

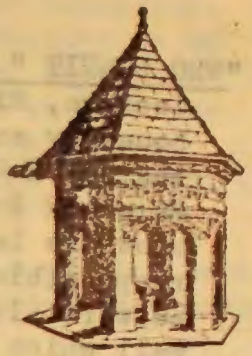
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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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
Grange Lane. 428 - 3671



SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 1979.

1969 * EXHIBITION - 1979

Our Exhibition in celebration of the 10th anniversary
of the Gateacre Village Conservation Area will be held
at

28 GATEACRE BROW (Marriet Stein)

from Monday 2nd July - Saturday 7th July

Opening Hours

Mon 11 am - 8 pm	Thu 11 am - 8 pm
Tue 11 am - 8 pm	Fri 11 am - 8 pm
Wed 11 am - 5 pm	Sat 11 am - 8 pm

Admission 10p. + Children half price

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J O H N H A R R I S O N

Liverpool Conservation Officer.

WEDNESDAY 4th July at 8 p.m. Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road.

Mr. Harrison will talk to us about his work and show slides of what has been done so far and what he is hoping to achieve. He will also answer any questions members may wish to put to him regarding planning permission and financial grants which may be available.

"WHO DUNNIT " ? - On March 28th, as an introduction to her lecture, Miss Gnosspelius took us briskly round surviving boundary marks of the western part of Little Woolton, noting that MUCH WOOLTON and LITTLE WOOLTON on adjoining gateposts in Halewood Road are not mere stones/boundary marks at all, but show the lengths of road that the two townships were each responsible for before being gobbled up by Liverpool in 1913. We were also introduced to the marker set in Calderstones Park wall which maybe few have noticed. Then we went up to the Lodge of Druids Cross House, which in the 'Buildings of Liverpool' is "thought to be by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes". Looking at the high quality of the masonry this attribute seems possible, but the plinth shows an unusual form, the 'vertical face is battered by about 5" just like the base of the south end of St. George's Hall and the Elmes building at Rainhill and from our record photographs we can see that Druids Cross House (dem. 1978) had a similar 'battered' plinth... Proof?

'Beaconsfield House' and Nos. 35 & 37 Beaconsfield Rd., can be seen on the 1835 map as Coachman's House and Lodge of the former 'Beaconsfield' built by Ambrose Lace. A look at illustrations in Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm & Villa Architecture of 1833 put these in their place as 'picturesque' adjuncts suitable for a gentleman's estate, though the identity of the designer is not yet revealed.

Coming to Knolle Park and noting the date (probably 1828) and the name of Thomas Foster, Town Clerk of Liverpool, on the 1835 map, Miss Gnosspelius launched into a parody of the Higher Criticism. (Remember how Dorothy Sayers used these methods to establish the name of Sherlock Holmes' Cambridge College and the dates when he was there?) John Foster Jr., perhaps Liverpool's best known Classical Architect, was the younger brother of Thomas - so did he not design Knolle Park? We were taken with Stuart and Revett to late C18 Athens to look at the monument to Lysicrates and compare it with the Huskisson Memorial, designed by Foster, and shown other Corinthian Capitals which the young Architect saw on his travels in Greece - the unfortunate Corinthian Capital in the portico of Knolle Park does not bear comparison with these models. We were then transported to Greece again to see what Doric orders Foster saw in Athens but particularly the Temple of Apollo Epicurus, at Bassae, compared these with a

known Foster design - the Mortuary Chapel by the Cathedral, and the collonade of Gambier Terrace which is thought to be his too, and remembering C.R. Cockerell's remark about the laziness of Foster on site in Greece (does this show in the continuous row of guttae at Gambier Terrace ?) found the hypothesis that the Greek Lodge, with a 'correct' order but a faulty entablature, might well be his design.

The answer to "who designed Fern Lea, Halewood Road" has been handed to the Society by the kind loan of the original drawing, signed James Houghton and dated January 1884.

Attempts to name the designers of Oakfield Terrace (between 1835-48) - compare with Hillcliffe, Acrefield Road (pre 1835); and Paradise Row c1700 have met with no success as yet.

However, the time spent in the Picton Reading Room waiting for the 5 folios of Stuart and Revett to be brought from the book stack room, coupled with the appearance of Thomas Rodick, born 1789 in Kendal, in the index of names in Rupert Gunnis's Dictionary of British Sculptors had a useful result. Gunnis says that Joseph Deare 1803-1835 exhibited a bust of Rodick in 1835, but the bust on his monument in Gateacre Chapel looks more like a man in his 60s. The other bust in the Chapel - Dr. William Shepherd, died 1847, is signed 'I. Jackson' and Isaac Jackson is said to have gone to Rome c1850 so would not have been available in the 1850s (monument dated 1856). However Rodick's monument is signed 'McBride, Liverpool' and the marble bust of Sir James Picton in the Reading Room is labelled 'by J.A.P. McBride' and the characteristic form of the underside and pedestal of both Picton and Rodick busts leave little doubt as to who did it.

Providing this sort of an evenings entertainment for the Society concentrates the speaker's mind wonderfully, and even though only a few subjects may be discussed, each piece adds to our understanding of the development of Little Woolton and the people who contributed to that development. J.B.G.

April 25th. COLOUR IN THE GARDEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. About 20 members of the Society gathered to hear Mr. Steve Perkins, Divisional Officer in the Department of Recreation and Open Spaces. With the aid of his beautiful slides he was indeed successful in proving that it was possible to have something colourful in our gardens every day of the year. We saw a dwarf

cyclamen flowering in January, there was also a winter-growing clematis, witch hazel and viburnum. We were advised to choose named varieties of bulbs and go for the species types which perpetuate themselves. Mr. Perkins also made a plea for more unusual plants to be grown - Prunus Yukon instead of always Kanzan, and the very fragrant Pine Broom. Mr. Perkins love of flowers both cultivated and wild was most evident in some delightful slides of tiny flowers growing in Crete between stones and in other unlikely places without the assistance of man.

The second part of the talk was devoted to the creation of the Japanese garden at Calderstones Park as an apprentices' project. This was fascinating as Mr. Perkins explained their research into ancient manuscripts. The essence of the Japanese garden is the natural beauty of water and stone. The stones are never grouped in even numbers and there are 138 named stones each one bearing a religious significance. The stone lanterns also have a significance of their own. A little colour has been introduced into the Calderstones garden with different plants and shrubs though purists would not be in agreement with this. On slides we saw the Japanese sand gardens and examples of the traditional paving and deer-scarers. After this interesting and beautifully illustrated talk there should be many more visitors to Calderstones from Gateacre.

P.G.

In fact on the evening of Wednesday the 6th June eighteen of our members spent a most enjoyable evening wandering round the gardens at Calderstones under the expert guidance of Mr. Muir, the Curator of the Botanic Gardens. It was a chilly, dull evening and we were very conscious that in some parts, like the herbaceous borders there was still very little colour because of the late arrival of summer. We were shown the garden for the handicapped, imaginatively designed by Mr. Muir; first the scented plants which the blind so much appreciate, instructed by a tape-recording of Rita Tushingham's voice giving the plants' names and uses; then the gardens where both mentally and physically handicapped can dig and plant even from wheelchairs. It will be interesting to see later in the season how successful they have been, but they have certainly made a good start especially with their tomatoes.

We are usually too late to see the rhododendrons and azaleas in

flower but this year we were able to see them in their full glory and magnificent colours. The roses were not yet out but the new varieties were shown to us and sadly also the wire netting round the beds to stop theft and vandalism.

We walked through the Japanese garden, always a fascinating place but even more so this year after hearing about its construction from Mr. Perkins and we saw the Old English garden which always contrives to have plenty of colour. We gleaned a mass of information from Mr. Muir who answered our many questions with great patience and expertise. It was like having our own little 'Gardeners' Question Time'.

Finally, we went thankfully into the warm greenhouses with their beautiful arrays of exotic plants and an enviable collection of house-plants, where again we learnt the do's and don'ts not only from Mr. Muir but from each other. It was a contented and happy band of gardeners who left the Park reflecting on how lucky we are in Liverpool to have such an excellent body as the Dept. of Recreation and Open Spaces - for which one surely doesn't begrudge its share of our rates !

EXHIBITION - We must indeed thank the Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd., for lending us this interesting, listed building for our exhibition. It was built in 1889 and designed by W. Aubrey Thomas who built the Royal Liver Building in 1908.

Our exhibits will include displays of some of the problems the Society has been concerned with during the five years since it was formed; changes in the village during the last 10 years; the results of the Society's **Archaeological Excavation in Lower Sandfield**; the stones from Brettargh Holt; a reproduction of the newly acquired picture in the Walker Art Gallery of Mrs. Chapple Gill and her children painted at Lower Lea, Beaconsfield Road by J.J. Tissot in 1877; news and photographs taken in the museum showing restoration work to Queen Victoria; a selection of childrens' drawings from the Art Competition and craftwork from Oakfield School. We are also showing part of the City Planning Dept's exhibit illustrating their contribution to Conservation in Liverpool. We very much want this week to be successful in gaining interest and new members and hope that all our members will visit the exhibition at least once, and please bring a friend or neighbour too. If you can help man the shop - not an onerous task please tell Mrs. Lewis; and if anyone has a doormat 25"x44" or a spot light please may we borrow them for a week ?

JUMBLE SALE - This was held on Saturday 17th March on one of the worst days of winter. We had quite a lot of jumble but not many customers, however we made £54.21 - a useful addition to the fund. One of our members - Mr. Collison, gave us some Victorian pennies to sell, sadly no one was interested in collectors items that day but they are still available. We extend our thanks to everyone who worked so hard and hope to see you again at the next sale.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - The original drawing by the Chairman, Mr. Brake was framed and immediately bought by the Manager of the Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd., Mr. Austin for £15. Another welcome boost to our funds.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH - Following our letter to the City Engineer we are pleased to report that this was reopened on the 19th March.

CONFERENCE for CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEES - this was organised by the Civic Trust in Nottingham 6th - 8th April for those interested in Conservation. Our Hon. Secretary and the Chairman of the Woolton Society went and met over 60 people from all over the Country - from Cumbria to Canterbury and Barnstaple to York. There were Chief Planning Officers and their staff (Mr. John Harrison, Liverpool's Conservation Officer was there), Councillors, Chairman of Committees, members of Conservation Area Advisory Committees and members of civic and amenity societies like ourselves.

Speakers included Michael Middleton, Director of the Civic Trust; Elizabeth Chesterton, Historic Buildings Council; Derek Latham, Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust and Lady Evershed, Kings Lynn Preservation Trust.

We visited sites where conservation work is in progress in Nottingham, Eastwood, Cromford and Ashbourne guided by people involved in the work there. We saw a lot, learnt a lot and were stimulated by meeting others and talking about how they are getting things done. We took a mini-exhibition which, small though it was, was the best there. We have a report of the Conference and those who would like a copy please ring 428-3671 (Mrs. Lewis) or 428-4121 (Miss Gnosselius).

'INTO THE 80's WITH PRIDE' - earlier in the year the Hon. Secretary attended a seminar organised by the Chief Constable, Mr. K. O'Connell to launch an anti-vandalism campaign. This was very well attended by representatives from all manner of organisations throughout the whole of Merseyside. A report of who was there and who saw what is available from Mrs. Lewis.

GATEACRE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL - Children in their first year have been doing projects on Gateacre village. The Society was asked if it would be possible for someone to visit the school and tell them something about the history of the area. On the 21st March Mrs. Lewis went and told a class of about 30 something of what we have been able to find out so far about our more prominent listed buildings. This is to be followed up by a walk through the village on a future occasion.

GATEACRE'S OLDEST INHABITANT - Miss Mary Berrington who lives at 13 Sandfield Road was 100 years old on the 9th May this year. The Society sent her a pot-plant, a birthday card and made her an honorary member. We gather that she had a very happy day but that she has recently suffered an accident while staying with a relative near Ormskirk. We send her our very best wishes and hope that she will be back with us again soon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - applications since the last newsletter.

- Furnisave Ltd. Gateacre Brow: Illuminated fascia sign.
- 27 Glenville Road: To fell a beech tree (T.P.O).
- 97 & 99 Gateacre Park Drive: Alterations to shop front.
- St. Stephens Vicarage: To erect new vicarage.
- " " " " To erect 40 units of sheltered housing.
- " " " " To erect 15 town houses with integral garages.
- 103 Gateacre Park Drive: To make internal alterations and construct extraction system.

The first and second of these have been refused, decisions are awaited on the others.

YORK COTTAGES - We understand that part of the land in front of these cottages has been acquired by Merseyside Improved Houses. They are drawing up a scheme for the use of this site and hope eventually to acquire the whole of the area.

CONSERVATION AREA LEAFLETS - These are the two new publications by the City Planning Office. The Advisory Leaflets should be going out next week to everyone who lives in the Gateacre Village area, there is a companion leaflet which we share with Woolton known as the Guidance Notes which gives in detail advice on the sorts of alterations and improvements which will be in sympathy with the principles of conservation. These Notes are essential reading for anyone contemplating any

sort of alteration to a building or its setting within the area. The Guidance Notes are not being sent out but are available, free of charge from the City Planning Office, and we will have a stock of them at our exhibition. We are very pleased that the Woolton and Gateacre Societies were asked to help with the writing of these two leaflets and hope that they are both clear and helpful.

WOOLTON VILLAGE GARDEN FETE - this will be held on Saturday 14th July at Reynolds Park. The Woolton Society are running a second-hand Bookstall in aid of a local charity. Please will you look out your unwanted books and take them to your nearest Committee Member or ring 428-3963 and Miss Lythgoe will collect them.

GATEACRE CHAPEL GARDEN PARTY - In the Chapel Hall grounds on the 18th August at 2.30 p.m.

Opening by His Honour Judge Paterson.

Chairman: Mr. J. Holbrook.

The Social Circle are organising this event to help to pay for the cost of repair to the Chapel retaining wall which will be near the £4,000 mark. It has been necessitated by the growth of the trees in the Chapel grounds which are themselves the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, as well as being an integral part of the Conservation Area of Gateacre village. It is for this reason, also, that the cost of repair is so high, as the wall will be rebuilt as near as possible to its original style - each stone having been numbered in its course.

The Chapel appeals, therefore, for the help of members of the Gateacre Society in small ways - by coming along, or even just buying tickets; but especially for items for sale or tombola.

Please look out for posters nearer the time, or contact - Rev. D.M. Roberts at 23 Belle Vale Road.