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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the North West Civic Trust

Chairman: G. Anthony McCann, O.L.A. School
Hedgefield Road 487 9301

Hon. Sec: Mrs. Sylvia Lewis, Grange Lodge,
Grange Lane 428 3671



24 NOV 1982
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - 1982

Next meeting -

C O N S E R V A T I O N W O R K

a t M . I . H .

by

MR. A . G . G R E K

Monday, the 29th November

Mr. Grek is an architect specialising in rehabilitation for the area's largest Housing Association - Merseyside Improved Houses. He will tell us, with slides, about some of the problems encountered, show us examples of how difficulties have been overcome and show schemes which have won International awards.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. 8 p.m. Tea 10p.

Visitors very welcome - 25p.

Note - SUBSCRIPTIONS now due, please regard Membership Cards 1982/83 as your receipt.

On the 6th July we welcomed Mrs. Stella Owen, Membership Secretary of the MERSEYSIDE GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS. Mrs. Owen began by defining an Advanced Motorist as one who concentrates the whole time he is at the wheel, who has complete control of his car at all speeds at all times, and who drives safely, with courtesy, and to plan.

To become a member of the I.A.M. it is necessary to take a test. Mrs. Owen explained how the Group prepares Associates to take the test, and also organises social evenings, talks and driving events for members and the general public.

If you join the Group, as I did some months ago, you will be assigned to an Observer who will accompany you in your car as an adviser, not as a critic or teacher. For an initial payment of around £6.50 you will receive the help of your Observer for up to 12 months and a copy of the book "Roadcraft" on which the Police drivers base their system.

During 'observed runs' you will prepare for the Advanced Test and learn what the examiner will expect in your driving. This will include the correct positioning of your car at all times, acceleration, braking and gear changing at exactly the right time, and above all, safe driving. Your powers of observation and anticipation will also be tested. The test lasts for about 1½ hours and includes town, country, motorway driving, parking and reversing.

Anyone with reasonable driving experience can apply to join the Group. The test can be taken in all cars, including three-wheelers, automatics and motor cycles. Ladies will be pleased to know that there are as many women Associates as men in the Merseyside Group.

We thank Mrs. Owen for an extremely interesting talk. As an Associate, I thoroughly recommend all motorists to join, both in the interests of road safety and as an excellent value-for-money scheme. If you were unable to attend our meeting Mrs. Owen can be contacted on Formby 70478, or phone Mr. Blenkinsop (722 - 5691) for further details. S.A.B.

WALKING THE TOW PATHS OF ENGLAND -

Mr. Albert Cliffe brought no slides to illustrate his talk to the Society on Sept. 21st

and indeed he needed none, for his enthusiasm shone through as he painted vivid pictures with words. A doctor's advice to give up his beloved fell walking caused him to turn his thoughts elsewhere. That was when he hit on the idea of walking the towpaths. After all they are on the level - 1,500 miles of beautiful unspoiled pathways across the length and breadth of the land.

England's first canal was built by the Romans (Fosdyke, Lincs.) and is still in use, but the main canal building only came into its own with the Industrial Revolution, when it became necessary to link up seaports, factories, mines and busy towns. Some landlords at first refused to have a canal cut near their property, but later relented with the proviso that they came no nearer than 440 yards from the front door.

Mr. Cliffe has developed an amazingly perceptive eye, and he has discovered a deep interest in ornithology, natural history and even geology. Bridges were built of wood, brick or stone, thus reflecting the availability of the materials to hand - in fact sometimes where there was an abundance of clay, the bricks were made and fired on the spot. Even the stone pointed to the type of quarry nearby - millstone grit, ironstone or sandstone. One man employed in the building of an aqueduct walked 8 miles each way every day for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years - and he did this for 15/-d., a week. Incidentally the men who dug the canals and tunnels introduced a new word into our language - "navvy" - an abbreviation of navigator.

Each canal has its own characteristic beauty which can only be enjoyed at close quarters. Mr. Cliffe's enthusiasm becomes infectious so that as he talks you are suddenly transported to these lonely, delightful paths where nature flourishes undisturbed with an abundance of wild life and a riot of colour. Anything can happen - you can come across a heron standing like a statue or mute swans performing their amazing aerial dynamics. Walking through grass, shoulder high, you can flush out a pheasant or be suddenly aware of "hairy-furries" round your ankles.

There are kingfishers, dragonflies, cuckoo-pint and the elusive goatsbeard (whose flowers open at 4 a.m. and close at noon). There are old villages, undiscovered churches each with its own

interesting history. Ancient folk-lore still lingers holding on to old herbal remedies.

What an interesting journey it was - just one thing tho' - Woolton Society members told us we would enjoy the tale of the "Lincolnshire yellow-belly", but Mr. Cliffe went without telling us ! Perhaps he'll come back ? E.Q.

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - This was held on the 25th Oct. at the Gateacre Institute when 24 members were present. The Secretary's Report covering all the matters on which we have been working over the last year will be circulated shortly to all members. Members joining before July of this year are reminded that SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due - Single £1, Family £1.50 plus £1 postage if living outside the hand-delivery area (Students & Pensioners 50p.)

The Officers and Committee elected at this meeting are:-

<u>Chairman:</u> Tony McCann, O.L.A. Hedgefield Rd.	487-9301
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u> Tim Brakell, Linden Cottage, Halewood Road	428-3105
<u>Hon. Sec:</u> Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange La.	428-3671
<u>Asst. Hon. Sec:</u> Miss A. Lythgoe, 168 Gateacre Park Drive	428-3963
<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u> Miss E. Heyworth, 2 York Cottages	428-7886

Committee

Mrs. Sheila Bée, 'Velova', Grange Lane	428-5497
§ Miss Pat. Beswick, 8 Eaglehurst Road	428-2213
§ Miss Joan Borrowscale, 14 Eaglehurst Road	428-4069
Miss Claire Doyle, 15 Grangemeadow Road	428-7609
Miss Janet Gnosspelius, 14 Hightor Road	428-4121
Mrs. Jessica McKenzie, 7 Grange Weint	428-2938
The Rev. Daphne Roberts, 23 Belle Vale Rd.	428-2712
Lionel Shepherd, Browside Cottage, Sandfield Road	428-6986
Leslie Wheeler, 3 York Cottages, Grange Lane	428-8643

Our new members, who are very welcome are indicated §

This is where we say a big THANK YOU to all those not on the Committee who help with deliveries etc., etc., through

the year, to the Chapel Committee for the use of their hall for Society meetings and to the Gateacre Institute for their hospitality to the Committee.

ROSE COTTAGE - We are glad to say that at long last the sign saying 'ROCHE ROOFING' has been removed from this house in Grange Lane.

GRANGE WEINT FOOTPATH - In the first week of October once again this footpath was reported to be closed. When the Secretary investigated it was found to be M.A.N.W.E.B. who were laying a low voltage cable underground to boost the network. While there we noticed that two of the lights in the footpath were broken so we rang the City Lighting Dept. to tell them - we were thanked for letting them know and they now appear to have been repaired.

Also down the footpath the sandstone wall belonging to Gateacre Grange was found to be needing repair. As this is now within the new Conservation Area extension we rang the Planning Office who wrote to the owners reminding them of their responsibilities, this work has now been done.

DISUSED RAILWAY LINE - We understand that there has been an increase in the number of motor bikes along here lately, with the consequent nuisance of noise and smell. If residents alongside the line are bothered by noise they should ring the Dept. of Environmental Health at Brougham Terrace - 263 - 5511 and ask for the Noise Abatement Section (for smell, ask for Pollution Control). We also understand that they would be willing to come and monitor the amount of pollution in the atmosphere if residents feel this to be necessary.

"MUSIC HALL IN MERSEYSIDE" - One of our members - Peter McCauley has written a book about the history of Music Halls on Merseyside, anyone interested in obtaining a copy will find it at "News from Nowhere" in Whitechapel, price £2.

EXHIBITION AT GATEACRE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL - The Gateacre and Woolton Societies were asked to put on an Exhibition at the school to help celebrate their Silver Jubilee. This

took place 27th Sept. - 1st Oct. when we took over the stage in the main hall and showed Gateacre 25 years ago and now, with special reference to the village just before the school was built, and our photographs of a muddy narrow Grange Lane attracted a lot of interest. We had done a special study of 1-9 Belle Vale Rd. for Gateacre Walk IV and our exhibit was designed to show our use of the many sources available. We hitched a "GATEACRE" sign from a sky-hook, made a selection from our old photographs, laid out the treasures from the Sandfield dig etc., etc. We were delighted that so many people came to see it.

One of our visitors was Malcolm Thornton our M.P. He was most interested in everything, but particularly in the screen showing our problems, and he has promised to help us get something done about H.G.Vs ignoring the 3-ton weight limit in Belle Vale Rd. He suggested photographs, showing number plates, of vehicles breaking the law. This is not going to be easy as winter and the cold weather approaches, but we are giving it some thought - have we any volunteer photographers, to work in shifts, if we can get a scheme underway ?

103 GATEACRE PARK DRIVE -

A Local Inquiry took place on the 26th Oct. into an appeal by the owner of this chip shop who wishes to stay open until 11 p.m. The City Council have already refused permission but the appeal came before an Inspector from the D.O.E. There were two residents present to object and the Secretary made the submission of the Gateacre Society - now we can only wait for the report and decision of the Inspector.

RIDING SCHOOL -

Built in 1895 for Col. Wm. Hall Walker (later Lord Wavertree), third son of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker of Gateacre Grange, architect Richard T. Beckett, this stabling has now been converted by Barry Eckman into 4 dwellings with 3 additional houses on the W. side of the stable yard. He has done, what unfortunately so few developers bother to do, considered the style of the original building, kept to it in his conversion and reproduced it in the new houses he has built. The 'street'

has been laid with granite setts, the pavements are of York stone and altogether, we feel, the Conservation Area has been enhanced by this scheme. Members passing should go in and look - they would be very welcome - also see Gateacre Walk IV.

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE - The Local History Unit is working on the deeds of this house built c.1830 for Ambrose Lace at the top of Beaconsfield Rd. Going through old deeds, struggling to understand their meaning is time-consuming but fascinating and a great deal of information about local families, their relationship to each other, their trades and their holdings in Little Woolton is emerging. We are also transcribing the 1861 census from the micro-film in the Record Office - have we a member who would be interested to help in this work ? If so please ring the Secretary.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - The application for Knotty Cross is coming before the Planning & Land Committee next Mon. morning at 10 a.m. We understand the Planning Dept. will recommend this be refused - we will be there, ready to speak if necessary.

You are all no doubt aware that now planning applications have to be accompanied by a fee. But if the application has to be made because the building is Listed, or because it is in a Conservation Area the application is free.

Once again we remind members that all the applications in our area are shown on the Notice Board each week - if in doubt ring the Planning Dept. 227-3911 extension 575 and ask for Mr. Burgana. If you wish to be well-informed please read the list of applications each week.

LEE PARK ESTATE - Our deliverer of Newsletters/Notices on this estate has recently been poorly, we wonder if one of our other members living here would be willing to make the delivery (only a small round) in this area ?

has been laid with various orders, the Government etc. of
back above and attention, as they, the Commission etc.
and took advantage of this chance. Members carrying should
to in and look - they would be very welcome - also see
Attorneys Hall IV.

PLANNING ATTITUDE - The local history unit is working on
the bonds of this house built in 1810 for Andrew Lewis Jr.
the son of Revolutionary War. Being towards the
attending to understand their meaning in the community
out looking and a great deal of their own
local families, their relationship to each other, their
traditions and their holding in little section is making
and also illustrating the local regions from the
life in the local office - have to a reader and would be
interested to help in this work. If no glasses this
lecture.

PLANNING ATTITUDE - The application for local history
is coming before the planning and zoning board
starting at 10 a.m. We understand the planning Dept. will
recommend this be returned - we will be there ready to
speak if necessary.
You are all so busy aware that you probably will
have to be accompanied by a friend for the application
has to be made before the planning and zoning
board in a Commission room the application is
and again we remind members that all the applications
to have one shown on the notice to attend - if in
the morning (9:30-11:30) and again 12:30-2:30
for the afternoon. If you wish to be represented
please send the list of applicants each week.

PLANNING ATTITUDE - Top delivery of materials
to the state is especially being done as well as
of our other members living here would be killed in
the delivery (only a small amount) in this way.