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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Chairman: Mr. A. McCann, Our Lady's Jnr. School
Hedgefield Road 487-9301
Hon. Sec: Mrs. S.M. Lewis, Grange Lodge,
Grange Lane 428-3671

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - 1981

Next meeting -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 7th Annual General Meeting of The Gateacre Society will
be held on

MONDAY, 19th October 1981

at 8 p.m. in

The Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane

Sherry and Jessica's biscuits

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this meeting. It is the time when we want to hear from you about what we, your Committee, have been doing during the last 12 months and what we should be concentrating on in the coming year - it is called 'feedback' and is very necessary for the successful operation of any society.

JOBS VACANT:- Committee Members - see inside

Memorial Service at Ullet Road Unitarian Church, held on the 150th anniversary of the death of William Roscoe - 'Liverpool'snaissance Citizen'. The service included Roscoe's setting of the Lord's Prayer and one of his hymns. The Minister, the Rev. Graham Murphy told the story of Roscoe's life alternating with Dr. Kennett who read - very well indeed - extracts from his poetry. After being invited to sherry in the library, we saw Roscoe's Monument in the Cloisters decorated with the Monandrian plants which were one of his special studies. Roscoe was associated with Gateacre through his great friendship with Dr. Wm. Shepherd, for 48 years Minister of Gateacre Chapel, and you will remember that Maria (nee Fletcher) the widow of Henry Roscoe (1799-1836) - William Roscoe's youngest son, lived for several years with her two children in 78 or 80 Halewood Road near to what is now Gateacre Hall Hotel where her father lived and her sisters ran a boarding school.

'GATEACRE' SIGNS - The Secretary and Miss Gnosspelius have recently visited Kent Street, the Corporation premises where street furniture is made and stored, and discussed the problems in making our special district signs with Jack Thompson - the foreman in charge. He has been most helpful and we feel that we are making progress - though slower than we had hoped.

LEE PARK SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB - The application for a licence to sell intoxicating liquor at this proposed club, on the old coal yard alongside the former railway line in Belle Vale Road, was adjourned again in May and yet again in July. We understand there is some difficulty over conveyancing the land. Our Solicitor is keeping an eye on this application and will let us know if the case is likely to come up in September.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - We have not been receiving our usual weekly list of new applications from the City Planning Office due to the typists' strike, but since the last newsletter the following have come to our notice -

Bear & Staff, Gateacre Brow extend existing car park
Midland Bank, Gateacre Brow 1 storey staffroom extension
and out of our area, but of interest -
Childwall Abbey extension of Pub.House into adjoining stables

THE SHUTTLEWORTH COLLECTION -

On the 5th May we were fortunate to have as our speaker Mr. Barry Gilman of Alsager, who came to entertain us with his superb presentation of slides from two projectors with a synchronised sound track.

After showing two short introductory sequences of 'Cloudscapes' and 'Sunsets' Mr. Gilman had his audience captivated. His techniques were so skilful and the photography so excellent that we all had the impression we were watching a film.

To the strains of Widor's Toccato, we followed the camera through peaceful Bedfordshire villages untouched by time, their character carefully preserved against the frantic development of the 20th century. Then we arrived at Old Warden Airfield, home of the Shuttleworth Collection, which is a collection of vintage aircraft maintained in memory of Richard Shuttleworth (1909-1940), who joined the R.A.F. in 1939 and was killed while night flying 1940.

He started his collection in 1933 with an assortment of cars and motor cycles, and then decided to concentrate on aircraft - his first two acquisitions being a Bleriot and a Deperdussin.

Housed in hangars both ancient and modern, this is not merely a museum of old aircraft. On the last Sunday of each month, weather permitting, the old but beautifully maintained machines sputter into life and become airborne. By courtesy of Mr. Gilman, we saw them in the air, and heard the curious noises from the engines of such aircraft as the Bristol Box Kite, the Avro Tri-plane (1910), the Blackburn Monoplane (1912) with its fabric covered fuselage, the Sopwith Pup, Hawker Tomtit and the Flying Flea, built in the 1930s for just £100 ! As the aircraft were paraded, we followed their development from the wood and fabric to the all metal types, each one a work of art to the enthusiast.

A visit to Old Warden makes an ideal family outing. The journey from Liverpool takes some three and a half hours, admission is £6 per car - the landing fee is also £6, if you go in your own two seater aeroplane ! Further information can be obtained from The Curator, Old Warden Airfield, Biggleswade, Beds. T.B. & S.A.B.

LOCAL HISTORY FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES -

On Friday 31st July Mr. Jim Grisenthwaite came to talk to the Society about archives &

mostly 'listed' buildings quite well but we have discovered details never previously noticed. The systematic survey - which looks rather like a comic strip - has us classifying brick bonds, diminishing courses of slates, numbers of flues to a dwelling etc., all features which are of significance in the design and construction of our houses.

We took our first batch of 36 surveys to the meeting of the Merseyside Archaeological Society on the 1st October and are still feeling slightly chuffed over the fact that we were the first group to produce any results.

We have been asked what this survey is for - First, it is for the record. Woolton has already lost one of its pre 1840 buildings since we started the survey (Gateacre can't afford to lose any!) Second, it will tell the story of the development of the buildings native to Much and Little Woolton - the materials used at different times and the reasons, also the interrelationship of building styles with those of our neighbours. Third, it will show up any buildings of interest which have been missed by the Department of the Environment and are unlisted.

Have a look at the survey sheets at the A.G.M. and if you find the idea appeals to you we still have room for more members in our group - please let the Secretary know, or come to our next meeting at Grange Lodge on the 21st October at 7.30 p.m.

DRUIDS CROSS - Work here is now going on at a cracking pace; the new owner - Mr. Barry Kelly is wasting no time and already the decayed roof and wall timbers have been removed and replaced. Stone cleaning is now under way and we should have some interesting photographs of the progress.

Alongside all this activity in the Stable Block, Ivy Cottage is being rehabilitated - it has been reroofed with slate, a kitchen and bathroom are being added and Mr. Kelly hopes to be living there before Christmas.

10.10.81. S.M.L.