

# The Victorian Society: Liverpool Group Newsletter

## JANUARY 2016

The Society for the study and protection of Victorian and Edwardian architecture and allied arts.

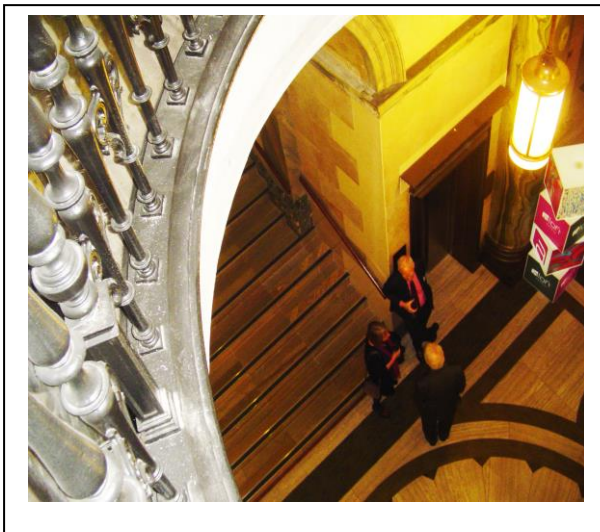
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### *Chairman's Review*

The 'Autumn Statement' attracted much time and attention towards the end of last year. Mr Osborne's financial arrangements seemed quite widely welcomed; perhaps it's best to wait and see what effects it has on conservation issues and the built environment: in Liverpool, Lime Street and its development is an obvious case in point. That said, the Golden Jubilee year for the Liverpool Group has been a busy and successful time, and whatever else the future holds, we would hope to be a presence in it for the foreseeable future.

Much time, thought and (almost) tears went into the organisation of the Jubilee Dinner at Aloft on 10th November, and many thanks to Diana Goodier, arranger-in-chief, Guy Snaith and Mark Sargent for all their hard work. The venue proved an inspired choice as, except for the magnificent chandeliers, the former Board Room of the Royal Insurance Company had been restored to its Edwardian splendour, and gave the event a great sense of occasion. Sixty-seven guests enjoyed good food and service, excellent company from far and wide (London, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, North Wales; we were honoured that so many chose to come so far on an autumn evening) and a fascinating talk from our guest speaker Andrew Saint.



Tony Murphy, Hilary Grainger and Andrew Saint

The talk concentrated on Norman Shaw's work in Liverpool, not only the great commercial buildings of Castle Street and Water Street but also on the sad 'litany of loss' of vanished houses built for merchant princes; he touched on the relationship between Shaw and J. Francis Doyle, and the extent to which the Royal Insurance building was directly influenced by the senior man; he considered Shaw's role in the competition for Liverpool Cathedral and his relationship with Bodley; and, new to most of us, he went into some detail about the work of Waring and Gillow in the furnishing of houses, offices and ocean liners, and gave some fascinating insights into the relationship between architect and interior designer. He also looked briefly at the interaction between architect and client, in part with Thomas Ismay at Dawpool and also, with some interesting correspondence, his dealings with Mrs Hannah Johnston Foster about the building of All Saints church at Richards Castle in Herefordshire between 1889-1893 – a most interesting building whose tower, viewed from the East, has a surprising resemblance to the tower of Liverpool Cathedral.

There was much to think about, and we are very grateful to Andrew for his part in making the occasion so memorable. Thanks, also, to Hilary Grainger, the National President, who also made the journey from London and, staying overnight, at Aloft, was able to evaluate the hotel conversion at first hand. On the night, we also benefitted from the expertise of Mark Watson who brought his electronic equipment across from Manchester and ensured that all went well technically. All very much appreciated.

Our summer excursions, to Wrexham, to Woolton and to Bournville were also enjoyable occasions. The first two, on the whole, were blessed by fine weather; Terry Edgar and Keith Truman have more to say about their visit to Bournville, but it did involve surviving a Midlands monsoon!

Nick Roe and his excellent team of supporters gave us a varied and interesting, and sometimes surprising day in the Capital of North Wales on 30<sup>th</sup> June, enabling us to appreciate not only its Victorian (and Georgian) heritage, but also the way in which the town has adapted to new needs, civic, retail and academic. It was quite an eye-opener for most of the party.

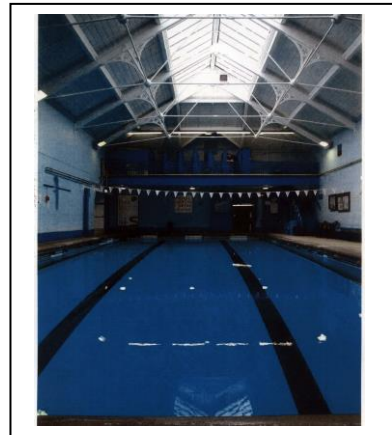
Particular highlights include the Museum, an extremely subtle conversion of a Victorian school building; the Catholic cathedral, Our Lady of Sorrows, designed as a parish church (E.W.Pugin, 1857) and becoming a cathedral in 1907, with some fine Hardman glass and, in recent times, a sympathetic re-ordering and the return of Victorian features, especially the font; our guide and speaker was the Bishop himself, the Rt. Rev. Peter Brignall; the Parish Church, St Giles, one of the 'Seven Wonders of Wales', an outstanding late Perpendicular building, very sympathetically restored (Benjamin Ferrey, 1866-1867) and including some good work by Sir Thomas Jackson in the chancel and some fine glass, principally by Clayton and Bell and by Kempe. The Church in Wales gave us an excellent tea. But Mammon was not to be excluded; another surprise was the townscape of High Street and Church Street with splendid buildings – the former Martins Bank (Grayson and Ould, 1906-1907), the Trustee Savings Bank (J.H.Swainson of Wrexham, 1896-1899) and, to quote Edward Hubbard, 'best of all is the Sun Alliance, a balustraded ashlar palazzo of three storeys and five bays'(R.K.Penson, 1860-1861). The tower of St Giles is not alone in grandeur in Wrexham.

If Wrexham was a surprise, Woolton on 22<sup>nd</sup> July was, for most people, a revelation. As someone said, 'I thought I knew my own city, but I hadn't ever imagined something like this' – it was really a case of seeing the familiar, a residential suburb usually viewed in passing from the main roads on the way to other destinations, from a series of different angles, architectural, historical and social, and

getting some sense of its individuality. The view across the village from St Mary's (R.C.) churchyard could be of a Pennine mill town; ten minutes away, on the narrow sandstone ridge between the two great quarries from which Liverpool Cathedral was born, you can look out across two estuaries to Wales; from the garden of Bishop's Lodge (originally 'Baycliff' – Henry A. Bradley, 1869-1871) there is a vista across South Lancashire, to where the coal mines once crowded and the first railway ran and Victorian England became the 'Northern Powerhouse' of the world.....much of this was very unexpected and, with some fine buildings, made for a rewarding afternoon.

We visited St James (U.R.C.)(1866); St Mary's (R.C.)(R.W.Hughes of Preston, 1860) with cloister and house (E,W,Pugin, 1864) and lunched in the Parish Hall, the upper floor of the former school (1869); St Peter's (CofE)(Grayson and Ould, 1885-1887) with a trip up the tower and 'Eleanor Rigby' in the churchyard; Woolton Baths (Horton and Bridgeford of Manchester, 1898) – a very worthwhile conservation project by a committed group of local people.

Our walk took in exterior views of some good High Victorian houses, Reynolds Park, a public park on the site of a vanished house, and concluded with a visit to the gardens of Bishop's Lodge where we were greeted by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes, and his gardener. So it really was the Year of Two Bishops for the Liverpool Victorians, and, once again, we are very grateful for the wonderful help and hospitality received....and for the fine weather. On a bad day, the footpath across the quarry, 'the narrow ledge of rock, some five feet wide, with a sheer drop of at least 75 feet on each side', even with its retaining walls, is a bleak prospect.



Woolton Baths, interior

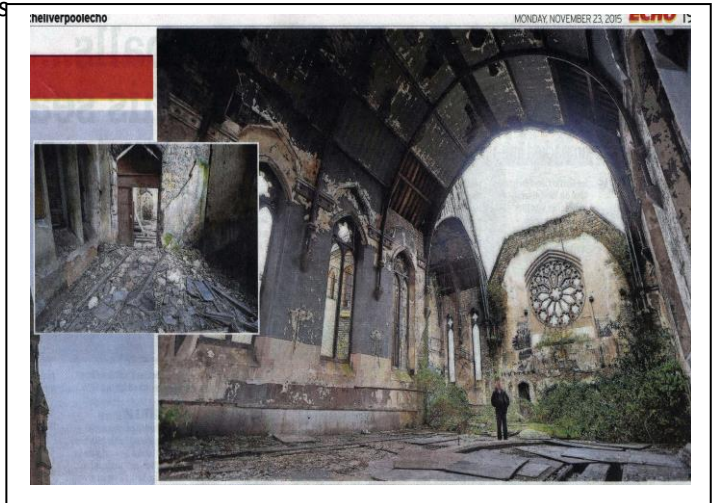
That may not be the case for some of the area's threatened Victorian buildings. There has been a lot of interest in what's happening on Lime Street (see the latest issue of 'The Victorian') and the 'Liverpool Echo' campaign 'STOP the ROT' has featured many significant items; in fact, nearly all of the '25 Gems' listed in Paddy Shennan's article of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 are Victorian, though not all are noted in current casework. In subsequent weeks there have been some telling pieces about specific sites: a £300,000 grant has gone towards the reconstruction of the Catacombs at Anfield Cemetery, part of a site of 'outstanding architectural and historic interest' which has, in the 'Friends of Anfield, strong local advocacy; the Merseyside Deaf Centre (E.H.Banner,1887), more recently the Ibo Social Centre, on Park Way in Toxteth, described by Pevsner in 1969 as 'like a Waterhouse Congregational Church' is undergoing emergency repairs with a view to a future as an African Cultural Centre;





just down Princes Road, the Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, perhaps better known as 'the Cathedral of Toxteth' and a crucial element in the townscape – its 200 ft steeple was the tallest structure in Liverpool when it opened in 1868 and is still a landmark when seen from the river – is now owned by the Merseyside Buildings Preservation Trust (MBPT) who are putting in a bid for £4.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the building, the Audsleys' masterwork, and to find a different role for it as a centre of new creative industries

Another local charity, Lister Steps, has used £100,000, given by the City Council, to make the library in Lister Drive (Thomas Shelmerdine, 1904-1905) safer, with a view to the renovation of the whole building and its re-use as a centre for affordable childcare. All these are hopeful signs and offer fresh opportunities for interest and support from our own society. There is much more detail and further information available on the websites of the organisations concerned.



There is national interest as well. SAVE's most recent newsletter has a detailed account of their campaign to save the Welsh Streets, which includes new information about the architect, Richard Owens. Research by their expert witness, Gareth Carr, who has recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on Owens, has established that the houses are 20 years older than was originally thought and were part of a larger estate, one of several laid out at a time of great expansion for the city, and 'pivotal to the

# Gareth's key role saving the streets

**A**n academic who has spent almost a decade studying the legacy left by a Welsh architect on Liverpool's landscape is playing a key role in a campaign to prevent hundreds of historic homes from being demolished in the city.

The High Court is set to make a final ruling on whether Liverpool's Welsh Streets, built in the 19th century by architect Richard Owens, can be demolished to make way for redevelopment.

Gareth Carr, from Glyndŵr University's Built Environment School, is supporting the quest to preserve what he describes as a "major contribution" which the Welsh have made to the development of Liverpool.

He was called upon by Save Britain's Heritage – which is fighting to keep the Toxteth estates where Ringo Starr spent part of his childhood – to give evidence at a public inquiry into the issue.

This was set up following the former Secretary of State for Communities Eric Pickles' decision to overturn a Planning Inspectorate order that the homes be knocked down.

Liverpool council and developer Plus Dane are pressing for the new development to proceed, rather than converting and modernising all the existing houses.

Gareth, a lecturer at Glyndŵr and a registered architect, has recently submitted his PhD thesis entitled *The Speculative Housing of Richard Owens 1863-1891*.



● Voelas St, one of the Welsh Streets built by Richard Owens, top left, and whose future is scrutinised by experts such as Gareth Carr, top right, of Glyndŵr's Built Environment School  
Richard Owens pic: National Library of Wales/John Thomas (1838-1905) Collection. Voelas St pic: Liverpool Record Office

He said: "There's no doubt that Richard Owens was a major player in the development of Liverpool in the 19th century.

"The development of these streets was a sophisticated exercise in laying out workers housing and they are of great historic value in telling the story of the urban development of the city.

"Richard Owen's achievements were remarkable. Originally from

Caernarfonshire, he arrived in 1850s Liverpool with just his set of joiner's tools but through evening study at Liverpool Mechanics Institute had, by 1862 established his own architectural practice in the Everton district.

"By 1891 he'd set out more land in Liverpool than any other architect of that period and was the Victorian equivalent of a modern-day millionaire by the time he died

in 1891, such was his success.

"The Secretary of State has recognised the importance of the Welsh Streets in the context of the historic development of Liverpool and it would be a great loss to the heritage of the city if the streets were now demolished."

The existing streets feature names such as Rhiwlas and Madryn, reminders of the long Welsh association with Liverpool.

The battle continues; however, the attention created by the award of the Turner Prize to the 'Four Streets' in Granby will help to keep attention focussed on this significant area of Liverpool. Charles Clover, in the 'Sunday Times' on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015, devoted his whole article to the project and concludes "by shortlisting Assemble, the Tate has confirmed the enduring value of the Granby streets..... but for Liverpool Council the penny has still to drop". Let's hope that it does now.

Over the water, the most recent news about the important Andrew Gibson House is not so good. At the time of writing it is not clear what its future will be, despite the efforts of SAVE, the 'Liverpool Echo' and various other interested parties. Better news, though, from further up the hill, on Manor Hill to be precise, where St Anselm's College Heritage and Historical Research Society has been carrying out an ambitious project into the history of Outwood House, the building where the school was originally established, and into the families who had previously lived there. The house, 'Italianate, with handsome entrance gates and interior with top-lit entrance hall' is of the early 1860's, and, despite the alterations inevitable as part of a busy school, a surprising amount of original décor and internal organisation survives. It was open, very successfully, as part of this autumn's Wirral Heritage Week, and the project in itself, with the involvement of enthusiastic young people, is exactly what the Society needs to encourage, perhaps by organising a visit in the fairly near future, and connecting with Heap's Mill, owned by the family who occupied Outwood for three generations, and still standing in the regenerated Baltic Triangle in Liverpool.



Our autumn lecture programme had a strong local direction. Susie Harries, the author of the acclaimed biography of Nikolaus Pevsner, spoke to us about 'Pevsner in Liverpool' and overcame some local technical gremlins to give us a full and fascinating picture of the man, his methods and his assistants and his views on the city's architectural triumphs and tragedies. One wonders what he might say today. We are most grateful to Susie, who came from London on a very dull and wet day,



not at all conducive to exploration; at least she managed to see the North Western Hotel and its clever roof-top link to Lime Street Station.

Martin Strauss's talk on 'Waterhouse and Liverpool' was an excellent follow-up. A local historian whose own particular interest in the architect, a local man himself to begin with, was sparked by his involvement at the University's Victoria Building, now its Art Gallery and Museum. Martin gave us a detailed and comprehensive picture of his work in and around the city; as with Norman Shaw, his houses are more a sad tale of loss rather than survival, but the public and commercial legacy is an outstanding one and we hope to follow up Martin's stimulating introduction with at least one 'Waterhouse Walk', perhaps in the 2017 summer programme. Real enthusiasts may wish to investigate whether it is still possible to spend a chilling night in the Royal Liverpool Seaman's Orphan Institution on Orphan Drive in Newsham Park and so undergo a real 'Gothic revival'!

The final speaker, most appropriately in this bicentenary year of the battle was Brenda Murray B.E.M. on the 'The buildings of Waterloo'. Brenda has become a regional, perhaps even a national, notable for her work promoting Seaforth and its Gladstone links. Waterloo, where she lived for many years, is as close to her heart, and she gave us a very personal and intimate look at the history and architecture of a Victorian seaside suburb, including the house on Marine Terrace where she lived for over twenty years. It was 'created' by Alfred Keizer, a Belgian merchant specializing in decorated glass, who bought the house in 1902 and had it decorated throughout using Charles Rennie Mackintosh ideas. There's more about it in Brenda's booklet '200 Years in Waterloo', which, at only £3.00 is a very good buy: all you need for a self-guided tour of the area, as well as an interesting history of a place which has recently made the 'Sunday Times' list of unusual and intriguing places to be. A cautionary note, however: Christ Church, Waterloo, the outstanding Paley and Austin church which Brenda and others did so much to save, is the subject of an urgent appeal by the Churches Conservation Trust. The "harsh salt winds" off the Irish Sea have caused considerable damage to the stonework and the Trust is appealing for £62,785 to complete the funds needed for remedial work.

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Midweek Visitter

# Historic church is on at risk register

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**A**HISTORIC Merseyside church has officially been declared "at risk" by conservation experts.

Old Christ Church in Waterloo is also known as the Mariners' Church as it has been a landmark for sailors entering the Mersey Estuary for over a century.

But the salty sea air and wind has taken its toll on the majestic pink sandstone tower and the church has now become structurally unsafe.

As a result, the Grade II listed church has been added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk register, and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) has launched a nationwide public appeal to save the landmark.

The 19th century church in Waterloo Road has been in the care of the CCT since 1998.

Since that time, the organisation has been working with The Friends of Old Christ Church to breathe new life into the building, which is now used as a venue for regular events, fairs, festivals and markets, including the Waterloo Beer Festival.

Urgent repairs to the church are scheduled to cost £331,000, of which £268,215 has already been raised.

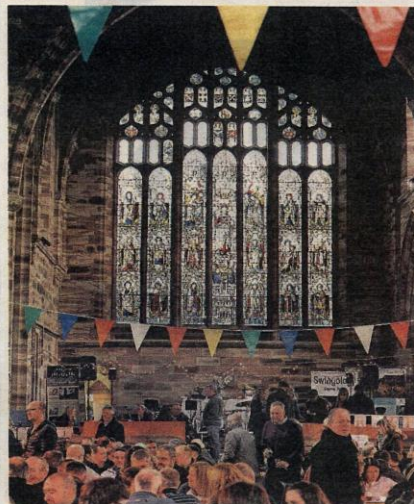
Crispin Truman, chief executive of the CCT, said: "The Heritage At Risk register identifies buildings in danger of being lost for ever, so the fact that Old Christ Church has now been added is a major cause for concern."

"The church has been at the heart of the community for hundreds of years and since it came into our care in 1998 it has become a popular local venue for events."

"However, all that will have to stop if we can't find the money to conduct these urgent repairs. We hope that with the help of the public we will be able to raise the final £62,785 we need to ensure this church can retain its positive role at the heart of local life."

The famous architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, regarded Old Christ Church as one of the finest churches by celebrated Lancashire architects Paley, Austin and Paley. It is also home to impressive stained glass by Shrigley and Hunt.

The Friends of Old Christ Church are a group of volunteers who work with and assist the CCT in the care and preservation of the church.



● The Waterloo Beer Festival at Old Christ Church

It's a long time since we had a look at Waterloo, Crosby and district, so there is another possibility for a future excursion. Those currently planned for 2016 include a visit, by train, to Sheffield in April, to look at the Victorian and Edwardian core of the city centre, to see its famous Ruskin collection in the Millennium Galleries, and to contrast the 'Steel City', as it once was, with the great north-western metropolitan areas. In May we hope to have a look at Vauxhall, including the Clarence Warehouses – "the last large-scale remnant of a distinctive Liverpool landscape" according to Richard Pollard's 2006 Pevsner, E.W. Pugin's church of Our Lady, Eldon Street, the early twentieth century housing in Eldon Grove and other highlights in the area. In June there will be a coach excursion to Salford, organised by Annette Butler, with access to a whole range of interesting buildings including a Real Tennis court and, like Annette's excursion to Eccles, many unexpected delights.

We begin 2016 with the Annual Business Meeting, once again at Ullet Road Unitarian Church Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.15pm. The guest speaker is Cathy Clark of English Heritage on 'Victorian Bandstands'; her talk to the Manchester AGM last year was outstandingly good and we can expect an informative and entertaining afternoon.

For those who can make it, the Manchester Group's AGM is on the following Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, from 1.45 to 4.30pm, at the YHA Potato Wharf, which is close to the Museum of Science and Industry on Liverpool Road. The Speaker is Joe O'Donnell, the Victorian Society's Media Officer, on the subject of 'Social Media for the New Victorians' and it might be both helpful and illuminating to hear what he has to say and how the Society might develop in the near future.

We have an interesting Spring lecture programme. All the talks will be at the usual place, the Quaker Meeting House in School Lane, and at the usual time and cost, but the speakers are new to us

20<sup>th</sup> February – a speaker from Ainsley Gommon, a Wirral-based architectural practice, will discuss local conservation projects.

5<sup>th</sup> March – Steve Mackay, a local historian, will explore the building and history of Liverpool's famous Sailors' Home, showing and telling us about new discoveries.

19<sup>th</sup> March – Steve Smith, a New Brighton based author, will tell us about James Lord Bowes, merchant and Japanese Consul to Liverpool and the founder of a very remarkable museum. It is a fascinating story and Mr Smith's book on the subject, published by the Liverpool History Press in 2013 is truly revelatory.

In addition to our own programme there are two very interesting local exhibitions during the next few months.

The Walker Art Gallery hosts 'Pre-Raphaelites: Beauty and Rebellion' from 12<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> June, an investigation into the thriving art scene in Northern England, at the time as much a "powerhouse" as London. There is also a display of sixteen garments from the well-known collection of our own long-established member, Peter Farrer, relating to cross-dressing. Many will recall his interesting talk on the subject some years ago.

In Southport, the Atkinson also has two rewarding new displays: a major exhibition 'Victorian Dreamers', drawn from the gallery's own collection of Victorian Art, which runs from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> November, and 'Lord Street – Past, Present and Future', in effect a celebration of Victorian townscape achievement, which runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> July. We may be able to organise a guided visit to the Atkinson; more of that at one of the meetings, but do make sure you see these shows, and, of course, tell your friends.

There will be news and information about our summer and autumn programme in the next newsletter. In May we will be having a walk round Vauxhall and in June Annette is organising a trip to Salford. The price includes travel, donation to Working Peoples' Library, morning refreshments, donation to Salford Lads' Club. We will visit the above library, quick look at Salford University building with Lowry associations, nearby Cathedral, Salford Lads' Club (made famous by a Smiths' album cover) also adjoining area of 'model housing' now run by a housing co-operative and Manchester Rackets (& Real Tennis) Club in Salford (with intriguingly, one of the very few real tennis courts in the country). The day's theme will be largely Henry Lord, local architect of several of the buildings visited. If time, visit to an "at risk" swimming pool. Packed lunch strongly advised. If weather is fine we could eat outside and it may be possible to purchase lunch indoors.

Thanks to everybody for their interest and support and best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year and, if you want to find a less visited but remarkable church to look into, why not try St Clement's in Beaumont Street in Toxteth, which is easily accessible from Lodge Lane or Upper Parliament Street. Built 1840-1841, the work of Arthur Yates and George Williams, and described by Pollard as "a rare survival of an all but complete pre-Ecclesiological Victorian church, by luck or by design little harmed since Pevsner called for it to be safeguarded". The nine years since that was written have seen little change; it remains a remarkable survival and the committed group of people who keep it so, deserve our interest and support. They never allowed 'the rot' to begin. Let us help to keep things that way; after all, as William Morris said "these old buildings do not belong to us only: they belonged to our forefathers and will belong to our descendants unless we play them false. They are not in any sense our property, to do as we like with them. We are only trustees for those who come after us."







Andrew Richardson brings to our attention the Fire Bobbies memorial in Toxteth Park cemetery.

See his description below.

#### Fire Bobbies

We'd heard about my Stepson, Chris's, new girlfriend whom he'd met "on line", as so many people seem to do nowadays, and I was anxious to put a face to a name. He works in Croydon but now lives in lovely Bromley amongst the friendly folk of Kent, my wife, Sylvia, and I making a special trip to meet the girl, Clair, and her extremely affluent father who lives in a huge mansion with an arboretum, stream and a heated garage full of classic cars.

We soon found Clair to be a very jolly person and so was her Dad. She's a fire fighter, the only female at the local fire station, one old lady once asking her if she was a real fireman or does she just make the tea! Dad, though, also works for the Fire Service as some sort of high-powered boss over the whole of London.

During our conversations I frequently referred to them as "fire bobbies", a term unknown to Clair and her Dad. I knew that Sir Robert Peel established the Police force, hence the nick-name "Bobbies" and that the Police and Fire Brigade were once a single entity.

Always eager for a bit of researching, I checked the Internet, finding the interesting website of Sarsfield Memorials and the Police Monument and Fire Brigade Memorial in Toxteth Park Cemetery. It's on this website that the men are referred to as "Fire Bobbies" the two bodies one until 1939 when they split.

The monument, erected in 1863 and near to the rear gate of the cemetery, pays homage to many good Victorians who gave their lives fighting fires in densely-packed houses and warehouses full of combustible goods. The grey stone monument, costing around £120, was paid for by public and police force subscription and was designed by a Mr. Beard, the manager of the cemetery.

The first name to be recorded was Inspector John Commelin who left a widow and young family when a wall fell on him inside a blazing hemp and rope-making factory in 1861. Although three sides of the monument are covered in names, the most recent one is that of 40 year-old Sergeant Robert Kewin who died in Hanover Street on 15th. March 1921. He was interred in the Isle of Man. The memorial was restored and re-dedicated by Tony McGuirk, Chief Fire Officer of Merseyside in 2003.

Also I'd heard mention of "Icky the Fire Bobby" who, I think, was a cartoon character long before my time, although, after having asked various people, none could enlighten me. Amazon, though, advertise for sale tales of "Icky the Fire Bobby" to be read on Kindle electronic books.

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St Matthew and St James, the parish church of Mossley Hill, was consecrated in 1875. Scarcely a quarter of a century later, it was felt that the relentless march of building southward out of Liverpool city centre was such as to necessitate a new parish to accommodate the number of people now living in the newly built terraced houses off Smithdown Road. St Barnabas' Parish Church was thus conceived as a chapel-of-ease to Mossley Hill Parish Church. It would serve the people on 'the plain' while St Matthew and St James would cater to those on 'the hill'. Initially an iron church building on Smithdown Road was purchased and dedicated to St Barnabas on 29 June 1900. In 1911 the Bishops of Liverpool and Carlisle, the latter having been the first vicar of Mossley Hill, launched a scheme to build a permanent church. A triangular piece of land at the entrance to the grounds of Elm Hall at the junction of Allerton Road and Penny Lane was purchased, Bishop Chavassee commenting: 'I am sure you will not put up a mean church. The site is a commanding site and demands a stately church'.

Local architect James Francis Doyle was appointed. Doyle had already designed several churches including St Luke's Walton and St Nicholas' Wallasey. His services had also been engaged to modify or extend existing ancient church buildings such as All Saints' Childwall or St Mary's and St Helen's Neston. In the commercial field he had worked with Richard Norman Shaw on the White Star Line headquarters on the Strand and won the competition for the head office building of the Royal Insurance Company in North John Street. Domestically, he had also worked with Shaw on Dawpool, the home of Thomas Ismay, chairman of the White Star Line, at Thurstaston. His best remaining house is the typically Shavian villa Gledhill, looking out over Sefton Park.

The foundation stone of St Barnabas' Parish Church was laid on St Barnabas' Day, 11 June 1912 and the church consecrated on 21 February 1914. Although Doyle had died in 1913 and thus did not live to see his church completed, he had nevertheless delivered the 'stately church' Bishop Chavassee had envisaged.

In researching the history of the church for its centenary, a curious reference was found in the souvenir booklet of 1914. Mention was made of a glass jar having been deposited underneath the Foundation Stone in 1912. During the course of 102 years, the memory of the glass jar had been lost. On 11 April 2014, as plaster and bricks were removed from beneath the Foundation Stone, the sand the jar had been buried in streamed out. In the glass jar were found rolled up the order of service, stamps and coins, architectural elevations of the proposed building, leaflets pertaining to what we would call 'fundraising' for the building of the church, and newspapers including the *Echo* and the *Daily Post*. The jar's contents being viewed for the first time in a century, an immediate connection was made to St Barnabas' Day in 1912 and the full flavour of the world before the First World War came spilling out.

It is a world where Liverpool's newspapers are full of the arrivals and departures of ships. Under 'Movements of Liners', the lines Cunard, White Star, Allan, Leyland, Dominion, Canadian Pacific, Lamport and Holt, and others all vie with each other to cross the Atlantic. The Lusitania is reported to have been 96 miles west of the Fastnet at 4 pm on 9 June as it steams from Liverpool to New York; the Mauretania will sail on the 22nd for New York. White Star's Olympic, 'Largest Steamer in the World' since the sinking of its sister ship the Titanic two months earlier, sails from Southampton to New York on 26 June. On the other hand, emigrants might be attracted by a £17

passage to Australia. So soon after the loss of the Titanic, 11 June marks the twentieth session of the inquiry into the disaster. White Star has offered to compensate Cunard for the losses and expenses incurred by the Carpathia having to turn back to New York, which Cunard graciously refuses as well as renouncing its salvage rights.

It is a world where whole newspaper columns are entitled 'House Servants Wanted', and 'Servants Wanting Places', where at the Picton Hall such servants in their time off could watch the Kinematograph showing 'With Our King and Queen through India' or pop up to the Olympia where 'the sliding roof of this theatre keeps it delightfully cool and refreshing' while you watch that 'sensation of the world: the diving Norins'. The second Test match between England and South Africa has seen 'the Colonials' sensational collapse' while, in football, half-backs are the news as Harrop leaves Liverpool for Aston Villa and Jack McCulloch comes down from Scotland to join Everton.

Reports from the races at Longchamps and Auteuil detail the latest Paris fashions: 'Today no colour but purple is seen on any chic head' and 'for supreme elegance nothing beats the large hat [which] frames so discreetly and aristocratically all faces, that it deserves the first place in all outdoor gatherings.' In their 'Paris Letter' the *Liverpool Courier* extols the advantages of shantung for summer heat and enthuses: 'Another charming garment which this season has brought us is the taffeta coatee'. And women are exhorted: 'Ladies! Today is your last opportunity to secure the best Handkerchief Bargains the Bon Marché has ever offered'. Such ladies can now lunch in the Louis XVI restaurant at the new Midland Adelphi Hotel to the tune of the Adelphi orchestra. Afternoon teas can be had on the terrace.

But all is not totally rosy in what is often seen as that long Edwardian summer in contrast to what was to come. Transport workers are threatening a National Strike. The question of Home Rule for Ireland is hotly debated, while there is further 'commotion in the Irish capital' as Messrs Jacob, 'the well-known biscuit makers' have acquired land at Aintree for a new factory, thus threatening the closure of their Dublin factory with the possible loss of 3,000 jobs. In an article entitled 'Suffragettes Give In. Promise to Behave', Keir Hardie asks the Home Secretary whether he has come to any conclusion on 'the matter of treating Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst and her fellow prisoners as first-class misdemeanants'. Divorce is still considered scandalous to the extent that, in Manchester, Bishop Welldon complains about the invitation to Mr Thomas Beecham to conduct a concert with the Hallé orchestra on the grounds that he 'has had the misfortune to appear in a divorce court'. And Mr Churchill orders the construction of three new battleships, to be delivered two years later in March 1914. One assumes that they had been delivered by St Barnabas' Day 1914, by then only six weeks before war was declared.

An advertisement in the *Echo* for Phosferine, 'the greatest of all tonics' proclaims that it is 'supplied by Royal Commands' to the Royal Family, H.I.M. The Empress of Russia, H.M. the King of Spain, H.M. the King of Greece, H.M. the Queen of Romania, H.M. the Queen of Spain, H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia, H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia, H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Hesse, the Imperial Family of China and 'the principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the world'. Just how many of them would survive the conflagration which was to come? We are told that the Czar and Czarina of Russia are looking forward to the celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the



Romanov dynasty in 1913. With the benefit of hindsight we witness a doomed world drifting towards disaster.

Nevertheless, rather than a world very different from our own, the contents of that jar deposited under the foundation stone of St Barnabas' Parish Church on 11 June 1912 show us a world and people very similar to ourselves. 103 years later, on St Barnabas' Day 2015 the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool laid a new time capsule under the same foundation stone. What will the hindsight of a future generation see in the papers that we deposited in our twenty-first century time capsule?

Guy Snaith



















