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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
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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - 1978.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society
will be held on
Wednesday, 1st November 1978 at 8.00 p. m.
at Gateacre Chapel Hall
Sandfield Road

All the officers and committee will resign at this meeting and those wishing to serve again will stand for re-election. There will be four vacancies on the committee and nominations will be welcomed - nomination forms are available from the Secretary or from Mrs. Bee, the Membership Secretary.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the things we feel should receive our attention during the coming year, and if there is time after the business of the meeting the Rev. Daphne Roberts will tell us more about the Tree Conference she attended in July.

SUMMER EXHIBITION - This was organised by the Woolton Society at the end of August, and held in St. Peter's Old School, Woolton. The Gateacre Society was invited to participate and were able to show for the first time our latest acquisition - The Brettargh Holt Stones. These were the oldest and most historically interesting things on show and a leaflet about them, which was handed out to visitors, is enclosed with this newsletter.

Some 400 members and friends came and enjoyed looking at the new material on display, a selection of slides of our listed Buildings shown by an automatic projector and indulging in a wave of nostalgia over the photographs of old Gateacre and Woolton. Some members brought us photographs which we hadn't seen before - one of them showing the building that was in Grange Lane before the Riding Stables were built in 1895. These will be copied and shown next time.

Please, those of you who have lived in Gateacre for a long time or are friendly with someone who has, do remember that we are anxious to add to our records and keep a look out for any old photographs of people, buildings or views which will help us with the history of our area. We would like to borrow old documents or maps too.

The theme of the Woolton Society's exhibition was the importance of the quarry and quarrymen in the building of the Cathedral. There were some excellent photographs of the men at work, a piece of carved stone which will be built into the Cathedral, a template from which the men carving the stone work and a plug and feathers which are used in the actual quarrying of the stone.

For the first time 4 local amenity societies were represented at an Exhibition, this co-operation between organisations with the same aims should be very valuable in the future, leading to an ever widening circle of informed public opinion and adding strength to the views and suggestions we put forward.

We would like to thank all the members of the Gateacre Society who helped to set up, staff and take down the Exhibition, particularly those who helped to collect and

set up our precious stones - the heaviest of all the exhibits!

CRIME PREVENTION. The following account of the lecture held on the 19th September is by one of our newer members -

As a newcomer to Gateacre, and at my first meeting of the Society, I was pleased to note the number who turned out to hear Sgt. Hodge of the Merseyside Police talk about Crime Prevention. The Sergeant made it quite clear that he was not there to talk about crime and punishment, traffic offences and such other areas of general concern, only crime prevention. At first this seemed a rather narrow approach but, after seeing the film made by the Police pointing out the ease with which criminals can prey upon the public, it was soon borne upon me the way we make it easy for those so inclined to carry out their nefarious activities. In particular it became clear how little time a burglar needs to enter a house and pick up enough to make the game pay - with little or no chance of being caught. The message, then, was that we should all take the trouble to look at our homes, cars and property generally, so as to make the easy removal of valuables not nearly so easy. The object being that a thief will not bother if it is going to take time to gain access.

For myself, whilst agreeing that we should take precautions that are sensible, it does not mean that we should take up the attitude that we can trust no one whom we do not know, and not all of those we do. Prevention of stealing is forced on us as a rearguard action. The real answer is to make it unprofitable for those who do burgle, mug, or in any way deprive other people of their self respect, confidence or property for their own gain. How we do this is a problem that is not easy to solve.

Meanwhile, we must thank the Police who, with much good grace, tackle a problem which is often compounded by the victim's own stupidity in many cases (although the Sergeant didn't use the word). To conclude the meeting a question and answer session brought out a few points of interest and an offer from Sgt. Hodge to visit any person's home and offer advice as to how they might be made more secure.

John Roberts.

MEMBERSHIP. Subscriptions will be renewable from the A.C.M. (except for those who joined since the 1st August).

MERSEYSIDE CIVIC SOCIETY. The Gateacre Society has applied for affiliation with the M.C.S. which is the oldest amenity society in this area, having been formed in 1939. The Chairman is Robert Gardner-Medwin, Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Liverpool University, who came to address our inaugural meeting in 1974. We hope this link between the two societies will be of mutual benefit.

TRAFFIC COUNT. Before the new Post Office was opened we wrote to the City Engineer, the County Engineer and the Chief Constable about what we felt to be an increasingly dangerous crossing. We suggested a Pelican Crossing or possibly a re-phasing of the Traffic Lights to allow pedestrians more time to cross. Mrs. Ashton of Hollytree Rd., came up with what appears to us a very sensible idea - that traffic coming into the village from Halewood Rd., should have to wait further back for the lights, by the Brown Cow, so allowing more space for buses and other large vehicles to turn into Halewood Rd., from Belle Vale Rd., and so stop them mounting the pavement by Morphets, the butcher.

We have had a reply from the City Engineer whose Dept. has recently carried out a count of vehicles and pedestrians in the centre of the village. He says the "results do not meet the criteria recommended by the Dept. of Transport for the installation of a pedestrian crossing", but he is discussing with the County Engineer the possibility of incorporating a pedestrian phase in the signals.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK 11-19 Nov. Shall we plant some ? Where ? please bring your suggestions to the A.G.M.

PLANNING REGISTER - the appeal by A. Clegg & Son to erect a loading bay and park for vehicles was refused by the D.O.E. but there is a further application to build a single storey extension on the site.

- 2,48550 - Application by Gateacre Grill, 103 Gateacre Pk. Dr. to stay open after 10.30 p.m. was refused.
- 2,48991 - Application by Lee Park Golf Club to develop four acres for residential purposes.

S.M.L. 11.10.78.