

Celebrating Peace: marking the end of the Great War on Merseyside

Mike Benbough-Jackson, Liverpool John Moores University

Museum of Liverpool, Wednesday 11th November, 2.30pm

While we associate Armistice / Remembrance Day with sombre acts of commemoration, in 1918 and for some years later 11 November was a time to celebrate. Adrian Gregory has noted this shift from celebration to commemoration and that during the early 1920s there was a debate in the press about how best to mark the anniversary of the end of the war. Gregory argues that these debates were influenced by class and experiential differences.



This paper takes Gregory's argument as a starting point and focuses on 11 November 1918. Celebrations provide us with some idea of the tension and unity in past communities. They also provide an abundance of actions and symbols that communicated how people felt about their circumstances. An examination of the celebrations on Merseyside at the signing of the Armistice bring to light the culture of the period as well as the unique atmosphere of the occasion.

Museum of Liverpool Skyline Gallery current exhibition

Poppies: Women and War



Every year thousands of women suffer as a result of war, but their stories are lost behind the dramatic headlines from the battlefields.

Visitors to this free exhibition are invited to learn more, and consider the impact of conflict, through renowned photographer Lee Karen Stow's compelling images.

The exhibition features striking portraits of women whose lives have been affected by conflict, from the First World War to present day, alongside botanical images of poppies; a symbol of remembrance founded by a woman almost a century ago.

Report on lecture on Wednesday 10th June 2015

WARRINGTON, CALABAR, LIVORNO, ALLERTON TOWER: the transnational progress of a Liverpool slaving family – the Earles 1699 – 1808

In her lecture the speaker followed the progression of five generations of the Earle family. Using the T. Algernon Earle papers held in the National Museum of Liverpool archive, she traced the family's fortunes, each generation becoming increasingly involved in the slave trade. The story began with John Earle, born in Warrington in 1674 to a brewing family. After an apprenticeship in Liverpool, he became an owner, or part owner in ships that slaved. His sons and grandsons exploited the trade for its benefits and the commodities, iron goods, wine and fish which were exchanged for slaves in Calabar. By 1760s the family was involved in sugar refining and the Liverpool Bead Company which supplied the beads used for exchange in trade. Hence the Livorno connection, beads were acquired from Venice. Livorno, having similar dock conditions to Liverpool, being an entrepot with links to the Levant, as well as demand for Indian cotton goods tied the slave trade into the global economy.

By 1750s the Earles invested in slaves themselves, which they previously had not done. They had also acquired slave estates in lieu of unpaid debts. The fourth generation acquired Allerton Towers and saw themselves as having acquired gentility through their contacts and trade, documents in the archive appear to show no moral qualms as to the nature of their trade. In the fifth generation, Major General William Earle, (his statue stands outside St. Georges Hall) was a beneficiary of his forbears activities in that he was able to invest in such ventures as the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the London to Birmingham railway and the Earlestown Carriage works.

This was a very interesting lecture which illustrated the complexities of the subject and the integration of the slave trade into the both the global economy and the life of not only Liverpool but ultimately into the wider sphere of national economy.

Catherine Nunn

History Day

Cheshire Local History Association

From Market to Supermarket – Seven Centuries of Retail in Cheshire

Sessions on Late Medieval markets and fairs, The Co-op, Shopkeepers 1650 -1900, 18th century shopping and Films from North west Film Archive.

www.cheshirehistory.org.uk or e-mail info@cheshirehistory.org.uk

Next Historic Society meeting

Wednesday 16th September 2.30pm Museum of Liverpool

'Lost Castles and the Barons of Newton: Excavation and Documentary Evidence at Newton Hall, Newton-le-Willows'.

Mark Adams of the Museum of Liverpool

Unfortunately our 14th October meeting has had to be cancelled so please remove it from your diary now to avoid disappointment.

The Mike Stammers Memorial Lecture

'Mike Stammers: the Essential Antiquarian'. Dr Adrian Osler 22 April

The thought provoking memorial lecture for Mike Stammers, late Keeper Emeritus of Merseyside Maritime Museum and stalwart contributor to HSLC, was given by a former colleague who brought a wealth of experience in both maritime history and in the world of transport museums.

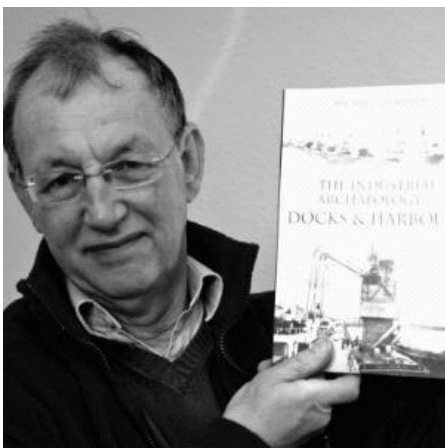
The Centre for Port and Maritime History believed it was fitting to lead a joint venture of the various local societies with which Mike was involved - thus the Boat Museum Society, Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Liverpool Nautical Research Society, Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society & Royal Mersey Yacht Club provided the bulk of a large audience which also included members of Mike's family, former colleagues and associates. In fact Mike's contributions much further afield drew folk – the Falklands connection was represented and a participant from 'across the pond' wrote of 'a nice mixture of academics and "gifted amateurs," and of local historians and those with a broader perspective'.

This inaugural lecture followed the title and explored Mike's body of publication. Impressive research by Adrian Osler had recovered some thirty-five original book titles and some eighty articles for periodicals as well as 'Notes'. The core content was described with apt visual aids and ranged from a prize winning school item to

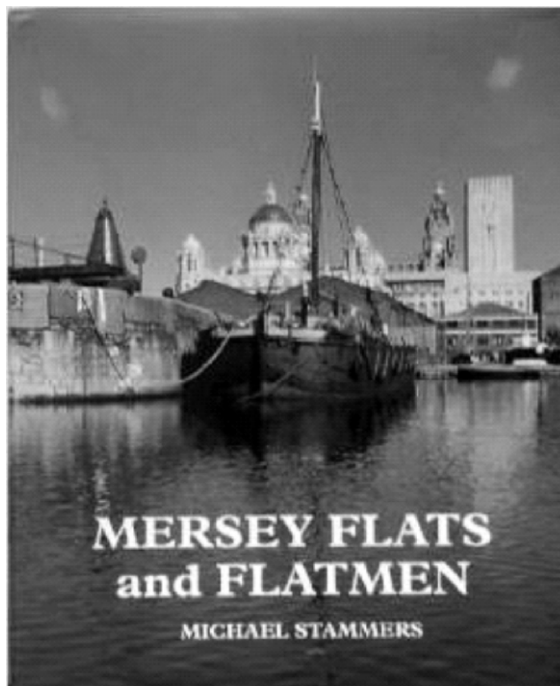
Mike's posthumous publications.

As organiser of the event it is unsuitable to be the reviewer so I will simply thank former HSLC

Programme Secretary, Liz Stewart, for her invaluable



support in arranging the venue and 'in house' services. Otherwise it seems best to utilise



anonymous appraisals of 'a fitting and interesting tribute event' for a modest and generous man.

'Listening to Adrian's analysis of Mike as the "essential antiquarian" made me realise how much it resonated with my experience of Mike and his approach to the detailed planning of the Museum and its layout. His total commitment to informative and accurate interpretation went far beyond a normal curatorial approach and was more to do with his personal fascination and passion for the subject – in true antiquarian style.'

'We all learnt a great deal more about Mike. Adrian hit just the right note and turned what could have been a dry recital into an absorbing, interesting and entertaining talk. From the reaction of the audience and the comments afterwards it was clearly a great success'.

Indeed Liz Stewart wrote '[the lecture] stood well as the first in a series. I think a regular slot in the HSLC programme for a Mike Stammers memorial lecture is a great idea - I'll hand the idea on to my successor!'

Watch this space and come to the next one.

Di Ascott

Report of May HSLC Lecture

Protection of barmaids and the 1908 electoral defeat of Churchill in Manchester

Dr Sonja Tiernan of Liverpool Hope University presented a fascinating and lively lecture describing how a routine by-election in May 1908 was, in effect, hijacked by two sisters campaigning against an attempt to restrict working opportunities for women.

She outlined how Eva Gore-Booth, from a wealthy Irish family, rejected her privileged lifestyle and went to live in a working-class area of Manchester in the early years of the twentieth century. Once there, she began to campaign on a variety of issues, including working conditions for both men and women.

At that time the paternalistic and male-dominated government was seeking to regulate the employment of women in various capacities, from female circus performers to pit brow lasses. It was an attempt in 1908 to place stringent restrictions on the employment of barmaids which led to a confrontation between Gore-Booth and the government, in the person of Winston Churchill, at that time sitting as Liberal MP for Manchester North West. The battleground was the election campaign occasioned by Churchill's first cabinet appointment, which, as Dr Tiernan explained, by

tradition gave rise to the resignation of the new minister, usually followed by his automatic re-election as MP.

Gore-Booth saw this election campaign as an opportunity to publicise the plight of the barmaids, a group of women for whom other legitimate employment was rarely available. She enlisted the support of her sister, Countess Markievicz, later condemned to death following her part in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. It is thought that the Manchester election may have been the Countess's first experience of radical politics.

The sisters had an unlikely political ally in Churchill's Conservative rival, but a vigorous election campaign resulted in defeat both for Churchill and for the attempt to restrict the employment of barmaids.

A number of interesting illustrations helped to bring the episode to life; particularly striking was a newspaper photograph of the sisters travelling to the hustings in a coach and four.

The talk gave us a fascinating glimpse of some familiar characters from a new angle.

Pat Cox

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