellow societies of the LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION. For a society as new as ours, this is both a privilege and a responsibility.

We are fortunate in having secured the use of the Western Rooms in the city's awe-inspiring Anglican Cathedral as it celebrates the centenary of the laying of its foundation stone on 19th July 1904 by King Edward VII.

The At Home will take the form of a Conference with talks, a bookstall, refreshments, a buffet lunch and a choice of afternoon visits. Unlike our normal meetings there will be a modest fee for those attending, and as the spaces available will be limited, pre-registration and payment will be required.

Meanwhile, please keep the date free and watch out for further details.





## 'Faith in One City'

As part of Liverpool's build-up for Capital of Culture in 2008, the year 2004 will be celebrated as a year of 'Faith in One City'. By way of contribution to this celebration, our Summer Extra, as mentioned page 3, will be a visit to Princes Road Synagogue, and our talk in October will be about the Mosque founded in Brougham Terrace by William Quilliam, a 19th century Victorian Liverpool solicitor and convert to Islam. Our next Journal, to be published in May 2004, will also include mention of the theme, and our "At Home" in October will provide an opportunity to visit the Anglican Cathedral's Centenary Exhibition.

We are trying to secure copies, for distribution to members, of the very interesting 16 page brochure "Liverpool Walk of Faith" recently published by the City and other bodies, but meanwhile copies should be available at the Tourist Information Offices at Queen's Square or the Albert Dock.

## Jewish Community Archives

Liverpool Record Office has asked that members be advised that the cataloguing of these important archives has now been successfully completed and that they and the other catalogues of the Record Office, are now available on the internet, at [www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk). From here please go to A-Z of Council Services and then to Archives. This will take you to the Archives home page, and by clicking on the link you can then search the various catalogues.

## The Visual Arts in Liverpool

### Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Although members may not receive this Newsletter until the middle of December, it will not be too late to visit the Rossetti exhibition at the Walker until 18th January 2004. Although tiring on the feet and back, your Editor found the detail of some of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's work exquisite (he wished he had his magnifying glass with him) and the colours breath-taking. This is the Exhibition's only showing in England – lucky Liverpool!

### Huyton Internment Camp

From 26 February to 3 May 2004, the Walker will be mounting an exhibition entitled 'Art Behind Barbed Wire', featuring pictures created by refugees held in the south Liverpool Huyton internment camp during World War Two. The artists, including Hugo Dachinger and Walter Nessler, used whatever materials they could find and many of the drawings and watercolours were done on newspaper. Don't miss this opportunity to discover one of the lesser-known stories from the war.

## Programme Card

In response to a number of requests, and following the example of many similar societies, we have introduced for 2004 a Programme Card, giving details of forthcoming talks, and contact details for Society Officers.

A copy of the card is being distributed to all members with this copy of the Newsletter, and as it will carry his or her name and membership number, the card will also serve as a means of identification when borrowing books or journals from the Society's Library. Please be ready to produce your card if asked to do so.

## New and forthcoming publications

Congratulations to our member Mike Kelly on the publication earlier this year of his Liverpool – The Irish Connection. It introduces us to some of the many Irish men and women who have played such an important part in the development of our city. At £9.95, the book is available from many local bookshops or from Mike himself at most meetings. If you ask him nicely, he will even sign it for you, at no extra charge!

We are very pleased to be able to draw the attention of members to the books mentioned on the enclosed 'flyers' from **Carnegie Press**. In exchange for distributing the flyers and a future review, Carnegie have promised complimentary copies for the Society's Library, and as we go to press, the first two have arrived.

### The Society's Officers & Committee, 2003-4

#### Officers

Chairman: John Tiernan (2006) Administration Secretary: Jo McCann (P) (2004)  
 Treasurer: Neville King (P) (2006) Membership Secretary: Michael Brian (P) (2004)

#### Committee

Charles Collier (2004) Joyce Culling (2006) Brenda Downey (2004) Fred Forrest (P) (2005)  
 Brenda Murray (2004) Cynthia Stonall (2005) Marie McQuade (C,P)

NB (P) & (C) denote member of Publications Sub-Committee & Co-opted respectively, and the year is when current term of office ends

#### 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](mailto:liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com)

**Website:** [liverpoolhistorysociety.merseyside](http://liverpoolhistorysociety.merseyside).



