



# Liverpool Cultural Heritage Forum

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## NEWSLETTER No 34

1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

### LCHF AGM

The Liverpool Cultural Heritage Forum held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting in the Corinthia Suite, Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (behind Lime Street Station) on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The meeting was well attended and a few new members joined the forum. The Chairman's report covered the formation and evolution of the Liverpool Heritage Forum into the fully constituted Liverpool Cultural Heritage Forum in 2009. LCHF future events for 2012 were announced as was the forum's intentions to be involved with the National Science Week networking event in March and the Liverpool Historic Villages initiative/event in early February, which was suggested by Liverpool City Council following the motion proposed by Cllr Barbara Mace.

The Chairman reported a positive bank balance, which should enable the forum to complete its objectives during 2012. The number of paid up members of the forum is roughly the same as last year and we have had more than 20 societies and groups renewing or subscribing to the LCHF. The number of email contacts who currently receive the LCHF newsletter has reached more than 2,000. Because groups and societies redistribute the newsletter, the total circulation is reported to be in the region of 4,000 recipients, making it the largest heritage related distribution list in the North West region. From December 2011, non-paying members will receive a monthly summary newsletter containing a full events listing and will only receive the full newsletter quarterly. If you wish to continue to receive the full monthly newsletter we hope you will consider joining the LCHF at only £5 per individual or £10 per group/society.

Payment can be made by either posting a cheque payable to **LCHFForum to 98 Elm Vale, Fairfield, Liverpool. L6 8NZ** or by credit or debit card safely via Paypal through the forums web site. <http://www.lchforum.org.uk/>. Membership cards will be posted to the address provided. (please do not forget to include you email address.)

Merseyside Archaeologist, Sarah Jane Farr provided a fascinating, information and enlightening presentation. The Chairman lamented that Sarah's role has lost funding, meaning that Merseyside, including Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley and Halton, will no longer have officers to enforce archaeology protection legislation.

### Historic Villages of Liverpool Initiative

The history of Liverpool has many stories to tell and none more fascinating than accounts of the old and ancient settlements that existed on both sides of the river. Liverpool justifiably has "World Heritage" status, but how many tourists to the city clamour to visit the old Manor Court in West Derby or take in the charm of Woolton Village?

- How many people who live in these villages know what exists on their doorstep?
- How do we engage with the younger generation to ensure they become the next custodians of our heritage?

These are just a few of the questions that need to be addressed. This initiative seeks to embrace our heritage and will be a chance for the history societies, special interest groups and proud members of local communities to stand up and be counted and to contribute in some way.

The Historic Villages of Liverpool Initiative will start in February 2012 with a seminar where members of groups and societies can network and discuss ideas about raising the heritage profile of the city. The agenda will be sent out very soon. **But now is the time to add this Initiative to your committees agendas** so you can bring your ideas to the meeting. The aim is to connect, support and champion our villages!

If you are involved with or know of a local history or heritage group or society that would like to attend the Historic Villages of Liverpool event in early 2012 please contact the LCHF at the email address found at the top of this newsletter.

### **City's World Heritage Site Status Decision**

Liverpool will know by Christmas if UNESCO is going to strip the city of its World Heritage Site status. UNESCO sent a monitoring mission to Liverpool following concerns about the impact of Peel Holdings' £5.5bn Liverpool Waters skyscraper scheme to regenerate the city's northern docklands. UNESCO has made warnings that the city could lose its World Heritage status if the project is given planning permission. The inspectors arrived on November 14<sup>th</sup> and during their three day visit, met 50 leading figures including politicians, high ranking officials, developers, Peel Holdings managers, business leaders and a handful of heritage campaigners. Their findings will be conveyed to the World Heritage Centre in a report not exceeding 10 pages by December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the latest. The inspectors' verdict will be a key factor when Liverpool City Council decides whether to grant planning permission to Peel Holdings – a decision likely to be taken in the New Year. A campaign committee has also been set up by Liverpool council and Peel Holdings to persuade UNESCO officials not to remove the World Heritage Site status.

### **Stanley Dock Redevelopment**

Derelict areas in and around Liverpool's North Docks are to be transformed in a scheme which will bring 1,800 jobs to the city. The North Liverpool City Fringe Employment and Investment programme will see Stanley Dock transformed into a hotel, shops and apartments. The Stanley tobacco warehouse will also be redeveloped as will areas between Leeds Street and the Liverpool Waters site. The scheme has been awarded a £25m government regional growth fund grant. The cash will also help build a combined heat and power plant, designed to generate electricity and hot water for the area.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg recently announced which firms would benefit from the £950m final instalment of the regional growth fund. The project was developed by Liverpool Vision, the city's economic development company and Liverpool City Council in partnership with The Eldonians Group Ltd and Stanley Dock Properties.

### **The St James Heritage Quarter Development:**

Regarding the ongoing redevelopment of St James church, here is the latest information;

- The church has received grants of £40,000 from The National Churches Trust, £20,000 from the All Churches Trust, and £5,000 from Garfield Weston.
- Work has started on detailed design work for the restoration of the Church Roof.
- Work on site is expected to commence early in the New Year.
- Work on the graveyard wall along Upper Parliament Street is almost complete.
- Rev Neil Short was invited to speak at the Toxteth Town Hall Open Day in September, which provided him with the opportunity to outline the project to the local community.

### **Liverpool Central Library redevelopment at halfway point**

The redevelopment of Liverpool Central Library has reached the half-way stage. The project involves fully restoring the Picton, Hornby and Oak buildings whilst retaining the building's historic facade on William Brown Street. The new section will see the construction of a new library complex, and a separate building housing the repository for the city's archives and historic treasures. A temporary roof structure, one of the largest in the country, has been built above the Picton library. It will be dismantled in the New Year, after work on replacing the zinc covering to the dome roof is complete.

There has also been intricate restoration work taking place on the stone columns and decorative masonry, including a previously concealed, original mid 19th Century sculpture which is believed to depict the foundation stone being laid by Victorian civic leaders. When the building is re-opened, the historic Hornby library and Oak Room will be fully accessible to the public.

The former Picton International Library is being restored to its original design and converted into a new children's discovery area. Outside the building, a specially created literary pavement will lead up to the new entrance, which is being built to the right of the old one on William Brown Street. A new rooftop terrace will provide views of St George's Hall across St John's Gardens.

### **Wirral's parks and open spaces concerns**

A Wirral Council row has put the future of Wirral's parks and open spaces into doubt as the issue of privatising the work raised its head again. Tory and Lib-Dem leaders used Wirral council's call-in procedure to examine a move by the Labour-controlled cabinet to keep maintenance of the borough's open spaces under direct council control.

### **Deane Road Jewish Cemetery**

Restoration works have started on site. The Deane Road Cemetery Committee is pleased to welcome the appointed contractors Mather & Ellis Ltd to the 'Team', who are specialists in stone masonry and conservation works. Preparation works over the next 2 weeks will involve scaffolding, cabins and site hoardings. Pointing work to the boundary walls has already started with the preparation of a sample area of lime mortar. Works to the facade, visitor centre and garden area will follow. The work has been estimated to take 22 weeks, with completion expected in late March 2012.

Passers by will be able to view the works through a 'window' in the hoarding. Opportunities to go on a site tour will be available as work progresses. For any volunteers who are particularly interested in conservation restoration works there will be opportunities to join short training sessions in applying lime mortar and stone masonry. For further information on volunteer opportunities contact Carol Ramsay on [carolramsay@deaneroadcemetery.com](mailto:carolramsay@deaneroadcemetery.com)

### **Josephine Butler House Reappears**

After the outrage caused when a local developer, Maghull Developments stripped the Yorkshire Stone façade from a well known and much admired Liverpool property, it has recently appeared on pallets for sale at £65 per square yard at Merseyside Reclamation Ltd in Chatham Street. Josephine Butler House was situated opposite the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. It was later demolished and assigned to the staggering list of Liverpool buildings lost for no better reason than profit or more often than not convenience. Please see the full description and web link below.

*Description: "A selection of Delph Yorkshire Point, taken from Josephine Butler House All prices are per square yard and include VAT, but do not include delivery."*

<http://www.merseysidereclamation.co.uk/product1.html>

### **New Liverpool History Book by Ken Pye.**

Local history author and LCHF member Ken Pye has written a new book called **Bloody British History: Liverpool**. It will be on sale from 26th November 2011, and is priced at £9.99 for the paperback edition. ISBN 978-0-7524-6551-7. Described as "The lurid and gruesome history of this ancient city laid bare" it is available from all good bookshops, Amazon and The History Press Direct Sales - 01235 465500 or [www.thehistorypress.co.uk](http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk)

### **WWI Silver War Badge Details to go Online**

Family history website Ancestry.co.uk are making available, records detailing 8.3 million soldiers who received a Silver War Badge, originally granted to prevent the soldiers being labelled cowards. The badges were awarded not just to honour their service but also to prevent them being targeted by members of the public with the infamous white feather for cowardice. Each record lists the soldier's name, rank, regimental number, duration of service and the reason for their discharge (often illness or wounding), and the number stamped on the rear of each badge. Soldiers listed in the collection included actor Arnold Ridley, who played Private Godfrey in TV's Dad's Army, who served from 1915 to 1916 until injuries sustained in the battle of the Somme led to his discharge.

### **Did you know?**

The very first production built Hawker Hurricane L1547 aircraft, crashed on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1940 into the River Mersey, with the pilot Sergeant Otto Hanzlicek unfortunately losing his life. The aircraft is still there today and at very low neap tides the wreckage can be seen.

### **Boost for Region to Kick-Start Stalled Projects**

The Merseyside area will be handed more than £20m for key infrastructure projects as part of a government drive to stop Britain being dragged back into recession. Council and business leaders will be urged to draw up plans for “shovel-ready” schemes for roads, housing, shops and business parks to get underway within months. Ministers are determined to revive projects that have got “stuck in the mud” because of the economic slowdown, amid growing fears of a ‘double-dip’ recession. The cash will be handed to the new ‘local enterprise partnerships’ (LEPs), which have been set up to replace the doomed North West Development Agency. The allocations to be announced will be; Liverpool City Region (£12.98m) and Cheshire and Warrington (£8.75m) plus Lancashire (£12.88m). The handouts represent a significant U-turn, given that the government had previously insisted that LEPs did not need government funding in order to draw in private investment. However, in September, ministers announced a £500m ‘Growing Places Fund’ to “get Britain building again”. That pot is now in the process of being divided up. The £500m is not an increase in government spending, as under spent budgets in the transport and local government departments were raided, so it is unlikely to satisfy calls for a ‘Plan B’ financial stimulus.

### **Did you know - Who owns the Mersey?**

The Crown Estate owns the foreshore and bed on the Birkenhead side of the tidal sections of the River Mersey, to the centre point of the river. Much of the Liverpool side of the tidal river is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, which is the major owner of the foreshore between the centre point of the Mersey and Barrow-in-Furness.

### **Did you know?**

Since the Mersey clean up began, the Environment Agency has recorded Minke whales, harbour porpoises and dolphins near the mouth of the river, along with octopus, squid, cuttlefish, crabs, jellyfish and shrimps. Seals have been seen as far upstream as Warrington.

### **In 1848, James Newlands, Liverpool and Britain’s first Borough Engineer, reported:**

“The whole of the sewage is still thrown into the river...and all of it at such points as to act very prejudicially on the health of the town. It becomes therefore a consideration of vital importance how to relieve the river from its pollution.”

### **Retail Park Redevelopment Delayed**

The £200m revamp of Edge Lane Retail Park, one of Liverpool’s biggest, has been delayed by a year. Proposals to expand the retail park by 40%, creating 600,000 sq ft of shops and 1,500 jobs, were approved by the government in March. Demolition of the premises is now anticipated to take place in spring 2012. The plans include 47 shops, four restaurants and three leisure units. More than 1,600 parking spaces are included, plus cycle space and improvements in the public space surrounding the park. Work was due to start this summer, but the four-year build has been delayed until late 2012 due to the recession.

Developer Derwent Holdings, owned by reclusive tycoon Albert Gubay, has struggled to sign up enough retailers to take new space in the expanded development and has said that 50% of the new jobs will go to local long-term unemployed people. The plan involves building on the current Rathbone Park at the junction of Edge Lane and Rathbone Road. Work on the replacement Victorian-style park will start in February and is expected to be completed in the autumn. This will then result in a land swap with the council which will allow the existing retail park to be redeveloped. Work on replacement business units is expected to start in spring 2012, with phase one work on the main site beginning in late 2012. Work will also be advanced to carry out much-needed improvements to properties on the Edge Lane corridor.

### **West Derby conservation area extension**

Plans to extend the conservation area around West Derby village have been announced. The extension takes in Haymans Green and includes the building which contained The Casbah Club which

was run by the mother of former Beatle's drummer Pete Best. John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison played at the venue as both The Quarrymen and The Beatles. Residents will be consulted about the proposals, which would restrict property alterations and tree pruning. West Derby Village is much older than Liverpool and was mentioned in the Domesday Book and had its own Norman Castle. The Casbah Club building was given Grade II listed building status in 2006. The consultation ends on 25 November 2011, and soon after, the council's cabinet will make a decision on the conservation area status.

### **Liverpool Playhouse Centenary.**

The Liverpool Playhouse recently celebrated its 100th birthday with a 90-minute play, one of a series of events planned to mark its centenary. The play called '*Cheer Up, It's Only the Beginning*' was specially commissioned from the critically-acclaimed High Hearted Theatre Company. It was created by Liverpool writers Helen Blakeman, Chloe Moss and Jeff Young and features moments from the theatre's history which all take place just before curtain-up.

There is also a book covering a century of Playhouse history – released 100 years to the day that the Liverpool Repertory Company first opened its doors to the public. Written by Ros Merkin, who also compiled the Everyman's official history in 2004, the hardback features photographs from the venue's extensive archive which is held at Liverpool Record Office, as well as interviews with key actors and directors. "Liverpool Playhouse: The celebrations" will conclude with a 100th birthday gala performance of *The Ladykillers*, written by Father Ted creator Graham Linehan and starring Oscar-winner Peter Capaldi. Tickets include a champagne reception, post-show toast and the cutting of a birthday cake shaped like the theatre, which was baked by The Cake Shop, Liverpool. The Liverpool Repertory Company was founded by a group of the city's leading figures including Ronald Jeans, a Daily Post arts critic, playwright and actor.

### **Liverpool's Gay Quarter Signage**

Liverpool has become the first city in Britain to have street signs emblazoned with the rainbow arch, the first of which was recently unveiled on Stanley Street at the heart of the city's new gay quarter. The signs, which appear along Stanley Street, Cumberland Street, Temple Lane, Eberle Street and Temple Street, have been introduced, following the decision by the city's council in August, to officially recognise the Stanley Street Quarter as a gay area. The signage is one of the first visible initiatives to be implemented following this recognition. The first sign was ceremonially unveiled by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool and Councillor Sharon Sullivan.

### **Confederate sloop Alabama**

A haunting image from the Merseyside Maritime Museum Library and Archives' collection of Captain Raphael Semmes has gone on display as part of the museum's fascinating Liverpool and the American Civil War Gallery Trail, to mark the 150th anniversary of the conflict. The photograph was taken in Table Bay on board the notorious Confederate sloop Alabama, which was built in Birkenhead. The image by Arthur Green is very evocative of the role the Alabama played hunting down enemy Union ships on the high seas. Semmes (1809 – 1877) commanded the Alabama from 1862 until she was sunk by the USS Kearsage off Cherbourg in 1864. In that two-year period the Alabama captured or sank 67 ships and a steamer. A letter from Semmes in 1864 refers to the Alabama's campaign pursuing and raiding Union merchant ships in the East Indies and Singapore, a reminder of the global reach of the Civil War at sea. He describes the poor conditions of both himself and the ship after a continuous two years on the waves, saying: "The Alabama's captain has worn himself out almost as completely as he has worn his ship." The 214-ft long Alabama was the result of a contract with Laird's shipyard obtained by Confederate naval officer James Dunwoody Bulloch.

Bulloch (1823 – 1901) was the Confederate chief foreign agent in Britain during the Civil War. He arrived in Liverpool in June 1861 with orders to obtain steam vessels suitable for use as warships to destroy commercial vessels. At the outbreak of the war, the Confederacy had no navy or ships to beat the Union blockade of its ports. The reason they looked to shipyards in Liverpool to secretly build blockade runners and naval cruisers was because Liverpool was friendly to the Southern states due to the cotton trade connections.

As Britain was officially neutral in the conflict it was thought that the British Government might seize her, so the Alabama was constructed in secret and left the shipyard in 1862. Semmes served in the

US Navy until the Civil War started, he then resigned his commission and joined the fledgling Confederate Navy. After the war he practised law in Mobile, Alabama, until his death. There is also a small 1:96 scale model on display and other items linked to the ship

### **Ravenmeols Heritage Trails**

The Formby Civic Society has been given a key role to play in a special project: Ravenmeols Heritage Trails. This is being organised under the auspices of the Sefton Coast Partnership and arises from concerns that local heritage is at risk of being lost and forgotten. It is a three year programme, now in its second year. During the Development Phase, guided walks were undertaken which resulted in very positive feedback from the people attending. Participants were amazed at how much history there was within the area, of which, even local residents were unaware. All expressed support for the development of trails and interest in future events. Further associated events are now planned including oral history events, guided walks and other opportunities to add to the existing archive of historic information. It is planned for further practical work to identify the best routes for the more important trails. A number of Formby Civic Society's members are becoming very involved. Further information from [www.formbycivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.formbycivicsociety.org.uk)

### **Localism Bill**

Civic Voice, the national charity for the civic movement, has been very active in representing civic societies concerns over the Localism Bill, which is currently proceeding through Parliament. Besides providing MPs with a briefing on the Bill, giving oral evidence to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee considering the legislation and promoting discussion among member societies on the new neighbourhood planning power, Civic Voice has worked with other national organisations to promote amendments to the Bill as it has proceeded.

Most recently, the Government has tabled an amendment, picking up on a Civic Voice and Royal Town Planning Institute supported change, to tidy up a clause in the Bill which would have left business-led neighbourhood forums free to engage in positive planning without the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area. If successful, the amendment means that neighbourhood forums, whether resident or business-led, will have the same powers and the same overall purposes.

### **Digital Champions**

More than 1,000 people have already signed up to a major campaign to get more residents online in Liverpool. "Go On it's Liverpool" – which is backed by Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Vision, Unionlearn (the TUC scheme which encourages members to improve their skills), Race Online and UK Online - has been launched because an estimated 100,000 people in the city have never used the internet. The aim is to recruit a total of 5,000 Digital Champions who will give up their time to get an extra 25,000 people in the city online by March 2012. The landmark 1,000 was reached as the government's internet tsar Martha Lane Fox visited the city on Wednesday 16 November to mark International Women's Enterprise Day.

### **British Library's UK Web Archive Initiative.**

David Stoker, Manager - Liverpool Record Office has kindly drawn to my attention to a national initiative to preserve and archive websites for posterity. This scheme is the British Library's UK Web Archive and it is described at:

[http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info/about#what\\_uk\\_archive](http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info/about#what_uk_archive).

Anyone can request that their own community website, for example, is harvested as part of this scheme and it is a free service. It works most simply when someone nominates their own/own group's site so that there is not a complicated process of seeking permission involved. Details for the nomination process are at:

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info/nominate>.

*Rob Ainsworth*

## Notes from King John

The AGM of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra took place on 1 November. Michael Eakin, the Chief Executive, reported on another extremely successful year under the leadership of conductor Vasily Petrenko, in which the Phil has achieved high acclaim in this country and abroad. The AGM was told that Liverpool City Council made a grant to the Phil of £1,421,000 and Arts Council England one of £2,225,000. The Department of Education provided £349,000 for the Phil's *In Harmony* project in West Everton. Fundraising from individuals and donors produced £393,000. Income from performances grew from £2,231,000 in the previous year to £2,442,000. Profits from operation of the Hall also grew, to £241,000.

Members of the Phil present were much impressed by the pride and confidence of those running it, by the words of Vasily Petrenko and by the fact that he remained until the end of the meeting and chatted to members, which is more than can be said of many VIPs.

Many readers of his newsletter are *Friends* of several groups. Most of these *Friends* groups are outside the power structure of the organisation which they support, some being controlled by that organisation, some entirely independent. The Phil is different in that the ordinary *Members* actually review and comment on the operations of the Phil itself. At the present time, there is very little comment to be made except "Very well done!"

KJ

## Events

### THE EUROPEAN OPERA CENTRE TRUST

#### The Wirral Society Events.

#### The Liverpool Nautical Research Society

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** The Thetis Disaster by Derek Arnold (An excellent talk Ed.)

#### **2012 Talks Series**

**Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2012** H.M.Y. Britannia Capt H Daghish

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2012** Operation Postmaster David White

**Mar 15<sup>th</sup> 2012** Ocean Group Confrontation in Indonesia (1958 - 1966) Nick White

**Apr 19<sup>th</sup> 2012** The Daniel Adamson Dan Cross

**May 17<sup>th</sup> 2012** A.G.M and The early years of Thomas Brocklebank by Michael Brocklebank

#### The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society Events

**12 Jan** John East Slide Evening The Gallery, 70 Cowcross St £7.00 Members Rate £9.00 Non Members Rate

**19 Jan** Slide Evening, Members' own travels The Gallery, 70 Cowcross St £7.00 Members Rate £9.00 Non Members Rate

**25 Jan** Slide evening - North Italian War Cemeteries The Gallery, 70 Cowcross St £7.00 Members Rate £9.00 Non Members Rate

#### The Liverpool Geological Society

- **Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Jeff Harris - The Geology of Ardnamurchan.
- **Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** - The Distinguished Member's Address by Professor Tony Harris.
- **Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Herdman Symposium.
- **Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Feb** - Practical Session on Brachiopods with Joe Crossley.
- **Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Feb** - The Society Dinner at The Mandarin Restaurant, Victoria Street, Liverpool.
- **Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Professor James Scourse on 'The Medieval Climate Anomaly and the Little Ice Age'.
- **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Mar** - National Science Week Event - Rock Around William Brown Street with Joe Crossley & Hazel Clark.
- **Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Mar** - Distinguished Visitor's Address by Professor Peter Styles.
- **Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Mar** - Rock Around Wirral with Hilary Davies.

**The Waterloo Flea Market Old Christ Church**, Waterloo Road, Waterloo, L22 1RF

Dates: Saturday **3<sup>rd</sup> December**. Times open: 9.30am to 1pm. Cost of entry: 30 pence. An all-indoor market with up to 80 stalls selling a variety of products.

**Contact:** Larry Goodband. Mobile: 07855748586 or Marie Curtis Tel: 0151 933 0132.

**The Waterloo Farmers Market and Food Fayre. Old Christ Church**, Waterloo Road, Waterloo, Date **9<sup>th</sup> December**. Times open: 10.30am to 3pm. Cost of entry: Free. An all-indoor market with stalls selling a variety of products from farms and other traders located in Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Wales and elsewhere.

**Contact :** Kevin Murray Tel: 0151 649 0401 to book a stall.

Other information John Bramham; Tel 0151 924 5738 e-mail: [johnbramham@uwclub.net](mailto:johnbramham@uwclub.net)

**Pride in Liverpool is going to present an event in January 2012** The event will:

- Celebrate Liverpool – past, present and future
- Be created by input given freely by the people, services and businesses of our city as part of the Liverpool Plan
- Be open to all

This event is about taking Liverpoolians on a journey that will reconfirm their pride in the city, boost confidence and encourage high ambition for them and their families. We want people to go away energised and with a positive attitude about their potential future. Would you be interested in being involved? Do you want to know more? If you do, please e-mail – [val212212@AOL.com](mailto:val212212@AOL.com) for the proposal details.

**Subscribe to SFX Email News!** [Sign up to receive email updates from Saint Francis Xavier's.](#)

Keep up to date with events at St Francis Xavier's, the restoration of the Church building and City wide events that SFX is taking part in or supporting.

**Saturday, 3 December 2011** The first birthday of the Friends of SFX and the feast day of St Francis Xavier. All Friends, Old Xaverians and their guests welcome! After 12 noon Mass celebrated by the new Jesuit Provincial, Fr Dermot Preston, there will be an afternoon of socialising, entertainment and refreshments, finishing about 4pm. No admission fee - just a pay bar and a voluntary donations opportunity on the day. We're planning to include a sing-along of SFX related music (not hymns!), readings from the SFX archives, refreshments, and time to chat with friends old and new. Frank Cottrell Boyce, Liverpool-born screenwriter and Carnegie Medal winner for children's literature will be our guest of honour. For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming and how many guests you are bringing. You could use the enclosed membership renewals form to do so.

**Dante Alighieri Society in Liverpool Tuesday 17th January 2012** Annual General Meeting and talk by Mr J.M..Corfe, Vice-Chairman, on "Looking at Lucca."

### **Dickens' Christmas Classic comes to Liverpool Cathedral**

A Christmas Carol – November 23rd 2011, 7.30pm Charles Dickens' family classic A Christmas Carol is set to come to Liverpool Cathedral this November. Produced by Saltmine Theatre Company, the performance takes place on Wednesday 23rd November at 7.30pm. Perfect for all ages, the play tells the classic story of Scrooge, and what happens when he is visited on Christmas Eve by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Tickets cost £8.00, £5.00 (Conc), £6.00 Group Tickets (10 or more in a single purchase). Tickets from <http://www.cathedralshop.com> 0151 702 7255. Car Parking - £3.00 pay on entry.

### **Friends of Williamson's Tunnels**

**Mon. 5th December 2011** Festive meeting with wine and mince pies.