

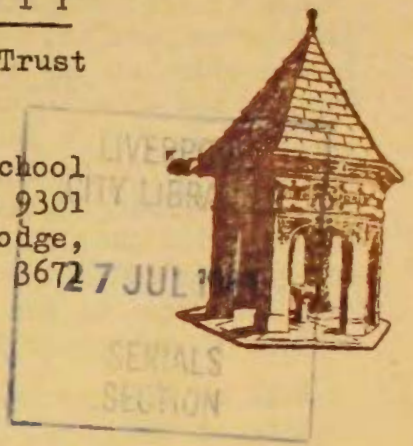
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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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 - 8672



SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 1983

Next meeting -

NORTON PRIORY

by

SARAH MULDOON.

Director of Norton Priory Museum

MONDAY, JULY 25th at 8 p.m.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road.

Tea 10p.

Visitors welcome - 25p.

I think our members will agree that we are blessed in our City with a Recreation and Open Spaces Department who are determined to enhance our environment with every kind of garden delight despite threats of vandalism. We were very glad to welcome Mr. Gardiner from the Department at our last meeting on May 16th - he is the Curator of our Botanic Gardens and came to talk about 'Trees and Shrubs for the small garden.' In fact his subject turned out to have a wider range and he enthralled us all, not only with his fluent and entertaining delivery but also with his excellent slides. He suggested that we should have a more dynamic approach to our gardens and not be afraid to discard shrubs or trees which have overgrown to the extent that they no longer fulfil their purpose in our general plan.

He told us that we are more fortunate than we realise as our climate is such that many plants from all over the world have adapted to it giving us an extremely wide variety. He showed us slides from exotic places like China where dwarf rhododendrons and azaleas cover the hills as heather covers ours. Long Latin names tripped from his tongue as we listened in admiration, but he gave us too the common names and many of us, I noted, were busy scribbling down names on odd scraps of paper! May our own efforts match the beauty of those shown on the slides.

Mr. Gardiner, as we always discover with pleasure when we have a 'gardening' evening, was full of enthusiasm and answered the many questions with endless patience and good humour. Members present stayed on too to chat to each other and mull over their successes and failures - altogether a delightful evening. A.L.

NORTON PRIORY -

Mrs. Muldoon, the new Director of the Museum at Norton Priory, is coming to speak to us and show slides of the excavations being carried out near Runcorn. We feel confident she will arouse such interest that we shall be able to plan an outing there next year.

The extensive excavations have uncovered the remains of the mediaeval priory and Mrs. Muldoon will reveal to us what the priory was like and something of the life lived there from the early 12th to the early 16th century. New discoveries are still being made and it is a thrilling event which we are privileged to have on our doorstep.

COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965 -

On Friday 24th June the Chief Commons Commissioner, Mr. G.D. Squibb, M.V.O., Q.C. came from London to St. George's Hall to hear about the case of Gateacre Green and the Lodes Pond in Woolton.

You will recall that in 1968 Mr. Richards, a local resident, had registered both the Green and the Lodes Pond as "Village Greens" under the Commons Registration Act of 1965 - fearing for their future. The then Town Clerk, Stanley Holmes, had made objection to the registrations on the grounds that neither complied with the definitions as laid down in the Act - hence the visit from Mr. Squibb to settle the dispute.

Mr. Richards had asked for the help of Miss Gnosspelius, the Hon. Sec and Mr. Wheeler - the Solicitor member of our Committee who revealed that he had some knowledge of this rather obscure legislation, and some considerable time was spent in research preparing both these cases.

The argument for Gateacre Green relied (1) on the fact that in 1887 the land was given to the inhabitants of the village by Sir Andrew Barclay Walker of Gateacre Grange (we have a copy of the deed) and it is actually called a "Village Green" on the bronze panel at the rear of Queen Victoria's statue and (2) it has been used for "... lawful sports and pastimes for not less than 20 years ..." which is one of the definitions in the Act. In this we were greatly indebted to some of our members and friends whose memories went back to before the first World War.

We understand from the Commissioner's Clerk that it may be some weeks or even months before we hear the decision - meanwhile we wait patiently, glad that Mr. Richards asked for our help as we now know quite a bit more about our local history than we did.

QUEEN VICTORIA -

Apropos of this statue the Conservation Department in the Museum, who were responsible for its refurbishment, have provided us with some special micrystalline wax polish which they say should be applied to protect the bronze - preferably in warm weather. We wonder if some of our members will volunteer to wash her down and give her this cosmetic treatment? Any offers to the Secretary please.

YORK COTTAGES LAND -

In our last Newsletter we were feeling so optimistic and happy that a solution to this years old problem seemed in sight, we might have known that something would happen to drop a spanner in the works.

If you remember, the scheme had been agreed by the Highways & Environment Committee and was waiting for the approval of the Policy & Finance Committee before going before the City Council itself on April 20th. Eventually both these hurdles were surmounted but then we had the Municipal Election and landed back in square one. Our new Council is currently reviewing all expenditure agreed by the previous Council and in the meantime all funds have been frozen (this also applies to the scheme for the land opposite St. Stephen's Church).

At the same time we hear that the Department of the Environment (from whom the money will go to the Council) are saying that the York Cottages scheme is not fulfilling such a pressing social need as some of the other plans passed for outer area funding.

We are putting our case as persuasively as possible but sadly, unless we can get the D.O.E. Partnership money released soon and work started, we will miss the Autumn planting season.

MEMBERSHIP -

At the last count we had 305 paid up members and Mrs. Bee, the Membership Secretary, would like to see this increased to at least 350 this year. We are enclosing an Application Form with each Newsletter and ask you to pass it on to a friend or neighbour who you think would be interested in joining the Society. We cannot stress enough that our credibility and influence is increased in proportion to our numbers, so PLEASE do your best to bring in a new member.

IVY COTTAGE, PORTICO LANE -

Because of our experience gained at No. 2 Paradise Row in the watchmaker's workshop, on the 28th June we were invited to accompany Mrs. Scarland of the North West Civic Trust on an excursion to Portico Lane, St. Helens.

Ivy Cottage is a little brick double-fronted house of late 18th century character and on the north gable end is a lean-to addition with, at the upper level, a very obvious long workshop window. Neither house nor workshop (reached by a vertical ladder from the shed below) have been "modernised", and though

the Merseyside Archaeological Survey knows of the presence of the workshop the building has not been "listed" by the D.O.E. nor investigated by industrial archaeologists. Attention was drawn to this survivor of our industrial heritage by the life-long tenant (following a change of ownership) and Mrs. Scarland hopes to get the building listed, investigated and recorded in the near future.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

Members will have seen on the Notice Board the recent application by G.H. McNeile & Son Ltd., for permission to build 16 flats in two 2-storey blocks at the top of Sandfield Road in the builders yard. It is proposed that vehicular access should be from Glenville Close, access to the flats and car parking would be on the far side of the two blocks away from Sandfield Road. The drawings for this scheme can be seen at the counter on the first floor at the City Planning Office in Wilberforce House, 25 The Strand - any observations should be made to Mr. E.S.P. Evans, the City Planning Officer.

KNOTTY CROSS -

On the 24th May outline planning permission was given for the conversion of the industrial premises at 86, Halewood Road into 10 flats. Meanwhile we note that the whole property is now up for sale.

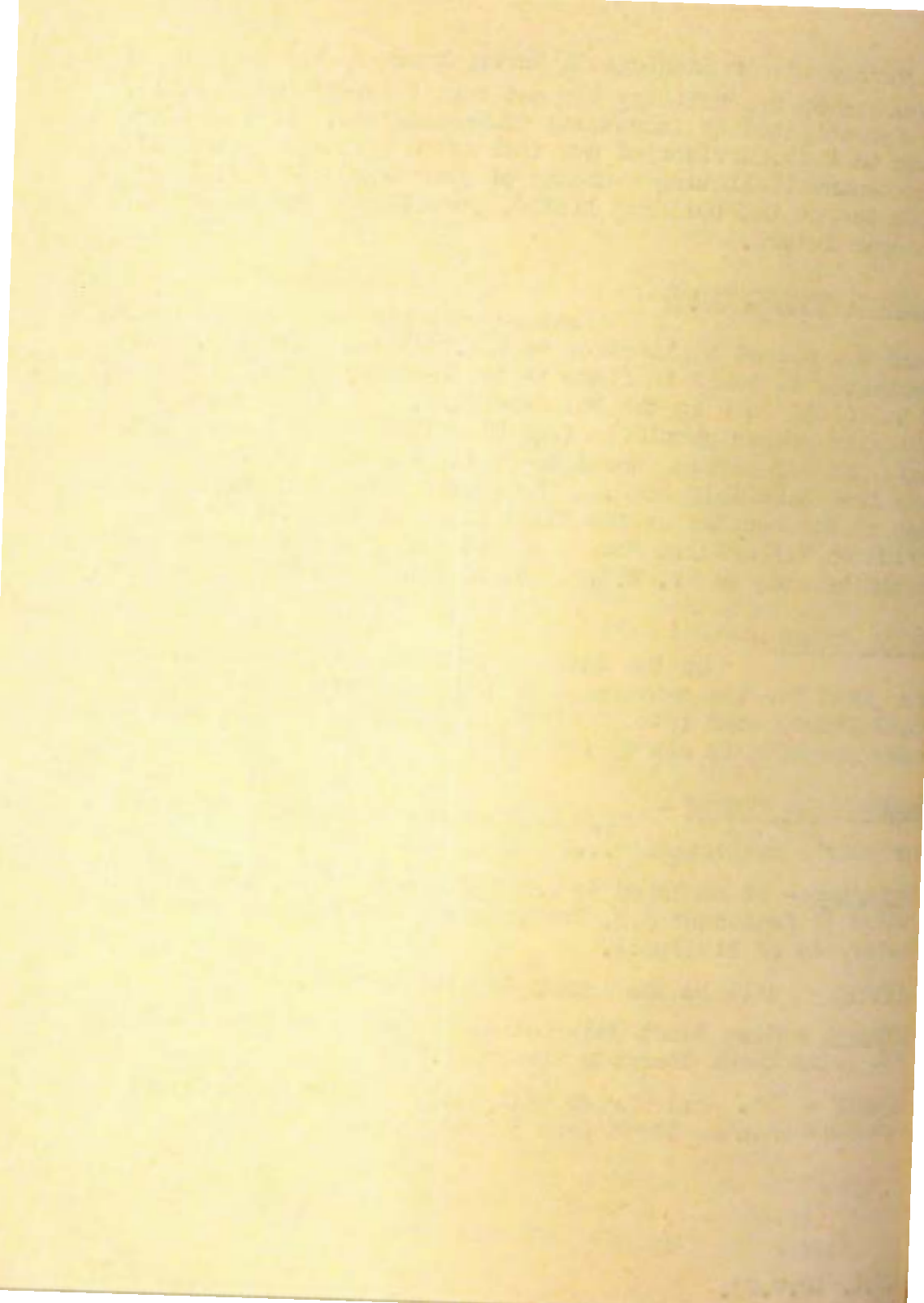
FORTHCOMING EVENTS - Miss Lythgoe has plans well advanced for our year's activities

September - it is hoped to arrange a tour of our two Cathedrals guided by Professor J.N. Tarn, Roscoe Professor of Architecture, University of Liverpool.

October - will be the Annual General Meeting.

November - Miss Janet Gnosspelius is coming with her slides to talk to us about Georgian Liverpool.

January - Dr. Carl Warner will tell us about the Gateacre he remembers when he first came 50 years ago.



THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust for the North West
Registered Charity No: 508024

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Chairman: Mr. Tony McCann, O.L. Jun. School, Hedgefield Rd. Tel: 487 - 9301
Hon. Sec: Mrs Sylvia Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange Lane " 428 - 3671
Membership Sec: Mrs. Sheila Bee, 'Velova', Grange Lane " 428 - 5497

A I M S O F T H E S O C I E T Y

1. To stimulate public interest in Gateacre Village and the surrounding area.
2. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area.
3. To secure the preservation, conservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity, and of features of historic and public interest in the area

And in furtherance of the above purposes to hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions etc., to promote research and publish reports, papers and other literature. To make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest in the area.

The Society was formed in 1974, has been growing ever since and now has just over 300 members - the greater our membership the greater our influence can be so will you join us and help to look after Gateacre ?

To: The Membership Secretary - Mrs. S. Bee, 'Velova', Grange Lane,
Gateacre, Liverpool 25. Tel: 428 - 5497

I/We apply for membership of The Gateacre Society and enclose £.....
(Cheques payable to The Gateacre Society, please).

Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss(BLOCK Capitals please)
Address
..... Date

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Life Member -	£20.00
Individual -	£1.00
Family membership -	£1.50
Pensioner, Student or Child -	50p.

NOTE: Plus postal charge if living outside the hand-delivery area - £1.

S.M.L. 5.7.83.