

Entrepreneurs Inaugurated into the Merseyside Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame. 18th November 2004

CONTEMPORARY

Elaine Clarke

If women are the new entrepreneurs, Elaine is a new, new entrepreneur.

There is a growing recognition that Elaine has established and managed two of Liverpool's most popular bars - Bar Bar and Modo, and more recently opened City centre bistro Café Tabac - playing a major role in the regeneration of both the Concert Square and the Rope Walks area. She is an excellent role model for young women who are striving to achieve in the workplace.



Tom Dawes

Tom Dawes developed the concept of Aerogistics Ltd from his PhD research with the e-Business Research Centre (e-BRC) at the University Of Liverpool Management School. Aerogistics is an aerospace supply chain management company focused on the clustering of engineering business to develop virtual organizations and is currently working with several engineering companies to improve planning, control and supply chain management.

In partnership with North West Precision Forms, a precision engineering company based in Birkenhead, Aerogistics have secured contracts with First Choice Airlines, Airbus and Raytheon to provide a 1-stop shop project management service.

In collaboration with the e-BRC, Aerogistics have developed web-enabled supply chain management solutions for Airbus UK, Korean Aerospace Industries and Westland Helicopters. This initiative is now part of a £6m technology transfer programme at the University of Liverpool, with the mission to commercially exploit next generation Internet technologies.

Aerogistics Ltd is to develop supply chain management portals, including a wide range of innovative business solutions such as an on-line work package management, catalogue and inventory hosting, document management and systems integration with customer e-solutions and procurement e-marketplaces.



Claire Dove MBE, FRSA

Claire's career spans 30 years within the voluntary sector where she has had extensive experience of formal and informal education and training.

Claire has led the organisation since its inception at the beginning of the 1980's and developed the strategic vision to take the Blackburne House Group centre stage by moving from rented space and relocating to a Grade II listed building that underwent a £4m refurbishment. Blackburne House Group is now one of Merseyside's original and most successful social enterprises and officially designated Centre of Excellence.

The organisation has successfully trained and educated many thousands of women whose skills, knowledge and talents are adding to the regeneration of Merseyside. The educational performance of the organisation has been ranked in the top 10% of FE providers in the country.

Claire's commitment to women's education and equality of opportunity is reflected in the role she plays in many local and national organisations. She is currently Deputy Chair of the Greater Merseyside Learning & Skills Council, Board Member of the Mersey Partnership, Governor on the Corporation Board of Liverpool Community College, a member of Merseyside Connexions Service and a Board Member for Futurebuilders England.

Claire has been awarded Honorary Fellowship of Liverpool John Moores University and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Sharon Hilditch

Sharon Hilditch started Crystal Clear International, manufacturing skincare treatment machines and products, in 1995, with an £8,000 bank loan. The business was born from Sharon's desire to provide a gentler, alternative skin resurfacing system to laser, chemical peeling or the scalpel but without the post-treatment down time - bridging the gap between salon facials and surgical procedures.

Afflicted with a severe hearing problem that affected her ability to concentrate, Sharon left school with no qualifications. She did not, however, allow this to break her resolve to build a successful business.

Today, the company has a massive celebrity following supplying global stars like Madonna, Cindy Crawford and Victoria Beckham. Crystal Clear is on target for sales of £8m this year, exporting to 20 countries and has an aggressive expansion plan in place.



Bill Kenwright

It is hard to think of anyone in Merseyside economic community who has had a wider or greater impact or win greater recognition than Bill Kenwright.

He is probably the country's leading impresarios - in many years introducing a dozen or more shows onto the West End of London, besides having productions in locations as diverse as Liverpool's Empire. New York's Broadway and cities from Hong Kong to Sydney. His most famous production Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* recently celebrated its sixteenth year in the West End at the Phoenix Theatre. It ran for three years at the Music Box Theatre on Broadway, receiving seven Tony nominations.

As a director he is responsible for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the national tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman's *Whistle Down the Wind* and Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*. He was nominated for a London Theatre Critics' award for *West Side Story* at the Shaftesbury and a Tony award for *Blood Brothers* in New York.

His films include *The Day After the Fair*, *Stepping Out*, *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, Charlie Busch's Dance Festival award winner *Die Mommie Die* and he has just completed *The Purifiers*. He co-produced the phenomenally successful national arena tour of *Elvis - The Concert* with Elvis Presley Enterprises.

He received an Honorary Fellowship from Liverpool's John Moore's University and is an onorary Professor of Thames Valley University in London. In 2002 he received the Variety Club Bernard Delfont award for his contribution to the entertainment industry. January 2001 brought him a CBE in HM The Queen's New Year's Honours.

He is Chairman and major shareholder of Everton Football Club (and an even bigger fan).



Steve Morgan

Steve Morgan, 51, is founder and former chairman of Redrow plc one of the Country's leading builders and currently chairman of the Bridgemere Investments group of companies and Harrow Estates plc, he is the largest individual shareholder and a non-executive director of De Vere Group plc.

Steve was born and raised in Garston, Liverpool, he completed his education at Colwyn High School, Colwyn Bay, where he moved to at the age of 13. After completing an OND at Liverpool Polytechnic in 1972, he spent two years gaining experience at site managerial level with a Liverpool civil engineering company, before starting Redrow at the age of 21 with the aid of a £5,000 loan from his father.

Under Steve's leadership Redrow became one of the UK's most successful house builders. In October 2000, after 26 years, Steve stepped down as chairman. He is still the largest individual shareholder of Redrow plc.

He was awarded Honorary Fellowships by both Liverpool John Moores University in July 1993 and the North East Wales Institute in October 1993 and was made a Fellow of The Institute of Builders in 2000. In 1992 Steve was awarded the OBE for services to the construction industry. More recently his love of Liverpool FC has gave him a new prominence.



Phil Redmond

Few of Merseyside's contemporary entrepreneurs have had the impact on the contemporary business landscape as Professor Phil Redmond.

Chairman of The Mersey Television Company Limited and Executive Producer of Hollyoaks Productions Limited. He is also Honorary Professor of Media Studies, Liverpool John Moores University.

Phil Redmond founded Mersey Television in 1981 to produce his own work and it is still Britain's biggest permanent employer in the independent production sector with approximately 300 permanent and 150 freelance staff. Phil Redmond is listed in Who's Who' as Chairman and Producer.

Originally one of the first 2% of the population to attend a comprehensive school, he left in 1968 to take up a career as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor. In 1972, however, he gave that up to concentrate upon a career as a writer, and later returned to the University of Liverpool as a mature student to take a degree in Social Studies.

In 1989 he was offered the Professorship and Honorary Chair of Media Studies at the Liverpool John Moores University. In February 1989, Phil was instrumental in setting up the Liverpool Film Office to capitalise on the talent and economic and architectural potential of the City. Liverpool has since become the destination for many film-makers from home and abroad, and the establishment of the Film Office has provided a template for similar initiatives in other cities around the country.

Since 1993 he has been a Fellow and Member of the Board of Trustees at Liverpool John Moores University. In February 1998 he became the first Chair of LJMU, School of Media, Critical and Creative Arts Advisory Board. Fanatical Liverpool supporter, Phil is currently Chairing the Merseyside Entrepreneurship Commission.



David Wade-Smith

If the Kaiser could once describe the English as a "nation of shopkeepers" Liverpool and Merseyside was the shopping centre with pioneers like David Lewis and T.J. Hughes.

The Wade Smiths are maintaining this "tradition" today – even if the word tradition seems inappropriate to such a stylish and fashionable store. David Wade-Smith is one of the portfolio entrepreneurs who are so much a part of the entrepreneurial scene on Merseyside.

He helped to found the independent retailer – Wade Smith - that has been actively in the regeneration of Liverpool throughout the past decade. Famous for establishing the Wade Smith brand with his brother during the 1980's, David is now Director Liverpool based retailer The Room Store. Equally important he plays a vital role beyond his business across retailing in general and now as the incoming Chair of the Chamber of Commerce while just this week he announced the launch of his new technology based business.

HISTORIC



James Brown 1815 – 1881

James Brown is one of the many people of colour whose contribution to Merseyside's economic success over the years is too easily forgotten or understated. Many aspects of his early life are unrecorded or clouded – at least until Ray Costello provided important insights in his *Black Liverpool; The Early History of Britain's Oldest Black Community*.

It seems that James' father had an illustrious life of his own – as Nelson's chief Boatswain on Nelson's flagship the *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar. It seems that James himself was an accomplished printer and was involved in founding the *Liverpool Mercury Newspaper*. Besides his printing and publishing interests he ran the *Concert Tavern* and was a founding member of the Chartist movement.

His youngest son – another James – achieved considerable success himself – becoming the first person of Liverpool Black ancestry to enter the law and "take the silk".



Sarah Clayton, 1712-1779

Few if any of Merseyside's entrepreneurs have left their mark as indelibly on the landscape of Liverpool, especially its City Centre. At a time when female business leaders struggled to build their businesses and achieve success or recognition Sarah Clayton was a true leader of the local business community.

Among her many projects, Sarah Clayton, laid out Clayton Square and neighbouring streets in Liverpool City Centre between 1745 and 1750 – after the area had been levelled to create fortifications to protect the City from a feared attack by the "Young Pretender" Bonnie Prince Charlie. In the process, she had a big impact on the design of the city of Liverpool.

She was prominent in a host of businesses – probably the City's first "portfolio" entrepreneur – including the Liverpool coal business and a successful tobacco merchant in the 1700s.



Samuel Cunard (1787-1865)

If the Mersey was the gateway to the Atlantic and the Americas, for many Cunard was the carrier of choice. The names of its greatest Ships – The Queens – still have a magic to today's traveller. The origins of this legend lie in a man who was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia but who decided that the best place to build his global business was Liverpool.

Samuel Cunard started the first transatlantic mail service, his reliability and speed soon established a reputation for Cunard ships that last today. The Cunard Steamship Company pioneered high speed transatlantic services battling for the coveted "Blue Ribbon" – partly because Samuel Cunard established a reputation for quality and speed that was unrivalled.

Samuel was a builder so it is wholly fitting that the year that the "Three Graces" – with the Cunard Building as its centrepiece – helped to bring the coveted "World Heritage Site" Status to the City, that he is one of the first cohort of inductees to the Merseyside Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame.



Sebastian & Gerard De Ferranti (1864-1930 & 1893-1980)

Sebastian born in Liverpool, was a scientific inventor making and patenting a new form of dynamo before he was eighteen. He left university after two terms because his father could not support him, and formed a company for the development of electrical products, which was his lifetime obsession and gift.

He campaigned for a centralised electrical supply, designing and building all the machines for the Deptford Power Station in London in 18912. The scale of the operation necessitated a move to a large factory in Hollinwood, Oldham in 1896. Ferranti's won a major share of the transformer contract for the new national grid, built 1928-33. An inventive genius, De Ferranti took out 176 patents in his working life.

Gerard Vincent de Ferranti, Sebastian's son, risked his own money to buy a controlling share of Ferranti's when his father died in 1930. He supervised growth, through the expansion of the transformer department and development of specialist electrical and early computer products, to be the largest factory in Europe and one of the top three electrical firms in the world.



William Hesketh Lever (1851 – 1925)

William was born in Bolton - a 7th child after 6 daughters. His father was a wholesale grocer who took his son out of school and put him in the business for one shilling a week. After two years he went into the office and eventually became a traveller, against his father's better judgment.

Having decided to specialise in soap, William founded Lever Brothers in Warrington with his younger brother. Then, wanting to expand, he found suitable land in Cheshire, which became 'Port Sunlight'. His first boiling of Sunlight soap at the new factory was in 1889. As well as his factory, he built houses for his workers - together with a pub and two churches.

William Lever himself lived in Port Sunlight for a while, but then moved out to Thornton Manor. Later on he built a bungalow at Rivington. He enjoyed visiting art exhibitions and buying paintings. After the death of his wife in 1913, he built an Art Gallery at Port Sunlight in her memory - the Lady Lever Gallery. He also bought land in the Hebrides and went into commercial fishing, founding MacFisheries which had shops in all the major towns. He rebuilt Stornoway, had a castle on Harris - and took the title Viscount Leverhulme of the Western Isles.



Ludwig Mond (1839 – 1909) and John Brunner (1842- 1919)

One of Britain's greatest companies owes its origins to a very special alliance between Ludwig Mond from a Swiss scientific innovator and John Brunner the Everton born son of a Unitarian minister.

Ludwig Mond was one of the greatest chemists – industrialists of all time. His application of chemical knowledge to the needs of his time resulted in industries that are still in operation more than a century later. The whole of British Chemical Industry, indeed chemical industry worldwide has been stimulated and inspired by the example of requiring an accurate understanding of the physical and chemical conditions of his technological work. This formidable career led to the eventual formation of ICI.

He arrived in England in 1860, the son of a mere Jewish cloth merchant in Cassel, in Germany, after a brief education at Heidelberg University - which he left without even receiving a degree. He came to England to escape the anti-Semitism in Germany believing in the tolerance of England, and made it his home.

He made his first home at Farnsworth, Widnes where he met John Brunner. In the 19th century it was said that the standard of a civilisation or a nation might be judged by the consumption of soda ash per head of the population. Ludwig Mond's process was to give England the lead. Mond was one of the earliest examples of an industrialist driven both by science and social conscience.

Mond went from strength to strength having outlets for his goods from here to Shanghai. During this period he was also made a member of all the great scientific institutions in Europe.

John Brunner provided the commercial and financial expertise. In their first year they lost £4,300, but turned that into a profit of £2,045 the following year and by their silver jubilee year were making £300,000. His system of management controls, use of consensus based management and commitment to training left his mark across the Company and help to create the systems that enabled the company to prosper for a century. The two men also shared a passion for the welfare of their workers, providing housing and schools for them, as well as a social club and paying for libraries and guildhalls in the area.



Sir John Moores (1896 – 1993)

It can be hard for a Mancunian to win the affection and esteem of the people of Liverpool, but one who achieved both was Sir John Moores, from Chorlton, Greater Manchester.

John Moores built from scratch one of Britain's largest firms, The Littlewoods Organisation out of his willingness to innovate, take risks and constantly to building achievement on achievement. It is the Pools for which he was most famous – a competition which was embedded in the consciousness of the entire nation for the best part of the century. The business expanded to include a national network of retail stores and one of the UK leading mail order services.

Like Bill Kenwright he shared his love of enterprise with a powerful commitment to Everton Football Club. His business success was based upon his philosophy of the equality of opportunity for all.



William Henry Pilkington (1905-1983)

Pilkington's, St Helens, Glassmaking, Innovation and Manufacturing – the words come together to illustrate some many aspects of successful entrepreneurship. William Pilkington was the entrepreneur and business leader who transformed the family business into a global venture, preparing the ground for the innovations that continue to drive the company to long term success.

He, also, established the powerful commitment to charity and corporate social responsibility that marks the Company out as a leaders. He supported hospitals and was especially passionate about the YMCA;

From the 1930s Pilkington had established overseas operations to manufacture sheet glass and safety glass. By the 1950s the company was manufacturing in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa.



William Rathbone (1787 – 1868)

Second generation in the Liverpool shipping merchant firm and the first ever importer of cotton from North America. Campaigner against slavery and promoter of liberal national and local political parties.

When William Rathbone II founded a shipbuilding and wood company in Liverpool in 1742, he could have had no idea of it's potential success. Nevertheless, that is what fate had in store for Rathbones in the course of the 19th century. Established not only in Great Britain but also in Switzerland, Jersey and the British Virgin Islands, Rathbones can pride itself in being entrusted with managing nearly 6 billion pounds via private as well as public funds, among them pension scheme funds.



Michael James Whitty (1795-1873)

Michael James Whitty was born in County Wexford in 1795 and he came to Liverpool in 1828 to start work as editor of the Liverpool Journal.

In February 1836 Michael James Whitty became the founder and first Head Constable of Liverpool Police and Fire Brigade, a position he held until he retired 1844.

Following his retirement Michael James Whitty founded the Liverpool Daily Post, which in 1855 was published as Britain's first penny paper.

Current Daily Post editor, Jane Wolstenholme said; "It is entirely fitting that we should remember the immense contribution made by Michael James Whitty. It's hard to imagine someone being able to start the police force, the fire brigade and a daily newspaper".



Kitty Wilkinson (1785 – 1860)

Catherine (Kitty) Seaward was born into a skilled working class family in Derry, Ireland, in 1785.

At the age of 25 Kitty opened a school so that she could have her ill mother with her during the day. Anything from between ten and ninety children attended, paying 3d per week.

During the cholera epidemic in 1832, Kitty and Tom Wilkinson were in the fortunate position of having the only hot water boiler in their street, and so they invited their neighbours down to their cellar to wash their clothes and bed-linen. The Wilkinsons were aided in their work by the Liverpool District Provident Society and the benevolence of the Rathbone family, each contributing towards the provision of clean clothes and fresh bedding materials. Kitty and Tom asked the neighbours who used their facilities to contribute one penny per family, per week to help towards costs.

In 1846 the authorities chose to recognise the pioneering work done by Kitty and Tom Wilkinson. They were offered the positions of Superintendents of the Frederick Street public baths and wash-house, which they accepted. In 1846, aged 60, Kitty was presented to Queen Victoria as she visited Liverpool, in recognition of her services to the city.

Kitty Wilkinson died in 1860, aged 73, and she is permanently commemorated in a stained glass window in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, which honours the noble women of Liverpool.