

Next Society Meeting

Lecture: Dr Sonja Tiernan, 'Protection of barmaids and the 1908 electoral defeat of Churchill in Manchester', Wednesday 13 May, 2.30 pm, Museum of Liverpool.

The streets of Manchester became a political battlefield between the most unlikely of opponents in April 1908, when Winston Churchill was ousted from his constituency by the Irish sisters, Eva Gore-Booth and Constance Markievicz. This talk discusses how a routine by-election turned into a dramatic episode in a campaign to protect the employment of barmaids. Dr Tiernan is a Senior Lecturer in Modern History at Liverpool Hope University. She has published widely in the area of gender and women's history. Her latest book, *The Political Writings of Eva Gore-Booth* is published by Manchester University Press in May 2015. She is a co-editor of the volume *Sexual Politics in Modern Ireland* published in April 2015.

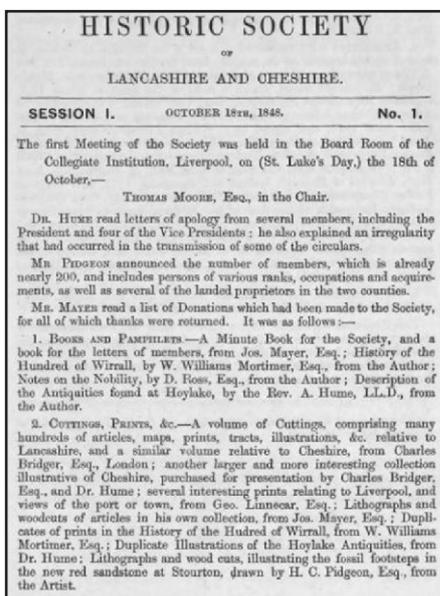


Visit our new website!

We hope that members and non-members have been using and enjoying the Society's new website (<http://www.hslc.org.uk>). Key features of the website are:-

- The improved presentation and searching of past *Transactions*, dating from 1848 to 1999. This is by far the most popular part of the website and gives access to over 1,000 articles.

- The ability to pay online via PayPal for publications and membership subscriptions.
- Upcoming events and talks are more prominently advertised.
- A 'Contact Us' page where anyone can put a question. While we cannot guarantee that we will be able to answer, we will always do our best to point the enquirer in the right direction.
- The ability to request that this Newsletter is sent via email rather than by post.
- A membership area, where members of the Society can post messages and engage in discussion. This is a facility that has proved popular on other websites in many other areas of interest, so please do give it a try.



The website was tested before launch, but we are aware that members may have experienced difficulties with certain parts of the site. If you are finding something difficult to use, find a broken link or just need to ask a question about the website, please get in touch. (webeditor@hslc.org.uk).

See page four for instructions of how to use your password.

New Poor Law 180th Anniversary - HSLC conference in 2016

2017 will mark the 180th anniversary of the implementation of the New Poor Law in most of the North West. The New Poor Law represented a significant break with the past in a number of ways and few institutions were as divisive as the workhouse and the institutionalised welfare they represented. The contemporary argument was that the Old Poor Law, which had its origins in Tudor legislation, was working well in the North West where endemic poverty and over population were not considered to be serious issues as they were in much of the south of England. Although the New Poor Law met with considerable resistance in some places in the North West, the workhouses that were built as a



'Fulwood Workhouse' © Andy Gritt

consequence of the New Poor Law were later to be used by the National Health Service in the twentieth century. In part this reflects the progress that was made during the nineteenth century as workhouses were adapted and built to new and improved specifications. The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire intends to mark this anniversary with a public conference on the theme of Poverty and Welfare in the North West from 1601 to 1939 to be held in 2016 with the papers being published in 2017. We are currently organising this event and members of the *Society* will be kept informed through the newsletter and our website.

Future HSLC meetings at the Museum of Liverpool 2.30pm

Wednesday 10th June

Alex Robinson of the University of Liverpool will give a lecture entitled **`Warrington, Calabar, Livorno, Allerton Tower: the transnational progress of a Liverpool slaving family – the Earles 1699-1808**

Wednesday 16th September

Mark Adams, Museum of Liverpool will talk on **`Lost Castles and the Barons of Newton: Excavation and Documentary Evidence at Newton Hall, Newton-le -Willows`.**

Corn barges appeal

Members may have read the review of the late Dr Mona Duggan`s book on early sugar refining in NW England (part funded by HSLC) in the latest edition of *Transaction*. Another of this Historic Society member`s interests was in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which ran past her house. Dr Duggan`s family have made a donation from her estate towards the costs of the restoration of two grain barges which used the canal. If you would like to support the appeal to restore the barges or want further information on the project you can contact Sandra Nolan on 07966 439701. Or look at their website www.narrowboatworld.com/index.php/leatest/7731-hope-to-restore-corn-barges.

Twin cities conference

The Manchester Centre for Regional History are organising a Conference on the 26th and 27th June entitled Twin Cities Past and Present. It will be looking at cities coexisting on either side of political boundaries. Not only does this give a lot of opportunity to discuss the situation and contrasts between Salford and Manchester but will also include papers looking at cities that straddle international boundaries in America, the Far East, Africa, Pakistan and central and Eastern Europe. More information can be found on the MCRH website at www.hssr.mmu.ac.uk/mcrh.

Message from the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire's new President

Paul J Sillitoe, PhD, Dip Arch Admin (Distn), Dip Ind Arch, RMARA was elected President of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire at the March 2015 AGM. Here, Paul introduces himself and entreats members to tell him what they want from their Society.



Paul Sillitoe

I feel it an honour and privilege to be elected President of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. The lengthy list of illustrious predecessor Presidents shows just how large are the shoes that I have to fill. From the beginning, then, I intend to work with you, the members, supported by your representatives – the Society's Officers and Council members. In that way, I hope that we shall jointly be able to develop the Society in ways that are favourable to existing members, and attractive to those yet to join us.

There are strong foundations to build upon. During Professor John Belchem's term of office as President, the Society has continued to develop, to adapt to change, and to take advantage of new technologies. Among the most significant of the developments under his watch, perhaps, is the launching of the Society's new website <http://www.hslc.org.uk/>, which I commend to you. The Society's Transactions have also undergone change, with a fresh new look now taking shape. The Newsletter seeks to expand, while the Society's Library has also been comprehensively reviewed and is now once

again available in Liverpool Record Office. These are all outwards-facing initiatives, intended to offer members better value for your subscriptions, and greater opportunities for engagement with the history of the two counties.

As your new President, I trust that I shall be able to be as active as Professor Belchem has been. Here, I would like to record, on your behalf, our thanks to the retiring President for all his work for the Society and its members.

For those of you who do not know me, a few words of introduction. A native of Chester, I have lived, studied and worked in both Lancashire and Cheshire. As a mature student, I gained my PhD at the University of Liverpool, in 2011. I am a researcher of history by inclination, with a particular interest in the history of transport and industry. Trained as both an archivist and an industrial archaeologist, I have worked in and with archive, museum, library, archaeology and other heritage services. This broad range of experience has involved me in a wide range of historical enquiries. It allows me to work seamlessly across heritage disciplines, currently as a freelance consultant.

I have been actively involved in many heritage membership organisations for most of my adult life. As with our Society, so very many rely on the unstinting efforts of volunteers for all aspects of their activities – even their very survival. Without the committed few, there would be no newsletter, no journal, no library, no website, no programme of talks and visits. Even now, this Society needs a new Programme Secretary, so that we can continue to provide the extensive and engaging series of talks and events of recent years.

I believe that we should, and must, provide an attractive range of activities and services for members, if we are to survive and thrive. But, as President, I do not want to see a diminishing number of dedicated Officers shoulder an ever-increasing workload to achieve that end. We need more members to actively support the Society on Council, helping to manage Society activities. Equally importantly, we need members to tell us what activities and services you want from the Society, and to support them when they are provided.

I therefore entreat you to contact me with any thoughts or concerns that you have, no matter how large, small, innovative or seemingly routine. Yours might be an unknowing reflection of a common concern, or a spark that sends us off in an exciting new direction. Whatever the issue, we can't do anything about it unless you tell us! Please let us work together to develop the Society as a thriving body, dedicated to discovering and disseminating the many diverse histories still to be found within the historic counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

You can write to me at either president@hslc.org.uk or 23 Francis Road, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 7JR.

Report of March HSLC Lecture

Before Windrush; race relations in twentieth century Liverpool. John Belchem

Outgoing HSLC President John Belchem marked the end of his term of office by delivering a lecture linked to his latest publication. In his talk he outlined how the multi-ethnic global entrepot that was Liverpool became, during the twentieth century, a struggling city with an ethnic mix than less than the national average. This was not to suggest that race relations in Liverpool were ever without strains and tensions. Subsequent Edwardian thought was that black people should be elsewhere in the Empire other than Britain, and the expulsion of the Chinese community were examples given of how bad the situation could be.

Far more well know however are the riots after the First World War and in the 1980s. The former was brought on by the economic slowdown after the war which resulted in `anti-alien fever`. The rise in racism then becoming focussed around keeping non whites out of the labour market, a process actively supported by many Trades Unions. In the later case the racism in the situation was played down by police, local and national government in favour of policies that focussed on poverty as the problem to be solved.

Other examples of poor race relations and inadequate responses were given by Prof Belchem. These included the colour bar that developed during world war two as a result of the presence of US troops and the colour bar within the US army; the development of a fiction of social harmony in the sixties resulting in racism being down played as an issue; and the focus on immigration which did not deal with the problems faced by long established non white communities.

In conclusion Belchem argued that most of the official responses to race based tensions had failed either to recognise their existence or to institutionalise `difference` rather than deal with the actuality of Liverpool's ethnic diversity.

Accessing the Website Members` section

Passwords have been allocated to all members who have electronic access to the society's newsletters. If you have forgotten your password go to the `Members` log In` box, click `Forgotten Password` and then use the new password allocated to you OR change it to one that you prefer.

The password gives you access to the members` section and Members` Noticeboard where questions and requests can be posted.



Join/continue membership of The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire - enjoy the benefits of the annual Transactions, lectures, events and access to our extensive library.

To: JE Hollinshead, 28 Tewkesbury Close, Liverpool, L25 9RY e-mail: jhollinshead558@btinternet.com

I/We wish to join the HSLC and enclose cheque/postal order for the annual subscription of £16, payable to:-
'Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire' or money transfer to Account: 83199535 Sort Code: 60 05 25.

For new members - Please send my list of Society Off-Prints, from which I may select three.

Signed:

Name and address:

.....

Email: