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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the North West Civic Trust

CHAIRMAN: G. Anthony McCann, O.L.A. School  
Hedgefield Road. Tel: 487-9301

HON. SEC: Mrs. Sylvia Lewis, Grange Lodge  
Grange Lane Tel: 428-3671



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 1984

Next meeting -

ENLIGHTENED EDWARDIANS & VISIONARY VICTORIANS

by

ANN COOMBES

The influence of the Victorian and early 20th  
century thinkers on the local environment

TUESDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 1984 at 8 pm

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road.

Visitors welcome.

Slides

Tea 10p

Advance notice - The January meeting will be 'This in our  
Time' being film extracts from Pathe News  
Films 1910 - 1960 covering local events.

The date will be announced later.

A somewhat poorly attended meeting on the evening of Tuesday 26th June heard a fascinating talk by Mr. Wadsworth, the Assistant Keeper at the Museums Conservation Dept. He revealed to us the extent of our collection - over a million artefacts - which must be maintained in good condition where it is scientifically possible. The materials used most at least reverse the process of deterioration until such time as new materials for restoration are discovered. He showed us slides of the Roman copies of Greek sculpture obtained from Ince Blundell Hall, these had been cleaned in large tanks under running water and then coated with wax.

Documents and papers are notoriously difficult to deal with and when newspapers go brittle nothing can be done. His advice was to keep these away from the light.

One of the most intriguing collections in the Museum is from the Royal Yacht Mary, Charles II's yacht which went down off Holyhead in 1675. Mr. Wadsworth had taken a course on conducting underwater explosions in order to penetrate the wreck. In addition to the guns (still charged with gunpowder) and cannon balls the Museum had acquired some pewter, now restored by electrolysis, with the Royal Crest on it and the Captain's initials; pottery and glass which it has been possible to piece together and some garments and jewellery.

The slides demonstrated the meticulous care of the restorers at the Museum working to make the exhibits both instructive and attractive. Many of us know our Museum well and are justifiably proud of it but I think not a great many people realise what hard and sensitive work goes into producing such fine exhibits.

A.L.

BRUNEL - On the 24th July Harry Gascoign Arthur, an experienced lecturer, came to tell us about the Brunels - the father Marc, born in Normandy 1769, went to New York where he practised for some time as an architect and civil engineer. Coming to England in 1799 his most notable work was the Thames tunnel 1825 - 1843. The tunnel, for which he invented a tunnelling shield to work the London clay, was driven with great difficulty - not least that

people were invited by the proprietors to view the work in progress at 1/-d., a visit, to help with the cost - broke the foreman's health. In 1826, then aged 20, his son Isambard Kingdom Brunel took on the foreman's job, and in spite of disasterous break-ins of Thames water carried the workmen and the boring to completion.

After this practical experience the young Brunel designed the Clifton Suspension Bridge in 1831, and in March 1833 he was appointed engineer to the Great Western Railway and began the survey for the Paddington - Bristol railway. The G.W.R. company's Bill for a broad gauge line went before u Parliament in 1834 and Brunel was cross examined about it for eleven days.

In 1835 he designed the Great Western - the first steam ship to cross the Atlantic regularly from Bristol to New York. His next ship was the Great Britain which started building in 1839. She was the first large ship to be built of iron and to have a screw propeller.

The Great Britain was eventually beached in Sparrow Cove on the Falkland Islands and left to rot. But in 1970 she was salvaged and brought back to England for restoration in the very dock in which she was built. The Hon. Sec. and Miss Gnosspelius had been visiting her just two days before the lecture and so appreciated Mr. Arthur's story. They had been most impressed with the loving care and the great skill which is going into her restoration. J.B.G.

10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - was held at the Gateacre Institute on the 30th October when 36 members were there. The Hon. Secretary's report on the year's work will be circulated shortly to all members, in the meantime the Officers and Committee who were elected are as follows -

CHAIRMAN: G.A. McCann, O.L.A. School, Hedgefield Road 487-9301  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Leslie I. Wheeler, 4 Grange Mews 428-8643  
HON. SEC: Mrs. S. Lewis, Grange Lodge, Grange La. 428-3671  
HON. TREASURER: Miss E. Heyworth, 2 York Cottages 428-7886

Committee

Mrs. S. Bee, 'Velova', Grange Lane	428-5497
Miss J. Borrowscale, 14 Eaglehurst Road	428-4069
Michael Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way	428-7801
§ Mrs. J. Cohen, 41 South Station Road	428-5442
Miss C. Doyle, 15 Grangemeadow Road	428-7609
Miss J. Gnosselius, 14 Hightor Road	428-4121
Miss A. Lythgoe, 168 Gateacre Park Drive	428-3963
Mrs. J. McKenzie, 7 Grange Weint	428-2938
§ Mrs. D. Myles, 25 South Drive, Wavertree	
The Rev. D. Roberts, 23 Belle Vale Road	428-2712
Lionel Shepherd, Browside Cottage, Sandfield Rd.	428-6986

New members, very welcome on the Committee, indicated §

We reluctantly agreed to accept Mr. Brakell's resignation, he has served the Society well, first as Chairman from 1976 to 1980 and since as Vice-Chairman. We shall all miss him on the Committee but he has assured us of his continued interest and support. We are sorry too to have lost Miss Beswick as a Committee member, but happy that she continues with her work of stamping, folding, labelling and handing out our communications to the deliverers. Mrs. Bee has resigned as Membership Secretary after 7 years for which many thanks, and this job has been taken over by Miss Lythgoe - to whom all subscriptions should now be sent (or handed to any other member of the Committee if this is more convenient).

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE - Rates.

Individual £1., Family £1.50., Students & Pensioners 50p., Life Membership £20. All plus £1 postage if living outside the hand delivery area.

As usual, at this time of the year, we would like to record our thanks to all those members, not on the Committee, who have helped - in however small a way - to further the work of the Society; to the Gateacre Chapel Committee for the use of their hall and to the Gateacre Institute where we hold our Committee meetings.

We have been asked by the Minister of Gateacre Chapel to give publicity to this special service -

EARTH'S WATERY MANTLE

## A Celebratory Service

Gateacre Chapel, Sunday 18th November 1984  
at 11.00 am.

"Earth's Watery Mantle" seems an appropriate theme on which to base a session of worship in appreciation of our Natural Heritage. Over the months of 1984 I have gathered together visual material, pictures, shells and stones, collected from water, with poetry and music inspired by sea, rivers and lakes. This, together with suitable slides and commentary, comprise the material for this worship theme.

We hope that this will be of interest to members of the Gateacre Society and any of their friends who would like to join us. This worship session at Gateacre Chapel will be held at 11.00 am. on 18th November, and will last for approximately one hour.

We hope you will take away from this service something of the atmosphere of thanks-giving and appreciation of God, which we are endeavouring to create.

D. Mills

As a Society concerned in the preservation of our environment it occurs to me that we should be interested in the total environment. Earth's Watery Mantle provides just such an opportunity.

John Roberts.

THE SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD -

We hear from one of our new members that there are people who do not know where to find this board. It is mounted on the wall in between the Jewellers/Clock shop and the soon-to-be-opened Electrical shop on Gateacre Brow - just round the corner from the Black Bull. Here you will see our meetings advertised and the list of planning applications for this area.

KNOTTY CROSS -

The application to build a bungalow in the garden of this listed building, and to convert the stable block into two houses is still being considered. We are in touch with the Planning Dept. and will do what we can to see that the setting of this fine house is respected.

42 GATEACRE BROW - Application to extend the felt factory, demolishing one of our village houses No. 20 Halewood Road and causing a considerable loss of amenity to No. 18 will be decided at a site meeting of the Development & Building Control Committee at 10.25 a.m. on the 13th November.

POLITICAL CLUBS - Without wishing to be party political we feel we must congratulate the Librals on the recent refurbishment of their club in Smithdown Road - the best looking such club in Liverpool ? Perhaps, when the plans for the Woolton Conservative Club in Grange Lane come to fruition, we will be proud of ours too ?

CHEZ PHILIPPE DISCO - Any members, who have experienced the problems caused by people leaving this establishment in the early hours of the morning, will be welcome at the Committee Meeting to be held on the 16th November at 10.00 a.m. in the Municipal Annexe, Dale Street when the owner will be applying for a renewal of his licence. Anyone who thinks they can be present to support us is asked to contact Mrs. Bee at 'Velova', Grange Lane. Tel: 428 - 5497.

BEAR AND STAFF - We have had a query from Greenall Whitley's publicity agents in Manchester about the sign on this pub. The Bear and Ragged Staff, as it used to be called in 1759, is part of the coat of arms of the Earls of Warwick. They wanted to know when he stayed there and gave permission for the sign to be used. To the best of our knowledge he never did - we have found no documentary evidence to support this theory - but perhaps one of our members can help us ? Was it usual to seek permission before such a sign was erected ? We rang the Earl of Derby's Estate Office to find out if he had given consent to the Eagle & Child in Halewood, but they were unable to help us.

RESURVEY OF LIVERPOOL'S LISTED BUILDINGS - On the 17th Oct. Miss Bird, representing the Cassidy Ashton Partnership - the firm of Architects in Preston who have been entrusted by the Dept. of the Environment to re-survey Liverpool - came to see us. On the 19th she came again and Miss Gnoospelius and

Mrs. Lewis took her round Woolton and Gateacre showing her buildings which we thought worthy of listing, but which had been overlooked in the 1975 survey. Our impression was that she seemed to be more interested in our Victorian buildings than the older Georgian ones, but we shall have to wait and see. We also showed her our sewer ventilation pipe in Belle Vale Road, which we think should be listed as street furniture, and we showed her the stones from Brettargh Holt dated 158? feeling that these would perhaps be safer if listed but apparently they have to be built into a wall to be listable. We took her to Naylor's Bridge under which Childwall Brook still flows but again she was professionally non-committal and we couldn't gauge her reaction.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL - At the A.G.M. a number of members expressed anxiety about the future of this building which has been closed since the beginning of October. It has been suggested that the best way of bringing the amount of anxiety in Liverpool to the attention of the authorities is for everyone concerned about this building of International importance to write to the Chief Executive, Mr. A.J. Stocks, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2DH asking what steps are being taken to see that the locked up hall is kept weather tight. If anyone has any good ideas for a new use for the building please add these to your letter.

BOTTLE BANK - Members will recall that once before we pursued the idea of having a bottle bank in the car park at the Gateacre Park Drive shopping precinct, but the owners were not prepared to give up any space for this venture. We now hear that there is one available and have suggested the space at the back of the Village Green outside the men's loo. What do members think about this site and are there any other suggestions ?

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS - At our next meeting we will have Gateacre tea towels for sale at £1.45, also Buildings of Liverpool £2.95, Conservation Areas £2.95, the new Sefton Park book at £2.95, Gateacre Walks 10p & 25p. and some other books of interest too.  
S.M.L. 8.11.84.

