



A network of voluntary and community cultural heritage societies in the Liverpool area.

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# *-Newsletter-*

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## **The Forum taking on a formal structure**

The Forum's steering committee has decided to propose that the organisation be constituted on a formal basis. There will therefore be an Inaugural General Meeting at 2 pm on Monday 19 August in one of the rooms in St George's Hall (by courtesy of the City Council). At this meeting, it will be proposed that a properly constituted body called Liverpool Cultural Heritage Forum (LCHF) be set up, with a formal constitution, and registered with the Charity Commission. Attendance at the meeting is open to anyone. If the proposal to set up the new organisation is accepted, by a majority of those attending, officers will be elected. Proposals for the election of officers should be sent to Kevin Bargaen at 24 St Anne's Road, Formby L37 7AT. Or email <mailto:kevin.bargaen@tesco.net>

The proposed constitution (of which copies will be sent to any one who asks) will provide for individuals and societies to become members, for which a small membership fee will be charged to cover administrative costs.

You will recall that the purpose of the Forum was and is to be a means of contact between heritage and cultural organisations in the Liverpool area and to be a channel of communication between this sector and the City Council. Up to now, since it was set up on 2005, the Forum has operated in an informal way. Its steering group considers that it is now time to formalise its structure and provide for its officers to be elected as in other voluntary societies. What the Forum does in the future will be up to the new committee to decide. Its activities are likely to include continuation of the website and the newsletter, contacts with the City Council and occasional meetings on topics which span the areas of interest of several societies.

You are invited to come to the Inaugural Meeting and help to ensure that the new body to be set up represents your own needs and wishes.

## **News**

We hear that negotiations continue for coping with the demise of the Civic Trust, which used to spearhead, among other things, the Heritage Open Days (led this year by English Heritage). There is to be a Civic Society convention at St John's conference in Blackpool on 15 and 16 October. To discuss this.

The new director of the Merseyside Maritime Museum is Rachel Mulhearn who started as a volunteer in the museum's archives. She was appointed an assistant curator of maritime history in 1989 before becoming registrar in 1991 managing the Maritime Museum's extensive collections.

### **Societies' future events and activities**

We have received revised information about the Christmas Salsa event at Sefton Park Palm House on Friday 11 December. The details now are: A Salsa extravaganza with reigning UK Salsa Champions Sami & Pilar, PLUS dance class with Karen of Salsa Liverpool, Salsa and Latin music from DJ Salsaroja. Tickets £12 per person strictly advance booking. Contact details: 0151 726 9304 or email: [laura.mccarten@palmhouse.org.uk](mailto:laura.mccarten@palmhouse.org.uk) or web address: [www.palmhouse.org.uk](http://www.palmhouse.org.uk)

The Gateacre Society has its AGM on 25 October. It will soon publish 'Gateacre & Belle Vale' (in old photographs). Details on the society's website: <http://www.gatsoc.org.uk>

A Hartley's Village Heritage Council (HVHC) has recently been established and seeks supporters. The village is another important example of Merseyside enterprise and philanthropy. Info : 07956 254 106 or [www.hartleysvillage.uk.tp](http://www.hartleysvillage.uk.tp)

Two thousand slates are now urgently required for the roof of the Grade I listed Princes Road Synagogue. A donation of ten pounds will see the donor's name inscribed in a special book. The building is an important, internationally acclaimed heritage site for Liverpool's tourists. It is a source of pride for our community and indeed the wider non-Jewish communities on Merseyside. Please forward your donations to LOHC, Synagogue Chambers, Princes Road, Liverpool L8 1TG

The Daniel Adamson Preservation Society cares for Britain's last tug capable of carrying passengers as well as towing other vessels. It seeks support. Info: [www.danieladamson.co.uk](http://www.danieladamson.co.uk) or : [vchairman@danieladamson.co.uk](mailto:vchairman@danieladamson.co.uk) or : 07979 865 391

Birkenhead History Society has talks on:

- 15<sup>th</sup> October: Campaign to save the 'Daniel Adamson'  
*Tony Hirst (Daniel Adamson Preservation Society)*
- 19<sup>th</sup> November: The Gladstone Family- People and Places in Wirral  
*Elizabeth Davey (Local Historian)*
- 17<sup>th</sup> December: The Roydens of Frankby, a Shipbuilding family  
*Mike Royden (Teacher, Lecturer and Author)*

Info: email : [birkenheadhistsoc@btinternet.com](mailto:birkenheadhistsoc@btinternet.com) or [www.birkenheadhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.birkenheadhistorysociety.org.uk)

The centenary exhibition of Liverpool University's Department of Civic Design continues at the Victoria Gallery in Brownlow Hill until the end of November. This was Britain's first such university department. See [www.liv.ac.uk/civdes](http://www.liv.ac.uk/civdes)

Darren Henley and Vincent McKernan have published a history of the Phil: *The Original Liverpool Sound*. £25 from Liverpool University Press.

Liverpool Geological Society has a cheese and wine on 24 November and a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary address by Iain Stewart on 13 December. Info: 0151 286 9975. or [lgsjoecrossley@hotmail.com](mailto:lgsjoecrossley@hotmail.com)

The *Pride in Liverpool* project continues. The idea is to provide a legacy for future generations following the year as European Capital of Culture. It will accumulate knowledge about the city and its various districts and help different communities to share their experiences. Contact: [val@prodeinliverpool.org.uk](mailto:val@prodeinliverpool.org.uk) or visit St George's Hall.

The Athenaeum, the Daily Post and the City Council are organising another WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE award for young people. There is a £1,000 prize and various opportunities to see and be seen in the world of the written word. Closing date is 31 October. Info: 0151 709 7770.

#### **Other forthcoming activities**

The Playhouse and Everyman have Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*, Spike Milligan's *Adolf Hitler: my part in his downfall*, *The BFG* by Road Dahl, Roger McGough's *That awkward Age* and John Buchan's *The Thirty Nine Steps* adapted by Patrick Barlow. Booking: 0151 709 4776.

October performances by the Welsh National at the Empire are: *Madame Butterfly* on 22 and 24 and *La Traviata* on 21 and 23.

The Walker Art Gallery is to hold regular jazz sessions on Sunday afternoons. See their website for details.

*Queen Mary 2* will be in the Mersey on 20 October, bringing back memories of Liverpool's heyday as Britain's premier Atlantic port.

#### **Information and ideas requested**

The BBC in Southampton is researching the loss of the WWI troopship the *SS Mendi* off the Isle of Wight in 1917 with the loss of 646 men. Any information to Catherine Sawyer on: 02380 374 304. See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/south> or email to: [catherine.shawyer@bbc.co.uk](mailto:catherine.shawyer@bbc.co.uk)

Liverpool Shakespeare Festival reports a successful season. It plans a show at Easter every year and invites suggestions as to what it should be. Contact [tlsf.blogspot.com](http://tlsf.blogspot.com)

Gill Mayers wants to find the location of the United States Troops Rest Camp at Knotty Ash used during the First World War. One soldier's account said that "an oasis of tents" was a quarter of a mile march from Knotty Ash Station. She would also like to know if there were buildings on the site as in 1919 her grandfather and his new bride were based there for many weeks awaiting a ship for Canada. Could the site have been in the grounds of Thingwall House. Contact: [Gillandjohnmayers@btinternet.com](mailto:Gillandjohnmayers@btinternet.com)

#### **Spies at Lime Street Station?**

Washington, the United States' capital, has a museum dedicated to the world of espionage. Rooms and exhibition panels are devoted to different aspects of espionage and the different types of location in which the "dirty deeds" were carried out. One of the first panels, in a room concerned with the travels of spies, has a large photograph of a steam train of 1950s vintage in platform 7 at Lime Street station, Liverpool. The carriage bears the inscription "London – Liverpool" and the rock cutting beyond the train is unmistakably the beginning of the chasm leading up to Edge Hill. We do not know what secrets were traded at Lime Street. Was a Soviet agent done to death there one day as the signal turned to green? Was James Bond ever there?

Andrew Pearce, Editor