

LIBRARY UPDATE

As some of you may know, there are major plans afoot for redevelopment of Liverpool Central Library. The plans include restoration of the Picton, Oak and Hornby rooms as well as demolition of the 1960s and 1970s 'new' building work behind the William Brown Street facade. More detail of what is planned can be found at

www.liverpool.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries_and_archives/index.asp

One part of the redevelopment will be a greatly improved archive storage area and a new archive search room. The Historic Society's library has for some time been housed in the existing search room and it is planned to return it to the new search room when the redeveloped facility opens. It does mean, however, that in the meantime the Society's library will be unavailable to members. Council has considered this matter but cannot see any realistic alternative where the library can be safe and access made available on a regular basis throughout the period when work is underway. We shall of course continue to purchase some materials during the closed period so that they can be added to the collection when the Central Library reopens.

Plans at present anticipate the Central Library closing on 1 June 2010 and reopening in the autumn of 2012. We understand there are arrangements to make some of the Library's facilities available at other venues in Liverpool and suggest members check for details directly with the Library or its website.

FUTURE MEETINGS

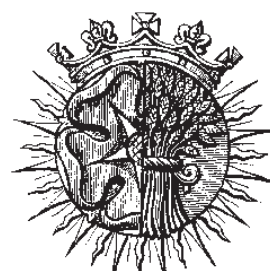
Presentation and visit: Mr Jim Holian, 'Canals, Coal and Cotton: Wigan's Three Cs', at Goose Green Methodist Church, Wigan, Sunday 23 May at 12.30, followed by a visit to Trencherfield Mill.

Mr Jim Holian will speak on Wigan's industrial history before leading a visit to the Trencherfield Mill site. Mr Holian has worked in education in Wigan for over thirty years following his teacher training in his home city of Liverpool. A keen historian, he spent two years as resident tutor at Wigan Pier in its days as a Heritage Centre and Museum, during which time it won the coveted Sanford Education Award. The Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine has recently been restored with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund; it is one of the finest examples of its kind. A sandwich lunch will be provided at 12.30 before the presentation, and members will ideally need their own transport to travel from the church to the Mill (directions will be given). Please see the enclosed booking form for further details.

N.B. Only the rear booking form should be filled in to apply for a place on the visit. Please retain the programme details and directions sheet for your records.

Guided tour and boat trip: The National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, Saturday 26 June at 11.00.

This visit will give members the opportunity to explore an important Victorian site featuring Thomas Telford's canal docks, workshops and workers' cottages, and enjoy a boat trip on the Shropshire Union Canal. There will also be a presentation on the Waterways Archives that are held at Ellesmere Port, which include material on the Manchester Ship Canal and the Weaver Navigation Trust. Please see the enclosed booking form for further details.



REPORTS ON SOCIETY MEETINGS

Prof. Hannah Barker: 'At home with the lower-middle classes: home, business and household in north-west England, 1760-1820', 28 February 2010.

The AGM of the Society was held in Liverpool Central Library. The annual report of Council for 2009 and the accounts for 2009 were considered and approved. Officers for 2010 were elected and five ordinary members of Council were also elected for three-year terms. In addition, Professor Suzanne Schwarz was elected to fill a vacancy for a two-year term.

Following the business of the AGM Professor Hannah Barker from the University of Manchester provided members with an illustrated lecture entitled: 'At home with the lower middle classes: home, business and household in north-west England, 1760-1820'. The subject of the lecture is but one aspect of a project that Professor Barker is involved with concerning this type of family and business in the north-west. In the period up to about 1820 many small businesses were family-run and the family invariably lived over or behind the shop or working premise. This has led her to an interest in the uses of this domestic space, although almost no interior illustrations survive of this type of property.

Professor Barker explained the use she has made of some surviving diaries and how evidence suggests that family, apprentices and servants all lived together or in very close proximity. Most houses had six or seven people in the household and they were living in probably two or three smallish rooms. Very few probate inventories survive from this period; the few examples have been used and these suggest crowded and crammed living areas. Examples from both Manchester and Liverpool were used to illustrate these situations.

The diary evidence and a few surviving letters raise interesting questions about the various parts of the house that blood relations and employees were allowed in to enter. What was perceived as a family? or a household? The number of questions that Professor Barker's lecture prompted testified to its interest.

Janet Hollinshead

Dr David Harrison: 'The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Wigan Grand Lodge', 24 March 2010.

At this well attended meeting of the society, David Harrison guided the members through the little known rebellion of masons in Liverpool and Wigan against the formation of the United Grand Lodge in the early nineteenth-century, which shed light on social networks between Liverpool and Wigan. The causes of the rebellion had its roots in the mid-eighteenth century when the Antient Grand Lodge was founded in 1751 in opposition to the Grand Lodge founded in London in 1717. Liverpool's Masonic tradition was dominated by the Antient Grand Lodge. When it was decided to merge the Antient and Grand Lodges in 1813 into one organisation, the United Grand Lodge, many Liverpool masons, especially the Antient, balked at the union since they felt that they lost both prestige and traditions. After exhausting official channels for their discontent, the contumacious Liverpool masons were expelled by the United Grand Lodge and formed their own Rebel Grand Lodge in 1823. However, this movement was short-lived, as the treasurer stole money from the organisation in 1824 which took the heart out of the rebels and the Liverpool masons abandoned their cause either by rejoining the United Grand Lodge or leaving freemasonry entirely.

The Wigan based brethren picked up the baton of rebellion forming the Wigan Grand Lodge in the 1830's. Although humble when compared to the grandeur of the London Masonic movement, nonetheless from the 1830's to the 1850's this rebel organisation was strong, unified and vibrant, opening lodges across West Lancashire. However, as it matured it increasingly relied on familial networks that shrank as the century progressed. The rebellion ended in 1913 when the Wigan Grand Lodge was incorporated into the United Grand Lodge. This well illustrated lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session that expanded many of the themes and points that Dr Harrison had made during his exploration of this little known aspect of cultural history.

Denise Jones

Visit to Chetham's Library, Manchester, 21st April 2010.

The report on this visit will be in the summer newsletter.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Spring 2010 Public Lectures

There will be a programme of short presentations at the Treasure House Theatre, World Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, by the museum's curators on topics from aquatics to Viking treasure on Thursday 22 & 29 April and 6 & 13 May 2010. All begin at 2pm. The full programme is

Thursday 22 April 2010

2pm *'Treasures... of black wood, brilliantly polished': Researching 10th to 16th-century Caribbean wood sculpture, Dr. Joanna Ostapkowicz, Curator, Americas Collections*

2.25pm *Contemporary Slavery: Collecting for the International Slavery Museum, Rebecca Watkin, Curator of Transatlantic Slavery.*

2.50pm *The Huxley Hoard of Viking Silver, Dr. Robert Philpott, Head of Archaeology.*

Thursday 29 April 2010

2pm *The Rediscovery of a Fragment of an Egyptian Pyramid, Dr. Carolyn Routledge, Antiquities Curator.*

2.30pm *Raywatch: Angling for Data, Rachel Ball, Education Team Leader, Aquarium.*

Thursday 6 May 2010

2pm *Liverpool's Museum – the first 150 years, John Millard, Executive Director, Collections Management.*

2.25pm *Collecting Tibet: Objects, People and Places in early 20th-century British India, Emma Martin, Head of Ethnology.*

2.50pm *'A Place Called Home': Liverpool Court Housing, Dr. Liz Stewart, Exhibition curator, Archaeology.*

Thursday 13 May 2010

2pm *Beautiful Toxteth – the Unusually Royal history of Toxteth Deer Park, Dr. Clemency Fisher, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology.*

2.30pm *Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval excavations at the M62 Tarbock Interchange, 2007, Ron Cowell, Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology.*

Admission is free. For further details go to

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/events/wml/>

or telephone the museum on 0151 478 4393

Conference

Members may be interested in the CBA North West Industrial Archaeology Conference which will be held on 25 September 2010 at The National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port. It will include a wide range of topics from 19th century workers' housing to salt making in Cumbria and Cheshire and the opportunity for a "behind the scenes" visit of the museum. Member wishing to book a place at the conference can find a booking form at www.mihs.org.uk/CBA.pdf or contact Renie Verity on 01928 724 804.

Mark J Sargant & Matthew Tinker, *Birkdale in Camera: early photographs of a Southport suburb (Sefton, 2009).*

The latest Local History publication from Sefton Library Service has just been published. 'Birkdale in Camera' contains fifty archive photographs with accompanying captions, providing a fascinating insight into the history of the area. The views, which date from the 1860s to the 1940s, are mostly taken from the library's own collection but have been complemented by important contributions from collections held by the Birkdale & Ainsdale Historical Research Society and the Birkdale Civic Society. Also included is a large fold-out map, showing the district as it was in 1906.

The book is a companion to the three previously published 'In Camera' titles featuring Churchtown, Crosby and Seaforth. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in Birkdale's past.

ISBN 9781874516187

Price £4.50.



Pamela Russell, Liverpool's Children in the Second World War (Stroud, 2009).

This book looks at the children who were not evacuated, either by choice or necessity, from Liverpool during the Second World War. Using the testimony of those children who experienced the Blitz first-hand, this book recounts their adventures and misadventures; the fun & games and the danger; the humour and sorrow of the war years. It not only explores the memories of childhood but also examines the formative effect this had on those individuals' lives.

ISBN 9780752451589

Price £12.99.

A.D.M. Phillips & C.B. Phillips, The New Historical Atlas of Cheshire

Cheshire has a richer record for historical atlases than any other county in the United Kingdom and with 180 maps in this volume that range from gazetteer-fashion records of data, for example, all the archaeological finds in the county relating to the Roman period, to others that illustrate a narrative of events, for example, the course of the civil war in the county, this multi-disciplinary volume is on offer to members of the society at a discount with the voucher enclosed with this newsletter. Please ensure that the voucher is sent with the order. Non-members can obtain a copy for £25 from

Cheshire Record Office,

Duke Street,

Chester, CH1 1RL

tel. 01244 602574; www.cheshire.gov.uk/recoff/shop.htm

Walking on Water Street

Graham Jones is researching the history of Water Street, Liverpool and the immediate area around it from 1207 to the present day, with a view to offering the results to Liverpool Record Office in 2012 when it reopens. Whilst there is a wealth of information at Liverpool Records Office itself, including Transactions, Graham would be interested in receiving ideas from members of the Society who may be aware of information which he may not come across in normal searches and/or any personal recollections concerning this famous Liverpool street. He can be contacted at Apartment 65, Tower Building, 22 Water Street, L3 1BH, or at walking.on.water.street@googlemail.com.



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To: Mr. Simon Hill, Department of History, Liverpool John Moores University, 68 Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BZ
e-mail - s.j.hill1@ljmu.ac.uk

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