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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust
for the North West

Chairman: Anthony McCann, Our Lady's Jn. School
Hedgefield Road 487-9301 - 9JA
Hon. Sec: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge,
Grange Lane 428-3671



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER - 1982

Next meeting -

LANCASHIRE STORY

MARGARET SEAGROATT - Weaver & Writer

Mrs. Seagroatt, an expert in her field, is a tutor at the Mabel Fletcher College of Further Education. In her lecture she traces the development of weaving through the centuries in words, pictures and music - describing how cloth has been made from the earliest days through to modern times.

on TUESDAY, 26th January at 8 p.m.

Tea 10p.

at Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. Visitors welcome 25p

(if you have not been receiving your Newsletters and Notices regularly please let the Secretary know).

Have YOU got a BLACK STAR on your envelope ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - At the 7th A.G.M. on the 19th Oct. there were only 18 members present, but it turned out to be a most successful evening. A small exhibition illustrating our work during the year was on view, and after the business of electing Officers and Committee members enjoyed sherry (sorry it was so sweet) and biscuits prepared by Mrs. McKenzie and her helpers and had the chance of talking and getting to know each other - something we don't have time for at our ordinary meetings.

We were sorry to lose Harry Winsor as our Treasurer, but he is now finding that his job takes him out of Liverpool more than it did. We thank him for his very useful work during the last four years. Miss Elaine Hayworth, one of our more recent members, was elected in his place, and we extend a very warm welcome both to her and our other new Committee member - Miss Claire Doyle. We look forward to the new ideas and enthusiasm they will bring with them.

The Officers and Committee for 1981/82 are:-

Chairman: Tony McCann, Our Lady's School, Hedgefield Rd. 487-9301
Vice-Chairman: Tim Brakell, Linden Cottage, Halewood Road. 428-3105
Hon.Sec: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange Lane 428-3671
Ass .Hon.Sec: Miss A. Lythgoe, 168 Gateacre Pk.Dr.428-3963
Hon.Treasurer: Miss E. Hayworth, 2 York Cottages 428-7886

Committee -

Mrs. Sheila Bee, 'Velova', Grange Lane 428-5497
Miss Hannah Coleman, 'Elmsvale', Belle Vale Rd. 428-2985
Miss Claire Doyle, 15 Grangemeadow Road 428-7609
Miss Janet Gnosspelius, 14 Hightor Road 428-4121
Mrs. Jessica McKenzie, 7 Grange Weint 428-2938
Rev. Daphne Roberts, 23 Belle Vale Road 428-2712
Lionel Shepherd, Browside Cottage, Sandfield Rd. 428-6986
Leslie Wheeler, 3 York Cottages, Grange Lane 428-8643

At this time in the year we like to say a very special "Thank you" to all those members, not on the Committee, who help the Society in many different ways during the year. With your help the work of the Society is spread out and does not become too much of a burdon on the few. We also thank the Gateacre Chapel Committee and the Gateacre Institute for allowing us to hold our meetings on their premises.

LIVERPOOL WALKABOUT - On the 8th Dec. Alex Grant with his slides took us on a trip down Memory Lane. Alex is a wonderful character whose love of the City comes shining thro' all he says. Originally living in the Everton district, he was moved out to Kirkby but soon found that he was yearning for his old Liverpool haunts. So he, and a few friends who felt as he did, began to meet in a small pub and they started a collection of pictures and cuttings about Liverpool. Thus was born their local history society (most local people thought they were nut cases!) and they began to try and get other people interested.

The breakthrough came with the suggestion that he should give an illustrated talk at the Woodhouse public house. He arrived full of enthusiasm to find an audience of one. The lone listener soon became entranced and disappeared into the bar to bring in some dockers to see slides of Liverpool's docks. They in turn, asking him to hold on for a few minutes, ran home to fetch their wives - he went back there three weeks on the run.

Alex reckons that everyone is a local historian, he says we all know something about the place where we were born &/or brought up that the next fellow doesn't know - we think he is right.

His slides were very good, and his knowledge was presented in a most entertaining and humourous manner which kept the well-attended meeting chuckling.

Many hitherto unknown facts emerged - for example, did you know what happened to the mast of the Great Eastern after she was broken up? Take a look at the flag-pole of Liverpool Football Club, that is where it is now. Apparently Queen Victoria spent a night in St. Anne Street (as Alex put it - one night was enough). Referring to the statues of Raphael and Michaelangelo outside the Walker Art Gallery, Alex joked "the fellow on the left did the curtains in the Sistine Chapel and the one on the right did the painting".

The evening sped by and at the end we were all the richer in knowledge of our City's past. If you didn't manage to come, you missed a treat.

E.Q.

SETTS & BOLLARDS - On the 9th Nov. in the afternoon, we noticed new paving stones being laid in Grange Lane outside the Gateacre Institute and the former Riding School. As we

had for some time been discussing in Committee, with the Planning Dept., and with the Gateacre Institute the idea of iron bollards and setts on this pavement we first thought we had missed the boat and left it too late to get the scheme implemented. But we quickly rang the City Engineer's office, explained our ideas about setts being more resistant to damage from beer kegs being thrown down, and bollards protecting the pavement from heavy vehicles and were surprised and delighted to be told that our request would be considered.

The very next day we found paving stones being taken up, setts being laid and concrete bollards being put in position. We were assured that iron bollards - not the modern variety, but a type suitable for a Conservation Area - were on order and would be erected as soon as possible. This was in fact done before the end of the week.

Our sincere thanks to the City Engineer's Department for their splendid and timely co-operation.

DRUIDS CROSS Stable Block -

Have any of you visited the Stable block recently? We suggest that, if possible, you have a look at the building we saved from demolition and see the scale of the task that Barry Kelly has set himself. He has almost rehabilitated Ivy Cottage, and hoped to be living there by Christmas, but this recent bad weather hasn't helped. He is leaving the stable block itself until the Spring, although much work has already been done such as cleaning the stone work, installing drains and vital work to the roof. We think you will find it interesting to see it now, and then go back in another six months or so.

CONSERVATION AREA EXTENSION -

Last January we wrote to the Planning Department suggesting that Sandfield Road and that part of Gateacre which includes Gateacre Grange and the Rose Brow cottages should be included within the Conservation Area - in order to give the extra care, protection and control of development that this status brings. We understand that this has already been agreed, but ratification by the City Council is required before the official declaration can be made. We are hoping this will take place in January.

LISTED BUILDINGS -

On the 27th November the Chairman,

LISTED BUILDINGS Cont.

Miss Gnosspelius and Mrs. Lewis welcomed to Gateacre Edmund Gray - an Inspector of Historic Buildings from the Department of the Environment. He had very kindly come, at our request, because we felt there were buildings in the Gateacre and Woolton areas (as well as some on the Wirral) which had been overlooked and needed listing.

It was most interesting to hear his comments on the buildings we showed him - some we thought to be certain candidates did not seem to impress him, while others shown with a certain amount of diffidence appeared to be accepted as "listable". We understand that all known buildings dating from before 1700 are listed and most of those between 1700 and 1840 are too, but after that date it becomes more difficult. Buildings in this later period must have very definite character and quality to be accepted e.g. be designed by a well-known Architect, be a good example of a particular architectural style, or illustrate social or economic history or show some technological innovation.

We expect it will be some time before we are told the result of his visit - we have yet to supply photographs, architectural descriptions and other details of the buildings visited, and as we found out recently in the case of Druids Cross, the D.O.E. does not move swiftly.

LAND AT YORK COTTAGES -

On the 1st December Merseyside Improved Houses arranged a meeting at the Gateacre Institute to discuss this piece of waste land. All the residents of York Cottages were invited - six were there, and Mrs. Bee and Mrs. Lewis represented the Gateacre Society. Mrs. Watkin, Miss Minnigan and Jenny Taylor (landscape architect) came from M.I.H. Miss Taylor explained her scheme for the rehabilitation of this site, and residents were then asked for their comments and suggestions which were interesting and helpful. A revised scheme will now be prepared with car parking spaces increased to four, the rest to be grassed, existing trees to be kept where possible and the whole to be surrounded by existing and newly planted hedge. An opening to the area is to be made at the cottage end to give access to residents. The various sources of finance to pay for the scheme were discussed and M.I.H. will make requests from all possible funding bodies. The Gateacre Society will also try for a grant from the Inner

City Partnership who have money for this type of work and from whom we received £30 last year to pay for the hire of a skip.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - The strike by NALGO typists is now over and slowly things should be getting back to normal, but when we visited the Planning Office just before Christmas the new applications had not reached the Planning Register, so we have no news of these.

'GATEACRE' SIGNS - The design for these signs (as seen at the A.G.M.) has been approved and accepted by the City Engineer and the Planning Department. The Corporation workshop in Kent Street is ready to go into production, only the problem of raising the cost remains. We think that as the signs will be of benefit to all local residents and their visitors and, we feel, an amenity too, everyone - not just members of the Society - should have an opportunity to contribute.

Early in the New Year - when the weather is better ? we intend to distribute a new Publicity Leaflet which we hope will serve a dual purpose 1). to increase the Society's membership - as the greater our numbers the greater our influence tends to be, and 2). to ask for gifts towards the cost of the signs. Our target is £275 and we do not hesitate to ask members to support this effort, bearing in mind that subscriptions have remained the same since 1974.

Which, of course, brings us to SUBSCRIPTIONS. They were due at the Annual General Meeting on the 19th October. Only about 40% of our members have already paid up for the year 1981/82. PLEASE help our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Bee to have a Happy New Year by sending yours quickly, if you have not already done so.

Envelopes are marked with a BLACK STAR if yours is unpaid.

FEBRUARY MEETING - Advance notice for your diaries. This will be on February 22nd - a joint meeting with the Woolton Society. It will be an afternoon and evening meeting at St. Peter's Church Hall, Church Road. The subject will be 'Mediaeval Farming in Allerton, Little and Much Woolton' by Paul Wright.

A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

S.M.L. 1.1.1982.