



THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE

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Lecture Report

1826. The Beefeaters at the Tower of London: Gin, Empire and Englishness since

Professor Paul Ward, Edge Hill University.

In a fascinating lecture, Professor Ward considered the ways in which the Yeoman Warders (colloquially known as 'Beefeaters') at the Tower of London have been represented as a quintessential part of British history.

The origins of the Beefeaters date back to the accession of Henry V in 1483, the Tudor rose, a heraldic badge of the dynasty, is part of the badge of the Yeomen Warders to this day. Their distinctive Tudor costumes and their highly visible role at the Tower making them into iconic symbols of Englishness.

Following its inception, the ensuing centuries witnessed the organisation become rife with corruption, the office of Beefeater usually going to the highest bidder with the swindling of foreign tourists becoming a highly lucrative perk of the office. However, the late eighteenth-century campaign against 'old corruption' brought calls to reverse the years of mismanagement and neglect, culminating with the appointment of the Duke of Wellington as Constable of the Tower of London in 1826. He promptly introduced sweeping changes. Numbers were reduced from c.100 to c.36 and the beefeaters were transformed into a regulated professional body. Today, Beefeaters are required to have served at least 22 years in the armed forces as non-commissioned officers. There have been a number of changes of costume – from red and gold to mainly blue, in 1858 and then back to red in the 1880s. Professor Ward looked at the ways in which the Beefeaters' appeal was consolidated during the later nineteenth century, in particular, how increased tourism and the growing depiction of Yeoman Warders in fiction, art and music impacted upon popular perceptions of the Beefeater. So much so that by the closing decades of the nineteenth century, the reinvention of the Beefeater as a patriotic icon was complete.

He then went on to explain how the iconography of the Beefeater became widespread across the British Empire. The Beefeater image allowed 'distant Britons' to celebrate a nostalgic history shared with the old country. In 1876, the decision by distillery owner, James Burrough, to name one of his gins after the Beefeaters was one of the first examples of (gin) brands using an aspirational image and emblem rather than a family name or location. The image of the Beefeater was responsible, in part, for gin becoming seen as an imperial drink due to its widespread use in topping up quinine tonics in parts of the empire where mosquitoes were a serious problem. The link between gin and the Beefeaters remains and today, all Beefeaters receive a bottle of gin on their birthday.

A lively question and answer session followed the lecture and one of the interesting facts that emerged was the appointment of the first female Beefeater in the history of the institution in 2007. However, Professor Ward reported that this important step was marred by accusations of bullying.

Arline Wilson

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP – From January 2019

As noted in the last *Newsletter*, after 17 years, there will be a modest price increase of £4 for individual members.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019 ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST 2019

Due to the changes in data protection laws, the small price increase, and the changed membership system – existing Direct Debits/Standing Orders will need to be changed

You will receive a letter detailing all of changes and 'what to do next' in LATE October.

If you have any concerns in the meantime – just email us info@hslc.org.uk

Female Drunkenness in mid-Victorian Lancashire

Craig Stafford

Delivered to a goodly audience on Saturday 19 May, Craig Stafford's lecture on 'Female Drunkenness in mid-Victorian Lancashire' was a welcome distraction from both the Royal Wedding and the FA Cup Final.

Commenting on sexual double standards, and the how female drunks were cast as a scourge of society, Craig noted how Victorian gender ideology particularly deplored female drunkenness as it was deemed to be a particularly unfeminine activity. Focusing on convictions from the boroughs of Salford and Rochdale, and using an array of primary data including court reports, newspaper articles, and the records of Strangeways, much of lecture was spent on the lives of two women; Mary Kelly, who was described as the 'worst woman in Rochdale' having made over 100 appearances before the beak and Susan Wilson of Salford who made in excess of 200. Charting aspects of their individual lives, the underlying socioeconomic conditions that contributed to their plight and, in the case of Mary Kelly her

'redemption' through emigration to Canada, this was an engaging and lively lecture.

Contextualising both the lives of these women and the boroughs in which they lived through references to both changing social mores and the wider-county communities in which both boroughs were sited (nationally, Lancashire was portrayed in the London-press of this period as being a drunk and violent place with, for instance, Burnley castigated as being 'as godless as the French and more drunken'), this lecture also gave members a solid overview of changing legislative practices during the period as well as an insight into the thinking of individual magistrates and, in particular John Mantell of Salford. Mantell was a magistrate who was not only responsible for more imprisonments for drunkenness within the county but also had a tendency of ensuring that those found guilty were sent away for the longest possible time.

This was a meticulously researched and well delivered lecture that built not only upon Craig's ongoing PhD work at the University of Liverpool but also his paper that was published in *Transactions* last year. I am sure that I speak for all who attended in hoping that, at the conclusion of his present research, Craig will take the opportunity to update members further upon his findings.

GRANTS AND PRIZES, PRIZES! PRIZES!

A reminder that the HSLC awards two prizes each year for dissertations by undergraduate or Masters students on any aspect of Lancashire or Cheshire History. The dissertations don't have to be from history students, submissions from related disciplines such as historical geography are welcome. The prizes are worth £150 each and the winners may get the chance to have their work published in the society's Journal.

Submissions aren't due until December, but it's worth thinking about in advance. Please spread the news if you know someone in a University who might be interested – full details are available on our website <https://www.hslc.org.uk/> and if you have any queries please contact the e mail address shown on the website.

Higher Education Institutions in the United Kingdom are invited to submit their best undergraduate dissertation and/or Masters dissertation on any aspect of the history of the two historic counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The dissertations do not have to be from history students and related disciplines are welcome to enter (e.g. historical geography, politics).

Entries should be submitted by the Institution in electronic format along with a brief report (also in electronic format) written by the supervisor or examiner to include the final recorded mark for the work. Submissions must be made before the end of December each year and the dissertation must have been submitted to an Institution of Higher Education within the previous 12 months.

Please provide full contact details of the student so that we can notify the prizewinners.

Individual private submissions will not be accepted.

Judging

1. A sub-committee of the Council of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire will draw up a shortlist of entries based on the report of their supervisors/examiner.
2. The sub-committee will adjudicate and offer two prizes subject to clause 3.
3. The Council of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire reserve the right not to award any prizes if there are no suitable submissions.
4. The winners may be invited to submit an article based on their dissertation for possible publication in the *Transactions*.

Entries should be submitted to:

Emeritus Professor John Belchem, Past President of HSLC

Email: j.c.belchem@liv.ac.uk

TRANSACTIONS 2018 - UPDATE AND CONTENTS

The 2018 edition of Transactions is now with our printers.

It will be another bumper edition and should be delivered to members in late September.

A sneak preview of the articles is enclosed. In addition, there are 10 book reviews:

Articles

Lancashire and the British Kingdom of Rheged *Andrew Breeze*

A 'Lewd Company' at Prayer: Plebeian Catholics in Elizabethan Cheshire *Howard Barlow*

Who Did Lancaster Castle 'Belong to'? *Michael Winstanley*
The Duchy of Lancaster, the County and the Home Office c. 1698-1930

Warrington Academy Invoked and Recalled:
Reflections on a Contemporary Manuscript Anthology *David Sekers*

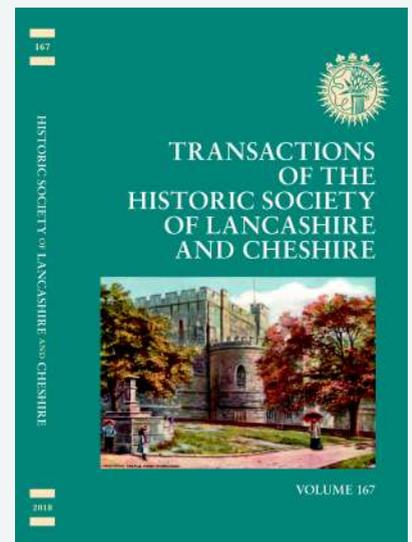
Fact vs Fiction: The Early Years of the Liverpool
Constabulary Force in Contemporary Literature *N. Foggo*

Liverpool Botanic Garden: Early Curators and Gardeners *Eric Greenwood, Steve Lyus
and Ray Lampert*

The Interwar Politics of the Liverpool Irish:
A Story of God, Class, and National Identity *James R. Evans*

HSLC Undergraduate Dissertation Prizewinner 2017

"Cheer up a Bit Lunger":
The Function of Dialect Poetry during the Lancashire Cotton Famine *Jack Cottam*



My Bluecoat: Bringing Bluecoat's heritage to life

In 2017 we celebrated 300 years of our wonderful building and alongside our anniversary exhibition, *In the Peaceful Dome*, an online archive dedicated to documenting our rich history is preparing to launch.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, mybluecoat.org.uk showcases previously unseen archive material, a huge online resource for schools to encourage learning about local history and a narrative of Bluecoat told by the people of Liverpool, many of whom have personal connections to Bluecoat.

This interactive site is due to be launched fully in mid-July.



New Transactions Book Review Editor - Andrew Hobbs

Andrew Hobbs, the new book reviews editor of the Transactions, is a former journalist whose interest in the history of his craft has led him into an academic career, teaching future journalists and researching past ones, at the University of Central Lancashire. He began his journalistic career with a punk fanzine at school, going on to write for regional and national newspapers and magazines. After a part-time MA in History at UCLan, he did a full-time PhD on how readers used the local paper in the second half of the nineteenth century. This has now been turned into a monograph, *A Fleet Street in Every Town: The Provincial Press in England, 1855-1900*, due out at the end of the year from Open Book Publishers. He has been a member of the Society since 2010 and joined the Society's Council in 2016. Andrew welcomes books for review on any aspect of the history of Lancashire and Cheshire, and from any period, both academic and popular.



Andrew Hobbs: photo by Billy Frank

OUR FUTURE PROGRAMME

All meetings will take place in Liverpool Central Library
(top floor meeting room)

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Wednesday 26 September at 6 p.m.
Dr Sheryllynne Haggerty, University of Nottingham
Jamaica's Links with Liverpool in 1756: a Micro History

Wednesday 17 October at 2 p.m.
Joanna M. Williams
The Man who Built the Town Hall: Abel Heywood, Manchester's Victorian Mayor

Wednesday 21 November at 2 p.m.
Dr Mike Nevell, University of Salford
'Dig Greater Manchester': a Community Archaeology Project

Peterloo Massacre

Next year is the bicentenary of the Peterloo Massacre. The Society would like to pay homage to the events of August 1819 by featuring a commemorative article in the 2019 edition of Transactions, which is scheduled to be published immediately after the anniversary. The article might be about the events themselves, their political or social context or their legacy. If you are interested in offering an article for publication, please contact the Society at editor@hslc.org.uk.



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.

If you are a UK resident and wish to pay your subscription by post, please complete this form and send it, with your cheque for £16 made payable to 'The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire' to:

JE Hollinshead, 28 Tewkesbury Close, Liverpool, L25 9RY175

Name:

Address (Please include your postcode):

Email:

I consent to the personal data provided to the Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire being held and used according to the Society's policy on collecting and processing personal information. The policy is set out here <http://www.hslc.org.uk/data-protection>

I agree to allow the Society to contact me by email.

Signature:

Date: