

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust for the North West

7th A.G.M. 19.10.81.

Hon. Secretary's Report for the year 1980/81

We have held 8 meetings in Gateacre Chapel Hall -

- 26th November - Janet & Sylvia in Greece by Janet Gnosspelius
- 13th January - Archives in the County Museum by Gordon Reed
- 24th February - Memories of old Gateacre by Tim Brakell
- 31st March - Celebrities I have met by Diana Pulson
- 5th May - The Shuttleworth Collection by Barry Gilman
- 17th June - Gateacre Walk III with slides by Janet Gnosspelius
- 31st July - History from original sources by Jim Grisenthwaite
- 22nd September - A Village in the City by Michael Chitty

7 Committee meetings have been held and 4 Newsletters & 5 notices sent out.

The Year's Work.

The first important date in the year was 11th Nov. when the City Engineer removed the 'Woolton' and 'Netherley' signs from the village. Since then we have persuaded the Highways & Environment Committee of the City Council that 'GATEACRE' signs are needed. The design and location have now been agreed and the signs should soon be erected. Six signs will be required and they will cost about £22 each, for which we have to pay.

In Jan. we submitted our reasons to the City Planning Officer for extending the Conservation Area to include Sandfield Rd. and Rose Brow. This has been just one of the victims of the typists' strike in the Council's Offices, but we understand it should be agreed at the Heritage Bureau meeting today.

Our greatest triumph of the year has undoubtedly been the 'listing' and saving from demolition of Druids Cross Stable Block. This was achieved with the co-operation of the Woolton Society and together we were able to help the developer find a new owner, who is now working on the rehabilitation/conversion of this fine building designed by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes.

Throughout the year we have been trying to get some action from Merseyside Improved Houses on the land at York Cottages. We obtained a grant from the Inner City Partnership (not yet paid due to the typists' strike) for the hire of a skip for one day. Mr. Dunn and his boys from Community Industry filled it with rubbish - but it was seen that several more skip loads were necessary to make any real improvement. We had a site meeting with M.I.H.s Landscape Architect on the 3rd March and a scheme was to be prepared and shown to the residents for their comments/ approval, but due in part to the Toxteth riots M.I.H. have been unable to produce anything until this week.

Following our suggestion last year to the Chief Environmental Health Officer - Mr. Rena, we were told that a Bottle Bank was to be sited in the car park at the Childwall Park Ave. shopping precinct. We welcomed Mr. Langford, an Environmental Improvement Officer, to a Committee meeting in June when he came to explain how it worked. The delay has again been caused by the strike - but if we can find out who actually owns the car park we may be able to speed things up.

The Structure Plan became operative 19.12.80 and the proposed extension of Hunts Cross Avenue through to Rose Brow is still a possibility - do we want it? In January we received the Draft Green Belt Subject Plan from the County Planning Dept. asking for our comments. We suggested the inclusion of the recreation ground and the use of the former railway line as a linear park. We understand that this latter proposal is being examined by a working party of officers from the City and County Councils, but we have no further news.

In March we received the D.O.E. Inspector's decision on the appeal by Mr. Richards regarding the Public Footpath between Grange Lane and Cuckoo Lane. We lost the appeal but the footpath has to remain.

Another achievement for the Society has been the refurbishment of the commemorative Sighpost in Belle Vale Road by the City Estates Surveyor's Dept. They have also agreed to replace again the missing '7' from Queen Victoria's monument, and the lamp bracket from the gate pier at Oakfield School. We have not been so fortunate with the gates there but they have promised to paint them. They are most unsatisfactory from the point of view of material used and the

actual size, but our only hope here of a timber replacement is to get the building listed - which may not be easy.

We were delighted when the Prudential Ass. Co., (in response to our request) tidied up their yard and erected a new fence, but what about 28a Gateacre Brow which has been empty for almost twelve months?

The proposed Lee Park Sports & Social Club has caused much anxiety. Their application for a licence to sell intoxicating liquor came up in Court on the 14th April and 3 members of the Society, a representative of The Institute and a resident from Lee Vale Rd. registered their objections. The hearing was adjourned and since that time it has been adjourned 5 times at their request, and on the 7th October it was adjourned sine die.

The advertisement displayed on the Grange Lane elevation of Rose Cottage, without planning permission, led to the owner being taken to Court and fined £50 and £20 costs. The advertisement is still there.

We continue to examine all planning applications in our area and make recommendations to the City Planning Officer when we feel this to be necessary.

We supported the City Planning Officer and Cyril Carr - Chairman of Planning & Land Committee, in their efforts to start a Liverpool Buildings Fund but this was turned down at a Committee meeting on the 27th January.

We attended a Workshop/Seminar on Building Preservation Trusts organised by the C.T.N.W. in June, and we would urge members to visit the exhibition of work achieved by some of these Trusts at present in the Daily Post & Echo offices in Old Hall Street.

In May, Miss Gnosspelius and I attended a course on Vernacular Architecture, arranged by the Merseyside Archaeological Society. We now have our own group working on a survey of all the remaining buildings shown on the 1848 Tithe Map.

We suggested that the Valley Line Community Opportunities Group did a survey of H.G.Vs using Belle Vale Rd. - ignoring the 3-ton weight limit. This has now been handed to Superintendent Riding at Belle Vale Police station and we hope that some action will be taken.

Miss Gnosspelius has given three lectures on behalf of the Society - to the Liverpool Family History Society, the Skelmersdale Family History Society and last week to the St. Mary's Fellowship in Waterloo.

The Local History Unit has been active in a number of ways. The translation of the Norris Rental of 1549 is proceeding slowly, on 29th July a start was made on a survey of the Chapel graveyard, a transcription of the 1841 census is almost complete, a history of The Lee is in progress and the 'Buildings of Liverpool' has been revised and indexed for the City Planning Office by Miss Gnosspelius and myself, with a lot of help from Stanley Harris.

We have given help where we could to a number of school children - from 1st year to 'A' level, to a young man taking his B.Ed. degree, to the new History teacher at Gateacre Comprehensive School and to Dr. Leggatt the dendrochronologist.

The Society was represented at a service in Ullet Rd. Unitarian Church on 28th June on the occasion of the 150 anniversary of the death of William Roscoe.

We are indebted to our County Councillor Dr. Hobday for supplying us with a number of copies of Bennison's Survey of 1835, and to Michael Chitty of the Wavertree Society for introducing us to a map we didn't know existed - a revised edition of that Survey dated 1846.

Our finances are in good order, as will be seen from the account the Treasurer has prepared - mainly due to donations and the Jumble Sale. In May we started charging Visitors to our meetings 25p. as it was felt members would have less hesitation about bringing their friends - who are always welcome.

Membership now numbers 238 and subscriptions are due from today. These remain the same as in 1974 - (which must be good value), except that we ask members who live outside the hand delivery area to pay £1 extra towards postage.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who have helped in many and varied ways, particularly those who have helped to write the Newsletters and the people who deliver them.

H 9 9427211
GIAT

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust for the North West

Chairman: Tony McCann, Our Lady's School, Hedgefield Road
Tel: 487 - 9301
Hon. Sec: Mrs. Sylvia Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange Lane
Tel: 428 - 3671



Next meeting :-

A HISTORIC WALK AROUND LIVERPOOL

by ALEX GRANT

on TUESDAY 8th December at 8 p.m.

Alex Grant is a founder member of the Kirkby Society which was formed 18 years ago - making it, we think, the second oldest amenity society in the area.

We only met Mr. Grant quite recently, at a meeting organised by the C.T.N.W. at Wavertree Town Hall when he spoke briefly about Kirkby. We immediately fell for his refreshing brand of humorous, down-to-earth enthusiasm - like a breath of fresh air it was. Mrs. McKenzie, who arranges our speakers, was quick to head the queue of those asking him to come and speak at their society meetings. This evening is a MUST, don't miss it, and bring your friends too - we can promise you a really entertaining and instructive time.

Mr. Grant will take us on a well-illustrated walk around Liverpool and district - from Garston and the South Docks to Ormskirk - as he said "... a long walk, more of a tour really but they'll all enjoy themselves."

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. Visitors welcome - 25p. Tea 10p.

.....

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER - if yours has not yet been paid PLEASE let the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Bee 'Velova', Grange Lane have it this week, then we can get on with more important society work.

Rates - Individual £1. Family £1.50. Pensioner or Student 50p. plus £1 towards postage if living outside the hand-delivery area.

.....

ENCLOSED - the Hon. Secretary's Report for the year 1980/81 as presented at the Annual General Meeting.

S.M.L. 28.11.81.