



Web site: [www.liverpool-heritage.org.uk](http://www.liverpool-heritage.org.uk)

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A networking organisation of voluntary cultural societies in the Liverpool area.

## NEWSLETTER No 23

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There will be a general meeting of The Forum at 5.30 for 6 pm on Thursday 22 February in The Athenaeum (top floor). The main business will be to hold an exchange of information about what we know and what we are doing about the site of Liverpool castle and the seven original streets. You are invited to attend. We are grateful to the Athenaeum for the use of the room. Kindly respect the institution's dress code, which does not permit casual wear.

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The Liverpool Heritage Forum is conducting a series of talks on aspects of the history of Liverpool at Liverpool Town Hall. Heritage societies and groups are invited to undertake these talks. Suggestions are urgently requested so the facilities can be booked. If your society would like to offer to conduct a talk please contact us at the email address above or reply to this email as soon a possible.

■ Saturday 3 March will be a sad day, a day of failure. One that day, the Friends of the Historic Warships at Birkenhead have a meeting at which the future of the organisation will be decided in the light of its committee's opinion that there is no possibility of the Historic Warships remaining at Birkenhead. This is a massive failure by various public authorities from Wirral Council up to the Department of Culture Media and Sport to understand the uniqueness and quality of the ships which the collection contained - a failure to see that heritage can bring in revenue and jobs, that it enhances the reputation of the locality and that it boosts local pride and the sense of involvement in local people. It does not say much either for Peel Holdings which owns the site and who might have been expected not only to be supportive of local heritage for its own sake but might have understood that the presence of the ships could enhance the interest value of the properties they intend to build on the site. Of course all these bodies will say that they tried and that it is someone else's fault but the net result is the loss of the best tourist attraction Wirral is ever likely to have. Only the Friends of the Warships come out of this with any dignity.

Let others take note. Too many of Merseyside's heritage assets are under threat just as we celebrate Liverpool's 800<sup>th</sup> birthday and as we prepare to welcome visitors in Capital Of Culture Year. These visitor will come to SEE things that figure in our culture and history. We must make sure that these things are not sold off or knocked down before the visitors get here.

### **Around and about**

■ The Lady Lever Gallery has opened an exhibition of photographs of the interiors of some of the palatial houses built by Liverpool businessmen in Victorian days. This is recommended viewing for anyone who wants to understand the power and money of Liverpool at that time - a past which it is sometimes difficult to believe when seeing the way in which the city, until recently, declined.

One interesting house still existing but not shown (because it is not in Liverpool) is Hillbark, near West Kirby, now a hotel. Many Wirral residents know that this Victorian "Tudor" mansion was originally built by a Liverpool businessman - to designs loosely based on Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire - at Bidston and then moved bit by bit to its present location. Less well known is that it was the inspiration of the Cecilienhof palace at Potsdam outside Berlin, the last palace built, (between 1914 and 1917) by Germany's Hohenzollern rulers. This was where the Potsdam Conference was held in 1945 at which Churchill, Truman and Stalin decided the future of Europe after World War II.

■ People comment on Liverpool's glaringly purple wheelie-bins. Is this colour a compromise between the hues of the two football clubs? Or was it the only generally acceptable choice since green or orange might have upset Irish sensibilities and blue, red or orange might have suggested political leanings.

Yet colour allegiances can change. The Conservative party campaigned under red banners (or at least rosettes) until the 1950s - as was the case in several other towns and cities. As regards public transport, Liverpoolians remember the olive green of trams and buses. Yet red (crimson or maroon) was the colour of the trams at least as far back as 1907 when a red livery with elaborate lining was the style adopted. This was changed in 1933 and the original Green Goddess trams (the first Liverpool trams to be carried on two four-wheel bogies instead of two fixed axles) were introduced. (The name Green Goddess apparently came from a play then being performed in the city). Buses were green from 1935. Later, when the bus services for Liverpool, Birkenhead, Wallasey, Southport and St Helens were brought together into what was later named "Merseybus", a rather blueish green livery was adopted. Local wits said that this colour was the result of mixing samples of the existing liveries in the proportion of the number of buses of each of the newly combined fleets. This could have been true of mixing Birkenhead's blue and Wallasey's yellow with Liverpool's olive green but the red of the other two constituent fleets hardly fits. Nowadays of course, Arriva, Stagecoach and First use their national brands all over the country - except in London where, apparently, to get rid of the traditional red of London buses would have been a shock which Londoners could not have borne.

■ Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has set up an Arts and Culture Committee, designed to build bridges between the business community and the arts, focusing on the creative sector and improving the cultural, performance of the city, now ranked tenth in Britain.

■ Carnegie Publishing is intending to issue a reprint of Liverpool's first guide book (2nd edition 1797) by Dr William Moss of the Dispensary. To the original text historian and Heritage Forum member David Brazendale has added explanatory annotations and the book will be illustrated with contemporary drawings and engravings, drawn from the archives of the Athenaeum. Some of these illustrations are believed never to have been previously published. The book will be launched in May.

■ We are asked to include Alfred Rodewald, the Liverpool-based conductor and benefactor, in the list of notable Liverpoolians of yesteryear in Liverpool Heritage Forum's website. There is a Rodewald Concert Society (<http://rcs.merseyworld.com> <<http://rcs.merseyworld.com/> and <http://rcs.merseyworld.com/program2007.htm> ). The RCS archives have recently been transferred to the Liverpool Record Office where they are being catalogued. There is some information on him in the Jubilee Booklet (1960-61) and there are obituaries in the Liverpool Worthies collection. One of the conference suites in the Phil is named after him. There are plans to put up a plaque on 66 Huskisson Street where he lived and died.

■ Our attention is also drawn to the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra <http://www.merseyworld.com/lmo> Whilst all the scheduled concerts are in Birkenhead, it is hoped that a suitable venue will be found to hold concerts in Liverpool again. Possibly the re-opening of St George's Hall might provide an opportunity. The Orchestra originally rehearsed and performed in the Bluecoat Chambers, Liverpool. It currently rehearses at St Edwards College, Liverpool.

**Andrew Pearce, Editor**

## Forthcoming Events

- **The Liverpool Decorative and Fine Arts Society** is a member society of NADFAS which has over 300 societies and 90,000 members world wide. We meet at the Bridge Chapel Centre, Heath Road, Garston for high quality lectures on a variety of subject concerned with the Arts; lectures start at 2.00pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September to June (excluding December). I attach a full list of the lectures for this season and more information is available on our website [www.ldfas.org.uk](http://www.ldfas.org.uk) . We are currently planning our next programme which will include lectures concerning the three exhibitions planned for 2008 on Klimt, Tissot and Art and the Railways. I will keep you informed when the programme is finalised. Also NADFAS will be holding its AGM in Liverpool on 13th and 14th May 2008 to recognise the importance of City's culture and also to celebrate the 40th anniversary of NADFAS. More details of NADFAS are available on [www.nadfas.org.uk](http://www.nadfas.org.uk).
- **The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire** has its AGM on Sunday 25 February at 2 pm in the Hornby Library at Liverpool Central Library. This will be followed by a talk by Dr Malcolm Gretton on "Liverpool under Parliament : the anatomy of a civil war garrison 1643-1644" A further HSLC meeting is on Thursday 29 March at St Nicholas Church at 6.30 pm when Mrs Catherine Nunn will speak on "Churchwardens" accounts: the impact of the Interregnum on the parishes of south Lancashire and north Cheshire".
- The AGM of **HOPES** - the Hope Street Association – is on Thursday 15 February. The Hope Street Association is running a HOTFOOT concert day on Hope Street on Sunday 15 July.
- **Liverpool Culture Company** has an update meeting on 28 March from 6.30 pm at Lifestyles Everton Park. ([www.liverpool08.com/events](http://www.liverpool08.com/events))
- **Liverpool Culture Company** has an update meeting on 10 May from 6.30 pm at Lifestyles Cardinal Heenan ([www.liverpool08.com/events](http://www.liverpool08.com/events))
- **Liverpool Culture Company** has an update meeting on 21 June from 6.30 pm at Lifestyles Ellergreen ([www.liverpool08.com/events](http://www.liverpool08.com/events))
- **Liverpool Culture Company** has an update meeting on 12 September from 6.30 pm at Lifestyles Picton ([www.liverpool08.com/events](http://www.liverpool08.com/events))
- **Liverpool Culture Company** has an update meeting on 12 December from 6.30 pm at Lifestyles Austin Rawlinson ([www.liverpool08.com/events](http://www.liverpool08.com/events))
- **Urban Picnic** has a sensory exploration of the city's jiggers from 12.30 to 1.30 pm on Tuesday 20 February. Call 07928 027180 for details
- **Liverpool City Council's "Discover"** programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to Everton Park at 1 pm on Friday 23 February. Meet at St George.s church, Heyworth Street.
- **Liverpool City Council's "Discover"** programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to Calderstones Park on Thursday 1 March at 1 pm. Meet at the Archway, Calderstones Park.
- **Liverpool City Council's "Discover"** programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to Herdman's Stanley Park on 6 March at 11 am. Meet at Anfield Lodge, Anfield Road.
- **Liverpool City Council's "Discover"** programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to Sefton Park on Monday 5 March at 1 pm. Meet at the Lake Car Park at Aigburth Vale.

- **Liverpool City Council's** "Discover" programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to Falkner Square on Friday 15 March at 1 pm. Meet in the square.
- **Liverpool City Council's** "Discover" programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to St Lukes Church on Tuesday 27 March at 1 pm. Meet at the church in Berry Street.
- **Liverpool City Council's** "Discover" programme (0151 233 3007) has a visit to St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 24 April at 11 am. Meet by Tower Buildings in Water Street
- **Hoyle Choral Society** have a concert of music by Handel at Hoyle Chapel (adjacent to King's Gap roundabout) on Saturday 28 April at 7.30 pm Tickets from 0151 632 1533.
- Not to be missed: Liverpool's most important historical documents on display at the **Picton Reading Room** in the Central Library until June.
- **Liverpool History Society** 25th March 2007 Child Emigration by Pat McEvoy Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Liverpool History Society** 15th April 2007 Liverpool Ferries by Malcolm McDonald Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Liverpool History Society** 20th May 2007 6th Annual General Meeting Followed by Adolf Hitler - Did he visit Liverpool in 1912-1913 Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Liverpool History Society** 13 September 2007 Nathaniel Hawthorne at the Port of Liverpool Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Liverpool History Society** 21st October Charles P Melly and his Drinking Fountains by Patrick Neil Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Liverpool History Society** 18th November 2007 Britain's First Lifeboat Station by Barbara Yorke Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **18 December 2007** Poppies - The Discovery of a Liverpool Journal Sunday afternoons in the Cornerstone Building, Hope at Everton, Shaw Street, Liverpool. L3 8QB Doors open at 1:30 Visitors welcome
- **Wirral Postcard Collectors Club**
  - March 1: Harry Watson *North West Air Ambulance*
  - April 5: Roy Miles *Those Problematic Postcards*
  - May 3: *CLUB AUCTION*
  - June 7: Dennis Rosser *A Mixed Bag*
- Sunday 10 June: **Wirral Postcard & Local History Fair** at Thornton Hough Village Hall 10.00 to 4.00pm – entrance £1.25 concessions £1.00
  - July 5: Harry Watson *Humorous Side of Being a Policeman*
  - Aug 2: Chairman's Choice - *Outing*
  - Sept 6: Glynn Parry *Victorian Transport*
  - Oct 4: Bob Currans *Wirral Coastline*