



Deposited via The University of Leeds.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/127395/>

Version: Published Version

Article:

Crowley, AE (2018) The games kids used to play. Liverpool Echo. ISSN: 1751-6277

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.


ECHO The voice of the city

MY CITY

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 “debby” (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 “Jigs”, all of which combined elements of pitch and toss and marbles. They had their own specialised terms too: a “delly” (a prize button flattened on a tramline) and “to fang out” (to span your fingers to measure the distance between buttons).

Marbles was called “cherrywobs” (also known as “cherrybobs” and “cherrywags”) and “ollies”. “Cherrywobs” (origin unknown) was played with cherrystones; “ollies” was a serious game, often played by adults, and again it had its own precise terminology: “bloody alley”, “glannies”, “jacks”, “lassies/lazzies”, “nonks”, “parrots”, “segs”, “stonies”, “steelies” and “ups”. “Ollie” didn't come from “alley”,

(correct Liverpool terms for this were “jowler” and “jigger”). It's the Liverpool pronunciation of “alley”, an 18th-century shortening of “alabaster”. Such is the creativity of Liverpool language, that “yer ollie's down the grid” became a common expression meaning “You're in a hopeless position”.

TONY CROWLEY

AUTHOR OF THE LIVERPOOL-ENGLISH DICTIONARY



Banners on the Victoria Street building which is to become Signature Living's Dixie Dean Hotel

Picture: COLIN LANE

PAST YEAR HAS BEEN OUR BEST YET, SAYS SIGNATURE, AS FIRM GOES ON GROWING

 By **JOSH PARRY**

Property Reporter

 josh.parry@trinitymirror.com
@JoshParryECHO

LIVERPOOL hotel developer Signature Living has said it will report profits of more than £13m for the 2017 financial year.

The business, fronted by Lawrence Kenwright, says its pre-tax profits will be recorded at £13.17m for the 2017/18 financial year – an all-time high.

The business, which includes hotels such as 30 James St and The Shankly in its portfolio, previously reported pre-tax profits of £5.6m in 2016 and £1.59m in 2015 – meaning they have more than doubled in a year.

The privately-owned group, founded by chairman Lawrence Kenwright and his wife, Katie Kenwright, employ more than 830 people across its businesses 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 alone 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, Walton-born Mr Kenwright explained how he'd hit rock bottom and declared himself bankrupt before re-building his reputation and hotel empire.

“

 I don't think I had that knowledge, so I made quite a few mistakes when I first started
Lawrence Kenwright

Hotel developer reports profits of £13m

He said: “I feel now, that I was too young really. My dad was a docker, I couldn't go home and ask him for business advice. I didn't have the knowledge base there. I don't think I had the foundations in business that I needed.

“I didn't see the pitfalls that I'd now see a mile off. I didn't have that experience of understanding what the dilemmas are. I don'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 dif-

ficulty with properties. I over-leveraged like everyone did. I didn't have a penny. I was pot-less and that's when I didn't have anything and I had to start again.

“When it all went, it hit me so hard I went to bed for three months, I couldn't 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 over £250m and has plans to develop a further £300m of hotel projects and residential development schemes over the next three years.



Signature Living boss Lawrence Kenwright

ECHO

If you have a story, contact:

 Newsdesk 0151 472 2488/2454
0151 285 8472

General Inquiries 0151 227 2000

Email letters@liverpoolecho.co.uk

Online liverpoolecho.co.uk

Editor Alastair Machray 0151 472 2507

Home Delivery: If you would like the ECHO delivered direct to your home, please call 0151 472 2344.

Clarifications

IF WE have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor on 0151 285 8476, at alastair.machray@liverpool.com or at Liverpool ECHO, PO Box 48, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L69 3EB and, once verified, we will correct it as soon as possible.

The Liverpool ECHO newspaper is published by Trinity Mirror Merseyside, a subsidiary company

of Trinity Mirror PLC, which is a member of IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation.

We adhere to the Editors' Code Of Practice as enforced by IPSO who are contactable for advice at IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG. Website www.ipso.co.uk/ Telephone: 0300 123 2220 email advice@ipso.co.uk

If you have a complaint concerning a potential breach of

the Code of Practice, we will deal with your complaint directly or IPSO can refer your complaint to us.

Please go to www.trinitymirror.com/howto complain where you can view our Complaints Policy and Procedure.

A “How To Complain” pack is also available by writing to the Legal and Compliance Dept, Trinity Mirror PLC, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

ipso Regulated

Inside Today

ECHO £10 Rail offer 18
Family announcements 38-39
Letters 20-21
Puzzles Saturday Extra, 11-13
Sport 40-48 + Footy ECHO
Television TV Extra
Weather /Fuel prices/ Travel 9
What's On 13-16

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2016 was 62.8%