



THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust  
for the North West.

C H R I S T M A S  
N E W S L E T T E R



- 9 JAN 1979 1978

Next meeting -

' D E A R O L D D I R T Y L I V E R P O O L '

A lecture with slides projected on to two  
screens. Given by

DR. J. QUENTIN HUGHES.

Reader in Architecture, Liverpool University.

on JANUARY 15th 1979.

at St. Peter's School Hall, Church Road, Woolton. 8. p.m.

We thought that as this is such an excellent lecture by a distinguished lecturer (Dr. Quentin Hughes is the author, among other books, of 'the famous 'Seaport'), and with two projectors and two screens will provide a real SPECTACULAR, we would make it a joint meeting with the Woolton Society.

We would like the Gateacre Society to be well represented and have arranged transport for those members without cars. Please contact Mrs. Lewis or any committee member if you would like a lift.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - this meeting was held on the 1st. Nov. when 21 members were present. The following Officers and Committee for the year 1978/79 were elected as follows:-

Chairman: Mr. T. Brakell, Linden Cottage, Halewood Rd. 428-3105  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. McCann, 5 Greendale Road. 428-1044  
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. Winsor, 26a Thornside Walk. 428-8337  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange La. 428-3671  
Ass.Hon.Sec: Miss A. Lythgoe, 168 Gateacre Park Dr. 428-3963

Committee Members -

Mrs. S. Bee, 'Velova', Grange Lane. 428 - 5497  
Mrs. P. Beecham, 15 Chartmount Way. 428 - 6754  
Mr. H. Birkhead, 16 Ribble House, Ribble Rd. 428 - 4659  
Mr. G. Olsen, 7 Bishop's Court, Woolton. 428 - 8118  
Mrs. D. Roberts, 23 Belle Vale Road. 428 - 2712  
Mr. L. Shepherd, Browside Cottage, Sandfield Rd. 428 - 6986

We welcome the two new members to the Committee - Mr. Birkhead who has a great interest in local history and Mrs. Roberts the Minister of Gateacre Chapel. We hope they will enjoy helping to run the Society and find the work rewarding.

There were no further nominations which left the Committee one member short. At the meeting held on the 16th November it was agreed unanimously to ask Mr. Albert Globe, 2 Downham Close if he would serve, and we are happy to say that he has agreed.

After a break for tea, Mrs. Daphne Roberts told us more about the interesting Tree Conference she had attended on behalf of the Society last July.

CONSERVATION AT THE MUSEUM -

A fascinating talk with slide illustrations was given by Mr. Keith Priestman on 6th December. We were given a glimpse behind the scenes at our own Liverpool Museum to observe the painstaking work undertaken by Mr. Priestman and his small staff in repairing, restoring and conserving some of the treasures belonging to the Museum.

It was surprising to learn that only a fraction of the Museum's possessions is on display to the public, the rest are stored in various warehouses in the City.

The illustrations showed how the experts at the Museum were

able to discover, during work on some ancient mummies, that the bodies were wrapped in strips of old cloth, not new bandages; that the glue used so many centuries ago could still be re-used; that the colours, which came up so clear and bright when the layers of dirt were removed from the outside cases, were the same earth colours we use to-day.

Other interesting discoveries had been made concerning treasure that had lain beneath the sea. We saw how salt formed into crystals and damaged the face of a statue. We heard about cannon balls, preserved under salt water, which heated up due to oxidation and fell to pieces on contact with the air. A reference to the technological skill they possess for 'jig-saw' situations was demonstrated when masses of pieces of broken glass, retrieved from the sea-bed, were re-assembled as the wine bottles they originally were. Mr. Priestman said that this skill was such that, as an exercise, smashed electric bulbs had been put together again.

Many other 'before' and 'after' slides showed ancient bronze Egyptian tools cleaned, statues repaired and finally, to show the enthusiasm of his staff for their work, we saw a model made by one of them of an ancient Egyptian boat. Pam Glass.

#### QUEEN VICTORIA -

After Mr. Priestman had finished his lecture he told us about the various suggestions being considered for the restoration of the bust of Queen Victoria recently damaged by vandals.

At present she is in the Walker Art Gallery who are going to be responsible for this work. This is particularly fitting as it was Sir Andrew Barclay Walker of Gateacre Grange who gave both the Art Gallery to the City - architect Cornelius Sherlock, and the bust - sculptor Lord Edward Gleichen, to the people of Gateacre.

Mr. Priestman said that the method of cleaning the bronze he was inclined to favour was that of shot-blasting with walnut shells, this sounded very strange but he explained that the crushed fibrous shells fired at high speed were gentle enough not to scratch or damage the surface, but sufficiently powerful to remove the staining and corrosion caused by pollution in the atmosphere and, particularly, rain dripping from trees. (This is something we will have to consider when the bust is ready for replacing on the Village Green).

Mr. Priestman said he would keep the Society informed about the progress of the work and mentioned that it may be possible to repair the slight damage to the nose with epoxy resin, which would be undetectable. He also recommended that the bust be wax polished each year to provide a surface protection against further corrosion, and he wondered whether this was something the Gateacre Society could undertake - we would like to know how you feel about this ? and of course we would need volunteers to do the work.

We understand that the bronze figure ' 7 ' which has been missing from the red granite pedestal for sometime is also going to be replaced.

CIVIC TRUST - Recently we had a questionnaire from the Trust's headquarters in London asking, among other things, about any practical work the Society had done. While we have done little with our own hands, apart from clearing the odd rain water gully in the road, and the setting of the Jubilee stone on the Green, we were at least able to mention that we had been instrumental in causing a number of practical projects to be undertaken - the re-habilitation of York Cottages and the Village Green, tree planting round the Conservative Club, tidying up the site of Rockfield Cottage and the erection of the first, and so far only, Conservation Area signs in Liverpool. Apart from the work which will be needed on Queen Victoria we would like to know if members have any other suggestions for practical work we might do ?

NOTICE BOARD - Members will have noticed that our new notice board has been taken down. This is inconvenient but was necessary, as the new tenants of the old Post Office - Woolton Watches, to whom we extend a welcome, found dry rot in the wood work behind the board which is being treated. There was also the hole, where the old wall post box used to be many years ago, covered by plywood - this has now been bricked up.

The whole of these premises, including the Chemist's shop and Lynton are to be repaired and repainted externally, so that it may be some time before we have our board back again.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - We have had a request from this organisation for helpers in their Netherley office. They require voluntary workers for part-time interviewing and a basic training course has been arranged. If any members

feel that this is work they would like to do, would they contact Mrs. M. Walker, 43 Middlemass Hey, Netherley.

TRAFFIC AT THE CROSS ROADS - In our last Newsletter we mentioned the concern which many of us feel about the dangers for pedestrians crossing the road by the traffic lights, particularly now that the Post Office is in Halewood Road. We wrote to the City Engineer and the County Engineer suggesting a pedestrian crossing or perhaps the re-phasing of the lights to allow more time in which to cross. We also put forward Mrs. Ashton's suggestion regarding traffic coming along Halewood Road into the village. We had had a not very encouraging reply from the City Engineer and now we quote from the County Engineer's letter -

"The signals in Gateacre Village provide two periods of ten seconds each between the end of one green phase and the start of the next which should allow safe periods of seven seconds giving pedestrians ample time in which to cross any one of the approach roads at its stop line.

From observations made by my assistant, there appears to be ample space for large vehicles to turn left from Belle Vale Road without having to mount the footway on the east side of Halewood Road if they are driven correctly, without having to resite the stop line in Halewood Road. To cater for the not so skilful driver, for such resiting to be of any calculable value, it would have to be moved so far from the junction that it would not only cause delay to traffic but would create some indecision in the minds of pedestrians waiting to cross.

Enquiries will be made as to the possibilities of erecting a further bollard near to the Post Office manhole as you suggest. Thank you for your suggestions. "

PLANNING REGISTER - from the City Planning Office -

- L949503 The Cottage, Grange Lane - To carry out felling, trimming or lopping on one Ash and one Lime tree.
- L249588 Rockfield, Cuckoo Lane - To erect two houses.  
(This application was originally for six houses).

The application by Lee Park Golf Club to develop four acres for residential purposes has been withdrawn.

PUBLIC INQUIRY. - The public inquiry at which the owners of 173 Grange Lane will apply to have their opening hours extended may take place in January. We would like as many members as possible to be there to oppose this and will let you know the time and place as soon as we hear.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - This year the Society has produced its own cards from a drawing of the village by the Chairman. They have sold well and supplies are running out but there are still a few left, price 8p from Mrs. Lewis at Grange Lodge.

'BUILDINGS OF LIVERPOOL' - We also still have copies for sale of this well-illustrated book, published by the Heritage Bureau. The book is good value at £1.95 and would make a very acceptable Christmas present.

THE LYCEUM - We have heard from our M.P. Eddie Loyden who enclosed a letter from the Secretary of State for the Environment. Mr. Shore writes that he is proposing to make a revocation order cancelling the listed building consent to demolish this building or to modify it so that the Bold St. and Ranelagh St. facades should be saved. We wrote to Mr. Loyden and said how pleased we were, and asked him to press for a time limit on listed building consent to demolish such as there already is on planning applications. He has said that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Secretary of State.

IRVINE STREET - We also have good news about this too. We understand that nos. 33/47 Irvine Street are to become part of the Holland Place Conservation Area and so, presumably, will be safe.

PRINCES ROAD CONSERVATION AREA - Last week we learned that this Conservation Area had been up-graded to become an 'Outstanding Conservation Area', one of 11 such in the City. This means that there will be considerably more money available from the Government for rehabilitation and improvement.

We always seem to get good news at Christmas - remember last year it was about Woolton Hall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Members whose subscriptions are overdue will find a reminder enclosed. Please let us have these soon.

S.M.L. 14.12.78