

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the North West Civic Trust

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LIVERPOOL
CITY LIBRARIES

10 SEP 1985

SERIALS

SLIP

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 1985

A visit has been arranged to-

THE CLOCK & MOTOR MUSEUM

HESKETH STREET, off LARK LANE

TUESDAY, the 3rd SEPTEMBER at 7 p.m.

We will be welcomed by the owner Mr. Jim Baxter who will be our guide and tell us about his fascinating collection. Afterwards there will be SUPPER prepared by Mrs. Jane Baxter

TICKETS now available, price £1.95. These can be obtained from the Secretary or Mrs. McKenzie, 7 Grange Weint, 428-2938 or Mrs. Cohen, 41 S. Station Road, 428-5442.

Numbers are restricted so please get your tickets early - Mrs. Baxter needs to know, ten days before, how many people to cater for.

It was thought, on this occasion, that perhaps the hire of a coach was unnecessary, and that members and their friends could use their own transport. There will be spare seats available, so just let the organisers know if you require a lift.

ADVANCE NOTICE - A.G.M. October 22nd. Gateacre Institute.

ART CONSERVATION - In April Mr. Jim France, who is in charge of the care, conservation and restoration of the collection at the Walker Art Gallery, came to tell us about his work. Mr. France, who trained at the National Gallery, explained to us with the aid of slides how he had restored various pictures some of which had been accidently damaged while others had deteriorated through damp, dust, heat and the passage of time. He works unaided at this awesome task, his tools of trade being a hugh iron, tissue, gum and his own expertise.

One treasure had come to the gallery from Little Budworth parish church in Cheshire, where it was found that they owned a priceless painting. When the church was repaired and re-decorated this prized painting was hung, unfortunately too soon, on a recently plastered wall. Within a fortnight the damp had affected and damaged the painting, causing flaking and mildew. It was removed from the wall and stored elsewhere; a Chester art dealer recommended that the painting should be destroyed as it was so badly damaged, but eventually it was passed on to Mr. France for his attention. Even though the period of time during which the painting had been left unattended made the task that much harder, after spending many hours restoring and cleaning the picture it was once again a beautiful work of art.

Mr. France answered the questions of the meeting and advised members how to look after their pictures - by avoiding sunshine, heat from radiators and dust. Those who attended the meeting gained an insight into the behind-the-scenes work at the gallery which was most interesting. J.M.

UNEEXPECTED LIVERPOOL - On the 7th May Mr. Fred Camenisch, a popular and sought-after Mersey Guide, gave us a conducted tour of Liverpool, using slides from the excellent collection which he has built up over a number of years.

Starting at Perch Rock and Lighthouse at New Brighton he continued along the Mersey pointing out buildings of interest along the docks. We were then taken along Dale Street, Old Hall Street and the commercial quarter of the city being shown carved wooden doors, carvings over entrances to buildings many of which had escaped the notice of the audience and statues

tucked away in odd corners between old and new buildings. We saw the old Bluecoat School buildings and courtyard, office buildings, warehouses, and shops in Bold Street and houses of both historical and architectural interest in Rodney Street and the older residential area just outside the City centre.

Eventually, we ended up at the Oratory or Mortuary Chapel designed by John Foster jun. in 1829 (now a Grade I listed building) near the Anglican Cathedral. Here we were taken inside the building seeing slides of the interior and the works of art housed there of statues and pictures - these being on show to the public on Saturdays and Sundays.

During our tour we were regaled with a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm which stems from a sincere love of Liverpool.

CROSBY COASTGUARD STATION - On the evening of the 30th June a party of about fifty members and friends visited the Coastguard Station at Crosby to be met and shown round by Mr. Brown. We were told about the history of the organisation - surprisingly they were formed 150 years ago to try to combat smuggling - and about their work to-day which is mainly concerned with saving lives.

The country is divided into six regions, our local one being based at Swansea and reaching from North Devon to the Scottish border. Within the region are five districts, ours covering the area from Point of Aire to Scotland.

Information about ships or people in trouble comes into Crosby by radio or telephone, then the decision has to be made - should R.A.F. Nimrod aircraft be used or helicopters or lifeboats; should nearby vessels be contacted? There is the Morecombe Bay Gas Rig which maintains a number of safety boats and, of course, the coastguard boats themselves based at St. Bees Head. They answer calls to all sorts of emergencies including cliff rescues, shore searches, distress signals from fishing boats, pleasure craft, dingies and inflatables and, very rarely, aircraft; also - getting worse - pollution.

Liverpool is the only full-time manned station in the region

with thirteen coastguards, backed up by auxiliaries and an admin. staff of three. They make no charge for these vital and important services where their own lives are sometimes put in danger in their efforts to save others. Thank you Mr. Brown for an interesting and instructive evening.

GATEACRE WALK - We received an excellent and appreciative account of the walk on May 5th from Ann Roberts, but unfortunately have not enough space to include it. It is here for members to see if they wish, and our thanks go to Mrs. Roberts for writing it and to Mike Chitty for a most successful afternoon.

D.C.E. 'LISTING'. - Liverpool's buildings have now all been resurveyed and the 'list' has, at last, been published. The Secretary has a copy covering the whole City which is available for members to consult. Liverpool now has 1,361 buildings which are listed Grade II, 71 are Grade II+ and 26 are Grade I. Locally, the additions are 'Beacon Hill', in Beaconsfield Road and Nos. 1 - 3 Oakfield Terrace, Cuckoo Lane. Three of our architects are now credited - W. Aubrey Thomas for the Prudential Building (which he designed 20 years before the Royal Liver Building), R.T. Beckett for the Riding Stables and Soarer Cottages and Sir Ernest George for the Northern section of Gateacre Grange.

We have been warned that some of our buildings have been de-listed, but we have not yet heard officially which these are.

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

Knotty Cross - just about twelve months ago there was an application to build a bungalow in the garden of this listed building in Halewood Road. We asked that if it were given approval, conditions might be attached regarding refurbishing the main house, no vehicular access to Halewood Road by Out Lane, landscaping of the site and the retention of the cobbles in the stable yard. Since then there has been no news to report, but now there is a new application to build a 2-storey block of 4 flats in the garden, this we feel to be over-development and we hope that it will be refused.

Prudential Building - the application for office and

residential use is to be welcomed - we feared we might have one for a wine bar ! The building is deteriorating rapidly, have you noticed the amount of plants growing in the gutters ? NOT what we had in mind for our Brighter Business Premises ! It is to be hoped that before long these buildings, designed for one of our first telephone exchanges, will be given the care they deserve. The applicant is Alex. Stewart (Assayers) Ltd., - are they really going to assay in Gateacre ? and if so, what ?

Lee Park Golf Club - the application here is for the dumping of inert builders' waste (from Netherley ?) and with it to form mounds and banks which will then be covered with top soil and planted. This will make a more interesting course for the players and more attractive to look at too. We walked round the course with the architect one very wet Monday evening and had the scheme explained to us. We were invited to comment by the City Planning Officer, but it turned out to be a County Planning matter so we spoke to them and suggested that the timing of the construction of the bank alongside Kings Drive should be watched so that those living in the flats opposite were not obliged to face piles of builders rubbish for any great length of time. We also asked that Mr. Cowell, the Merseyside Archaeologist, be informed as we think there may be medieval plough marks to be seen on this site.

MIDLAND BANK, GATEACRE BROW - We note that rehabilitation work has recently been carried out here, and are very glad that no effort was made to change the style of this very nice Bank building, praised by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, and fitting in so well with its surroundings.

S.M. WILLIAMS NURSERY - We have been asked to support a petition started by Mr. Ognall - who lives in Acrefield Road opposite the entrance - to the effect that the entrance/exit should be altered to Hunts Cross Avenue. He says that there are so many accidents and near accidents on Acrefield Road with all the traffic going in and out that the means of access should be changed. What do members feel about this suggestion ? We feel that perhaps to retain the entrance on Acrefield Rd. and make the exit on to Hunts Cross Avenue might have some merit ?

S.M.L. 10.8.85.

