

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust
for the North West

Chairman: Mr. T. Brakell, Linden Cottage
Halewood Road. 428 - 3105

Hon. Sec: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge
Grange Lane. 428 - 3671

SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 1978



Next event -

SUMMER EXHIBITION

August 28th - September 2nd

- at ST. PETER'S CHURCH HALL, CHURCH ROAD, WOOLTON

Open Daily

Mon 11 am - 8 pm
Tue 2 pm - 8 pm
Wed 2 pm - 8 pm

Thu 2 pm - 8 pm
Fri 11 am - 8 pm
Sat 11 am - 8 pm

The Woolton Society has invited several other local amenity societies to take part in this Exhibition, which should show us both what issues our neighbours get steamed up about and in what parts of Liverpool it has, so far, been possible to establish societies.

The Gateacre Society will be showing photographs of the more important parts of our heritage, some alas no longer with us, old maps of the area and some new material too.

We would appreciate help from members with the exhibits and with running the Exhibition during the week - there will be a sales table and a membership table. If you would like to help please contact Mrs. Lewis.

Since the last newsletter we have had two meetings held in the Gateacre Chapel Hall, the first was on the 18th April when we had a splendid talk by Dr. Hugh McAllister of Ness Gardens. This was attended by over 50 members, which speaks well for the care and interest we take in our gardens in Gateacre. Dr. McAllister showed us some beautiful slides and gave us new ideas about some of the less usual plants which would flourish in our suburban gardens, not only with lovely flowers but some with attractive foliage and colourful bark. After the talk he was in great demand answering questions enthusiastically, while his wife sat at the back of the hall with their new, very quiet, baby.

On the 23rd May Mr. Ian Hughes B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. - Gateacre's Veterinary Surgeon gave a talk with slides entitled 'Pets in Society', the theme being that when animals cause problems in urban surroundings it is usually their owners who are at fault and he suggested several means of dealing with these problems. After the talk he was asked some very varied and strange questions and gave what we are sure were helpful answers.

In June we had a meeting outside Gateacre, for the first time, when we went to Calderstones and were conducted round the hot-houses by Mr. Muir, the Curator. We saw some magnificent and exotic plants, and particularly liked the landscaping that has been introduced into the houses. Some members have told us that they were sorry they were unable to come on this outing, so if you would like to repeat the occasion - with some variations - next year, please let us know.

The Gateacre Walk, Mark II. This was held on July 8th and the following account is from Mrs. P.J. Beecham -

Those members whose curiosity was not dampened by a moist grey day were well rewarded when they joined the Society's second local tour. Under the excellent leadership of Miss Janet Gnosspelius, who provided the historical notes, and Mr. John Dewsnap about thirty members looked at several local buildings in a way which opened our eyes to the abundant evidence of past building activities surrounding us, and which tells us so much about our local history. Without the professional detective work of Miss Gnosspelius and the wide knowledge of Mr. Dewsnap much would have passed unnoticed.

The Society is grateful to all those who allowed us to gather

in their grounds, not least to the family in Oakfield Terrace who invited us to investigate their living room to trace the signs of a later addition; we hope their doormat has recovered.

Unexpected views of long familiar places opened up as we were conducted round the grounds of such places as Gateacre Grange, and at last the secrets of the attractive cottages which form the distinctive introduction to Gateacre as one approaches from town along Woolton Road have been revealed.

Tea was much appreciated after two hours of sight-seeing, and our thanks go to all those who helped with the preparation. The afternoon was pleasantly concluded by re-visiting the Chapel and York Cottages with their new gardens. P.J.B.

A copy of the historical notes provided by both our guides is enclosed with this newsletter.

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NOTICE BOARD - Some of you will already have seen that at last we have achieved our own notice board, it is on the right of the (present) Post Office window. It was made in the New Hall Workshop, Longmoor Lane by the physically and mentally handicapped, and should help us to inform people of our aims, how we go about trying to realise them, advertising future meetings, how they can join etc.

GATEACRE POST OFFICE - Having sadly said "good-bye" to Miss McAndrew, Miss Crinnon and Mrs. Dykin in the last newsletter (they haven't gone yet), we now hear that a change of site is contemplated for the Post Office. Mr. Mellor, who is to be the new Postmaster, was unable to reach a satisfactory agreement with Tetleys, who own the present Post Office building, and he intends opening the new Post Office in Halewood Road. We are worried about people who will have to cross the road at this very busy junction and have written to the County Engineer making several suggestions which we feel may help. We understand that the matter will be investigated.

BLACKWOOD AVE./GATEACRE PARK DRIVE - We also wrote to the County Engineer pointing out that there was no pedestrian crossing over Woolton Road between Woolton Village and the Half Way House near Queens Drive. Members have been very anxious about school children who have to cross in both directions to St. Francis Xaviers School and the Gateacre Comprehensive School - this is

extremely dangerous in the mornings when the traffic is heavy. We invited both schools to back up our suggestion and have had a letter from Mr. Hall at the Comprehensive School saying that he had written himself in support of our very sensible idea.

We have now been informed that a pelican type crossing is to be installed at this location.

We would like to offer a belated 'welcome' to the new Minister of Gateacre Chapel, the Reverend Mrs. Daphne Roberts who arrived here at the beginning of April - just too late to be mentioned in our last newsletter. She and her husband, who is also a Minister have joined the Society and already seem like old friends. We hope they enjoy living in the village and will find their work here rewarding.

Mrs. Roberts is very interested in trees and on July 8th represented the Society at a Conference covering all aspects of tree planting and growing and has sent us the following report -

TREES FOR MERSEYSIDE. - A course organised by the University Institute of Extension Studies and Merseyside Civic Society to explore ways which local people, firms and Local Authorities can co-operate to plant and look after trees and shrubs. Participants included, amongst others, architects, artists, Borough Councils, Community Associations and Conservation Societies. Lecturers came from the University, Ness and Kew Botanic Gardens and Blackpool parks.

In the space at present available I can give no detail of the wealth of information offered. Briefly, therefore, a selection of the facets of most interest to the Society.

Neglect, we were told, is a sign of becoming uncivilised. Man has a deep seated psychological need to live close to nature; being, himself, of nature, and has worshipped trees through the ages. They have an impact aesthetically, on the environment - reducing the harsh effect of concrete; ecologically - in urban areas attracting wildlife to an otherwise alien habitat; and healthwise - releasing oxygen and filtering out dust and pollutants.

Various forms of landscaping were discussed, and how to cost a scheme. Also instructions were given on planting and maintaining trees and shrubs. Two hints - plant with a stake and never bury the stem more than just below soil level; and do not replace a tree that has died with a similar one on the same spot, it can pick up disease from the previous one. Finally the problem of tree roots and buildings - roots of trees as far as 120 ft. away can affect buildings, and which tree is responsible can be identified from the root in question.

at the laboratories in Kew Gardens. Roots should never be cut because this can either kill part of the tree, causing a branch to crash down, or possibly de-stabilise the tree so that it blows over. We were also warned of the problem of the careless contractor - in some countries they are fined or dismissed if trees die!

I have a number of leaflets to hand including information on species of trees, grants for amenity planting, Tree Preservation Orders, forests and woodlands, and conservation.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you on this course, and if I can add anything further to a particular problem I shall be glad to do so. D.M. Roberts.

CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES CONFERENCE - This first meeting of our local conservation societies was held, under the auspices of the Civic Trust for the North West, at the Building Centre in Hope Street on the 28th June. Representatives came from the Mersey-side Civic Soc., the Parkgate Soc., the Seacombe Soc., the Wallasey Soc., the Formby Soc., the Mossley Hill Residents' Assn., the Wavertree Soc., the West Derby Soc., the Woolton Soc, and Mr. McCann, the Vice-Chairman attended for the Gateacre Society.

Many problems, frustrations, successes and general experiences were discussed and it was agreed that the meeting was a most useful occasion and should be held annually.

WORK COTTAGES - The new low garden wall in front of the cottages is built of brick, specially brought from Newcastle, to match the colour of the old bricks of which the cottages were built. We wish the residents 'happy gardening' and look forward to seeing them in full bloom next year.

73 GRANGE LANE - The Planning Department accepted our recommendation regarding the siting of the brick flue at these premises, but the work has so far not been commenced.

LOWER SANDFIELD ROAD - The Planning Department refused their consent to the loading bay and vehicle park on this land for the reason that the 'Council considers it would be wrong to allow any further extension to premises which would result in an intensification of industrial use in a residential area to the detriment of the amenity of local residents, particularly those who live in the cottages in Lower Sandfield.' There is to be an appeal against this decision.

IRVINE STREET - The following is an extract from the minutes of the Liverpool Heritage Bureau meeting held on the 24th July - ' The Development and Building Control Sub-Committee has resolved not to include these properties in the Compulsory Purchase Order, and the City Planning Officer is to report on the condition of the buildings and the possible cost of rehabilitation '. We must not count our chickens too soon, but the future is looking more hopeful for these Georgian houses.

LYCEUM CLUB, Bold Street - the fate of this fine building, designed by Thomas Harrison of Chester in 1800 is now in the hands of the Secretary of State for the Environment - the Right Honourable Peter Shore. We ask all members who are concerned about the proposed demolition of yet another of Liverpool's historic buildings to write to Peter Shore, at the House of Commons as soon as possible. Our local M.P. Eddie Loyden has worked hard to save this building, and will see that any mail he receives referring to the Lyceum is delivered promptly to Mr. Shore (previous to this letters had been forwarded by London to the D.o.E's office in Manchester).

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - The following were noted in the City Planning Office :-

- 2,48098 Rockfield, Cuckoo Lane: to erect 6 detached dwelling houses.
- 2,48304 Land at Elmhouse, Halewood Road: erect 2 three storey town houses.

Lastly, our congratulations and good wishes to our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Sheila Bee on the birth of her son on 3rd July our youngest member ?