

Formby Civic News

Formby Civic Society
www.formbycivicsociety.org.uk



Altmouth Pumping Station

An update *from Des Brennan*



One of the four 87 inch diameter storm pump impellers (from the Mersey and Weaver River Authority's brochure celebrating the opening of the pumping station on 21st July, 1972.

There have been significant developments since the last Newsletter. On 13th June, colleagues and I met with the Project Team responsible for the refurbishment of the pumping station (PS) by the Environment Agency (EA), and there have been two subsequent meetings with our MP, Mrs. Claire Curtis-Thomas, in the lead, the first on 4th July with EA representatives at the pumping station, the second on 1st August with both EA and Scottish Power representatives at Mrs. Curtis-Thomas's residence.

When we met the EA's Project Team at their Warrington office, we had the advantage of having been able to study the extensive documentation disclosed to us as a result of our Freedom of Information Act enquiry. I was accompanied by Society Committee member Jack Gore and David Bisbrown-Lee, who is an hydrological engineer and, although not a member of the Society, very kindly has agreed to support us in an advisory role. We had earlier had the benefit of advice from Society member Alec MacDonald concerning pumping equipment. We were very well received by the Project Team and we were able to raise all the issues of concern to us.

We were very glad to be told that extensive remedial maintenance had been carried out at the PS in the last 18 months with the result that there are now two storm pumps able to function reliably over their full range of 5 cu. metre/sec to 20 cu. metre/sec pumping capacity.

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A Cold War Bunker in Formby by Jack Gore



The remains of Formby's Nuclear Observation Post

A while ago, I was out walking on the dunes at Ravenmeols and somebody said 'There's the wartime observation post.' I replied that what we were looking at were the remains of a much more recent structure, built in the 1960s as a fully equipped nuclear fallout shelter, ready for World War Three. How did I know this? Well, my interest goes back to 1961 when, as a schoolboy in Watford, I attended an Open Day at a newly built Royal Observer Corps Sector Operations Centre. I was fascinated by the place and its sinister purpose and still retain an interest in bunkers and underground sites.

The Royal Observer Corps (ROC) was first formed in 1925 to identify and monitor enemy aircraft. In 1955 they were given new responsibility for reporting nuclear bursts and monitoring radioactive fallout. 1,563 posts were created, reporting to 31 larger Operations Centres (our Centre was near Preston). Each post consisted of an underground room 15ft by 8ft, manned by three people. In the emergency period of an imminent conflict, they would descend the vertical ladder and lock themselves in, with enough food and water for just a few weeks.

When the Bomb dropped, the pressure wave would be measured on the dial of the Bomb Power Indicator; the fireball would burn a mark on sensitized paper in the Ground Zero Indicator (which was outside - unfor-

tunately one of them would have to go up and collect it) and the radioactivity levels in the air would be shown on the Fixed Survey Meter. These results would be telephoned to the Operations Centre where the explosions would be plotted, the likely damage from fallout predicted in conjunction with the meteorologists and the appropriate information given to the 'Authorities' or what was left of them. Incidentally, the term 'Ground Zero' originated back then, to describe the point, on the surface, immediately below a nuclear detonation - in practice these bombs are often exploded thousands of feet above the target.

The aircraft recognition role of the ROC was discontinued in 1962; the nuclear threat lessened and in 1968 the Corps was reduced from 25,000 to 12,500 personnel. Regular training and exercises took place through the 70s and 80s and finally, in 1991 the ROC ceased active training and the last posts were closed. Many have been bought by farmers or landowners and a small number have been preserved.

What of the Formby post? Well, it was built in 1962 next to a wartime observation platform which can also still be seen. Soon, however, erosion caused the structure to become vulnerable to potential bomb blast damage and, despite efforts to reinforce it, it was closed around 1966-68 and replaced by a new one built at Woodvale, on the aerodrome perimeter near the by-pass. That post remained operational until September 1991 when its surface structures were demolished. The Formby post is very dilapidated; although the entrance and ventilation

shafts are still there, the room itself is half-full of rubble.

It is chilling to contemplate what the likely scenario would have been. Experts predicted that the initial strike would have been from a very large weapon, probably in a low-level satellite about two to three hundred miles above the North Sea. There would be little physical damage but the resulting electromagnetic pulse would stop all electronic devices in the UK and most of Western Europe. Radios, watches, cars, communications, industry, power supplies, hospitals and essential services would be instantly crippled. Then the first salvo of missiles would disable all UK military sites, with a total estimated force of 80 megatons. This would be followed by 130 megatons distributed over population centres. Merseyside was one of the prime targets and one would envisage perhaps an air-burst at 5000 feet of a five to ten-megaton weapon.

Here in Formby the fireball ten thousand feet across would send a flash of heat and light sufficient to set fire to vegetation and cause blindness and severe skin burns to anyone in the way. Immediately, everything within three miles of Liverpool city centre would disappear. Curiously, the blast wave would take at least half a minute to reach here but then, travelling at several hundred miles an hour, it would flatten the already blazing pine-woods, and effectively demolish every building but the very strongest. In this area there would be almost complete fatalities and across the UK, twenty million would have perished within an hour, millions more each following day. Those left alive would have little chance of survival as rain and wind brought the effects of radioactive fallout to a devastated landscape.

The millions of tons of soot, dust, ash and pulverised cities released into the upper atmosphere would block the sun's rays and the earth's surface would cool, bringing on the so-called

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Planning Matters by Desmond Brennan

There is disappointing news to report concerning the Lifeboat Road Visitors Centre project. Readers of the previous *Newsletter* will recall that the Council had secured £380K from the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) for a childrens' Play Centre comprising a building linked to a play area. The Council has been endeavouring to integrate this initiative with the provision of a Visitors' Centre to provide facilities for visitors to the beach and the dunes.

The Council had applied to Mersey Waterfront for £344.5K and to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for £350K. Mersey Waterfront now say they have no money to offer, despite having earlier invited a bid for the project; however, the bid will remain on their list and presumably it will be reconsidered when new money becomes available in October (but that may well be too late to save the project). ERDF are not likely to support the project, although they have not completely ruled it out.

Recently, Council officers have sought to raise a significant proportion of the cost of a scaled back Discovery Centre, estimated at £414K, by diverting to the project the sum of £300K allocated in 2005/6 for skate parks in Formby, Netherton and Maghull, but Cabinet Member: Leisure and Tourism, at its meeting on 24th July, would not agree to such a reallocation of funds. A request for support from Cabinet Member: Childrens' Services was refused at its meeting on 5th August. Because the sum of £200K allocated by the BLF for the construction of the building to accompany the play centre is insufficient on its own for that purpose, there is a real danger that the entire BLF grant will have to be returned if additional funding cannot be found.

The democratic authority for the Council's planning policy concerning shutters on retail frontages, as set out in Sefton's Supplementary Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance Note, was reaffirmed when the Council's Planning Committee, at its

meeting on 23rd July, received the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director's report on the subject.

While accepting, as does the Society, that shutters are necessary for certain kinds of premises in particular locations, he explained that due regard needs to be paid to appearance and the way the street scene is experienced, in accordance with planning policy. The advisory document *Safer Places - The Planning System and Crime Prevention* published by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now the Department for Communities and Local Government) puts it clearly:

Many [security] measures may be installed without compromising the quality of the local environment. Crime prevention measures that adversely affect the way a place looks and feels can undermine the aim of safe and sustainable communities.

Which is why Local Planning Authorities throughout England and Wales

“There is disappointing news to report concerning the Lifeboat Road Visitors Centre project”

have policies relating to shutters on retail frontages which are very similar to those of Sefton (for more details, please see the previous *Newsletter*). The proprietor of *Uniformby*, 45 Piercefield Road, whose application for retrospective planning permission for external roller shutters was refused by the Council, has appealed the decision to The Planning Inspectorate.

In June, we complained to the Council about Shorrocks Hill Country Club's fly-posting on street furniture in Chapel Lane; it transpired they had fly-posted all over the borough. We asked the Council to respond in a

manner which would discourage the proprietors of Shorrocks Hill and others from repeating the offence.

The Council took immediate action to have the posters removed and warned the proprietors that they had committed an offence and that they would be in future charged with the cost of removal of such posters. The Planning Department's Enforcement Unit also took action.

That the first episode was not an aberration became evident only a little later when a second wave of fly-posting by Shorrocks Hill appeared throughout Sefton and beyond, and to which the Council responded firmly. There does not seem to have been any further attempt to flout the law in this way.

As usual, there is not space to mention more than a few of the planning applications concerning which we have made submissions to the Planning Department and The Planning Inspectorate (please see the Society's website for details). The most high-profile and significant case was the application by Firwood Timber and Building Supplies for a builders merchant on the land currently occupied by a derelict bungalow at 89 Altcar Road, opposite Tesco's garage at the junction of Altcar Road with the bypass. The Public Enquiry lasted for a full three days; the appeal has been dismissed. Both the appellant and the Council were represented by barristers; the appellant called as witnesses their planning consultant and their traffic engineering consultant, and the Council's witnesses were their officers responsible for landscaping and for planning, but they relied on an independent traffic engineering consultant rather than on an officer from their Technical Services Department. The first two days were taken up by the contributions of the principals and most of the morning of the third day was spent hearing contributions from third parties. Mr. Dave Sharrock (of Kellets Garage), Mr. Dave Almond (of

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Cold War Bunker. (continued from p2)

'nuclear winter' which would last for a number of years. And to think we came so close – the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 could so easily have triggered 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (another grim catchphrase of the period) had not the diplomatic skills of Kennedy and Khrushchev averted the unthinkable. As recently as 1995, a joint Norway/US research rocket launched from a remote Norwegian island caused a full scale alert in Moscow, with Boris Yeltsin ready to open the black briefcase containing the firing codes. He had eight minutes to decide whether to retaliate but, as the missile site commanders stood by in readiness, they saw on their radar that the rocket was falling harmlessly towards the sea and the threat was averted. We can all derive enormous comfort from the fact that the bunker at Formby was never used for the purpose for which it was designed.

I must mention an organisation called *Subterranea Britannica* www.subbrit.org.uk from whose very interesting website I have obtained much information.

Coastal Open Days, 20-22 June by Ray Derricott



Photo;
Tony
Bonney

This was a series of events to stimulate interest in the natural and environmental features of the coast and some of the crafts still maintained by local people. Visitors were encouraged to try woodcarving, willow weaving and basketry, painting and drawing. The 'Vikings' had set up their camp and were illustrating the type of weaponry and armour they used. Their demonstrations were loud, aggressive and convincing. There was a demonstration on how horses formerly performed tasks now undertaken by tractors and mechanical earth shifters. A marquee provided for quieter activities. Red Alert gave information about the present state of the local red squirrel population. The Ranger Service informed visitors of the work they do. We had our own stall with an exhibition of drawings from the Sibley Collection. Pritchard's, bookshop, kindly provided prizes of book tokens for the best three drawings completed by children of primary school age. Local Primary Schools brought groups of children to the event on the Friday and this turned out to be the best day for weather.

The almost 200 children visiting the event were invited to draw with pencil or crayon any feature in the immediate environment that interested them. The Sibley drawings, particularly roused the curiosity of many of the children. Drawings of Greenloons Farm, Kirklake Farm and Shorrocks Hill linked the past with the present for many of the young visitors. They were also fascinated by drawings of the Lifeboat Station, scenes from the National Trust site and the 'Hermit's' shack in the dunes. Few of these young children knew what a hermit was; some thought it was a hermit crab! Conversations with the children demonstrated the potential of the Sibley drawings in getting them to think about continuity and change in the area and its history. Dr Reg Yorke, Dru Haydon and I are convinced of the potential that the collection and other of the Society's archives have for education. We received 70 entries for the drawing competition. Judging was difficult but ultimately we decided that prizes should go to a boy who, inspired by the Sibley drawing of the house Stella Maris, was our best entry, followed by a drawing of one of the wooden sculptures in the woods and a charming picture of the horse pulling a cart. The levels of concentration shown by many of these young children was impressive and challenges the belief that the present generation have lost this valuable faculty. Sibley still stimulates!

Wildlife Notes by Phil Smith

May

May is a wonderful month for wildlife, with fresh green vegetation, attractive flowers and insects everywhere. Although many birds are now nesting, migration for some is still in full swing and there is always the chance of a rarity. Last month, I bemoaned the fact that no **Ring Ouzels** had come my way. Not to worry, a phone call on the 3rd alerted me to a fine male on the Range High School playing fields. A few days later, while monitoring Natterjack Toads on Birkdale Green Beach, I bumped into a **Snow Bunting** – not really a rare bird, this un-

common winter visitor is certainly an exciting find for May. It stayed for several days, some superb photos being posted on John Dempsey's Mersey Bird Blog.

Returning from a weekend away on 18th, I heard that a **Red-backed Shrike** had been found on North Moss Lane, only five minutes away. Luckily I managed to see it before dusk, as it had moved on by the following day. This colourful bird was a Lancashire breeder in the 19th century but our new "Birds of Lancashire & North Merseyside" tells us there have been only 13 modern recordings, the most

recent in 1997.

Other notable May birds locally were an **Osprey**, two **Spoonbills** and a **Roseate Tern** at Seaforth, **Golden Oriole**, **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Temminck's Stint** at Martin Mere, while up to six **Garganeys** and the now resident Ribble **Glossy Ibis** graced Marshside.

Meanwhile, the Altcar mosslands were briefly visited by a **Dotterel** and **Common Crane**. Breeding species included **Black-headed Gulls**, 4560 nests being counted on Banks Marsh, while **Avocets** peaked at 23 pairs at

Wildlife Notes (continued)

Martin Mere and 32 at Marshside. Many of the latter relayed after 17 nests were predated by a **Red Fox**. Marshside also had displaying **Ruff**. On the 6th I watched three exotically plumed males performing to the same number of females. Whether they bred nearby has yet to be confirmed.

On the sand-dunes, I counted a record number of 218 **Natterjack Toad** spawn strings on Birkdale Green Beach, while guided visitors to Altcar Rifle Range were thrilled by thousands of gorgeous **Green-winged Orchids**. Hightown dunes put on its usual display of the scented **Burnet Rose**, a speciality of that area.

While checking a colony of the nationally rare **Vernal Bee** at Cabin Hill on the 11th, my attention was drawn to a tiny rufous bee flying in and out of a snail shell. I sent a blurred photo to my old friend Neil Robinson, an expert in this group of insects. He identified it as a mason bee called *Osmia aurulenta* which is well known for rearing its brood in empty snail shells. Coincidentally, it was featured last year in Alan Titchmarsh's "Nature of Britain" TV series.

Spells of cool weather meant dragonflies were slow to appear but, by the end of the month, I had seen seven species hereabouts, including three **Broad-bodied Chasers**, a spectacular insect that is moving north with climate change and which has only recently become established in our area.



A Broad-bodied Chaser

June

June is a great month for our sand-dune flowers, especially the orchids which bloom in spectacular variety and abundance. The carefully managed damp grasslands at Altcar Rifle Range are home to an estimated fifty to sixty thousand wild orchids, a truly inspirational sight for visitors on organised guided walks. On the 13th Alan Gendle, the orchid expert from Cumbria, travelled down to help sort out the confusing diversity of different marsh-orchids at Altcar. In total, we listed at least 14 different orchid species, hybrids and named varieties, including one last seen on the coast in 1935! However, we couldn't name several others, so an invitation is going to the country's leading specialist, Prof. Richard Bateman of The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, to visit Altcar next year.

The Rifle Ranges also provided two new colonies of a less dramatic-looking but equally important plant. This is **Flat Sedge** (*Blysmus compressus*),

“June is a great month for our sand-dune flowers, especially the orchids which bloom in spectacular variety and abundance”

one of the most rapidly declining species in Britain. As it is listed for special attention in the Botanical Society's "Rare Plants Project", I have begun a detailed survey of its distribution and abundance on the Sefton Coast. Already, I have found much more than was previously known about, with 12 sites and a total area of nearly 2500 square metres occupied by the plant.

Bird-watchers usually find June a quiet month but a few rarities invariably turn up. This time they included a **Wilson's Phalarope** (an American wader), which was an exciting find on 3rd-and 4th at Seaforth, where a **Roseate Tern** appeared later in the month.

Marshside had its near-resident **Glossy Ibis**, while a **Spoonbill** attracted visitors to Martin Mere. During the gale on the 22nd, hardy sea-watchers at Formby Point logged two **Storm Petrels**. An early hint of autumn was provided by **Green and Wood Sandpipers**, perhaps failed breeders, already returning to Martin Mere from the 10th and 21st respectively.

The Dragonfly Atlas survey is ongoing, those attending my training event at Mere Sands Wood on the 14th being rewarded by sightings of eight species. A new record for Cabin Hill on 29th was a **Black-tailed Skimmer** (*Orthetrum cancellatum*), while **Broad-bodied Chasers** (*Libellula depressa*) were seen quite widely in our area. Both these dragonflies are rapidly extending their ranges northwards in response to climate change and they may turn up, together with several other species, at garden ponds. For details on how to identify dragonflies and participate in the survey, visit the Lancashire Atlas web-site at www.dragonflies.org.uk.

Although large parts of the Birkdale Green Beach lagoons dried up during the month, it looks as though enough water survived to ensure reasonable breeding success for the **Natterjack Toad**. I counted a record number of 266 spawn strings this spring, suggesting that the total population is well over 500 adults. I need to make further inquiries but the Green Beach is now quite possibly the single most important British breeding site for this endangered amphibian.



The White Pyramidal Orchid

Wildlife Notes (continued)

July

I always reckon to see some thing new and different every time I go out on the dunes. That was certainly the case on the 7th when I visited a local pond to record dragonflies for the Atlas survey. Approaching cautiously so as not to disturb anything, I was amazed to see a **Stoat** playing in the water. It was behaving just like an Otter, swimming and cavorting around, jumping in and out of the pond and clearly enjoying itself, until it eventually spotted me and disappeared.

Plentiful rainfall during the month encouraged the dune plants, especially the later-flowering orchids, like the **Marsh Helleborine** (*Epipactis palustris*). Many slacks along the coast were a stunning vista of wall-to-wall helleborines, and I was also delighted to find two small colonies of the rare white variety *ochroleuca* at Birkdale. Similarly, the pink **Pyramidal Orchid** (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) has done remarkably well this year. It used to be quite hard to find on the dunes but, following a national trend probably linked to climate change, populations of this mainly southern plant have boomed in recent years. On the 6th,

I tried to count the flower spikes on Ainsdale Sandhills but gave up at 860. Then I heard there was another big colony at Cabin Hill. In two visits a

few days later, I reached an incredible total of 4872 Pyramidal Orchids. I must have missed plenty, so the true population is certainly over 5000! For the first time ever, I also found about a dozen white specimens, the flower books saying that this form is rarely seen.

While criss-crossing the dunes, I also encountered several **Dark Green Fritillaries**, our rarest coastal butterfly and also the fastest flying. This species occurs most frequently on Ainsdale National Nature Reserve and I couldn't remember having seen it at Cabin Hill before. Its caterpillars feed on **Heath Dog-violet** (*Viola canina*) and there is certainly plenty of that at Cabin Hill. However, apart from the ubiquitous **Meadow Browns**, butterfly numbers were generally disappointing during the month, a reflection of the second wet summer in succession. The sun-loving dragonflies have also suffered, though on the occasional warm day, our largest species, the **Emperor**, could be seen cruising the dune scrapes at Birkdale and elsewhere. A

“Many slacks along the coast were a stunning vista of wall-to-wall helleborines”

relatively new arrival on the coast, the **Black-tailed Skimmer**, also made an appearance with three together at Cabin Hill.

July is a month when bird-watchers begin to think about the autumn migration. Breeding has largely finished and many species are already on the move, small flocks of **terns** being a feature of the quieter stretches of beach, as at Birkdale. The gale that affected the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale brought lots of **Manx Shearwaters** and **Gannets** and several **Skuas** (**Arctic** and **Great**) into Liverpool Bay. These could be seen from the usual sea-watching spots at Formby Point and Crosby. Even better were the **Storm Petrels** which began to appear off Formby on the 16th, peaking at a remarkable 26 in the Mersey mouth at Crosby on 18th. A single **Leach's Petrel** was also reported, this being usually a highlight of later storms in September or October.



St. Peter's Conservation Corner by Des Brennan

Community Spaces is a grants programme managed by Groundwork UK for the Big Lottery Fund aimed at developing and/or maintaining neighbourhood green spaces. It seemed to us that Conservation Corner at the East end of the grounds of St. Peter's Church is an ideal candidate for such funding; it is a designated area of Urban Green Space which, because of a long period of neglect, does not contribute nearly as much as it might to the enjoyment of residents and the education of the

pupils of Trinity St. Peter's School. A successful application for funds would enable the purchase of equipment and materials facilitating improvement and efficient maintenance of the area by volunteers. Accordingly, we wrote to the vicar, Rev. Paul Ormrod, suggesting the formation of a working party, consisting of him, or representative, the head teacher of Trinity St. Peter's School, or representative, the scoutmaster and a representative of the Society, to prepare a bid to Community Spaces promoting the

potential recreational and educational value of this ecologically significant site. We were disappointed to be told by the vicar in response that there was currently insufficient interest to undertake the kind of programme we envisage. Because it is essential to have the support of the body that controls this plot of land and those it represents, we hope this report may stimulate a level of interest that would allow the project to be taken forward.

The Formby Times in earlier days by Anthea Royden



A Formby Times Reporter in 1912. Photo by Thomas C. James, Photographer, Chapel Lane..

Searching for reports of Sandwinning, Pat McGregor and I began looking at the old copies of the Formby Times, which are held on microfiche film at the Formby Library. We began at 1920. It was immediately apparent that the paper in those days was very different to the paper we know today.

In 1920 the Formby Times consisted of four pages only, it cost one old penny, and it was published every Saturday. The appearance of the paper was not inviting. Each page was densely filled with small print.

There were a few main headlines at the top of each page, but no subsidiary headings, the different news items being separated only by a small space, with sometimes a dash. There were no photographs, and no advertisements, in fact nothing to liven up the page and attract one's eye. It was impossible to scan the page quickly for a particular topic, as every paragraph had to be scrutinised to find out its subject matter

The topics reported reflected the character of Formby in the 1920s. It was still largely rural, so people read about the effects of drought or flooding on the growing crops, the possible threat of the dreaded potato blight, or rumours of nearby cattle sickness. The Poultry Club published a bulletin each week. Many Formby

residents travelled to Liverpool or Manchester to work each day, so the performance of the Railway Service was of great interest.

There were reports of train breakdowns and cancellations, the shocking increase in the price of fares, and the occasional derailment or collision. Gas was manufactured locally, so the price of gas was often mentioned. The activities of the local gentry were considered newsworthy, and frequent

accounts of the doings of the families from Formby Hall, Little Crosby, Croxeth and Knowsley, perhaps setting off on holiday to the Continent (rare in those days) or going down to London for an important social occasion.

A regular feature which ran for several years was the serialisation of novels. None of these was familiar, and seemed to be either 'blood and Thunder' stories, or romances in the style of Mills and Boon. The episodes took up almost the whole of one page, some times the front page, which seems a very strange choice. Later on the back page became their usual home. They were eventually ousted by the growing volume of sports news.

Another long-running regular feature was Quentin Quiz's article, which started in the late 1930s. The writer portrayed himself as an elderly busybody trundling around Formby in a bath-chair, poking his nose into everything and criticising whatever met with his disapproval, holes in the road, dogs wandering loose, councillors who frequently missed committee meetings, the terrible price of coal. You name it, Q. Q. had something to say about it. Occasionally he gave praise, perhaps for a pretty garden which had caught his eye. People used to speculate about the true identity of Q.Q. The column was still

running in the 1960s, by which time the original Q.Q. (as described by himself) must have been a centenarian!

Gradually the appearance of the paper became more attractive. More headings and sub-headings began to be used, and with the different news items more clearly separated and identified, the paper became easier to read. The first photos appeared (strangely the first two we spotted were with obituaries) but they were of very poor quality for a long time.

Advertisements began to appear - for many years the only one was for Broadbents fashions. At sale times their advert took up a whole page. World War 11 came, bringing more news items to print, but also a shortage of paper. This was overcome by using even smaller print, so cramming an extra column on to each page, making 9 columns instead of the usual 8. The Formby Times now gave its readers news of ration books and how to procure a new one, black-out transgressions, war-time recipes, and of course news of service personnel, perhaps home on leave, or sadly sometimes reported missing. The paper took both VE day and VJ day very much in its stride, hardly any mention apart from reporting on the various street parties that were held in celebration.

The paper shortage lasted for several years after the War, then gradually eased, and the Formby Times grew in size. In 1951 publication day changed to a Friday and the price went up to two old pence. By the early 1960s, the paper had changed to tabloid form, and the price had increased again, to 3 old pence. Photographs were now plentiful and of much better quality, and there were many advertisements of all kinds.

Pat and I ended our research in 1962, by which time the Formby Times was very much in the style it is today, albeit on a smaller scale but it still cost only 3 old pence and was still published on a Friday.

Planning Matters (continued from p3)

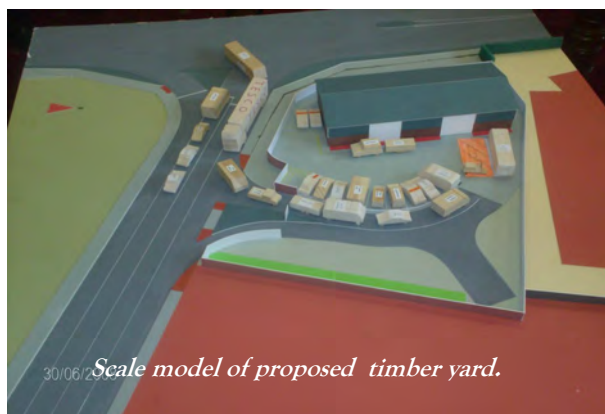
Mr. Dave Sharrock (of Kellets Garage), Mr. Dave Almond (of R.W. Almonds, Builders Merchants) and I formed a working party so as to develop and coordinate our ideas on how best to oppose the application in support of the Council.

Mr. Sharrock presented the Enquiry with evidence of traffic congestion in Altcar Road in the vicinity of the site and the controlled junction, supporting the case with a comprehensive collection of photographs illustrating the various kinds of snarl-ups; Mr. Almond presented the Enquiry with evidence of the considerable difficulties the smallness of the site would occasion for the handling of vehicles, persons, and goods, supporting the case by a scale model and a collection of photographs illustrating the range of vehicle types that come into a typical builder's yard; my main contribution was to play host to the working party, to cross-examine the appellant's witnesses, especially his traffic consultant, and to make a presentation to the Enquiry on behalf of the Society.

In dismissing the appeal, the Inspector agreed with the Council that the proposed development would not be of a standard commensurate with the prominence of the site. She found that the proposed building was obtrusive, bland, and awkwardly located in the site, that the existing trees in the verge outside the site and the new trees required by the Council would be insufficient to screen the building and that it would not be possible to improve the siting, design and scale of the building to the extent as to make it acceptable.

She concluded that replacing the neglected with the mediocre would not enhance the character of the area, achieve a high quality of design, or help to improve the general environment; the proposed development would not be a positive response to the surroundings. Disappointingly, however, the Inspector found that

there was a sufficient level of forward visibility to ensure that the proposed access was not a hazard to traffic turning into Altcar Road from the bypass and she took no account of the effect that vehicles entering and leaving the site could be expected to have on the high levels of congestion that so often occur in the vicinity of this junction. She also concluded that the tracking studies presented by the appellant showed that it would be possible to provide a safe junction between Altcar Road and the site, despite there being zero clearance on the scale of the drawings between the vehicle tracks and the curb and the lane boundaries; indeed, the track was so critically dependent on its defining parameters that the Coun-



Scale model of proposed timber yard.

cil's traffic engineering consultant had difficulty in reproducing it; more typical tracks encroached onto prohibited ground. Just as concerning, was the Inspector's conclusion that the severe and fundamental limitations of the site for the management of vehicles, goods and persons was not a significant issue; this determination was not based on a reasoned analysis of the evidence presented, but merely on the grounds that the appellant, or any other owner, could be relied upon not to operate the site in a way which would inconvenience their customers. These considerations relating to traffic and site management are important, because they now define the options open to any future would-be developer of the site. Another notable planning application concerned premises at

87- 89 Freshfield Road; it would have entailed the demolition of two existing houses and their replacement by two large Victorian-style villas. We opposed the proposal on the grounds that the relative narrowness of the sites would have meant the new buildings would have been brought close together in a way which is quite contrary to the character of this road, which is designated as an *Area of Local Distinctiveness*. We also argued that the greater scale and massing of these buildings compared to other buildings in the vicinity would be such as to have given them an over dominant presence in the street scene. The application has been refused.

A planning application of interest for a rather unusual reason was that relating to *Pineridge, 2 Lifeboat Road*; it is for the demolition of the existing house, which originally was the vicarage to St. Luke's Church, and its replacement by a similar size house in a comparable style. A nearby site has provided evidence of Iron Age settlement and there is every possibility that the excavations required for this building could produce similar evidence. Accordingly, we asked that, in the event of the proposal's being approved, the permission be subject to a condition providing for archaeological investigation after demolition and clearance of the existing house, but before commencement of excavations for the new foundations and for the underground garage and, thereafter, for archaeological observation/investigation during the excavations. We also alerted the academics responsible for the earlier archaeological investigation of the neighbouring site, one of whom made representations to the Planning Department in connection with this application. The Merseyside Archaeological Officer was also notified and thereby enabled to make a request to access to the site. The application has been approved with a condition facilitating archaeological investigations.

The National Trust needs your views! by Andrew Brockbank

The National Trust recognises that working together with our local community is vital where major changes are proposed. We want you to have the opportunity to consider the issues which we all face at Formby and to tell us what is important to you. We are inviting representatives of local community organisations, Sefton Coast partners, local residents and stakeholders to take part in a workshop at the Formby Gild Hall on 30th September 2008. **Taking Shape: The Future of the Formby Coastline** - a workshop to explore the implications of living and working with a changing coastline and consider ways in which we can adapt to change. The three hour long workshop will be run twice with start times at 1.30pm and

again at 6.00pm so that there is an opportunity for people who work to attend. The workshop will consider how we may work to secure a sustainable future for the Formby property as a popular part of Sefton's Natural Coast. We want you to have the opportunity to discuss key issues with us around the following main themes:

Climate change, sea level rise, increased storminess; Managing the impact of coastal change on the National Trust Formby property and surrounding area, Cultural heritage, a place for people & nature, conservation; A proposal to re-site a car park, improve visitor facilities at the property and enhance conservation; **Coastal access, popularity of**

coastal visits, tourism; Traffic and transport issues, environmental footprint and the relationship to other visitor gateway sites on Sefton's Natural Coast

These discussions will help us to identify key needs and inform our forward plans and we hope to establish a stakeholder group so that we can continue to work together to meet the challenges which we share. If you would like to take part in one of the workshops please register your interest now by contacting Julie Godsall, The National Trust, (Tuesdays and Fridays only) on 01704 878691 or alternatively e-mail formby@nationaltrust.org.uk, NB Demand may be high and there will be limited places so please register your interest as soon as possible.

History Group Report by Barbara Yorke



Looking for the lower boundary marker!

The History Group has enjoyed a busy but enjoyable summer. The highlight of this was the publication of 'Sand and Sea', published by Sefton Library Services and launched at the Luncheon Club, Rosemary Lane on 12th May, (see last issue) now selling well at Pritchard's Bookshop and elsewhere.

A Special Sand-winning Meeting, was held on Thursday 19th June, 7pm at St Luke's Church Meeting Room, St Luke's Church Road, to discuss

the findings of the recent project. Following a general review by John Houston we then enjoyed a walk round some of the sand-quarried areas between Lifeboat Road and Wicks Lane. As a result of the recent research carried out by members of the Society and professional experts we now have a much clearer idea of the significance of this local industry in the first half of the 20th Century and better understanding of the resulting dune landscape and ecological changes. More details of this project are to be found in the current issue of Coastlines magazine.

Wicks Lane Manorial (Warren) Boundary Walk. This was organised by the History Group as a contribution to National Archaeology Week.

the findings of the recent project. Following a general review by John Houston we then enjoyed a walk round some of the sand-quarried areas between Lifeboat Road and Wicks Lane. As a result of the recent research carried out by members of

On Sunday, 13th July twenty three walkers met outside St Jerome's Church to explore, examine and consider the history of the Wicks Lane Warren Boundary agreed in 1667 between the two manorial families. Having recently researched the 18th - 20th century exploitation of the coastal dune system, (Pine plantations, asparagus cultivation and more recently sand extraction), we went further back in time to look at the former value of rabbit warrens, the livelihood they provided to tenant lease holders and income to manorial land-owners.

In addition the event highlighted the existence, significance (and need for protection) of the remaining cast iron boundary markers. We found that the lower-most boundary marker is now 250 metres below the Mean High Water Line!

This brought home how much land has been lost to the sea at Formby Point since the boundary was first established by the then Joint Lords of the Manor, Richard Formby and Henry Blundell in 1667.

Continued p 10.....

History Group report (continued)

Historical Displays

We were invited to contribute to the historical displays set up for National Archaeology Week (but in fact on display for three weeks). Our displays featured the history of Formby Lifeboat Station and also Formby Hall, and its Dovecote. We have now been invited to put on a new display at the Sefton Coast Partnership Conference on 'Sefton's Dynamic Coast' to be held at Southport on 1st September. This display will focus on the history of reducing coastal dangers and loss of life on this coast.

Society Scrapbook collection. Digital scanning of these has continued by Tony Bonney and the value of this has already become very evident. We have been able to deal very quickly indeed with several recent enquiries. These enquiries often result in the placing of an order for a copy of a Sibley Drawing or a photograph from our archives. In other cases it is simply information that is requested and our digitisation programme has been a great asset in dealing with these.

Historical Structures in Sefton

Information has been requested from Dorothy Bradley, Conservation Officer, Sefton MBC on the scattered often small, neglected free-standing structures of historical significance which may have been overlooked or omitted from previously compiled lists. These are often small structures hiding in gardens/fields or in our area, the dunes and difficult to locate. The purpose of this enquiry is to investigate what still exists and its condition. The Conservation Department will then be able to consider what will be possible to protect them for the future.

So far members of the History Group have drawn up a list of some twenty suitable items but much work needs to be done in providing full details, location grid references, etc.

Possible items already identified include navigation beacons, tide-poles,

boundary markers, Milestones, Formby's buried promenade, observation posts (see article by Jack Gore in this issue), War-time bunkers and 'pill-boxes' and even the control tower at RAF Woodvale, which according to Aldon Ferguson is the only one of its date and type surviving in the North of England, certainly the only one still in use!

Digitisation Report by Tony Bonney,

I have now at last completed the digitisation of all 687 Sibley watercolours/sketches and prepared a detailed searchable index. I propose to merge this with the main index. 1272 Sibley slides and a further 975 assorted images have also been copied and indexed.

Our collection of about 32 scrapbooks holding local newspaper cuttings going back to at least 1963 are in the process of being indexed, in a searchable Excel database, to allow easier access. So far 13 volumes have been completed giving rise to a 1291 line index. This is however a very time consuming task taking between 3 to 5 hours a volume to identify KEY words for the index. 366 loose newspaper cuttings have been digitised and transferred to a fully searchable PDF file.

I have also had 10 requests for information so far this year. Using the indexes the information was traced in seconds and usually digital copies returned via email. With the Sibley sketches/watercolours now completed I think it could be the right time to offer, via the newsletter, to digitise our members old photo's of Formby and return them with copies on a CD/DVD. The cost of blank disks is only about 20p so the cost would not be a problem and I think it would be a nice service to offer our members. We would need to specify that they must be images that are appropriate for our archive. I would be happy to collect and return and should in most circumstances guarantee a 24 hour turnaround.

SAND AND SEA SEFTON'S COASTAL HERITAGE

Archaeology, History and Environment of a Landscape in North West England

The Sefton coast is dominated by a dune landscape of international importance. Factors such as climate change and varying sea levels have been extensively researched. But only recently has there been investigation into the successive communities of humankind who have lived and died on these sandy shores. sand and sea brings together material originally delivered at a highly successful heritage conference - and expressly updated for this new book. It will appeal to the general reader and to those who have a specialist interest in the locality. Founded on solid research, presented with clarity and attractively illustrated, this is a significant addition to the literature on Sefton's unique coast.

Sand and Sea has been published by Sefton Libraries on behalf of Sefton Coast Partnership Price £15 (+ pp for mail-order).

ISBN 978-1-874516-16-3



Summer Outing - book now!

Friday 12th September Summer Outing - a coach trip to Holker Hall, Cartmel Village and Priory.

Holker Hall.

This will be an opportunity to enjoy two beautiful and historic locations close to each other in what used to be known as 'Lancashire over the Sands' - now Cumbria. Holker Hall is the home of Lord and Lady Cavendish who welcome visitors to one of the best loved stately homes in Britain. Magnificently situated only a short distance from the expanse of Morecambe Bay, Holker Hall is set in exceptionally beautiful countryside with gardens that merge into Parkland framed by the Lakeland Hills. The earliest records of a house on the present site date back to the beginning of the 16th century. The estate has never been sold but passed, by inheritance, through the family

line, with each generation leaving its impression on both the gardens and Hall. In 1871 a fire destroyed the entire west wing, which was then rebuilt and it is this part of the house that is open to the public. Despite its emulation of Elizabethan architecture, it remains unmistakably Victorian. Holker Hall is a marvellous reflection of its age with outstanding craftsmanship on display. There are no ropes or barriers to bar your way in this welcoming family home. Refreshment facilities are very good and the many helpful guides will take great pleasure in explaining the story of the house and owners.

Cartmel Village and Priory.

A short distance from Holker lies Cartmel. From its compact village centre, ancient streets wend their way out of the village, each well worth

exploration. You'll find flower filled corners, delightful streamside walks, humpbacked bridges, cobbled pavements and inns and cafes serving good food and drink. Shoppers or browsers will delight in the charming little shops offering all kinds of Lakeland products. At the time of the Dissolution, the inhabitants of Cartmel were given leave to keep the church which no doubt encouraged the continuing development of the village, while preserving for today's visitors one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in the north of England. Having celebrated its 800th anniversary, the Priory Church of St Mary and St. Michael still serves as the centre of the community, offering not only a place of worship but also a venue for concerts. Approximate cost for the day £22 each, (not including lunch).

booking form enclosed

Art Group Report by Barbara Mossop

The Annual Open Air Exhibition was held on Saturday 28 June this year. It was a lovely surprise to have fine weather for a change. A lot of local people stopped as they shopped and looked at the entries - there were just over a hundred of these, varying from watercolour, acrylic and pastels to gouache, depicting local scenes, flowers, ships and many other subjects.

Whilst there was a steady stream of viewers throughout the day and in fact the village as a whole was very busy, we did not sell as many paintings as we would have liked. However, we did make a profit and enjoyed talking to local people and meeting some people who visit us every year, come rain or shine. I have never seen such an attentive photographer from the local paper either! He took photographs from every angle and involved the public as well, making sure they did not get in his way as he did so. On the Wednesday before the Exhibition I noticed that the position that we

usually have for the Exhibition was being dug up and had barriers round it. However, when I telephoned the Council, the gentleman I spoke to said that no one else had had to send in a plan of the stands or had to produce an Insurance Certificate, as we



have to, and said we could just move along the village a bit, which is what we did.

We have not had a long spell of hot, fine weather this Summer so far, but there have been quite a few really nice, fine days and I am

sure members have some good sketches to show for it. In September we are meeting on a Sunday in Tarleton, when we hope to be able to paint. We are having a pub lunch and if anyone is particularly pleased with anything they have produced when they have been sketching, please bring it with you and share it with the group.

There is a big Craft Fair on at Liverpool - in the Metropolitan Cathedral - in October, and we are going to visit it as a group. One of our members will be exhibiting there.

Sunday 14 September. Sketching at Croston followed by a meal. Phone me at beginning of September if you are intending to join us, so that we can decide where to meet for lunch.

October. Visit to Craft Exhibition, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. The exhibition is on from 18-26. Please telephone me at the beginning of October, so that we can arrange a suitable date. We will travel to Liverpool by train.

PROUDMAN OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY

Members may recall that this year's FCS contribution to *National Science and Engineering Week* had to be cancelled. Well, the topic of that presentation is back on the agenda again as Dr. Kevin Horsburgh of the University of Liverpool is first speaker (on Friday 26 September) in our winter 'general' programme. Dr Horsburgh, who works with the National Tidal and Sea Level Facility at the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, is speaking on the subject of *Coastal Flooding and Protection - the Policy Implications of Climate Change*.

Furthermore, for those who want to

be armed with the facts ready for that talk, or who would like to find out more about tidal predictions and the work of the Laboratory, there's a great opportunity, also in September.

As part of Liverpool's *European Capital of Culture* celebrations, the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) is bringing to town its annual jamboree, the *Festival of Science* (6 - 11 September). Previous FCS meetings and visits to the beach have already reviewed how Liverpool came to produce a large number of firsts in tidal and sea level research, including the development of the science of

storm surges and the first reliable tide tables. On Tuesday the 9th there's a whole day (£5 charge) organised by the POL exploring the history and science of sea level changes and their links to climate change. There's also a chance to see (free entry) some of its research work in different areas of oceanography.

Full details of the BAAS programme can be obtained from their web-site (www.theba.net/festivalofscience) or by phone on 0207-019 4947. We anticipate very learned questions on 26 September!

Altmouth Pumping Station (continued from p1)

In addition, the possibility of creating a fully functioning third storm pump from the engine of pump no. 3 and the impeller of pump no. 2 is currently still under investigation. Other significant improvements were also reported. Thus, the PS is now no longer on the verge of total breakdown; however, its capability still falls short of what is required to provide a satisfactory standard of protection (SoP).

Concerning the present intentions for the refurbishment of the PS, we expressed our concern that there were to be two independent sources of power, viz. the Scottish Power network (3 MW) and an on-site diesel-electric generator (2 MW), each just sufficient to power two of the four storm pumps. Thus, if either power source were to be out of service, pumping capacity would be reduced to approximately half that required to provide the promised SoP. The EA rejected outright our suggestion that there should be two on-site diesel-electric generators, each of 2 MW, to provide for resilience of power supply, so we proposed as second best that there should be two 1 MW generators; we were told that this possi-

bility was under consideration and had not been ruled out.

We also expressed concern about the security of the Stephenson's Way substation, which is sited at the lowest part of Formby, close to the Down-

“if either power source were to be out of service, pumping capacity would be reduced to approximately half that required”

holland Brook, whose embankments are known to be in poor condition. We were told in reply that the transformer at the substation was already raised above road level and that the EA was in discussion with Scottish Power concerning the resilience of the substation. We said that we wished to have more detailed information on this important subject. We were also told that the high voltage cable connecting the substation to the PS would be buried under roads and nowhere would cross agricultural land; this was confirmed by Scottish Power at the meeting on 1st August. Responsibility for the network supply is ultimately the responsibility of

Scottish Power, which is why we said we wished to speak to Scottish Power representatives, including one of their electrical engineers. There is no intention to deal with the Downholland Brook embankment problem in the present package, but it will be scoped within other strategies.

Before discussing the specification of the storm pumps, we sought clarification concerning the source of the value of 52 cu. metre/sec specified in EA documents as the maximum in-channel flow rate at the PS, because this set a limit on the useful maximum installed pumping capacity. The EA claimed that this figure is supported by operational experience at the PS; however, none of the EA Project Team was acquainted with any documented empirical operational evaluation of this quantity and, at the 1st August meeting, the EA representative conceded there was no known record of any such observations. The EA also claimed that the 52 cu. metre/sec figure is supported by the Halcrow Modelling Report, but, being in possession of the Report as a result of the FOIA disclosure, we were able to challenge this assertion. According to our interpretation of the data

Altmouth Pumping Station (continued)

presented in the report, the modelling study indicates a value between 60 cu. metre/sec and 74 cu. metre/sec for the limiting in-channel flow rate at the PS. The EA representatives agreed they did not have a satisfactory answer to our analysis and, at the 1st August meeting, the EA conceded that the Halcrow modelling team agreed with our interpretation. Accordingly, the EA representative at that meeting agreed that the 52 cu. metre/sec figure would no longer figure in discussions concerning the specification of the PS.

At the 13th June meeting, we also sought information concerning the present condition of the channel between Downholland Brook and the PS; we wanted to know if it had been dredged to maintain its conductance to its original standard when the PS was opened. This information was not available at the meeting, but we were later assured that the cross-section of the channel had remained unchanged.

In accepting the EA's figure of 54 cu. metre/sec for the operational capacity of the storm pumps, we made it clear our judgment was not related to the claimed 52 cu. metre/sec figure for the maximum in-channel flow rate. It was arrived at by accepting a SoP of a 1 in 50 yr storm event, requiring a pumping capacity of 60 cu. metre/sec according to the modelling study, and allowing 4 cu. metre/sec for the contribution of the dry weather flow pumps and an arbitrary figure of 2 cu. metre/sec for improved efficiency accruing from better management of the sluices and their flaps. The EA's proposal that the PS should have four 13.5 cu. metre/sec capacity electric storm pumps makes no provision for one of them being out of service. We believe that security of operation requires that there should be three electric pumps, each of 18 cu. metre/sec capacity, to provide the agreed SoP, with a fourth pump available as standby. The EA argue that the modelling study shows that the fourth pump of their intended configuration would be needed on

average for only 12 hours in a 1 in 50 year storm event and, were the pump not to be available, only agricultural land, not urban property, would be flooded. Discussion failed to resolve the difference in the EA's and the Society's positions.

The meeting on the 4th July did not produce any new information or resolve any of the differences between the EA and the Society, but it served to enable Mrs. Curtis-Thomas to set out very clearly what a meaningful consultation entailed. The EA representatives agreed a further meeting was necessary, and that it should include a mechanical engineer from the EA and representatives from Scottish Power, and that there should be disclosure of documents relating to the EA's dealings with Scottish Power.

It was very disappointing that, in the event, neither Scottish Power nor the EA sent engineers with the necessary competences to the second meeting with Mrs. Curtis-Thomas and, in consequence, it was again not possible to progress the examination of the all-important technical matters. We raised the issue of the Form G Report, which is the EA document detailing the revised specification for the refurbishment following the abandonment of the original January, 2008 Project Appraisal Report, which had been approved and funded, but which had depended on Scottish Power's supplying power for all four storm pumps from its network. We had asked to see this document on a number of occasions, only to be refused on the grounds that it had not yet been signed off. We asked for an explanation of how it could be that decisions based on this document were being taken when apparently the document had not yet been approved. In the discussion that ensued, the EA representative said that, though discussions could take place, decisions had been made and would not be changed. Mrs. Curtis-Thomas said that was not acceptable and reminded the EA representative that the EA had a duty to consult with the community and its representatives, and was ulti-

mately responsible to the minister; she insisted on the immediate disclosure of the Form G Report and she said she would seek the minister's intervention to put a halt on further action by the EA relating to matters at issue until meaningful discussions had taken place. There have been no further developments.

Special General Meeting

Members will find enclosed with this newsletter formal Notice of a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, held to coincide with the normal Friday general meeting on 26 September. Its purpose is to consider amendments to the constitution, recommended by the committee. Members may recall that these amendments were due to be discussed at the AGM in April but were deferred because of some late comments received from the Charity Commission. The Chair will recommend to the meeting that the amended constitution be adopted. Preceding this proposal, Dr Kevin Horsburgh will be making a presentation on Coastal Flooding and Protection - The Policy Implications of Climate Change.

Formby Civic Society

SOCIETY OFFICERS

Chair; Dr Ray Derricott,
17 Harington Road,
Formby,
01704 876661

**Hon Secretary and
Treasurer;** David Willis,
5 Phillips Close, Formby.
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**Winter Programme Sec-
retary;**
Dru Hayden, 35 Stanley
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History Group Secretary;
Barbara Yorke
Art Group Rep;
Barbara Mossop
Amenities Secretary;
Dr. Desmond Brennan,
9 Brows Lane, Formby
Newsletter Editor;
Dr Reg Yorke
01704 872187

A 'Thomas Fresh Evening', is to be held at the Freshfield Hotel, Freshfield. Saturday October 18th 2008 at 7pm. - 10.30pm

All members are warmly invited to this unique special celebration of one of the many links between Liverpool and Formby, an 'outlier' event during Capital of Culture Year and supported by a grant from the **CCo8 Sefton Cultural Fund**

Following a welcome and introduction by Reg Yorke the Programme will include a short account of conditions in mid 19th Century Liverpool by Dr. Ben Reece. A 'Toast to Thomas Fresh' will be proposed by a Speaker from the Duncan Society, following which David Davies in the role of Thomas Fresh will respond in a suitably 'earthy' manner' During the evening There will be Musical entertainment; provided by the Jill Fielding Group

A glass of wine or soft drink on arrival, then cash-bar available

Refreshments will include individual servings of Lancashire Hot Pot, (or vegetarian alternative) and coffee. Followed by apple pie, cream. and coffee.

Participants will be limited to 60. Admission by ticket only. Price £10 per person. Early application is advised. A Booking form is enclosed.

Further information from Reg Yorke,

01704 872187



Future Programme

MEETINGS. (All at Ravenmeols Community Centre at 8pm)

Thursday, September 11th	<i>Traditional Musical Instruments and their History</i>	Kevin Bargaen
Friday, September 26th	<i>'Coastal Flooding and Protection - The Policy Implications of Climate Change'</i>	Dr Kevin Horsburgh
Thursday, October 9th	<i>'Horace the Elk',</i>	Dr Brian Barnes
Friday, October 24th	<i>'Lifeboat Road Visitor Centre',</i>	Dave McAleavy
Thurs, November 13th	<i>Lancashire Water Mills</i>	Jack Smith
Friday, November 28th	<i>Coal Mining in West Lancashire,</i>	Doug Elliot
Thurs, December 11th	<i>The Birth of the Sugar Industry in the NW</i>	Dr. Mona Duggan

OUTINGS

Wednesday 20th August, 7.30 pm Visit to Ainsdale NNR; Meet at Reserve Office, (Book with Reg Yorke on 01704 872187).

Friday 12th September Summer Outing; A Coach trip to Holker Hall and Cartmel. (Booking Form enclosed)

SPECIAL CAPITAL OF CULTURE EVENT

Saturday 18th October; 'Thomas Fresh Evening'; The Freshfield Hotel.

(Booking Form enclosed).