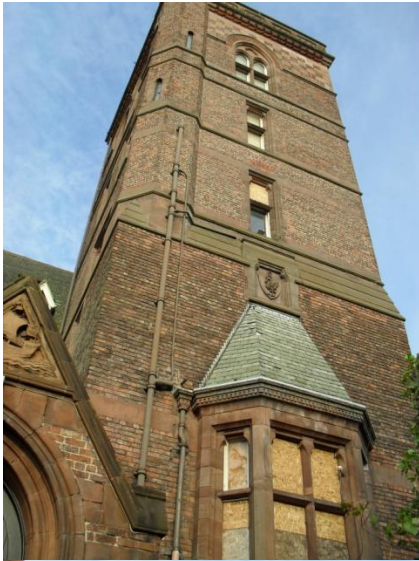


# Newsham Park Seaman's Orphanage



This document has been prepared to assess the opportunities for:

The refurbishment of The Royal Seaman's Orphanage, In order to provide appropriate accommodation for the development of a range of educational, recreational, sporting and cultural opportunities for the people of Newsham Park



Collaboration and partnership with the tenants and owners of the property.

To further the Aims of the Newsham Park Community Development Association. [facebook](#)



I have been looking into the Historical Heritage site of the Royal Seaman's Orphanage on Newsham Park, which has been derelict for over 20 years.

The conservation area of Newsham Park falls within a number of boroughs which are of a higher than average multicultural populace; coupled with the fact the surrounding areas are deprived, the association believes there is need of a community centre for the multicultural society.

It would be a great loss for the community as a whole, if it were to be developed into yet another residential property; as is the plan from the owners of the building. Although the property has been earmarked for residential usage, plans have not yet been passed or submitted.

A project of this scale can be funded from a variety of different ways, but without community involvement it will be doomed to failure, your help would be greatly appreciated in any way, possibly by putting me in contact with the relevant people to help develop this project.

With the Seaman's Orphanage which had strong links with the maritime industry, coupled with the cities development; and the fact that Liverpool is a World Heritage Site, action needs to be taken so that this magnificent building can be used by the people of Liverpool.

I've been talking to local residents and business owners about the setting up of a community center there, and the feedback I have had is extremely positive.

## **The Aims of the Association.**

The refurbishment of this Historic Building Complex would bring it back into the community's usage, where it rightfully belongs; in order to provide appropriate accommodation for the development of a range of educational, recreational, sporting and cultural opportunities for the users of the park and its surrounding areas.

Collaboration and partnership, with the owners and tenants of the Building to further the aims of the Association.

Funding and "resourcing" these developments would be carried out through a variety of ways in partnership with statutory, community and commercial organizations.

There is a need for major players to be involved from within the community to add credence to the project.

## **Action plan.**

See if there is funding available to help develop the Association (running costs)

### Phase 1

Securing a license to operate from within the building

### Phase 2

Getting Community service and Community volunteers to come and help with the clean up of the property.

Health and safety, permitting.

### Phase 3

Gain a long term lease on a peppercorn rental basis

### Phase 4

Instigate funding bids and training courses

Phase 5 Develop this Historic Grade II Listed Building complex for the needs of the 21st Century rather than those of the 19th Century when they were first built.

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## Seamen's Orphanage

In April 1870, Liverpool City Council donated a plot of land in the North East of Newsham Park for an orphanage. On the 11th September 1871, the foundation stone was laid by Ralph Brocklebank and within a few months £8,000 had been raised for the building. In January 1874, 114 children moved into the orphanage and it was officially opened on 30th September 1874 by Queen Victoria's fourth son the Duke of Edinburgh.



An external view of the  
Seamans Orphanage,  
Newsham Park,  
Liverpool dated 1895

On 12th May 1886, Queen Victoria visited The Seamen's Orphanage accompanied by the Duke of Connaught and Princess Beatrice. Queen Victoria agreed to become patron of the orphanage with Princess Mary and as a result it was granted the title 'Royal'.

At the start of World War Two, preparations were made for the children at The Seamen's Orphanage to be evacuated. This took place on the 11th September 1939, exactly 68 years after the foundation stone was laid.



Liverpool Seamen's Orphan  
Institution.

After the Second World War in 1948, there were only 130 children left in the orphanage. The introduction of Family Allowance and the launch of the National Health Service enabled families to care for children in their own home. On 25th July 1949, it was decided that the orphanage should close down and two days later the doors finally shut with many of its children being sent to boarding schools.



In 1951, the Ministry of Health bought the building and turned it into a hospital, however, this closed down in 1988 and the building is currently not in use.

The park was one of the first Victorian Parks in Liverpool and was based on designs by Edward Kemp. An aviary was built to house exotic birds but was demolished in the 1930's, the birds then housed in Sefton Park. There was also a band stand, a boating lake, a fishing lake and five fountains. Newsham Park was used for a lot of sporting events, and there were three bowling greens, two of which still remain.

The park has two listed buildings in it, Newsham House and the Seaman's Orphanage.

Newsham House was built at the end of the 18th century by Thomas Molyneaux. In 1868, it was bought by Liverpool Corporation for £80,000 to become the lodgings for judges in Liverpool.



Liverpool Royal Seamen's  
Orphan  
Institution

Queen Victoria and her entourage stayed there on their last visit to Liverpool in 1886. The house was refurbished for her visit and was lit by electric lights. Other visitors to Newsham House included Princess Beatrice in 1886, the Duke of Connaught in 1892 and the Duke and Duchess of York in 1893. The house is still in use as judges' lodgings.

This landmark site should not be allowed to fall into development plans i.e. housing or otherwise, it should serve the community in some description community centre or trust. As when this Landmark site was first built.

This Historic Building complex would require Major capital funding just to bring it in line with health and safety standards.

In order to attract substantial funding particularly from grant making trusts it would be necessary for the “Association” to hold a long term lease for the Accommodation it seeks to utilize for the delivery of community services. Whilst grant making trusts would look favorably on applications if those lease arrangements were of a nominal or peppercorn rental basis in return for capital injection.

Historic Buildings are a precious and finite asset, and powerful reminders to us of the work and way of life of earlier generations. The richness of this country’s architectural heritage plays an influential part in our sense of national and regional identity. Your favorite views of England – street, village, town or city....

Preserving the past and protecting the future.  
Let’s put the Heart back into the local community.

The Seaman’s Orphanage Newsham Park

The Accommodation could provide for a number of local groups of people.

The Main area obviously lends itself to Cultural social events and sporting events. Tea dances, amateur dramatics, music performances, dance classes, sporting clubs societies and public events/competitions. Outdoor pursuits, woodworking and craftwork, recording studios etc