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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY
Registered with the North West Civic Trust

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 1985

Next meeting -

THE CARE AND RESTORATION OF PICTURES AT
THE WALKER ART GALLERY

by

MR. JIM FRANCE

Mr. France - formerly of The National Gallery, London - is in charge of the care, conservation and restoration of the City's very fine collection of pictures, and he will tell us, with slides, about his work. The Walker Art Gallery is of particular interest to us in Gateacre being given to Liverpool in 1874 by Sir Andrew Barclay Walker of Gateacre Grange when he was Lord Mayor.

TUESDAY, 26th MARCH 1985 at 8 p.m.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. Visitors welcome

ADVANCE NOTICE - the next meeting - on some aspect of gardening will be on 16th April.



24 APR 1985

SERIALS
& CIRCUIT

ENLIGHTENED EDWARDIANS & VISIONARY VICTORIANS - On the 20th Nov.

Mrs. Ann Coombes asked us to imagine we were back in the days of Queen Victoria and go out with her to look at some of the buildings recently erected. First we saw factory buildings and houses built by men whose interest was cost/profit rather than aesthetics, like Johnsons the dry cleaners in Bootle (I wondered if she knew that he lived in Beaconsfield Road?), houses in Birkenhead with no windows at the back, Eden Place in Blackburn where the terraced houses were built round a square of open ground on which were the shared privies and Streatham St. in London with its Queen Anne front and Mary Anne behind.

We then saw what men of a different character had built for their workers - Samuel Greg the Unitarian, who built a cotton mill at Styal in 1784 with good houses for his spinners and apprentices: Dr. Ludwig Mond of Brunner Mond (later I.C.I.) built model houses for his workers in Northwich (again I wondered if she knew that Sir John Brunner lived at Druids Cross?). We looked at one of the first industrial villages, built in 1853 by George & James Wilson, sons of the founder of Prices Candles, who built a chapel, school and two hospitals at Bromborough Pool as well as houses with internal W.Cs - almost unheard of in those days.

We passed through Birkenhead Park, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton 1843 - the idea for this first Peoples' Park in the world being conceived in the nearby Woodside Hotel. We heard about the work of another inovator William Laird who employed an Edinburgh architect James Gillespie Graham to prepare plans for laying out the new town of Birkenhead. The workers houses were to be stone faced and of high architectural quality - Hamilton Square & part of Mortimore St. are all that remain.

Mrs. Coombes told us about John Ruskin, his interest in Gothic architecture and his ideas that everyone should have access to nature, work with their hands at some craft for pleasure and that buildings of merit should be saved for posterity. We saw his School of Drawing at Oxford, enriched with carvings of animals and plants and looked at some terraced houses showing his influence. She told us of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood of the 1850s - Burne-Jones, Wm. Morris, Holman Hunt & Rosetti-

of the 1850s - Burne-Jones, Wm. Morris, Holman Hunt & Rosetti - their admiration for Ruskin and how a new school of art had emerged with houses being built of local materials as the Red House designed by Philip Webb for Morris. We saw textiles designed by Morris, based on flowers growing by the river at Oxford and wall paper too - some of which still survives at Speke Hall.

Garden Suburbs came next - Ebineza Howard's at Letchworth & then Wavertree. We heard the story of Port Sunlight where Lord Leverhulme, under the influence of Philip Webb and Josiah Wedgwood laid out his exciting estate of workers houses where he used so many of the eminent architects of the day.

We ended this fascinating tour in the present day, at the Garden Festival with an exhibition of the rehabilitation of old terraced houses and an English country garden with a gazebo which would have gladdened Wm. Morris's heart. Thank you so much Mrs. Coombes - please come back one day and talk to us again.

'ENVIRONMENT WEEK', 27th April - 6th May.

This period has been designated Environment Week by the Civic Trust in London. The idea is for societies, all over the country, to mount a simultaneous programme of events designed to highlight the work of the amenity movement as a whole, so bringing home to the general public just how much the nation owes to them.

The Civic Trust will organise publicity on a national and regional basis and have written to ask how we intend to celebrate the occasion. The committee have given this some thought and come up with the following ideas -

- 1) Saturday April 27th - tidying up the Village Green and giving the Queen Victoria memorial its annual wash and coat of protective wax.
- 2) A 'How well do you know your neighbourhood' Quiz. This will be based on architectural features, general observation and knowledge of local history. There will be prizes and it is hoped that members and their friends will enter, and we also hope that the Comprehensive School will take part in

this event. We hope to announce the winners at a meeting in the Chapel Hall sometime during the week and we are also hoping to have slides showing the answers.

3) A Brighter Business Premises competition is to be held. The idea being for shops and other businesses in the Conservation Area to enhance their frontages with hanging baskets, window boxes etc. Judging will be on-going throughout the summer with prizes being awarded at the end of the season.

4) On Sunday 5th May we are fortunate in having Michael Chitty to conduct a Gateacre Walk. If you would like to be included in the party perhaps you would be kind enough to let the Secretary know.

5) As you know Liverpool has recently been re-surveyed by the Department of the Environment. We are hoping to have several more buildings listed in Gateacre and if the new list is available in time we will circulate the additions to members.

We stress that these are tentative ideas at the moment but we will keep you informed.

JUMBLE SALE - Amidst all this excitement please remember the Society's annual money raising event - Saturday 18th May. We would like anything saleable you no longer want and, if it is possible, 1 hour of your time from 1.45 to 2.45 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, NAMES & ADDRESSES - We understand that we have asked one or two members for this year's subscription when in fact these have already been paid - we do apologise sincerely. We still seem to have a few subscriptions which are outstanding - PLEASE help us by sending these to the Membership Secretary, Miss Lythgoe 168 Gateacre Park Drive as soon as possible so that we can concentrate on the more important work of the Society. Would you also let her know if any of your names and addresses are faulty then these will be corrected in our next mail-out.

POLICE LIASON FORUM - The next Forum will be held in Woolton on a date yet to be arranged. This will give

POLICE LIASON FORUM -

We understand that the next Forum is to be held in Woolton on a date yet to be arranged. This will give members the opportunity to ask the police questions about traffic, beat policing, the home watch scheme, underage drinking and particularly the discos which cause us so many problems. When we receive firm information about the date, time and place of the next meeting we will display it on the Society's notice board.

A LAMING TOUR OF JERUSALEM -

On the 20th Feb. Mr. Plotkin took us for a tour of Jerusalem and with the help of a map was able to show us the ancient city within its walls. With his beautiful slides we saw ancient buildings, palaces, temples and the many different gates. The Lion Gate which has lions carved in the stone of its walls, similarly the Herod's Gate or Flower Gate is enriched with carvings of flowers. The Golden Gate affords direct access to the Temple Mount, and the Damascus Gate - so named because it faces towards Damascus - leads into the old City. Most of the buildings were built when Herod ruled, but all that is left of Herod's second Temple is the Western Wall, better known to us as the "Wailing Wall" where jammed into its crevices are thousands of notes of prayers.

The old walled city is considered to be one of the best preserved medieval cities in the world. Jerusalem has its own physical beauty, at sunset when the colour of the stone glows with an ethereal light, or when the first rays of the rising sun transform the stones into the proverbial "Golden City". Beauty is also to be seen in these ancient buildings as well as a strong atmosphere of the historic past. Thank you Mr. Plotkin for this excellent guided tour.

TREES -

We hear from the Civic Trust that the maximum fine for felling a protected tree, on summary conviction, is now £2,000 so before any tree work is done do make sure that permission is obtained from the City Planning Officer.

E.C.

REMINDER -

Members (?) whose subscription is awaited will find a RED SPOT on their Newsletters - please send it now.

