

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was delighted to be elected president of the Society at the AGM in February, and I thought that this would be a good opportunity to introduce myself to members who may not know me. I hail originally from the Southeast of England, but since 1993 I have been lecturing in the History Department at Liverpool John Moores University. I am probably best known as a historian of decolonisation in Southeast Asia. It is through this work, however, that I have come to fully appreciate the influence of our region on the wider world, and recently I have turned my attention to studying the role of Liverpool within the British Empire and particularly the impact of decolonisation on the port city. As such, I am looking forward to learning much more about our region, as well as meeting members of the Society, at our future lectures and events. Finally, on behalf of Council, I would like to record the thanks due to my predecessor Janet Hollinshead who, I am delighted to say, will continue to provide her wise counsel to the Society as a member of Council.

Dr. Nicholas White

FUTURE MEETINGS

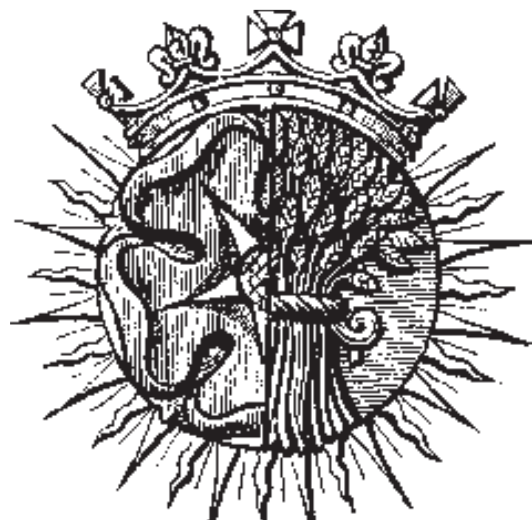
Melanie Tebbutt, 'Dancing the Night Away': dancing and dance-halls in the interwar years', Wednesday 22 April 2009, 7.00, Allerton United Reformed Church, Mather Avenue, Allerton, Liverpool L18 7HD.

Dancing played a central part in interwar youth culture and by the 1930s was second in popularity to the cinema. Girls and young women were particularly keen dancers and dancing has attracted attention as an important expression of female youth culture. Young men's involvement with dancing was more ambivalent and they were often described as 'too self-conscious' to dance'. 'Dancing the Night Away' looks at the expansion of dance-halls in the interwar years, the popularity of the palais-de-danse and the different ways in which young men and women responded to dancing and dance-hall culture.

The lecture will be held in the Church Hall at Allerton URC. The Church has a small car park accessed from Booker Avenue, but it is also possible to park on the road near the car park entrance.

Directions from Liverpool city centre/tunnel exits: head for Upper Parliament Street from the Dock Road; drive down Smithdown Road or alternatively Princes Avenue and Ullet Road; drive along Allerton Road which becomes Mather Avenue, go past Tesco and, a little further along, the church is situated on the right at a crossroads. Turn right into Booker Avenue to park.

Directions from M62: turn left at the end of the motorway on to Queen's Drive; continue until the crossroads with Allerton Road (HSBC on left) and turn left on to Allerton Road. Drive along Allerton Road which becomes Mather Avenue, go past Tesco and, a little further along, the church is situated on the right at a crossroads. Turn right into Booker Avenue to park.



Visit to Princes Road Synagogue: Sunday 17 May 2009, 2.30pm.

'He who has not seen the interior of Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool has not beheld the glory of Israel.'
(H.A. Meek, 1993)

Princes Road Synagogue was designed by W and G Audsley of Liverpool. Built in 1874 of red sandstone and unpressed brick, the building impressively combines Gothic and Moorish architecture. The interior is magnificent, laid out like a gothic basilica in gold and marble. At the Eastern end sits the Ark at the entrance to the sanctuary, above which sits a beautiful rose window matching another at the Western end. This talk will outline the architecture, the history of the building and of the local Jewish community and include a demonstration of the artefacts and their place in Religious traditions.

Detailed information on directions, parking and public transport can be accessed at www.princesroad.org/findus.htm

It would be polite but not essential for gentlemen to wear a head covering of their own choosing.

Booking is essential for this visit: please see the enclosed form.

Visit to Alderley Church and School, Saturday 13 June 2009.

This visit will give members the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the historic fourteenth-century church and seventeenth-century school, situated on land held by the Stanley family for several centuries. The church and churchyard feature reminders of this important connection, including the family pew, which dates from about 1600, and the early twentieth-century mausoleum. We will meet at about 10.15 for morning coffee and will begin our tour at 10.45. Lunch can be enjoyed in one of the local hosteleries or alternatively members might like to bring a packed lunch. After lunch, members might like to see more of the Nether Alderley area which also includes the fifteenth-century corn mill, now restored and managed by the National Trust (not normally open on Saturdays, but this might be possible by prior arrangement: if so, members who book will be informed). Copies of booklets produced by the Wilmslow Historical Society, detailing a four-mile walk through 'Stanley country', will be available on the day for those feeling energetic – and in case the weather is good to us. For further details please see the booking form.

REPORTS OF SOCIETY MEETINGS

AGM followed by John Herson, 'The Liverpool Emigrant Trade, 1825-1913: Figures, Facts and Possible Impacts', Sunday 22 February 2009.

The AGM was followed by John Herson's absorbing examination of emigration from Liverpool between 1825 and 1913. He began with an examination of the disparity between the perception of Liverpool's significant role in emigration contained in broad historical studies and the absence of a sustained, in-depth statistical analysis of that role as an individual port. Dr Herson provided a frank and detailed critical analysis of the methodological difficulties of the sources that those statistics which have been produced are based on - including his own - especially the Board of Trade data. His analysis of the emigration rates to America, Canada and Australia included contextual information on the events that occurred around the peaks and troughs in these migration streams, including the Californian and Australian gold rushes. Dr Herson then moved onto examine the geographic origin of the migrants leaving from Liverpool which he divided into three broad categories – British, Irish and Continental, data for whom is only available from 1853. He applied these analyses to the nationalities on-board individual emigrant ships, used that data to examine how Liverpool compared to other British ports and found that it did dominate the emigrant trade, although there was a downward trend in the late nineteenth century. Dr Herson concluded his lecture with an examination of the impact of emigrants and emigration on Liverpool.

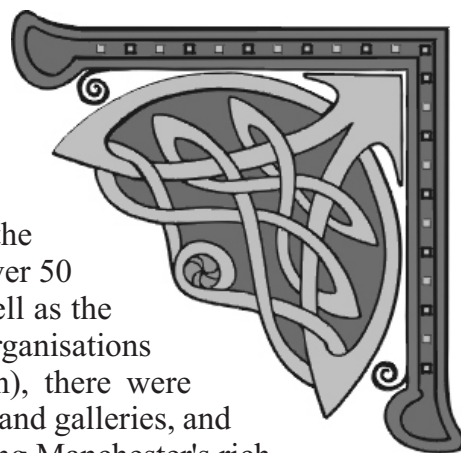
Dr Herson spent a good part of the lecture issuing caveats on the limitations of the sources used in his research, but he provided a fascinating insight into the emigrant trade leaving from Liverpool and its impact on the town.

Denise Jones

Manchester Histories Festival, Saturday 21 March 2009.

Council members staffing the Society's stall were pleased to see members, long-standing and new, who had come along to this important celebration of the city's diverse history – or histories, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to present the work of the Society to a large audience. The event was very busy, with the organisers reporting that over four thousand people attended. The Society's stall was included in the 'Histories Around Us' part of the Festival, which featured displays from over 50 cultural and historical groups connected with Manchester's history. As well as the displays mounted by local history societies and local branches of national organisations (we were next to the Manchester branch of the Historical Association), there were presentations by schools, colleges and universities, by libraries, museums and galleries, and by a wide variety of community groups and other organisations showcasing Manchester's rich cultural heritage. The event also featured a series of lectures given by academics from the city's universities and from further afield as well as a consultation area for those seeking advice on researching family history. It also included archive films from the first half of the century, a number of musical performances and historical city walks. This was a highly successful event which will have done much to promote interest in the city's past.

Fiona Pogson and Nicholas White



PRIZES NOW, AS WELL AS GRANTS

Council is pleased to have been able in 2008 to implement a prize scheme, in addition to the grant scheme. The prizes of £150 have been awarded to two students, one from the University of Chester and the other from the University of Central Lancashire, for their dissertation work. This work was submitted to the Society by their tutors along with reports from their external examiners after the students had graduated. It is hoped that this scheme will reward excellent local history study of the north-west that involves primary source material. Students' work from any higher education institution can be submitted providing the topic is related to Cheshire and/or Lancashire.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Stockport Image Archive on-line

An online Image Archive has been launched with around 7,000 pictures of the borough dating back to the late 1800s. Over the years, the Council's Local Heritage Library has built up a collection of around 60,000 images of Stockport. The images date from the late 1800s to the present day, and cover the borough of Stockport and surrounding areas. Pictures on the archive range from public houses to churches, and festivals to transport, giving a fascinating insight into life in Stockport from the late 1800s right up to the present day. The archive, which has a detailed and extensive search facility - allowing the user to narrow down the list of results to specific areas and themes - currently contains around 7,000 images and it is planned that these will be added to from the collection and images donated by the public. See www.stockport.gov.uk/imagearchive

Lancashire Record Office 2009 Saturday openings

Lancashire Record Office will be open 10am-4pm on the following Saturdays during 2009 18 April; 9 May; 13 June; 11 July; 8 August; 12 September; 10 October; 14 November; 12 December. Please note that no documents will be produced between 12.30 and 1.30pm

RESEARCH APPEAL

Please can you help?

Dr. Kate Cooper is making a study of migration and emigration from Ceredigion (mid-Wales) with a view to publication. If you have any information about anyone in your family who moved away from Ceredigion between about 1850 and 1920 she would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes of your time to fill in a questionnaire. There are 17 simple questions (about where they went, what jobs they took etc.) but even if you cannot answer them all, any information would be useful and help preserve this information for future generations.

Dr. Cooper's contact details are:

Dr. Kate Cooper,
Prengwyn,
Comins Coch,
Aberystwyth,
SY23 3BG.
Tel: 01970 611531
kate_cooper_uk@yahoo.co.uk



Join *The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* and enjoy the benefits of the annual *Transactions*, lectures, events, the opportunity to use an extensive library, and, as a new member, three free offprints.

To: Ms Debbie Lea, School of History, 9 Abercromby Sq, Liverpool L69 7WZ

I/We wish to join the HSLC and enclose cheque/postal order for the annual subscription of £16, payable to 'The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire'.

Please send my list of Society Off-Prints, from which I may select three, and details of the special purchase.

Signed:

Name and address:

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