



LIVERPOOL HERITAGE FORUM

HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, PERFORMING ARTS, ARCHITECTURE, FINE ARTS

www.liverpool-heritage.org.uk

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

Please send in details of your events and circulate this newsletter to your members

NEWSLETTER

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Hope Street Association (HOPES) will celebrate the long-awaited completion of the Hope Street refurbishment - from 3.30 to 7.30 on Sunday 11 June, on Hope Street. The work has been a collaboration between HOPES, Liverpool Vision, Liverpool City Council and the NWDA. There will be street performances, artistic-type activities for the family, maybe food, music (including a 'semi-outdoors' free concert by the HOPES Festival Orchestra, with a performance of Richard Gordon-Smith's specially commissioned piece for HOPES, the original 'Hotfoot on Hope Street') and more. See Hilary Burrage's Weblog Journal at: www.hilaryburrage.com

The Cunard cruise ship "QE 2" is to call at Liverpool from 7 am to 11 pm on 21 September as part of its 40th birthday celebrations. The city was Cunard's home for a century and a quarter. This and other calls by cruise ships provide a splendid opportunity to show off the city to people who would not otherwise come here, to hear the story of our forebears who created the wonderful riverfront skyline which the voyagers will see as well as to hear about the Beatles.

The Liverpool Decorative & Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month from September to June (except December) at the Bridge Chapel Centre, Heath Road, Garston. Forthcoming talks are:

- Wednesday, 17th May: "Medieval Monasticism: Word, Spirit & Culture" by the Very Rev. Dr Dominic Aidan

- Wednesday, 21st June: "Blackpool's Seaside Heritage" by Mr Mike Higginbottom

Annual subscription to LDFAS: £32.00 single, £58.00 double. Members receive a quarterly magazine. Non-members welcome to meetings: fee £3.00. Contact: 0151-427 1572.

Young film makers are challenged to script, film and produce a short film in 48 hours around the start of Downtown Week. See <http://www.liverpool48.com>

The Historic Society of Lancashire has a day conference at Sefton Church on 20 May. It also has a study day 17 June at the Grosvenor Museum in Chester for a entitled "Changing Chester: Aspects of Archaeology and History from the last three millennia". See website www.hslc.org.uk

The death of Josephine Butler in 1906 will shortly be commemorated. Born in 1828, she came to Liverpool when her husband was made Principal of Liverpool College. She attempted to provide care for prostitutes and campaigned against the Contagious Diseases Acts. These laws were intended to limit the rampant venereal disease in the armed forces and provided that women in ports and military towns could be forcibly inspected for such diseases and if found to be infected locked up until cured. Josephine Butler fought not only the fact that many women who were not prostitutes were caught up by this legislation but also that no comparable inspections or restraints were placed upon men. The acts were repealed in 1886. One of the buildings of the Art School recently sold off by John Moores University bears her name.

On 20 May there will be exhibitions in the Anglican Cathedral and at Liverpool University (with a shuttle bus running between the two) and a drama about her life. The day will begin with a service in the Cathedral's Lady Chapel at 10.00 am where Josephine Butler is commemorated in the Noble Women Window in the Atrium). Baroness Cox will preach. (Contact 01704 531417).

National Museums Liverpool has many plans for the rest of 2006 and for 2007, some of the latter being provisional at this stage. There is so much in The Walker of Liverpool interest - paintings of Liverpool people, by Liverpool artists and of Liverpool themes.

The George Stubbs exhibition at the Walker (from now until 31 July) celebrates Liverpool's greatest painter. He was born on 25 August 1724 in Dale Street or Leather Lane (according to who you believe), his father having worked in Ormonde Street as a currier (a processor of leather, nothing to do with vindaloo!). Stubbs worked in Liverpool sometime between 1742 and 1745 and again in 1755 when he painted James Stanley. He became Britain's best known painter of horses, having dissected a number of the animals muscle by muscle to understand their structure properly. In fact, the galloping of horses was never properly understood until photography came along. There should be a blue plaque for this artist. Who knows exactly where he was born?

The Walker is also showing (29 April to 30 July 2006) a costume exhibition of costumes bought by Mrs Tinne, a Liverpool doctor's wife during the 1920s and 1930s. The exhibition was featured on BBC TV national news.

A work by Stuart Sutcliffe who became an early member of the Beatles is on display in The Walker. He studied in the iconic Art School building in Hope Street - recently sold off by John Moores University, probably for conversion into flats. (Does not the Art School deserve to be commemorated? The sale of its principal building produced hardly a murmur of interest from the public authorities.)

The stunning large model of Lutyens' plans of a Roman Catholic Cathedral in Liverpool will be on show at The Walker from February to April next year. After the crypt was completed, the plan to build the cathedral was cancelled as the estimates of its cost rose and instead the cathedral we all know was built on a site beside the crypt.

Also at The Walker, some of the paintings of Frances Macdonald and Herbert McNair will be shown from January to April 2007. They spent time in Glasgow and at the Sandon Studios in Liverpool. Work of Josh Kirby, science fiction artist who was born in Liverpool and trained at Liverpool Art School will be shown from June to September. His work includes the first cover of Ian Fleming's *Moonraker* and the poster for Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. The work of Peter Chang, contemporary jewellery artist who trained at Liverpool College of Art, will be showcased from June to September. A major exhibition of works by Joseph Wright of Derby, who worked in Liverpool from 1768 to 1771 will be held from November 2007 to March 2008.

NML has plans for an exhibition in mid-2008 *The Artist and the Railway*, featuring great names from European and North American art including work by Turner, Monet, Van Gogh and Hopper. This will be the only European showing and is being organised in collaboration with the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum of Kansas

During 2006, the *100% Cotton* exhibition, featuring Liverpool's role in the cotton trade, will continue at the Maritime Museum. Next year, the Maritime Museum will mount the first ever major exhibition documenting Liverpool's history over the last 800 years, told through the lives of ordinary people, the famous and the infamous. The Liverpool charters will be on display.

The Friends of National Museums Liverpool support NML's work and usually have previews of exhibitions. Contact 0151 478 4485.

National Museums Liverpool is collaborating in an exhibition from 24 March to 4 May at Woodside Ferry Terminal, Birkenhead to celebrate “*the river Mersey and its people*” - an inspiring collection of personal “takes” on the Mersey.

Michael Corfe speaks on Napoleon at The Athenaeum History on 4 May at 6 p.m. Non-members wishing to attend call 0151 625 7538.

There will be an exhibition 8-14 May in the Rotunda College (Great Mersey Street, Kirkdale) about the Vauxhall area and at the Community Justice Centre about the heroes and villains of the area in times gone by. Contact 0151 207 2176 or rotunda71@hotmail.com

The AGM of the Friends of St George’s Hall is on 8 May at 1.30 at the Hall. The Friends now have a prestigious list of patrons: Lord David Alton, Mr Justice Clarke, Charles Angus Gladstone, Carl Davis and Jean Boht. For tours of the Hall (not organised by the Friends) call 0151 233 2459 or visit 08Place in Whitechapel.

Michael Kennedy speaks about *Wagner in Copenhagen* to Liverpool Opera Circle on 31 May at The Athenaeum at 7.30 pm.

The AGM of Liverpool Histry Society will be followed at 2.15 by a talk by Geoffrey Place on *Chester – Gateway to Ireland*. At Hope at Everton. Email: liverpoolhistsoc@merseymail.com

There will be a Liverpool Sunday City Walk on 14 May with the title “Family Traditions” – stories of the Earls of Sefton, Croxteth and West Derby. Meet at 2 pm at St Mary’s Church, West Derby.

Liverpool branch of The English Speaking Union has its AGM at The Athenaeum on 19 May followed, at 7 pm, by a talk by Michael Kelly on James Carling, a Liverpool-born painter better known in America than in his native city.

AROUND TOWN

Robyn Archer, Artistic Director of Liverpool Culture Company now works full-time in Liverpool, having been overseeing the planning of events for 2007 and 2008 partly from her native Australia.

Tenantspin produced a webcast at FACT* on 19 April from at which a one-hour debate was transmitted over the internet about the proposed demolition of houses in the Welsh Streets. Aside from the political arguments about demolishing some 450 houses when there are 21,000 people of the housing waiting list, the demolition of an area which epitomises the Welsh influence in Liverpool is important from the heritage point of view. The authorities’ argument that refurbishment costs more than demolish-and-rebuild is now no longer valid in view of the rise in real estate prices. It is not contested that these houses are unsuitable for families but major growth in the housing market is for homes for single people and couples with no children. These houses, if modernised, could provide good homes for such people within easy reach of city facilities. The application of VAT to refurbishment but not to new-build has not helped the conservation case. Local Government Minister Phil Woolas visited the area on 27 April.

At the end of the 19th century, there were 80,000 Welsh speakers in Liverpool. Some of the Welsh bore fiery crosses through the streets on Good Fridays. Welsh builders built much of Victorian Liverpool and much of the roofing is Welsh slate. Is there a monument to the Welsh in the city and if not why not?

A new home has to be found for the “Spirit of Liverpool” sails located until now above the gift shop in the Anglican Cathedral, because of the construction of a new Visitor Centre. Steps are being taken to see if they could be accommodated elsewhere in Liverpool. Any ideas?

Birkenhead History Society’s April Newsletter records highlights of a talk in January by Len Ellison, American Civil War Historian. A “trail” around locations which played a role in the politics of the Civil War includes St George’s Hall, in which a group of ladies raised £20,000 at a “Southern Bazaar” in 1864 in aid of Confederate prisoners of War and the Town Hall where a

Civic Reception was held in 1877 for Ulysses S. Grant, Commander in Chief of the Union Army and President of the USA 1869-77. Both he and the President of the Confederacy States Jefferson Davis stayed at the old Adelphi Hotel, in 1877 and 1868 respectively. (The present Adelphi Hotel was built in 1912). Would it not be a good idea to have somewhere to tell of the role of Mersey men and women in the Civil War, the Alabama and all that?

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra intends to use the redundant church of St Mary adjoining the friary in Fox Street, Everton, as a rehearsal centre. Local people say it should still serve as a tourist venue in view of its links with the Imrie family, owners of the White Star line, who paid for its construction.

The funeral took place recently of Douglas Darroch (senior) who has been described as the "Heritage Champion of Wirral". He was a staunch opponent of the campaign against the development of flats and a supermarket which, if approved by the authorised, will damage the view of Fort Perch Rock at New Brighton.

The Liverpool Culture Company is sponsoring Trish Brown Dance Company at the Playhouse 7 and 8 June and "Supervision" a "multimedia spectacle full of dazzling technology" at the Royal Court on 4-6 May. The Culture Company has distributed "08 Diaries" and invites as many people as possible to record their emotions, thoughts and experience about the celebratory year. Contact Ian Jukes on 233 6394. It publishes news in "08 Update" monthly. To receive copies call 233 2008 or visit website www.liverpool08.co. Stories or views can be sent to clare.trenholm@liverpool.gov.uk. Its 2008 business plan can be seen on www.liverpool08.com

Liverpool Community College has recently completed a 30-hour course in "skills for Life in the Capital of Culture".

Liverpool Culture Company in association with the Springboard Charitable Trust and the Academy of excellence produced a Discovery Trail. This takes you past the Steble Fountain at the top of William Brown Street, past the Ship and Mitre pub (gas lights round the bar) and the Ship and Mitre, said to be Liverpool's oldest pub. It then goes into Mathew Street past the statue of C.G. Jung, the founder of analytical psychology and "collective unconsciousness" and who said "Liverpool was the pool of life, the very centre of the life force itself".

National Museums Liverpool has been granted £32m towards the building of the new Museum of Liverpool at the Pier Head. The design of the building and the use of this site for it have their supporters and their detractors but there is a very strong case for having such a museum to tell the story of the city. Some 10,000 objects from NML's collection will be displayed in the History Hub on the first floor. The building will be finished in 2008 although the displays will not be completed until some time later.

Guide Dogs for the Blind had its origins 75 years ago in a garage in Cardigan Road, New Brighton. In the summer of 1931, four blind men came there for the first training course for guide dogs which Muriel Crooke, a Wallasey German shepherd owner, had planned on the basis of Swiss experience. Since then 21,000 other blind people have received training from what became, in 1934, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. In that year the Association was loaned a large house and Wallasey Corporation later made The Cliff available to the Association. This property was taken over for use as an anti-aircraft battery in 1941 and the guide dog trained moved to Leamington. There is a statue of a guide dog on the promenade in New Brighton.

The Friends of Liverpool Monuments are campaigning to publicise the works of Tyson Smith, sculpture and have produced a list of some of his work. They are fighting to save a work on the derelict Crown pub on the East Lancs Road, which is to be redeveloped. Contact liverpoolmonuments@gmail.com

Andrew Pearce, editor.

