

42-121
CAT
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.M. Lewis, Grange Lodge
Grange Lane. 428 - 3671

LIVERPOOL
CITY LIBRARY
24 JUN 1980



SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 1980.

Next meeting :-

FIRE PREVENTION

A senior Officer from the Merseyside Fire Brigade will show a film and talk to us about how we can prevent fires starting in our homes, and what to do if one breaks out.

TUESDAY 20th of May at 8 p.m.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. Tea 10p.

Advance Notice - For the next meeting, possibly on June 28 we are trying to arrange a visit to Speke Hall, conducted by the Architect in charge - Mrs. Carol Thickens. This can only be a small party of 15 so please let the Secretary know if you are interested.

'ROCKET 150'

On the 19th March Mr. J. Heyes, Public Relations Officer for British Rail, came to talk about 'Rocket 150', the 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool - Manchester Railway. An idea that originally came from the London Science Museum. British Rail took this up and have put a considerable amount of time and effort into mounting this pageant. As a foretaste of what might be seen we were treated to a slide show and a film of the Shildon Cavalcade. All that was missing was the smell of steam and smoke mixed together to give it an authentic atmosphere, and transport me to my youth when, grubby guide in hand, I used to check off the engine numbers and names and count the wheels 0-4-0, 2-6-4 and so on.

I detected a little weariness, but no lack of enthusiasm in Mr Heyes' voice as he recited the programme of events which are leading up to the big day; blank cheques from Japan and China for blocks of as many as 300 tickets, the £7 tickets sold out and the £10 and £6 fast following. "£1,000,000 to put the show on, but we'll get it back, if you haven't a ticket don't bother going" said Mr. Heyes.

In 1826 when Parliament agreed that a railway could be built, took 36 hours by barge from Liverpool to Manchester. The first train took 2 hours and cost 7 shillings, now the trip takes 43 minutes and costs £3.17p. In comparison, we were told that when the new high speed train comes into service, it will take only 2 hours 6 minutes to get to London.

Some things change, others do not. In 1831 a drunk fell out of the train and was killed; even in those days children were killed trespassing on the line; and stone throwing was not an uncommon occurrence.

I shall not be there in May, not being so mad about trains it would be a pity to deprive an enthusiast of a seat, but I thank Mr. Heyes for a fascinating glimpse of all that has gone into the effort and pray that the weather is fair. J.R.

CROXTETH COUNTRY PARK

On the 22nd April Nigel Carson, one of the Six Park Rangers, came to talk to us about the work of the County Museums in opening a large part of the late Lord Safford estate at Croxteth to the public.

In 1441 Sir Richard Molyneux, head of the older of our two noble families, was made Constable of Liverpool Castle and Ranger of Toxteth, Croxteth and Simonswood parks. In 1575 he began to build at Croxteth, using the then new material brick and more glass than had been seen hereabouts before - this Elizabethan core of the Hall remains. In 1702 William, 4th Viscount Molyneux built the West Wing (Architect still unknown) in 1874 a Mock Tudor wing was added and in 1902 the Hall was again very much enlarged.

Since the 15th C. appointment as rangers of Royal parks and a continuing hunting/sporting interest can be traced in the Molyneux family; they started hare coursing at Altcar, had their own cockpit and with Lord Derby were involved in the inception of the Grand National. Knowsley Hall is only two miles away - there was a private drive between the two halls, thus much friendly rivalry occurred between Seftons and Derbys.

Mr. Carson was particularly interesting about the 2 acre walled garden, peaches etc. were ripened early by warmth from the 'flue walls' in the early 19th C. giving way to glasshouses as these became practicable in mid century, producing fruits for the Croxteth dinner table. A Carnation House for Lord Sefton's daily carnation, for every day of the year was a feature, and the micro-climate of the walled garden itself is favourable, not only to vegetables and fruit, but also as a showpiece pleasure-garden with walks, flowers and unusually shaped ornamental fruit trees. All this was run by 30 gardeners, now the Museums have to maintain it with only 6.

The plans to run the Home Farm and Dairy as a demonstration farm with cows/pigs and poultry so that our schoolchildren can learn to feed/milk/muck out have been overtaken by galloping inflation, so there has had to be a switch of plan to horses - not inappropriate as Lord Sefton bred famous racehorses.

But then comes the problem of wear arising from the sheer number of visitors who are attracted to the estate - now given a new name by local children - "Crocky". People have to be educated into not having bonfires in the woods, if wildlife is to stay it needs somewhere quiet to breed, neighbours who dump refuse over the walls must be persuaded not to, ratepayers who pick flowers "because they're ours" are having lessons from the Mounted Police patrol, who says ".. and this horse I am riding

partly belongs to you too, would you like your share?" and plucks a hair from the horse's mane. From the enthusiasm of Carson's talk we gathered that though the problems of making "Crocky" work are formidable, there is imagination, initiative and much resourcefulness among the staff who have the responsibility of making it a success. J.B.G.

NETHERLEY & WOOLTON SIGNS in GATEACRE - Up to date we have over 1,700 signatures on the petition to get these signs removed and as soon as we get our new Lord Mayor we will ask our local Councillors to arrange for a deputation from the Society to present it to him.

We have seen Mr. Blundell, Divisional Engineer in the City Engineer's Dept., who told us that the scheme for District Signs was passed by the City Council in 1965 and they have been working their way round the town ever since and only now reach our area! (we would have thought that before implementing a decision taken as long ago as 1965 it might have occurred to someone to review it, sound out local opinion and consider whether it was still appropriate).

But as the scheme WAS a Council decision the signs cannot be removed without a motion being put to the Council, this we will ask one of our Councillors to do (and we understand that all from Netherley and Woolton are with us in our endeavours) once the Highways and Environment Committee is formed.

We gather that getting ourselves equipped with "GATEACRE" signs may be a little more difficult, but we will certainly try and we have the support of our M.P. - Malcolm Thornton.

VISIT TO MR. BERKELEY CHAPPLE-GILL. -

Members who visited our Exhibition last July (or who have been to the Walker Art Gallery) will remember the painting by Tissot of Mrs. Chapple Gill and two of her children at Lower Lee, Beaconsfield Road 1877. We have been in correspondence with her grandson, who now lives near Oswestry, and the Secretary and Miss Gnosspell called on him on Sunday afternoon the 4th May.

He has a fascinating collection of family archives and, particularly interesting, portraits of his forbears from Robert Gill who was born in 1689. These Gills were a local

family - connected with Gateacre Chapel ? and Robert Gill (1785-1863) a Cotton Broker of Liverpool came to live at Knotty Cross, Halewood Road where he is recorded in the Much Woolton Tithe Schedule of 1840.

His son, Chapple Gill b.1833 at their summer cottage in Bootle, married at Childwall Church in 1868, Catherine Smith Carey, only child of Thos. Carey of Lower Lee, Beaconsfield Rd, Little Woolton and it was she, who nine years later, was painted by Tissot in the window of her father's house.

This is our preliminary report, but when we have sorted out the whole storey with illustrations we shall have a most interesting chapter in the histories of Much and Little Woolton.

QUEEN VICTORIA - On the 21st April, quite unheralded, Queen Victoria arrived back in the village from her restoration in the Museum via the City Surveyor's Dept. and took up her rightful place on the village green. One of our members - John Roberts happened to be there at the time, noticed what was happening and ran home for his camera, so we should have a record of her return. The '7' is still missing from the date on the pedestal but we are assured that it will be replaced.

JUMBLE SALE - Jumble of all sorts is urgently required for the sale at the Chapel Hall on Saturday 31st May. Many thanks to members who have already done their spring cleaning and passed on the overflow, but everyone must have something no longer required and we do need it if we are going to have a successful money-raising event. Jumble can be brought to Grange Lodge, but if collection is required please ring Mrs. McKenzie at 428 - 2938. She would also be glad to have the names of helpers - for setting up in the morning and, even more important, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

No. 1 UPPER PARLIAMENT STREET - We realise that we are going outside our area again, but there is a Planning Application to demolish this very fine late 18th Century 'Listed' building, "... equal to anything in Rodney Street .." - Buildings of Liverpool, (just round the corner from where the David Lewis Hostel was and opposite St. James' Church 1774/5, Architect - Cuthbert Bisbrowne). This house, so important to Liverpool's Architectural and Historic Heritage, was from 1824 the South

Dispensary and is threatened with demolition for road widening in connection with the Inner Ring Road - (which may never be built?). PLEASE, if you care about saving our remaining Georgian houses, send a letter now objecting to this application to the City Planning Officer, Wilberforce House, 25 The Strand, Liverpool 2.

OBITUARY - MRS. MARIE LAVERY.

Everyone in Gateacre, particularly those with school children, will be sad to learn of the sudden death on 8th May in Broad Green Hospital of Mrs. Lavery who had been our lolly-pop lady for 18 years.

She had a difficult and most responsible job to perform at the crossing in the centre of the village, and she did it cheerfully, skillfully and with kindness in every sort of weather - she will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

- 9 Church Cottages, Belle Vale Road: erect single storey kitchen extension at rear.
(Listed)

This application was in the list for the week ending 4th April, but we think it must be the one currently being advertised on lamp posts in the centre of the village, where the address is given as '9 Rose Cottages' (?) We are making enquiries, as if so the posters are in the wrong place.

- 5 Field Fare Close: two storey kitchen, garage, dining room & bedroom extension at rear and side.

NOTES -

History of Tarbock - this book written and beautifully illustrated by Mr. James A. Carter is being reprinted and will shortly be available from the Knowsley Library Service. £1.95p.

Second-hand books - All your unwanted books please for The Woolton Society's stall at the Village Garden Fete 21st June. Deliver to Mrs. Lewis or Miss Lythgoe, 168 Gateacre Park Drive, we can arrange to collect if necessary.

Woolton Society - A visit to Ness Gardens: 12th July, seats in coach still available, leaves about 1.30 pm. for bookings ring Miss Witcombe 428 - 2722.

S.M.L. 11.5.80.