

LIVERPOOL FAMILY HISTORIAN



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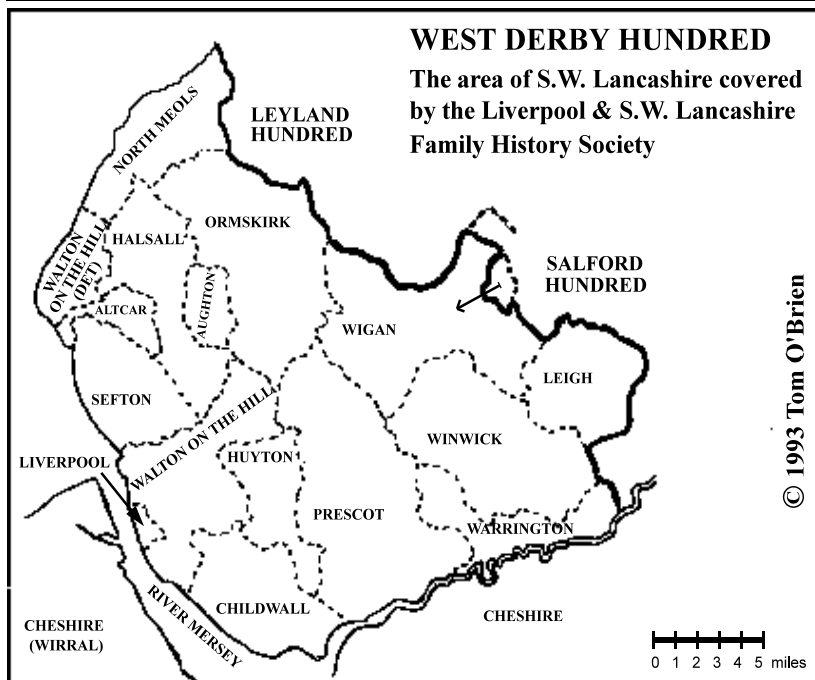
March 2025

THE LIVERPOOL & S. W. LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Founded 27 May 1976

Covering

“the area of interest shall be that part of the ancient
County of Lancashire known as the Hundred of West Derby.”



Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk



Front cover: Waterloo Dock was designed by Jesse Hartley and opened in 1834 and is named after the Battle of Waterloo. It closed to shipping in 1988. The extensive Waterloo Warehouse has since been converted into residential apartments. Image: Attribution: **Warehouse, Waterloo Dock, Liverpool** by: Stephen Richards from Wikimedia Commons and licensed for reuse with Wikimedia Commons under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/).

Liverpool Family Historian

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Editorial

I hope you all had a good Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

It is now the middle of February and Spring looks like it is on the verge of breaking through in the garden. The sun is shining and the days are getting longer and hopefully it will start to get warmer soon.

I find writing the editorial to be the hardest part of this job as I never know what to say and I always end up asking and saying the same thing.

I am making my usual plea for more articles. It would be lovely to have a stock of articles on hand so that I can pick and choose what goes in the Journal according to the space available. Instead I am in the position of including everything sent to me each quarter and hoping that I have enough to fill the space. Luckily, I manage to do so every time but it is a constant worry that one day I might not be able to fill the pages.

As ever, my heartfelt thanks go to those members who have sent their articles to me for this edition but as usual, I am really struggling to fill the journal with interesting articles.

This month's articles are fascinating, covering subjects from WW1 to a group visit to Lancashire Archives and everything in between. I have even put pen to paper myself so that I can fill in the pages. I have never considered myself a writer by any means, so if I can do it, then so can you.

Congratulations also go to the winners of the articles chosen as the best from each Journal in 2024. More information on the next page. I hope you are in agreement with the Committee's choices—I know I am.

We also have a vacancy for Membership Secretary & Membership Interests Secretary this month. Please have a look and hopefully someone will volunteer for this very interesting role.

I hope your research has been fruitful during the winter months, but if you need a helping hand, please don't forget about our Facebook page and our helpdesks held at various places around the region. I know from experience that everyone is very friendly and very keen and eager to help.

As ever, good hunting and best wishes

Alison Anyon (Editor)

News Items

Competition for Best Article in Liverpool Family Historian – 2024 Winning Articles

In September 2017 we announced an annual competition (Vol. 39, No. 3, page 147) where the contributor of the best article published in each edition of Liverpool Family Historian would win a year's free membership of the Society. We have run the competition ever since and I am pleased to announce that the winning articles for 2024 are as follow:

March 2024 - Annie Stewart: A Sailor's Tale by Marie Riley (8442)

(Vol 46, No. 1, pages 23-28);

June 2024: My Rideing 3 x Gt Grandfather by Peter Mason (9486)

Vol 46, No. 2, pages 81 - 97)

September 2024 - George Boole by Will Bramhill (5920)

(Vol 46, No. 3, pages 139 - 142)

December 2024 - My Troublesome Grandmother by Eileen O'Reilly

(9630) (Vol 46, No. 4, Pages 184 - 189)

Congratulations to all the contributors of our winning articles for 2024 and a big "Thank you" from me to all those of you who were able to contribute. The competition will continue this year and I look forward to reading more of your articles as we progress through the year.

Alison -Editor

RootsTech 2025

RootsTech is the largest family discovery event in the world and is being in Salt Lake City on 6—8 March 2025.

You can either attend in person or on-line. Plus there is an on-demand learning library available anytime and it is brought to you by Family Search.

There are two ways to attend this event:

On-line—which is Free and you can:

- Create and build your own class schedule for RootsTech 2025
- Personalise your experience by choosing your favourite classes and adding them to your schedule so you can make the most of your time at RootsTech
- There are over 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages
- Join keynote sessions live from the comfort of your own home
- Chat on-line with attendees worldwide
- Build an online schedule on RootsTech.org

In person at Salt Lake City which costs:

3 day pass is \$129

1 day pass is \$79

You will have access to the following:

- 250+ exclusive sessions only available in Salt Lake City
- 120+ exhibitors/sponsors in the Expo Hall
- Be the first to learn of industry innovations
- You can use the In-Person App to build your own Salt Lake City schedule on the go

For more information go to:

www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/

Wirral History & Heritage Fair 2025

The Wirral History & Heritage Association will be holding its annual fair on **Saturday 22 March 2025** at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight Village, Bolton Road, Bebington CH62 5DH. Admission to the event, which will run from 10:00 to 16:00, is free and refreshments will be available throughout the day. The event is family-friendly and the venue has free parking and disabled access. It is easy to access being just off the A41 and only 5 minutes walk from Port Sunlight Station.

There will be many history and heritage stalls including local history societies and Family history help desks, together with new and second-hand bookstalls etc. Displays around the venue will celebrate

Wirral's museums, historic buildings and landscapes.

The Wirral History and Heritage Association website also has a useful 'Future Local Events' page, which details events run by many local organisations and societies. The website address is:

Their website can be found at: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk and their email address is heritagewirral@gmail.com

The Family History Show—Midlands

Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

Saturday 15 March 2025—10am—4pm

As usual this year's show has free talks, ask the experts and exhibitors from various societies and archives.

Ask the Experts this year includes:

- **Nick Barratt**, historian, author and professional genealogist
- **Amelia Bennett**, DNA and research expert
- **Keith Gregson**, professional researcher and social historian

You can book a free one-to-one session with one of the above experts. However, to avoid disappointment, it is advised that you visit the stand at the start of the day as timeslots are booked on a first come, first served basis.

As usual there are numerous exhibitors including the organiser's Discover Your Ancestors and the sponsors, The Genealogist. 10 Family History Societies have stands as well as the University of Birmingham, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Census Detectives, Gen Gair, Guild of One Name Studies, Quality Maps & More, Family History Federation and many more.

Directions

The event takes place at the Severn Hall, Three Counties Showground Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

By Car

For those using a satnav, please navigate using the postcode **WR13 6NW** rather than just putting the address as Three Counties Showground (this will take you to the wrong place). The venue is about 10 miles from the M5 and M50 motorways - just follow the brown signs from all main routes. **Parking is free.**

By Train

The closest train station is Great Malvern. This is a short taxi ride, 40 minute bus ride, or a 50 minute walk away from showground.

Facilities

All day refreshments are available from the café, serving both hot and cold food.

The whole place is wheelchair friendly.

The Family History Show - Liverpool

Aintree Racecourse, Ormskirk Road, Aintree,

Liverpool, L9 5AS

Saturday 3 May 2025

10am – 4pm

The event is sponsored by The Genealogist and organised by Discover Your Ancestors Magazine.

There is an early bird ticket offer –Buy two tickets for £14 Buy your tickets in advance and save – You will also get a free goody bag on entry worth £15.

As usual there are **Ask the Experts** sessions. However, if you wish to book a one-to-one session please do so as soon as you arrive, as these timeslots are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Free talks by the experts are held throughout the day in a large lecture area.

With exhibitors from all over the UK and Ireland, this is **the largest family history show in the North of England**. Many family history societies, archives and companies attend each year and there is lots of history from the local area too.

You don't have to have Liverpool Ancestors to come to this fair - they can be from anywhere at all! Everyone is welcome and there is lots to see.

Do you really know who you are? Come and find out - you may be surprised!

Facilities

Refreshments are available all day from the cafe, serving both hot and cold food. The whole place is wheelchair friendly.

How to find us

By Car

For those using a satnav, please navigate using the postcode **L9 5AS**. Aintree Racecourse is located on the A59, just one mile from the M57 and M58, which link the M62 and M6. Follow the A59 to Liverpool and the yellow/tourism signs as you approach the racecourse for routes to the car park. **Parking is free.**

By Train

The Aintree train station is across the road from the racecourse, a less than 5-minute walk. Merseyrail trains run between Liverpool Central and Aintree Station every 15 minutes.

By Bus

Aintree can also be reached by bus on services: 300, 310 and 345 both to and from Liverpool.

Book Review

My Story, Fleeing Apartheid and Landing in Liverpool

by Protasia Torkington

Protasia originally intended to write her story for her grandchildren, but it soon became apparent, as she committed her life experience to paper and the memories came flooding back, that it deserved a wide audience.

Pro's journey starts in a mud hut called a rondavel in Ndonyane, a small village in South Africa. Pro proudly describes her Zulu heritage and creates for the reader a vivid picture of her surroundings which are given colour and shape in her paintings at the back of the book.

We follow Pro through her education and nurse training in South Africa. We learn of the unselfish wisdom and quiet determination of her parents to support her ambitions in the most difficult of circumstances. These are traits which Pro inherits from her forebears. On her journey Pro encounters racism, discrimination and the seeming contradictions between the traditional healthcare in the village and the more westernised healthcare of her nurse training.

Whilst she was working as a midwife in Noy Bazi, a clinic in the Natal Province, Pro meets and falls in love with Tony **Torkington**, a Catholic priest, and the young couple find themselves facing the might of not only the Catholic church but also the oppressive regime of apartheid.

To develop her nursing Pro eventually lands in Liverpool and starts work at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Her encounters there and at Sefton General are vividly described against a backdrop of the neighbourliness and practical help she finds in south Liverpool which is her home to this day. She lives through some deep personal sadnesses.

But through her sheer determination to do good in this world she ends up as a Professor at Liverpool Hope University and undertakes

some important action research along the way. This was not just academia to sit on a dusty shelf, Pro wanted to achieve real change, and you can see that she does.

Though the book covers love and loss and Pro's fortitude in the face of tragedy, her sense of humour shines through as well. I was in awe of Pro's ability to engage with and challenge people who express racist views or behaviour, a testimony to her courage, common sense and pragmatism. Much of the story is told in spoken dialogue and that made it all the more poignant.

To be able to acknowledge and record that your path in life has saved the lives of others and made your family and friends hearts swell with pride and love is not something everyone can say. Pro has travelled this path and is still travelling along it now. I commend this book to you, and I have tried not to give too much away but I can guarantee once you start it you will be totally absorbed. It is Protasia's hope that the book may inspire others to pick up their pen and engage with their memories, after all that is what family history is truly about.

Paperback copies of the book are available to buy at:

'News From Nowhere', Bold Street, Liverpool

Priced £19.99 and on Kindle at Amazon at a cost of £2.99

Helen O'Gorman November 2024

Help Requests

MISSING BABY

One of my ancestors I am currently researching are the **Watkinson** family. Father Robert and Mother Lucy Ellen.

On the 1911 census it shows quite clearly, they had four babies born alive. So far, I can only find three:

- Peter Richard born December 1896 and died January 1897
- Ellen Maud born and died in 1900
- Evelyn born 1898 and died 1990 the only one who lived to adulthood.

I knew about Evelyn as she was well known around the town during her life. The other two I had great difficulty finding them. I only found them by accident when I was looking for someone else, as they did not have a mother's maiden name on the records.

But the fourth baby is still eluding me; I have done extensive searches on Ancestry and FindMyPast and also looked on the Free BMD site. As I don't know whether this baby is a boy or girl, I have waded through lists of names with a surname **Watkinson** covering the years 1895 to 1910 but to no avail.

I am starting to wonder if this baby was a still born baby or only lived for a couple of hours, if so back then it would not have been recorded, as they didn't start issuing birth and death certificates for still born babies until 1926.

If they had a fourth baby, it would be buried somewhere. I have contacted our crematorium to see if any **Watkinson** baby is in a mass unmarked grave, I was told no. I have been in touch with our local hospital to see if they have any records of what happened to still births back then, but they only keep records for thirty years, so that drew a blank. But having said that, Lucy Ellen had her other three children at home. I also approached the Funeral Director who did the other burials, but they won't tell me anything as I am not close family. All this of course is assuming that the 1911 census is correct.

Does anyone have any ideas of where else I could look, please?

Thank you

Irene Walsh (9641)

Transcriptions Beware

The old adage 'Buyer Beware' can also be true in Family History circles, so 'Transcriptions Beware'. I have been researching our families' histories for over 40 years, but I nearly fell for the following transcription error.

First of all, it's thanks to the army of transcriber's that we have these transcriptions at all, also deciphering the script of 1600's records can be very difficult.

John **Gore (Goor)** was baptised on the 16 November 1620 in Sefton, his first child was baptised in 1633, so I wanted to find a marriage about 1633 in Lancashire. Using Ancestry I found an entry for a John **Geer** married 9 Feb 1634 in Oldham Lancashire (see Fig 1) which looked promising. We are told to always check the original record and there it was (see Fig 2): -

John **Geer** and Mary married 9 February 1634, but the maiden name was a challenge to decipher in fact the transcriber had given up entirely. I looked at other entries on the record to give a clue, but this also was difficult. Now I had my doubts, because the John **Geer** looked more like John **Lees**. I nearly took the initial entry as true without checking.

I went back to Ancestry again, but this time put in John **Lees** with the date 9 February 1634 and **Yes**, this transcriber had got it right and Mary's maiden name was **Cleane** (see Fig 3) note that the item is 2nd from the bottom. I hadn't found John **Gore**'s marriage but at least I hadn't put error information into my tree, so it's back to the drawing board.

Last of all, family trees online are known to have errors, I had a particular long standing Brick Wall and there was one tree that allowed me to smash that Brick Wall! This tree also had a link to my direct family, so I had a look, there was my grandfather, my father and me! The main problem was that I had died aged 6 in 1939 living in north London, (we lived in south London) and as I am 91 years old this lady had obviously

got it wrong! So, the rule is to check all information on that tree before accepting anything unchecked.

I did send a message to the lady to thank her for allowing me to break my Brick Wall but stating that I am still alive, but I did not receive a reply.

The tree is still up there unchanged, and I am still **‘dead.’**

Manchester, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1541 – 1812 **Fig 2**

Name	John Geer
Gender	Male
Event Type	Marriage
Marriage Date	Feb 1633
Marriage Place	Oldham, St Mary,Lancashire, Eng
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Map	View this parish
Reference Number	GB127.L185/1/1/1

Fig 3

Name	John Lees
Gender	Male
Event Type	Marriage
Marriage Date	9 Feb 1634
Marriage Place	Oldham, St Mary,Lancashire, Eng
Parish as it Appears	Oldham
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Map	View this parish
Spouse	Mary Creane
Reference Number	GB127.L185/1/1/3

Peter Thompson (8705)

The Leaving of Liverpool

My mother, Stella Catherine **Jones** (1912-2002), was the youngest of 10 children of Elizabeth and William **Haigh** (a public house manager in Lark Lane, 1911-1937). Over her lifetime she enthusiastically collected hundreds of **Haigh** and **Jones** family photographs which eventually filled several individually named albums. Along with other material in her archive, these albums have provided me with an invaluable resource with which to create a number of stories concerning both family histories.

This article looks briefly at the **Haigh** family members who emigrated to Australia and begins with Lavinia (b. 1879), a sister of William (b.1872). She married Eric **Isberg** in Sydney in 1915, and they and their son, also Eric, lived in Sydney for the rest of their lives. William and Lavinia's younger brother was Christopher **Haigh** (b. 1883). After his first wife died in 1914, he remarried in 1921, and he and his second wife, Catherine, emigrated in 1926 with three children, the youngest called William. They also settled in Sydney, and young William Haigh grew up to become a local Mayor, an Alderman and a member of the State Parliament.

Fast forward to 1940 and to the marriage in Liverpool of another of Stella's sisters, Constance (b. 1906), to Frederick **McGreevy**, and to the births of Maureen (1941), Connie (1942) and Stella (1943). Tragedy struck in 1947 when Constance died, and Frederick was faced with the task of earning a living whilst organising care for his young children.

The solution he chose was the child migration scheme and, on 8th February 1950, the **McGreevy** children found themselves on the liner *Asturias*, along with other 'orphan' children, destined to life at a remote Australian convent. The press photograph shows the girls arriving at Fremantle on 6th March 1950.

Such was the concern within the **Haigh** family for the girls' uncertain future that another of my mother's sisters, Marie (b. 1904), gave up her

career and, in 1954, travelled to Australia on the liner *Esperance Bay* in order to look after the children if they survived life at the convent. She lived initially with Lavinia and Eric until she bought her own house.

In her later years, my mother had given me the vaguest outline of what had happened to Maureen, Connie and Stella, and I still have strong memories of the framed photograph of my cousins disembarking at Fremantle, a photograph which was on display at home throughout my childhood. But it was only after my mother died that I discovered amongst her belongings a shoe box containing nearly 100 airmail letters and cards sent from Australia between 1951 and 1979, illustrating the extensive correspondence she had maintained with her family. The letters indicate the fate of the three girls, and of George (b. 1941, son of Irene **Haigh**, b. 1907, another of my mother's sisters) who, in 1962, had also '*gone down under*' to begin life at Marie's home.

It took two decades after my mother's death for me to devote proper attention to those letters, to begin to link their contents to the album photographs, to many other photographs and documents I later discovered in my mother's collection, and to tackle *Ancestry* and other sources for missing information. As an only child, I found myself mourning my failure to show sufficient interest in four cousins with whom I should have kept in contact. A solitary photograph of Maureen, Connie, Stella and myself in the late 1940s holding daisies that we had picked in Sefton Park is my only proof that I had known them in childhood.

In a book I am writing concerning various **Haigh** and **Jones** family members, one of its key chapters will be *The Leaving of Liverpool*, currently a pdf of over 90 pages with more than 200 illustrations, all made possible as a result of what my mother lovingly left for me. In the meantime, I have converted the Australia story into an illustrated talk for my relations. The contents of my mother's archive will astonish them and, I hope, do justice to her memory.

Graham Jones (9680)



In 1950 Maureen (B 1941),
Connie (B 1942)and Stella
(B 1943) arriving in
Fremantle aboard the
Asturias



Graham playing with his
cousins Maureen, Connie
and Stella in Sefton Park in
the late 1940's shortly
before they left for
Fremantle, Australia in 1950

The Manx of Toxteth Park in 1861

This article was first published in 2011 in the IOMFHS Journal, and the owner of the copyright text and photographs is
Ron P Smith

During the 1861 census, a total of 710 people of Manx birth were found living within the Toxteth Park sub-district of West Derby, which was then in the county of Lancashire in England. The whole area is now just south of the city centre within the modern city of Liverpool.

The average age was found to be 37 years with a range from just 2 years up to 80 years. Many of the individuals were part of families with only 1 in 5 being either a boarder/lodger, servant or visitor. While many Manx would have headed to Liverpool as a first step towards emigration to the New World, it is evident that many also chose to live and work in the area, at least for a period long enough to bring up several children. The youngest Manx born resident was Ellen **Teare** who was born in 1859 in Kirk Malew, the daughter of William **Teare**. She was one of seven Manx born occupants of 8 Devonshire Street. The two oldest residents were both born about 1781. One was Thomas **Corkhill**, a cordwainer at 168 Bedford Street. The other was Jane **Nelson** from Castletown who was at 180 Mann Street with her husband Thomas **Nelson** aged 75 years and also from Castletown.

The most common occupations were found to be joiners and carpenters with more than one in ten of the Manx born residents being employed with these skills, including those engaged on both house and ship joinery. Shipwrights were the next most frequent occupation, followed by house servants, who were exclusively female, typically in their twenties and unmarried.

Eliza **Hogg**, born in Douglas, was a rare exception, aged 48 years and also married. She was a house servant at “The Pineapple” Public House at 274 Park Road. At the same address was Elizabeth **Corlett**, also a house servant, born in Isle of Man but single and



The Pineapple Pub in Park Road

aged 21 years. Jane and Ann **Curphey** were both unmarried house servants at the same address and were born in Arbory and it is likely they were sisters. A large proportion of those occupied (64%) had jobs directly linked to shipping such as seamen, dock workers and boat builders. Laxey born William **Hetherington** was a captain living at 47 Cople Street, while Jurby born William **McGill** was a coasting sailor. A number of the Manx born widows were boarding house keepers such as Margaret **Stowell**, aged 54 at 174 Bedford Street. Elizabeth **Clegg** was keeping lodgers at 42 Upper Hill Street and was a widow at only 31 years of age.

More than 10% of the Manx born population were living in Bedford Street, a long street running roughly north-south between Parliament Street and Park Street. Most of them were living between numbers 157 and 183 but individuals were living as far apart as number 52 in the north and number 308 in the south. John **Quayle**, a carpenter was at number 52 while Manx born Ellen **Hoggett** was at number 308 with her Preston born husband. 159 Bedford Street had more Manx born occupants than any other address in Toxteth Park with a total of eight. William **Craine**, a shipwright aged 39 was “head” and was with his wife Eliza plus three boarders, two visitors and a servant.

Bedford Street was later extended further south. By 1871, it had also been renamed Beaufort Street in recognition of the Duke of Beaufort, guardian of the First Earl of Sefton who was orphaned at the age of eight. Five addresses in Bedford Street were identified as “joiners’ shops” and it is likely that at least some of the Manx joiners were employed in these. What is also interesting is seeing the very wide range of nationalities our Manx ancestors would have met with, being so close to a major seaport. Within this one street there were residents born on several different continents with countries such as Canada, Holland, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and USA all being represented as well as every part of the British Isles.

In 1861 many other Manx were living in nearby streets including Mann Street and Upper Mann Street.



James **Lawson** was at 207 Upper Mann Street. He was one of twelve island-born bakers in the sub-district. Within the relatively small Llanrwst Street near Park Street and Bedford Street were another three Manx bakers – Robert

Christian, James **Clague** and John **Quine**. Also in this street was James **Knox**, a boarder with William **Halsall** and his wife who were all born in Isle of Man. James was born about 1835 or 21 years before Archibald Knox’s parents moved to the island from Scotland. The eleven Manx born residents of Upper Parliament Street would have been neighbours of Joseph **Cunard** and his family. Joseph was born in Nova Scotia in 1799 and was brother to Samuel who had set up the famous transatlantic steamship

service between Liverpool and Boston in 1840.

Eleven Manx were also living in Mill Street, the next main street running parallel with Bedford Street and slightly to the east. It was here in 1889 that the “Florence Institute for Boys” was built as a youth club where Joseph **Cunningham** was superintendent for five years. Joe’s duties included arranging summer camps for the boys. After organizing trips to Isle of Man, he eventually broke away from the institute, devoting his time to running a camp from his own resources for which he became famous.

While most of the Manx workers were employed by others, at least two were employers themselves. Joseph **Kelly**, born in Castletown was an Engineer & Millwright “employing 28 men and 12 boys” at 3 Lodge Lane which was near the eastern limits of the sub-district. Charles **Craine** was running a pawnbrokers business at 138 North Street and employing 5 persons.

Ron P Smith (9696)

CONVOY MANIAC RB1

Until he retired in the late 1970’s my dad had been in the Merchant Navy since school. He fell in love with the sea after having gone out from Fleetwood in a trawler – just as a day out – when he was 11 years old. That was it – he was going to work on the sea.

As he worked mainly between Africa, Singapore and Indonesia I didn’t see him too often as he was away for months at a time. When he was home, I always went on board whatever ship he was on at the time and had almost free reign – apart from the cargo holds and the engine room – where I would have been a bigger menace than I was to the rest of the crew.

Before Dad died, he told me a bit about his family, which made me want to know more so I started on my family history, which led to this story, but we'll start at the beginning.

On 1 September 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland, and at 11:15 BST on the 3 September Neville **Chamberlain** announced the British deadline of 11:00 for the German Government to announce plans for the withdrawal of German troops from Poland had expired.

Similarly, the French issued an ultimatum, which was presented in Berlin at 12:30, saying France would be at war unless a 17:00 deadline for the troops' withdrawal was adhered to. America, whilst supporting the Allies, kept out of it.

In just 27 days Britain's Merchant Navy had lost 35 ships and had 2 damaged, By the end of December 1941 Britain had lost 1,441 Merchant ships and had suffered damage to 642. None of these figures include Royal Naval ships.

The US wished to remain non-interventionist, whilst at the same time giving aid to its allies, so a Lend – Lease bill was signed and passed into law on the 11 March 1941. This enabled America to let the British and other allies have access to arms, shipping and other equipment needed to continue in the war against Germany.

By 1942 there was a pressing need for ships that could be converted to Hospital Ships, training craft or short-haul cargo vessels. The American War Shipping Administration set about requisitioning steamboats on the American Eastern seaboard. Virtually every American coastwise steamship line was obliged to relinquish a major part of its fleet [often to the detriment of its own business]. Of eleven great lakes steamers selected to be sent to Britain, three were found unsuitable. The remaining eight were strengthened ready to be able to cross the Atlantic.

Of the photographs I have, only one ship YORKTOWN has before and after photographs.

Yorktown as a lake steamer



Yorktown after conversion



On 16 August 1942 about 550 volunteers from Liverpool disembarked from the *Queen Mary* in New York for their onwards journey to Halifax to collect these steamers and bring them home for the war effort. They were due to sail from St. John's, Nova Scotia.

Prior to departure from St. John's, the escort commanders and ships' captains attended a briefing at Naval HQ. At this meeting the official name of the convoy became R.B.1 the code name became convoy "Maniac" – The consensus amongst the seafarers was that the name should have been plural.

Further South on a secret track the real liners filled with troops for Torch steamed at full speed away from the lurking U-boats. With predictable

certainly four days out RB1 was spotted. The 8 steamers, plus two escorts were shadowed by a wolfpack of 14 submarines, whose commanders believed they were following a convoy of liners containing troops and armaments. They couldn't have been more wrong.

A huge battle took place, resulting in the total loss of an escort vessel and two steamers and a huge loss of life. A third steamer – YORKTOWN – with my father, HAROLD LESLIE **PAPWORTH** on board had to stop as its steering gear was fouled.

Yorktown was spotted, torpedoed, and sank within 3 minutes. My dad got blown off the bridge where he had been at the time and finished up clinging to a plank in the ocean. Happily, he got picked up by a life raft manned by other crew members. Three days later the three life-rafts from YORKTOWN were picked up by a rescue vessel sent specifically to find them.

My Dad spent the rest of the war sailing the rest of these steamers round our coastal waters, some as hospital ships and some with other tasks in mind.

He, and some other Masters and men were mentioned in despatches and were apparently honoured by the King – though I have no documentary evidence of that, only something that my mum said whilst she was still in the throes of dementia.

There is no space here for the full story, and it's not just my father's story, it belongs to the 350 volunteers who departed on the Queen Mary, and who had no idea of the trials they would face.

This is the SS DERBYSHIRE, that the German U-boat commander believed, and reported, that he had sunk, never knowing that he had sunk the YORKTOWN, less than half the length and almost 90% less tonnage.





Harold **Papworth** and fellow crewmates in the life raft being rescued somewhere in the North Atlantic.

Shelagh Boardman (6456)

ROCKET 200

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the world's first inter-city railway between Liverpool and Manchester.

Manchester Histories www.manchesterhistories.co.uk is one of the principal partners, and have organised another networking event on Thursday 20 March 5.30-7.30pm: Global Theatre Space, ground floor, Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1DG. Free.

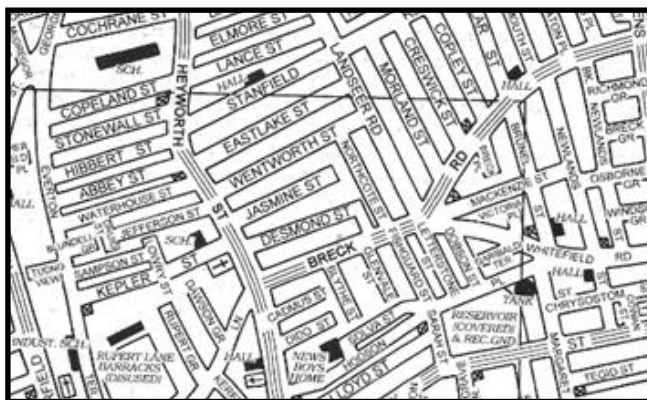
The meeting will:

- Provide an update on progress to date including the new brand
- Listen to other network partners' plans and ideas
- Receive ideas on exploring any new opportunities and collaborations

Anyone is welcome to attend and to bring ideas to the project. It is a free event, but booking is necessary via this link <https://tinyurl.com/j7hyzs2z>

A Family Policing the Streets of Liverpool

Like all family tree researchers, I often wonder how my ancestors got together, indeed this is a key factor in deciding whether a match in a tree is possible. During the latter years of the 19th century on my maternal side this was not a problem. I have discovered that, in the ten years between the 1881 and 1891 censuses, all four of my maternal great grandparents lived within a small area of Everton with marriages between the families over the next thirty years. Indeed, family members pop up in each other's houses up to and beyond the 1939 register.



This map of a small area of Everton shows the streets of Copeland St, Hibbert St, Abbey St, Eastlake St, Landseer Rd and Creswick St, where my great, grandparents lived between 1881 and 1891.

It was particularly easy to determine how my great grandparents met. Nathaniel **Allen**, a policeman, married Mary Beams **Davis** on 11 April 1887 at St George's church Everton. He was 23 and lived at 48 Copeland Street and 21-year-old Mary lived at number 40. Nathaniel's father, John **Allen**, was a tailor who made police uniforms while Mary's father, John **Davis**, was a policeman. Mary's brother, also John **Davis** and a policeman, was best man at the wedding. Later, another brother William Royle

Davis, also a policeman, married Nathaniel's sister, Lucy Ellen **Allen**. A third brother Vincent **Davis** married Nathaniel's cousin, Lucy Ellen **Allen**.



Nathaniel and Mary (above) went on to have four daughters, including my grandmother, but things could have been so different.

A couple of years ago I took out a subscription to Findmypast mainly to access the 1921 census and the British Library's newspaper collection to augment my Ancestry research. Very soon I came across a report from the Liverpool Echo dated 19 March 1889. It stated that on 24 December 1888, one day after his 25th birthday, Nathaniel arrested a murderer in Aspinall Street, Kirkdale. The man, Alexander **Ingram** who was 69, had killed his stepdaughter with a sword after she had slapped his face and pulled some of his whiskers out. As a defence, the murderer said he was demonstrating how the sword was used in the Crimean War.

The newspaper account told how on the evening 23 December, **Ingram** had been drinking with his stepdaughter, Eliza Jane **Bartlett** – who had her two-year-old child with her and another woman. The three turned in for the night the worse for drink. The next morning, they got up and continued drinking. "In the afternoon, the little boy threw a toy at the prisoner, and the latter got up to smack him. Mrs **Bartlett**, however, prevented him from doing so and pulled the prisoner's whiskers and slapped him in the face two or three times. A quarrel ensued and the prisoner then took down a sword from over the mantelpiece and struck

the deceased with it over the ear.” Eliza was taken to the nearest hospital, but nothing could be done to save her.

According to the paper: “Police constable 708 (Nathaniel **Allen**) said he was called into the house in Aspinall Street at about half-past 3 o’clock on the 24 December. He found the prisoner in the back kitchen and the deceased in a wounded condition in the same place. He arrested the prisoner, who in answer to the charge of wounding the woman said he was aggravated to do it. He obtained the sword from the witness Mrs **O’Connor**. The prisoner appeared to have had drink.”

It turned out that **Ingram**’s stepdaughter had indulged in a two day “carouse” at his house with several friends before the incident. After his arrest **Ingram**’s mother died of shock, probably anticipating the death penalty. The judge, however, took into account **Ingram**’s previous good character and his age, 69, and sentenced him to six months hard labour.

Reading the story, one is immediately stuck by Nathaniel’s age, being confronted by a murderer, possibly still holding the weapon. Beyond this, at home his new wife of barely twenty months was waiting for him and they must have been newly aware that she was pregnant with their first baby, my grandmother. What would his wife, Mary, have thought? Not to mention that this happened on Christmas Eve.”

1889 was a significant year for Mary and Nathaniel with the birth of their first daughter, Lucy, and, if events turned out differently, it could have been Mary’s last, and she could have been a widow. Police work, however, still dominated their lives. Nathaniel was on duty during the **Maybrick** murder trial at St George’s Hall and missed registering Lucy’s birth until 17 August, the day she celebrated right up to her hundredth birthday, which was reported in the Liverpool Echo.



There are two errors in this piece from the Liverpool Echo dated 17 August 1989. Firstly, it mentions he was a court clerk while he was policeman. Also, it states that he was a day late in registering Lucy's birth, however the trial ended on 7 August 1889, which suggests she was born earlier, or Nathaniel was just late going to the registry office.

Florence **Maybrick**, an American, was charged with murdering her husband, James, 23 years her senior. Wealthy and appearing to be the perfect couple, the **Maybricks**, who lived on Riversdale Road, Aigburth, regularly attended society functions in Liverpool. However, James had several mistresses and when Florence took a lover, Alfred **Brierley**, there was a violent row and James threatened her with divorce. James, who regularly took arsenic and other poisonous preparations in small amounts as tonics, fell ill on 27 April 1889 after taking a double dose of strychnine. A letter Florence wrote to Alfred that seemed to implicate her was intercepted and she was put under house arrest.

After James died on 11 May, she was charged with his murder. At her trial she was accused of buying flypaper at a local chemist shop, extracting the arsenic from it and using this to kill James, despite the fact that when his body was examined it was found there was not enough arsenic in his system to kill him. Still, Florence was sentenced to death, which was later commuted to life imprisonment. The case was widely seen as a miscarriage of justice and attracted a huge amount of attention from the newspapers. Florence had served almost 15 years in prison, when she was released in 1904 and eventually returned to her native America.

It is well known that two stories link the **Maybricks** with Jack the Ripper. Either James himself being "Jack" or his brother Michael, in which case both James and Florence could be listed as victims. It must be stressed that both are merely, in my mind improbable, theories developed a hundred years after the Whitechapel murders.

After 1889 records of Nathaniel's police career are sparse, although in the 1911 census it shows Nathaniel was a police sergeant and the next census indicates that he was retired. That said, my Auntie told me that

he was “out of Dale Street” which must be how he described working from Hatton Garden police station. This opened in 1895 and was the headquarters for A Division – the city centre division. As a result, Nathaniel would have been involved in the policing of the General Transport Strike of 1911, when the Warwickshire Regiment had to be called in to help the police and gunboats were moored in the Mersey. There’s also a high probability that, less than a year later, on the 15 May 1912, he’d have been on duty outside the White Star buildings on the Strand, the day after the *Titanic* sank, when large crowds gathered.

I am always grateful for the fact that I went through my mother’s collection of family photographs with her and identified most of the people in them. She described one of the photographs as being Grandpa and two other policemen on Anfield Rec (Recreation Ground).



Nathaniel is in the centre in the above photograph and through research I’ve been able to identify the “other two policemen as John Muir **Davis**, left and William Royle **Davis**, right. They were Nathaniel wife’s brothers as previously mentioned.

Apart from censuses and obituaries in the newspaper archives there are no records of their service. John’s obituary stated that he became a sergeant in 1892, an inspector in the CID in 1901 and retired in 1922 after 38 years’ service. The years 1914-18 were hard for John with his first wife, Elizabeth, passing away in September 1914 and then losing his son, William at the Battle of Festubert in May 1915. As a result of losing his son, John devoted a lot of time working with the British Legion

Members' Interests

Members may publish up to ten family names that they are researching on our website **www.lswlfhs.org.uk** and in our Journal, the '*Liverpool Family Historian*'. Please print in block letters those names you wish to be included, using Chapman County Codes (shown overleaf) for the location.

Name:

Address:

.....

Post Code:.....Mem.No:.....

A/N	Name	Location	Date(s)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

☐

Please tick this box to consent to the Society publishing your above details in support of your Members' Interests request.

Members Interests

When the Society was first preparing the Members' Interests database in 2005, there was concern about the lack of appreciation for the pre-1974 Chapman County Codes that Members are encouraged to use when giving place names for their ancestors. In one case the town name submitted was repeated over twenty times in an Index to Place Names in the British Isles.

To assist Members we have, since then, published a list of pre-1974 County Codes and would recommend the website link below to see the post-1974 County Codes that apply today, that some Members use even though their interests relate to dates earlier than 1974:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman_code

The present system is a continuous on-going service, with a restriction on the number of names put forward for publication to ten names published in the Journal. All Members can submit additional interests later, via this form or via e-mail, that will be published on the website.

Email addresses will be published on the website to enable other members to contact you, however the '@' in your email address will be amended on the website to read (at) for your protection. This is to meet the Society's responsibility under Data Protection legislation.

It would also help if each Interest submitted was classified either as "New" or "Amended" so that the database is kept up to date, and does not include old and invalid information.

Good hunting.

CHAPMAN County Codes

England (ENG):

BDF	Bedfordshire	HRT	Hertfordshire	SOM	Somersetshire
BRK	Berkshire	HUN	Huntingdonshire	STS	Staffordshire
BKM	Buckingham	KEN	Kent	SFK	Suffolk
CAM	Cambridgeshire	LAN	Lancashire	SRY	Surrey
CHS	Cheshire	LEI	Leicestershire	SSX	Sussex
CON	Cornwall	LIN	Lincolnshire	WAR	Warwickshire
CUL	Cumberland	LND	London	WES	Westmoreland
DBY	Derbyshire	MDX	Middlesex	WIL	Wiltshire
DEV	Devonshire	NFK	Norfolk	WOR	Worcestershire
DOR	Dorsetshire	NTH	Northamptonshire	YKS	Yorkshire
DUR	Durham	NBL	Northumberland	ERY	Yks East Riding
ESS	Essex	NTT	Nottinghamshire	WRY	Yks West Riding
GLS	Gloucestershire	OXF	Oxfordshire	NRY	Yks North Riding
HAM	Hampshire	RUT	Rutland	IOW	Isle of Wight
HEF	Herefordshire	SAL	Shropshire		

Wales (WLS):

N.WLS	North Wales	S.WLS	South Wales		
AGY	Anglesey	DEN	Denbighshire	MON	Monmouthshire
BRE	Breckonshire	FLN	Flintshire	MGY	Montgomeryshire
CAE	Caernarvonshire	GLA	Glamorgan	PEM	Pembrokeshire
CGN	Cardiganshire	MER	Merionethshire	RAD	Radnorshire

Scotland (SCT):

ABD	Aberdeenshire	ELN	East Lothian	PEE	Peebleshire
ANS	Angus (Forfarshire)	FIF	Fifeshire	PER	Perthshire
ARL	Argyllshire	INV	Inverness-shire	RFW	Renfrewshire
AYR	Ayrshire	KCD	Kincardineshire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
BAN	Banffshire	KRS	Kinross-shire	ROX	Roxburghshire
BEW	Berwickshire	KKD	Kircudbrightshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
BUT	Bute	LKS	Lanarkshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
CAI	Caithness-shire	MLN	Midlothian	STI	Stirlingshire
CLK	Clackmannanshire	MOR	Moray	SUT	Sutherland
DFS	Dumfriesshire	NAI	Nairnshire	WLN	West Lothian
DNB	Dunbartonshire	OKI	Orkney Isles	WIG	Wigtownshire

Ireland (IRL):

CAR	Carlow	KIK	Kilkenny	OFF	Offaly (Kings)
CAV	Cavan	LET	Leitrim	ROS	Roscommon
CLA	Clare	LEX	Leix (Queens)	SLI	Sligo
COR	Cork	LIM	Limerick	TIP	Tipperary
DON	Donegal	LOG	Longford	WAT	Waterford
DUB	Dublin	LOU	Louth	WEM	Westmeath
GAL	Galway	MAY	Mayo	WEX	Wexford
KER	Kerry	MEA	Meath	WIC	Wicklow
KID	Kildare	MOG	Monagan		

N. Ireland (NIR)

ANT	Antrim	DOW	Down	LDY	Londonderry
ARM	Armagh	FER	Fermanagh	TYR	Tyrone

Channel Isles (CHI)

ALD	Alderney	JSY	Jersey	SRK	Sark
GSY	Guernsey				

Isle of Man

IOM	Isle of Man
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Publications List

Along with many family history societies nowadays we are reducing our stocks of printed publications. The list shown here is on sale for the UK market only, however members from overseas may email publications@lswlfhs.org.uk to check on the additional postage cost for overseas. We will not be getting any more of these publications, so when they're gone, they're gone.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE UK POSTAGE

Books for sale

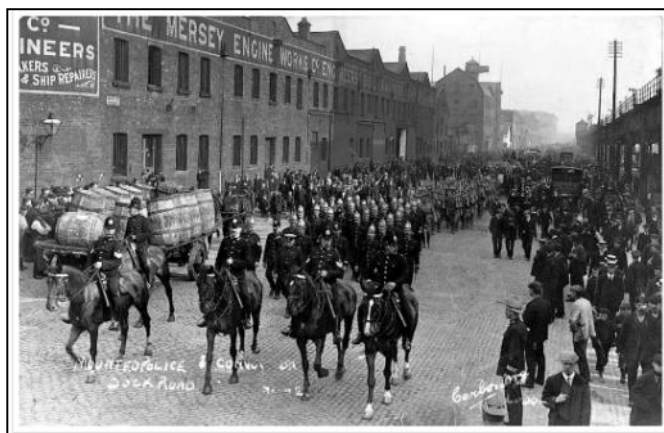
Title	Price
Annals of the Poor	£3.30
Basic Facts About Using Education Records	£2.80
Basic Facts About Using Wills after 1858 and	
First Avenue House	£2.30
Civil Registration of Births Marriages and Deaths	£3.30
Family History From Newspapers	£3.30
Finding Out About Your Family History	£4.30
How to Locate and Use Manorial Records	£3.05
Interviewing Elderly Relatives	£3.30
Manorial Records	£3.30
No Time For Family History	£3.30
Professionals and Gentlemen	£3.30
Quarter Sessions, Your Ancestor & The Law	£3.30
Sources for Family History in the Home	£3.30
Tracing Your Catholic Ancestry in England	£4.30

Check out our other items in the shop

<https://store.lswlfhs.org.uk>

organising tours of the French battlefields. He finally passed away during December 1954.

William's obituary, meanwhile, was shorter, simply saying that he'd served in the Liverpool Mounted Police, a fact corroborated by the 1911 census. This branch has its own website with a history section that gives a window on William's working life. From policing the sectarian riots in 1909 to escorting convoys of food and performing at several Royal Escorts for the King, the Mounted Section undertook many important duties during this time. Also, they were involved in the General Transport Strike.



Mounted Police escorting material with armed troops marching behind them during the General Strike, Liverpool August 1911.

As for Nathaniel, I have discovered that his wife, Mary, died in March 1918, with the 1921 census showing Nathaniel as a widower living with the three daughters, Emily, Elsie and Florrie. They lived in St Andrew Road, Anfield and then Pilch Lane, Old Swan where he died in 1935. Emily, Elsie and Florrie, all of whom I knew, did not marry.

Ian Cooper (

Prisoners born in Liverpool in Castle Rushen Prison Isle of Man

	Surname	Forename	Age	Height	Hair	Eyes
1	Halsham	Edward	23	5'4"	Brown	Brown
2	Killip	Thomas	23	5'4 ½	Dk Br	Brown
3	Connill	Thomas	17	5'1 ¾	Brown	Brown
4	Carroll	Thomas	26	5'4 ¼	Sandy	Grey
5	Burton	Benjamin	50	5'7 ½	Brown	Grey
6	Reid	Agnes				
		Helena	17	5'	Brown	Grey
7	Inglesby	Frederick	22	5'2 ½	Red	Grey
8	Harrison	Joseph	21	5'4 ½	Brown	Blue
9	Nixon	John				
		Percival	25	5' 1 ¾	Brown	Blue
10	Escot	John	41	5' 6	Brown	Blue
11	Connor	James	45	5'2 ½	Grey	Grey
12	Savage	John	18	5'4 ¼	Dk Br	Grey
13	Steavons	George	21	5'3 ½	Brown	Brown
14	Rigby	Catherine	27	5'2 ½	Brown	Grey
15	Clarke	Miles	19	4'11"	Brown	Blue
17	Crellin	Rebecca	19	5' 1"	Sandy	Blue
18	Regerton	John	56	5'2 ½	Brown	Grey

H.L. = Hard Labour
 R.W. = Reading. Writing
 R = Reading
 None= No Education
 ACQ = Acquitted

I tried to get this information onto one page but was unsuccessful so I hope it makes sense spread over two pages.

Taken from MNH 9672/1 1883-1886

Complexion	Occ	Ed	Crime	Term	Prison No
1	Fresh	2 nd Mate	R.W. Forgery	3 Mths	90
2	Fair	Sailor	R.W. Stealing	1 Mth	109
3	Fair	Sailor	R.W. Stealing	-	161
4	Fair	Labourer	- Stealing	2 Mths	196
5	Sallow	White & Locksmith	- Larceny	2 Wks H.L.	232
6	Fair	Servant	- Stealing	3 Mths H.L.	316
7	Fresh	Labourer	- Stealing	-	362
8	Fair	Joiner	R.W. Br & Ent	ACQ	375
9	Dark	Hawker	R.W. Stealing	-	380
10	Fair	Gen. Dealer	R.W. Stealing	2 Mths H.L.	442
11	Fair	Labourer	R.W. Assault	-	460
12	Fair	Labourer	R.W. Stealing	-	468
13	Pale	Labourer	R.W. Stealing	9 Mths	483
14	Fair	Servant	R.W. Larceny	1 Mth H.L.	493
15	Fair	Labourer	R.W. Larceny	1 Mth H.L.	495
16	Ruddy	Servant	R Stealing	3 Mths	121
17	Fair	Sailor	- Larceny	1 Mth H.L.	300

All prisoners on release were sent back home to Liverpool

My thanks to Priscilla from the IOM for the above information. I hope it proves useful and/or helpful to someone who is maybe trying to breakdown a brick wall.

Alison (Editor)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Membership Secretary within the Society and expressions of interest are invited from members who may wish to apply for the role.

This is a key role within the operation of the Society and offers the opportunity to become fully involved in the running of the Society and to make an important contribution to its successful operation.

The principal responsibilities and elements in the role of Membership Secretary are as follows:

- To maintain the Society Membership Excel Spreadsheet: ensuring it is accurate and up to date; that it is secure and backed up; and that relevant information from it is circulated to specified Committee members in line with GDPR requirements.
- To process new and renewal membership application: checking information provided; allocating membership numbers to new members; and acknowledging applications and resolving any issues.
- To process membership payments (cheque and Paypal): paying these into the Society account; liaising with the Treasurer.
- To answer questions and issues raised through the Membership Secretary Inbox.
- To attend Society Committee (Quarterly) Meetings and provide membership updates when required. These are currently held over Zoom.

The role will require familiarity with Microsoft Excel and Word and email. The successful candidate will also be required to liaise and work with other Committee members as part of their role.

The Membership Secretary's role is a year-round one but the main activity is centred around the membership renewal period from November to January. Applications are invited from any member resident within the UK.

Full support and training will be given during the handover period and a Society laptop and all relevant material will be provided.

If you wish to apply for this post or require further information please contact Barry Peacock, General Secretary, via secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk

MEMBERS' INTERESTS SECRETARY

A vacancy has arisen for the role of Members' Interests Secretary within the Society and expressions of interest are invited from members who may wish to apply for the role.

This is a key role within the operation of the Society and offers the opportunity to become fully involved in the running of the Society and to make an important contribution to its successful operation.

The principal responsibilities and elements in the role of Members' Interest Secretary are as follows:

- To enter members' interest details into a database and to submit the database contents to the Webmaster for uploading to the Society's website and
- The Journal Editor for inclusion in the Journal.
- To attend Society Committee (Quarterly). These are currently held over Zoom.

The role will require familiarity with Microsoft Excel and Word and email. The successful candidate will also be required to liaise and work with other Committee members as part of their role.

Full support and training will be given during the handover period and a Society laptop and all relevant material will be provided.

If you wish to apply for this post or require further information please contact Barry Peacock, General Secretary, via secretary@lswlfhs.org.uk

Articles for Publication

Please help – we are looking for members to submit articles for publication

We are constantly looking for articles to fill the Journal and now the newsletter email.

Please don't be afraid to submit your article because you have never written one before; we all have to start somewhere! Articles are proof-read and altered (if necessary) to fit in the journal before publication.

I had never edited a journal before I took over and I was terrified that I would do something wrong. However, we “live and learn” and “every day is a school day” as the sayings go and I can honestly say that yes, I have made mistakes, but I don't mind owning up to them, but I have learned so much since I started and I am still learning. It's what is helping to keep my mind sharp and active, especially now that I have retired from work.

In my humble opinion, genealogy stories are the best and how you go about finding your ancestors or breaking down a brick wall will resonate with someone and could even produce that “eureka” moment and help someone else in their search.

So, please don't hesitate to have a go at writing an article and send it to me. I have provided some guidelines below and I hope to hear from you soon.

Alison Anyon
Editor L&SWLFHS

Submitting Articles for Publication

Articles may be on any topic related to family history, but we also welcome articles which may help members in pursuing their own Research or on social history.

Topics may include ways in which to break down brick walls or the use of new or unusual records or archives to explore particular aspects of an ancestor's story.

References

References should be made to sources used and their location.

Copyright

It is not the intention of the Society to enforce copyright, although individual contributors may wish to exercise their rights. Contributors retain their copyright but must expect editing to suit the requirements of the journal. The Society will be satisfied if due acknowledgement is given when extracts from the journal are published or used elsewhere. However, if extracts from other publications appear in this journal the permission of the original copyright holder must be obtained prior to reproduction of their material.

How should articles be sent?

We prefer to receive copy in electronic format by email in Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format. If you do not have a computer, it may be possible for the Editor to arrange typing but we would prefer it you could ask a friend who has a computer to type the article for you.

Photographs to illustrate articles should be scanned at 300 dots per inch resolution and submitted in a jpeg format. Please do not send original photographs.

Articles must be accompanied by your **name, email address and your membership number**. We will only publish your name and membership number at the end of your article.

Articles should be sent to: editor@lswlfhs.org.uk

The **submission dates** for members are:

25 January for March Journal

25 April for June Journal

25 July for September Journal

25 October for December Journal

The Royal Liver Building

To me, one of the most iconic and beautiful of buildings overlooks the River Mersey from its waterfront location on the Pier Head and forms one of the 'Three Graces' along with the Port of Liverpool Building and the Cunard Building. This is reflected in the building's Grade I listed building status.

In 1850 the Liverpool Lyver Burial Society was founded on 24 July 1850 by a group of working men from Liverpool in the Lyver Inn, which was in St Anne's Street, Liverpool. Within three weeks they had registered the Society and had opened a small office at 14 Pickop Street, Liverpool on 14 August 1850. The founding members of the society were: President - Thomas **Copeland**, Treasurer - Thomas **Holmes**, Secretary - Thomas **Mercer**. Other founding members were John Bates **Lawrence**, John **Wright**, James **Hargraves**, J **Lawton** Jnr, J **Lawton** Snr, James **Stephenson**, Joseph **Rimmer** and R **Fotheringham**. They originally collected weekly premiums from the poor and working classes of Liverpool but rapidly spread to cover the UK and Ireland. It is believed that the society came about because of the influx of immigrants from Ireland due to the Potato Famine.

It was reported at the time that ***"In the years between 1845 and 1850, the Parish of Liverpool was becoming overrun by a deluge of destitute Irish people fleeing from their homeland without any means of supporting themselves. The Rector of Liverpool and Chairman of the Select Vestry wrote on several occasions to the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, seeking relief for the benefit of Liverpool from the Consolidated Fund – but to no avail. It would appear, therefore, that the policy of the Government of the day was to leave the City of Liverpool, and in particular the Parish of Liverpool, to fund the cost of providing relief for these many thousands of immigrants from its' own resources."*** (3)

There is a Memorial to the Tragedy of the Famine at St Anthony's Church, Scotland Road, Liverpool.

The society continued to grow and prosper not only in Liverpool but gradually throughout the UK and into Ireland and so by the end of the 1890s it was agreed to build what would become the Royal Liver Building, but it wasn't until their AGM in Dublin in 1907 that the final decision was made to buy the freehold to the George's Dock at the Pier Head for £75,000. In 1908 the foundation stone was laid for the new building by Lord Stanley of Alderley on 11 May 1908.

The Royal Liver Building was designed by Walter Aubrey **Thomas**, and it was officially opened as the headquarters of the Royal Liver Assurance Group on 19 July 1911 by Lord Sheffield. The building holds significant historical and cultural importance to the city of Liverpool not least the mythical Liver Birds on top of the two towers which are said to protect both the city and sailors coming into port.

During WW1 more than 1200 members of the society joined in the war effort. In their absence, the Society continued to pay their salaries and commissions as well as keeping their jobs open for their return.

One story I have found is from the Liverpool Echo dated 21 January 2022 concerning a war veteran, Tom **Jones**, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 11 January 2022. One of his special memories was when he was in 33rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (Royal Artillery) and stationed at Princes Dock in Liverpool to defend the city and its strategically important docks from the Luftwaffe.

Tom told the Echo *"I was on a gun site on the landing stage jetty next to Princes Dock. We were on a Bofors gun (an anti-aircraft autocannon used during WW2). One night we were firing at low flying planes coming across from the Birkenhead side, right across the river. We were shooting and we got an order to cease firing. We were knocking lumps off the Liver Birds!"*

We must have been very close to them. We had lots of shooting to do and with it being a Bofurs we were only firing at low flying aircraft.” (4)

During the early 1950s, the sixth floor was occupied and used by No 3 Movements Unit (Embarkation) of the Royal Air Force, overseeing and controlling the movement of RAF personnel and goods through the port. In 1953, electronic chimes were installed to serve as a memorial to the members of the Royal Liver Friendly Society who died during the two World Wars. During hours of darkness, the clock dials are illuminated.

The building remained the Headquarters for the Royal Liver Assurance Group until its merger with the Royal London Group in 2011, the year which marked the buildings centenary celebration. This occasion was marked by a visit from HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh on 1 December 2011.

In 2019, as part of a larger repositioning of the building, a visitor attraction was opened giving the public the chance to tour the West Clock Tower of the building on a regular basis for the first time in its then 108-year history. Previously this had only been open to the public during Heritage Open Days, which have been running during September each year since 1994.

The building has 13 floors, and it stands 98.2m (322 ft) tall to the top of the spires, the Liver birds are 5.5 metres (18 ft) tall. Crowning, they give the skyscraper a height of 103.7 metres (340 feet) and is 50.9m (167 ft) to the main roof. It was one of the first buildings in the world to be built from reinforced concrete and given the building's radical design was considered by some to "be impossible to build". It was Europe's first skyscraper.

On top of each tower stand the mythical Liver Birds, designed by Carl Bernard **Bartels**. The birds are named Bella and Bertie, looking to the sea and inland, respectively. Bella may possibly be named for Isabella of Angoulême, the queen consort of King John, when Liverpool was granted its royal charter on Tuesday 28 August 1207.

Bertie may possibly be named for Edward VII (known as Bertie to the royal family) who was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at the time of the building's construction.

There are a variety of popular legends and myths about the Liver Birds. One has it that while one giant bird looks out over the city to protect its people, the other bird looks out to sea at the new sailors coming into port. Another local legend states one Liver Bird is male, looking inland to see if the pubs are open, whilst the other is female, looking out to sea to see if there are any handsome sailors coming up the river. It is also said that, if one of the birds were to fly away the city of Liverpool would cease to exist, thus adding to the mystery of the birds.

Whichever myth or legend you believe in, both birds are chained to the domes upon which they stand; although this could simply be because the originally gilded Liver birds, of a moulded and hammered copper construction (that is itself fixed onto a rolled-steel armature) are eighteen feet high, ten feet long and themselves carry in their beaks an intricately cast sprig of seaweed. Additionally, however, their heads are three-and-a-half feet long, their wing spread is twelve feet, and their legs measure two feet in circumference. The two birds, officially cormorants, have identical and almost traditional poses, standing upright with half-raised wings. Each Liver Bird weighs 4 tonnes. (1 & 2)

If you would like to book a tour of the Liver Building please visit the website for further details: www.liverbuildingtour.com

References

- 1 Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License;
- 2 <https://liverbuildingtour.com/history/>
- 3 <https://royalliverhistory.co.uk/2020/10/04/dignity-in-poverty/kevind/>
- 4 Liverpool Echo

Alison Anyon (6412)



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Royal Liver Building

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Journal Price Increase

Over recent years the cost of printing and distributing the Society Journal has been increasing steadily, with increased postal charges being a particular problem. The Committee feels that it must address this issue but at the same time wishes to minimise the impact of any rise in membership costs. It is therefore proposed that the Society offers the option to supply members with a digital copy of the Journal as an alternative to the printed copy, which would remain available to those who would prefer that. The costs of membership would be:

UK with digital Journal £10; UK with printed Journal £12
Overseas with digital Journal £10; Overseas with printed Journal £17

These changes would take effect from the membership year **2026** with the additional proviso that should there be any further significant increase in costs in **2025** the Committee may use its discretion to update the proposed membership fees accordingly with any further increase being sanctioned at the **2025 AGM**.

New Members & Members' Interests

New and existing Members' Interests detailed below consist of the membership number and interest in terms of **SURNAME and INITIAL, LOCATION and DATE.**

A maximum of only ten interests can be published for the sake of space. Anyone needing more than ten interests can see the extra numbers published on our website.

Members reading this section who identify an interest they are looking for, should note the membership number of the contributing member and contact them through the **'Members Only'** area of our website:

www.lswlfhs.org.uk

We welcome the following new members, **numbers 9737—9757** who have joined most recently and wish them every success with their research.

New Members:

9737	M COOPER	9738	H O'GORMAN
9739	J FRASER	9740	S BRAZEAU
9741	K GODDARD	9742	H THOMAS
9743	P SMITH	9744	J FIRR
9745	N STUART-JONES	9746	M BELCH
9747	J MIAO	9748	D DUNSTAN
9749	P DUTTON	9750	D SHACKLETON
9751	D ASPINALL	9752	P STOREY
9753	M DELAHUNTY	9754	J TULLOCK
9755	L LEDSHAM	9756	V HOPE
9757	M MURRAY		

Members' Interests:

9720	WARD	Thomas LAN >1846
9720	LYONS	Alexander LDY >1835
9720	MCGILL	Daniel LAN/CAV >1820
9720	LANGTRY	Anne/Mary Anne CAV >1820
9720	DEMPSEY	Rogers LDY >1830
9720	MCKENNA	Catherine IRL >1798
9720	KELLY	Susannah ARM/DOW 1800+
9720	SHANNON	James IRL 1798+
9720	MORRIS	Michael LAN/ARM/DOW 1792+
9729	GALLOP	Annie LAN 1860-1920
9729	ROBINSON	Henry Liverpool 1860-1920
9729	PARSLEY	Emma Liverpool 1850-1940
9433	RUSSELL	Frederick Liverpool/Wavertree 1883-1913
9734	NUGENT	James Silas LAN 1822-1905
9734	NUGENT	John LAN 1795-1871
9734	NUGENT	Mary Ann LAN 1804-1887
9734	RICE	John LAN 1780-1840
9726	WRAY	James Liverpool 1893-1896
9726	DOHERTY	Jane MAY 1850-1908
9726	BOSWARD	John Francis LAN/Liverpool 1850-1915
9726	GRIFFITHS	Abraham LAN/Liverpool 1840-1895

Report from the Groups

Visit to the Lancashire Archive

Preston Friday 12 July 2024

Southport Group

The Southport group visited the Lancashire Archive in Preston during July last year. The Archive, situated on Bow Lane, has its own pay and display car park and is easy to reach by bus or train, being little more than a five-minute walk from the bus stop outside the railway station.

Our tour of the archive was divided into two parts, with an interesting talk by Vicci McCann about the records held in the Archive, followed by an opportunity to view some of the star items from the collection, photographs of which can be seen below.

The records held by the Archives include material covering the pre-1974 county of Lancashire - the historic County Palatine of Lancaster – an area stretching from South Lakeland to Liverpool, Manchester and Warrington.

Many of the collections are of national and international importance as well as regional and local significance.

The main types of official archives held are:

- A collection of wills from the Archdeaconry of Richmond and Diocese of Chester in Lancashire covering the period from 1600 to 1858.
- Local authority archives including Lancashire County Council, district and parish councils, and their predecessors, including Quarter Sessions and Poor Law unions
- Manorial records
- Lancashire police records
- Lunatic asylum records

There are also archives from the collections of private individuals, organisations and businesses including:

- Records of clubs, societies and charitable organisations
- Records of local community groups
- Business archives
- Personal and family papers, including letters, diaries and photographs
- Archives of trade unions, political parties and pressure groups

The Lancashire Archives holds records for all the Church of England parishes in the Deaneries of North Meols, Ormskirk and St Helens in the Diocese of Liverpool, and Altcar, Formby, Hightown and Sefton in the Deanery of Sefton in Liverpool Diocese As well as all those in the Diocese of Blackburn, while a number of parishes in the Diocese of Leeds are also the responsibility of the Archives.

The Diocesan records include many valuable documents for the family tree researcher. For example, the main collection of tithe maps and schedules is held there. There are also the Overseers' records.

Overseers arranged for the collection of the poor rate, the management of the local poor house and the provision of poor relief within the parish. These records are particularly name rich and might include papers relating to settlement and removal, bastardy orders and apprenticeship indentures.

There are also records of the quarter sessions court and many related records can be found within the Quarter Sessions Petitions (QSP), which are name indexed in the Archive catalogue.

The Church of England played an important role in education, first with the introduction of Sunday Schools for children who were working during the week and then with full day schools. Records include admission registers as well as logbooks, inspection reports and school plans, which can be found in the Archive.

Lancashire Archives is also responsible for the archives of the Roman

Catholic dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, and Salford including parish registers, bishop's transcripts and copy registers. Many registers, however, are still kept in their respective parishes.

The staff at the Archives are extremely friendly and helpful but are also very proud of the documents they hold. At the end of our visit, we were lucky to have the opportunity to view a sample of their historic documents.



Letter written in 1602 by Elizabeth I to the Emperor Wanli of Ming seeking trade with China. The letter was intended to be delivered the same year. The letter never made it to China until 1984.

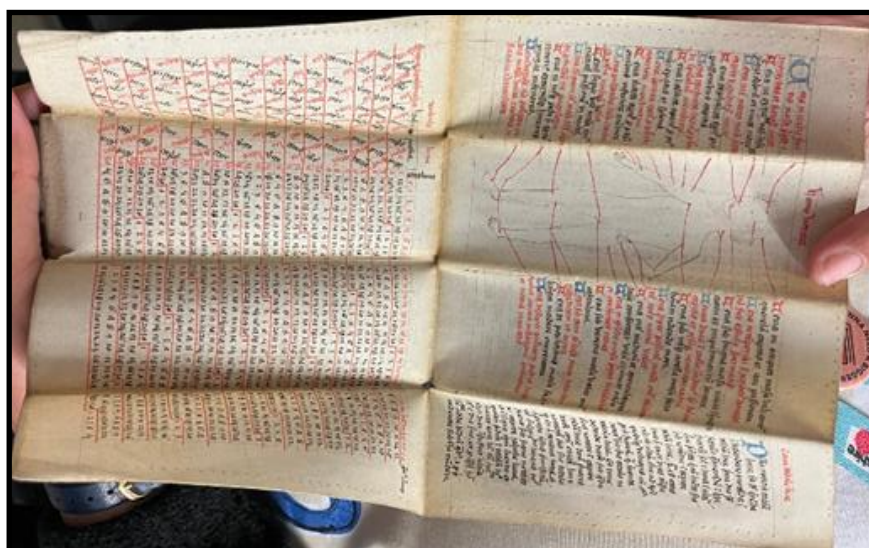


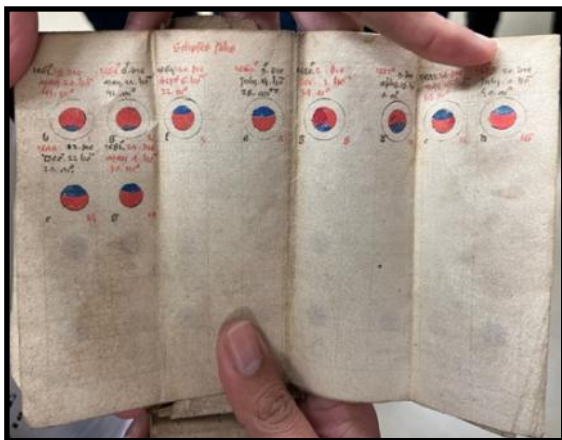
The oldest document in the archive, a land grant dating back to the 11th century.

The next two pictures are from a book of hours belonging to Edward Molyneux, circa 1460s.



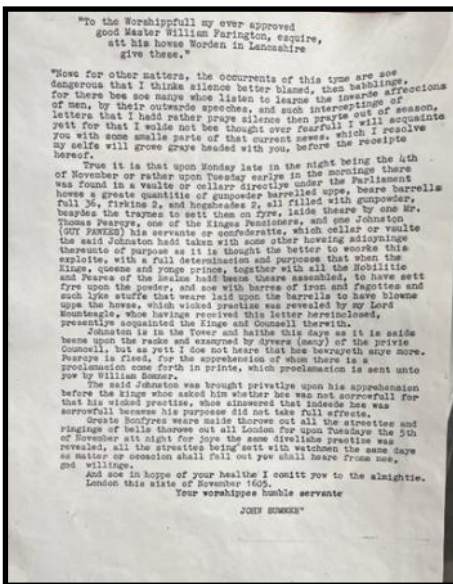
The next collection is from a medical and astrological almanac which was created ca. 1460. It is simultaneously an annual calendar, medical guide, astrological guide, and almanac. It served the aristocratic medieval household as a general guidebook to life, health, weather, etc., while it was also useful for the traveller.





Finally, there was a letter from John **Sumner** to William **Farrington** discreetly warning him that the Gunpowder Plot had failed, sent 6 Nov 1605. Note the manacle in the left-hand margin indicating the section Farrington should heed, without putting anything incriminating in writing.

Below, is a transcript of the letter.



There were also some maps on display in the conference room: -



If you are planning a visit to the Lancashire Archive to see specific records, it is a good idea to contact them by phone or email to give details of the documents you would like to see so that they can be ready for you when you arrive. That said, if you request the documents when you arrive at the archive there is only a short wait of five to ten minutes before staff retrieve them and there are many books to browse in the meantime!

There is a charge of £2 for each page photocopied, £6 to photograph a single page, or £12 for a day pass to take multiple photographs. It is useful to bear in mind that archive references for Lancashire wills can be found on Find My Past and this helps staff find the documents you want.

Ian Cooper for the Southport Group (9661)

Your Journal Needs You!

Please send us your articles, pictures, help requests, website reviews etc. Our journal depends on your contributions, if we are to maintain the high standards we have all enjoyed for so many years.

DEADLINES

The cut-off dates for material to reach the editor, for potential inclusion in the next issue are:



MARCH	Jan 25th
JUNE	Apr 25th
SEPTEMBER	July 25th
DECEMBER	Oct 25th

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Liverpool & S W Lancashire FHS Help Desks

Liverpool Group

The Liverpool Group have volunteers who hold weekly help desks each Tuesday between 1pm and 3.30pm at Liverpool Central Library, 3rd floor, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW

Southport

- **Crosby Library**—1st and 3rd Fridays 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
bookable only
- **Maghull Library**—Thursday morning depending on availability –
phone to book

Leigh

Help Desk at Archives: Wigan & Leigh, Town Hall, Leigh -
Tuesday to Thursday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm by appointment.
Contact the Archives Search Room at 01942 404430 or alternatively
complete the query form by email at archives@wigan.gov.uk

Warrington

Warrington Library, Museum Street, Warrington
Family History Help Desk held between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon
Saturdays—22 February, 22 March, 26 April, 24 May and 21 June

For further details please contact:
email: warrington@lswlfhs.org.uk

Website: www.lswlfhs.org.uk

News from the Groups

Leigh & District Group

Chairman: Margery Harrop

Secretary: Glenys McClellan

Meetings are held at Leigh Town Hall at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month except for July/August and December. Our Meetings usually have a family history related speaker.

18 Mar	'Theodore Major, Walking on Fire' A long forgotten Master of 20C Art	Michael Howard
15 Apr	A Trip to the Zoo—Belle Vue	Louise Wade
20 May	Angel Meadow—An Infamous Manchester Slum Joe O'Neill	
17 Jun	Leigh in 1940s and 1950s—War then Austerity Michael Caine	

Liverpool Group

Chairman: Susan Atkins

Secretary: Joyce Culling

The Group meets on the 4th Floor, Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW, on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Doors open 5:30pm for 5.45pm start and meetings finish no later than 7:45pm. £1 for refreshments.

11 Mar	Brothel Keeper	Susan Busted
08 Apr	Growing up in Liverpool 1960s & 70s	Bob Dunn
14 May	Members Evening—Summer Holidays?	
10 Jun	West Lancs Famous and Infamous	Dot Broady-Hawkes

Skelmersdale & Upholland

Chairman: Bill Fairclough

Secretary: Caroline Fairclough

The Group meets at Upholland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Upholland, WN8 0NR at 7:00pm for 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month - unless stated otherwise.

04 Mar	Kirkdale Industrial School	Ian Mooney
01 Apr	Joyce Grenfell	Jean Finney
06 May	My Family History	Paul Heywood
03 Jun	Tawd Valley Mining Disaster	Mark Boardman

Southport Group

Chair: Shelagh Boardman

Secretary: Ian Cooper

Meetings are held at the Station Master's House between Birkdale Station and the station car park, PR8 4AR on the second Friday of each month (except August). Meetings at 7pm for 7.15pm start. The building is fully accessible with a permanent ramp to the front door and there is a lift for anyone who needs it.

14 Mar	The merits and frustrations of online sources of information	
11 Apr	Finding Louisa—Shelagh's story of breaking down a brick wall and discovering the story of her Great, Great Grandmother's life	Shelagh Boardman
09 May	A group session where we bring along our memorabilia & tell the story behind it	
13 June	Agricultural Labourer's	Ian Cooper

Warrington Group

Chairman: Peter Jolliffe

Secretary: Vacant

Warrington Family History Group have a new venue at **Meeting Lane Community Centre**, Meeting Lane, Penketh, Warrington WA5 2QX. Meetings are on the 4th Monday of each month starting at 7pm.

Dates for 2025 are as follows:

24 Feb	On the trail of Great Uncle Harry	Louise Wade
24 Mar	Warrington Transporter Bridge	Margaret Ingham
28 Apr	T.B.A	
26 May	Night soil men	Phil Jeffs
23 Jun	Traditions of Death & Burial	Dr Helen Frisby (Zoom)
28 Jul	Back to basics- Census returns	Peter Jolliffe
25 Aug	Liverpool Carter	Margaret Clare (Zoom)
22 Sep	Final Journey	Nicolas Wheatley
27 Oct	A house through time	Peter Jolliffe
24 Nov	Member's evening	
No meeting in December		

Widnes Group

Chairman: Claire Houlton

Secretary: Gill Scutt

Meetings are held at St John Fisher Church Hall, Moorfield Road, Widnes, WA8 3JA on the last Wednesday of the month—except December. Meetings start at 7:00pm and finish by 9:00pm.

26 Feb	Members Research
26 Mar	TBA
30 Apr	TBA

Officers of the Society

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Email: chair@lswlfhs.org.uk

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Ailsa Craig, Russet Road, Weaverham, Northwich, CW8
3HY Email: certificates@lswlfhs.org.uk

Plus one representative elected by each Group of the Society.



The **Steble Fountain** stands in William Brown Street, Liverpool, England, to the west of Wellington's Column. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building.

In 1877 Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Fell Steble offered £1000 (equivalent to £120,000 as of 2023) to the Improvement Committee of Liverpool City Council towards the erection of a fountain on the site. Steble had been Mayor of Liverpool from 1845 to 1847. The fountain was designed by Michel Joseph Napoléon Liénard and was unveiled in 1879. At the opening ceremony in 1879 the mayor turned the fountain on with a silver key presented by Steble, but the water pressure was low and the effect was "dismal".

The water was pumped by a steam pump in the basement of St George's Hall, and the noise from this tended to disrupt the proceedings in the courts above. The steam pump was later replaced by an electric pump. The fountain was restored in 1992 when the Tall Ships' Race came to Liverpool. For much of the 2010s and 2020s, the fountain has needed repair and has not functioned. The total height of the fountain is 23 feet (7.0 m).

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The Pilotage Building, Canning Island

The dock was originally the site of the Gut, the entrance to the Dry Dock which was later to become Canning Dock. Canning Half Tide Dock was built by Jesse Hartley between 1842 and 1844, also opening in 1844.

Originally having two 45 ft (14 m) lock entrances to the Mersey, the north gates were sealed with a concrete dam in 1937. The south gates are modified to accommodate a valve to admit river water. To the outside of the river entrances are two granite octagonal gatemen's shelters, also designed by Hartley. An island built of masonry, which has its own lighthouse, separates the river entrances.

Adjacent to the dock is the Pilotage Building, which opened in 1883 to manage the river's pilot boats. The building was converted in 1980 by the Building Design Partnership for use as a museum. Both this building and the dock itself are now part of Merseyside Maritime Museum.

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