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The games kids used to play

GIVEN that so many of our childhood memories are bound up with the games we played, it’s unsurprising that Liverpool English has a whole vocabulary for them. Kids spent a lot of time on the street, or on wasteland – the “debs” (from the French “débris”), “olla” (from “hollow”), or the “bombdie” (from “bombed”). But games are generational, and the language records the changes. Older readers will remember “pitch and toss” (recorded as “pitch and hustle”, from the 17th century), a popular form of street gambling that needed only a mark (to pitch at) and a couple of coins (to toss). If you didn’t have the coins, you could play instead with “Flemings”; brass buttons from Fleming’s, the Scotland Road tailor. There were variations: “Bang off,” “Buttons” and “figs”, all of which combined elements of pitch and toss and marbles. They had their own specialised terms too: “dellies” (a prize button). The expanded group has also reached a landmark this month with news that the Signature Living Group has developed and now owns over 1m square feet of property in Liverpool and in August of this year will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

They said they were projecting profits in the region of £20m for the 2018/19 financial year. The expanding group has also reached a landmark this month with news that the Signature Living Group has developed and now owns over 1m square feet of property in Liverpool and a further 500,000 square feet in other parts of the UK. As well as developments in Liverpool, the company is now planning sites in Manchester, Preston, Cardiff and Belfast. Speaking to the ECHO in 2016, Walton-born Mr Kenwright explained how he’d hit rock bottom and declared himself bankrupt before re-building his reputation and hotel empire.

“My dad was a docker, I couldn’t go to college and I didn’t have the knowledge base there. I didn’t think I had that knowledge, so I made quite a few mistakes when I first started out.”

Mr Kenwright lost everything during the property market crash, and said it left him so depressed he couldn’t even bring himself to get out of bed. He told the ECHO: “I got myself into financial difficulty with properties. I over-leveraged like everyone did. I didn’t have a penny. I was potless and that’s when I didn’t have anything and I had to start again.

“When I started out, I couldn’t even bring myself to get out of bed. I only got up because my daughter called me from school crying her eyes out saying they were going to throw her out because I hadn’t paid her fees. “I didn’t pay it because I didn’t have the money. I heard her say ‘they’re going to throw me out of school’ and I bolted up there and then.”

Currently, the group operates a hotel and apartment portfolio valued at £250m and has plans to develop a further £300m of hotel projects and residential development schemes over the next three years.