



## Number 85

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### **AGM at the Liverpool Athenaeum, 19 March, 2pm**

Find out what your Society has been doing in the last year at the AGM, followed by a lecture from Professor John Sturzaker on 'Green Belts in Merseyside: A Bourgeois Conspiracy Against the Urban Proletariat?!'

See attached notice of AGM, with details of nominations and vacancies.

### **Programme of Talks**

**19 March, 2pm:** AGM, Liverpool Athenaeum, 12-18 Church Alley, Liverpool L1 3DD, followed by lecture: Professor John Sturzaker FRTPI, Ebenezer Howard Professor of Planning at the University of Hertfordshire: 'Green Belts in Merseyside: A Bourgeois Conspiracy Against the Urban Proletariat?!'

**23 April, 2pm:** online via Zoom, Dr Lewis Darwen, 'Strikers and "knobsticks": Intimidation and violence during the Preston Strike and Lock-Out of 1853-54'

**7 May, 5.30pm,** Museum of Liverpool, Mike Stammers Memorial Lecture, Peter Elson, 'The Sinking of the Lusitania - Murder or Misfortune?'

## February 2025

**18 June, 2pm,** online via Zoom, Dr Bertie Dockerill, Lecturer in Planning History and editor of the Society's journal, 'From Singular Experiment to Sustained Policy: Liverpool City Council's Housing Programme 1890-c.1914'

**15 October, 2pm,** online via Zoom, Professor Katrina Navickas, University of Hertfordshire, 'Right to roam and the debates over footpaths and access to moorland in the 1890s in Lancashire'

**19 November, 2pm,** online via Zoom, Stephen Shuttleworth, 'The Lancashire gentry in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries'

### **URGENTLY WANTED: Expressions of interest in the role of Web Editor**

Our website provides information about the Society and its activities, and is the home of our journal Transactions - in 2026 we will be publishing our 175th edition. You will find us at [www.hslc.org.uk](http://www.hslc.org.uk).

The Web Editor's role mainly consists of updating the website:

1. Future Talks.
2. Adding videos of past talks.
3. Uploading the Society's newsletter.
4. Uploading digitised back copies of *Transactions*.
5. Updating other parts of the website when required.
6. Answering queries which come to the website email address.
7. Reporting to the council, including website usage statistics when available.



Although not essential, taking part in publicising the Society's activities by posting on its Facebook pages would also be helpful.

We pay a professional web developer, who created our site, to technically maintain the site. We can also count on him for (occasional) technical advice.



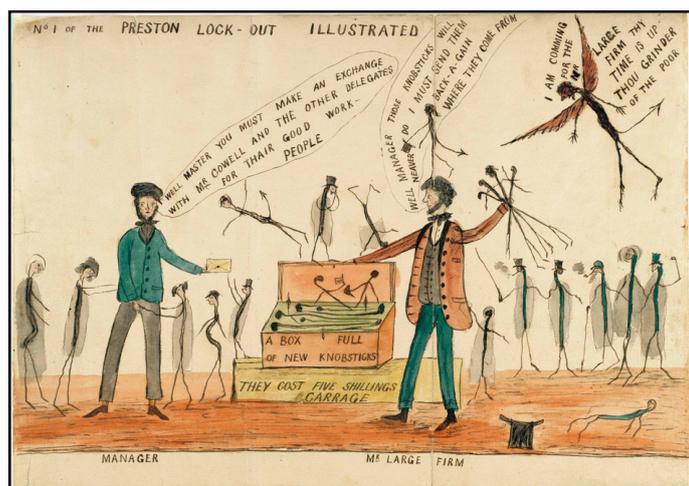
[Home page of [www.hslc.org.uk](http://www.hslc.org.uk)]

For further information please email our Secretary Dr Andrew Hobbs ([secretary@hslc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hslc.org.uk)) or our current website editor Dr Christine Verguson ([info@hslc.org.uk](mailto:info@hslc.org.uk))

### Next speaker meeting, on the violence of the Preston Strike and Lock-Out of 1853-54, 23 April online, 2pm

Dr Lewis Darwen will give an online talk to the Society on Strikers and 'Knobsticks': Intimidation and Violence During the Preston Strike and Lock-Out of 1853–1854.

Lewis Darwen is a historian of nineteenth century Britain, and has published widely on topics relating to poverty, welfare and social policy. He is Honorary Research Fellow at London Metropolitan University.



[A cartoon drawn during the dispute, mocking the attempt to break the strike with imported 'knobstick' labour. The cartoon is held by Lancashire Archives.]

This paper presents a new perspective on the Preston strike and lockout of 1853–54. While this major industrial dispute has been

remembered for the peaceful conduct of the operatives, placing it within the context of the 'Age of Equipoise,' the reality for many of those involved was far more complex. Beneath the surface of apparent calm, intense conflict arose between strikers and 'knobsticks'. Seen as class traitors, knobsticks frequently faced verbal and physical violence from their fellow operatives.

### June speaker meeting, on the world's first municipal housing in Liverpool, 18 June, online, 2pm

Dr Bertie Dockerill, Lecturer in Planning History and editor of the Society's journal, will give a talk entitled 'From Singular Experiment to Sustained Policy: Liverpool City Council's Housing Programme 1890-c.1914'.

The global-first of municipally-constructed social housing occurred within Liverpool with the opening of St Martin's Cottages in 1869. Though specifically built as a singular experiment for the private sector to emulate there was, in the years that followed, a total failure to construct equivalent housing for the city's working-classes. Against a backdrop of ever-increasing social malaise and ongoing private sector inertia, the Corporation subsequently embarked upon an energetic programme of slum clearance and concomitant working-class housing construction.



Such was its success that by 1914 it was, with the sole exception of the London County Council, the largest single provider of municipal social housing in country. This talk will provide an overview of both the changing nature of policy and the individual developments constructed by Liverpool Corporation in the pre-WWI period.

## **Record Society lecture, featuring 2 HSLC speakers**

Dr Bertie Dockerill, editor of the Society's Transactions, and assistant editor Dr Marc Collinson, will give the 2025 Colin Phillips Memorial Lecture for the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, at Liverpool Central Library (Meeting Rooms 1-2) on 27 March at 1.45pm. They will be speaking on 'A Window into Political Change: Preserving Local Labour Party Papers from the 1970s'. This talk will introduce Dr Dockerill and Dr Collinson's upcoming RSLC volume *Realities of Reorganisation: Manchester City Labour Group's Experience of Reformed Local Government, 1973-1977*. The lecture will also be available on Zoom.

Contact Diana Dunn ([d.dunn@chester.ac.uk](mailto:d.dunn@chester.ac.uk)) to register for free, for attendance in person or online.