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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



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER 1986.

Next meeting -

TREASURES OF THE ENGLISH PARISH CHURCH

by

JOHN DEWSNAP B.A.

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Mr. Dewsnap, who as long standing members of the Society will know, is an excellent speaker; he is a past Vice-Chairman of the Victorian Society and familiar to many members from our Gateacre Walks. On this occasion he will be looking (with slides) at some of the outstanding architecture and furnishings of our Parish Churches, and he has promised to include some local examples.

TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY 1986 Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road.

Visitors welcome - 25p. at 8 p.m. Tea & biscuits 10p.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET ?

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The Membership Secretary, Miss Lythgoe says the number of subscriptions received (due at the A.G.M. last October) is well down compared with last year. Please will you send them to her as soon as possible - 168 Gateacre Park Drive. The rates remain the same as they were when the Society first started in 1974 ! namely -

£1. single, £1.50 family and 50p. pensioners and students PLUS £1 towards postage for those living outside the hand delivery area.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK - The Civic Trust has declared 3rd-11th May Environment Week, and has asked us what events we will be holding this year. Thoughts so far include a Gateacre Society/Woolton Society walk down Beaconsfield Road; a Cubs clean-up of the Village Green; a return match with the Wavertree Society in a Liverpool History Quiz; presentation to Barry Kelley of a plaque by the Merseyside Civic Society for his rehabilitation of Druids Cross; an Exhibition organised by Mrs. Scarland of the North West Civic Trust and possibly another Brighter Business Premises competition (if we can get sponsors).

KNOTTY CROSS, HALEWOOD ROAD - There has still been no decision taken by the City Council about the proposed block of flats in the front garden of this now delisted house. We have again written to the City Planning Office putting forward our objections to this scheme and hope to have more news of this application shortly.

28 GATEACRE BROW - We are so very glad to see the rehabilitation work being carried out in this important building - important not only to Gateacre but to Liverpool too as it is the earliest known building (1889) to be designed by the architect W. Aubrey Thomas some twenty years before he designed the Royal Liver Building.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22.10.85.- For those members who were unable to be present at this meeting we enclose a copy

of the Secretary's report showing some of the work of the Society during the last year. Please give some thought to the last paragraph - we have had no volunteers yet.

JUMBLE SALE - It may be a little early to be thinking of Spring Cleaning but please keep in mind that if you have unwanted gifts, household articles of any sort, books etc. (these seem to sell better than clothes) we need them for our annual money raising sale, probably in May.

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE WOOLTON LOCAL BOARD - Miss Borrowscale has been extracting items of interest from these Minutes in the Liverpool Record Office and below we offer you a sample of the account of the first year's working of the Board. Please let us know if you find this sort of precis of the goings on of the L.W.L.B. interesting. It has been suggested that we might do this in conjunction with the Woolton Society who would report similar stages in the progress of cleaning up their patch, which was even more yukky than ours ! (they said it, not me).

The L.W.L.B. was formed in 1867, the first meeting taking place at the BULL INN on Tuesday 19th February 1867 when the following were duly elected members of the Board -

- Mr. William Bennett
- Mr. Thomas Gore, builder.
- Mr. Thos. Wm. Harrop, cotton broker of Grange Lane.
- Mr. Wm. Green Herbert, artist & picture dealer, Elm House,
Halewood Road.
- Mr. Henry Jump, farmer & corn merchant, The Woodlands,
Wood Lane.
- Mr. Chas. Walford Kellock, shipowner, Rough Grange, Grange
Lane.
- Mr. Ambrose Lace, solicitor, Throstles Nest, Belle Vale Rd.
- Mr. Andrew Barclay Walker, The Grange, Rose Brow.
- Mr. John Heys Wilson, brassfounder & Chairman of the
Liverpool Town Council's Water Committee, Lee Hall.

Ambrose Lace was elected Chairman and Mr. H.W. Collins (presumably a solicitor) elected Law Clerk.

These were all men of means and would, as we shall see, help to make Little Woolton as we see it today.

On the 25th February 1867 Committees were formed -

Sewerage & Lighting - Messrs Bennett, Wilson, Jump & Herbert.
Building - Messrs Gore, Lace and Walker.

Finance - Messrs Kellock, Harrop and Walker.

Mr. W.O. Whitley was appointed Surveyor of Roads, Collector of Rates and Inspector of Nuisances, at a salary of £60 p.a.

At a meeting on 15th April Mr. Herbert and Mr. Bennett were appointed to prepare bye-laws and also prepare a 'device' for the seal of the board. (Does anyone know of a copy of these bye-laws?).

Priority was given to Sewerage and Drainage, and the Board decided to find out from Much Woolton (whose Local Board was established in 1866) details of their scheme for drainage where M.W. joined L.W. (down Gateacre Brow and along Halewood Rd.) and see if some mutual arrangement could be made.

In June a General Meeting was held to set a rate for the year. They estimated that £350 was required, and as the rateable value of all property was £7,000 a rate of 1/- in the pound was set.

In August Mr. Collins resigned as Law Clerk and Mr. Weir Anderson, Gentleman (& Solicitor?) of Childwall was appointed. It was resolved to supply the Sewerage & Lighting Cttee. with a Minute book, pens, ink, paper and a safe. The surveyor was to lay before each meeting a list of nuisances abated and those requiring attention, and to report on work and costs. The watercourses on the 'Red Brow' were to be put in order (Woolton Hill Road?).

The surveyor reported in September that Guide Posts were needed at Moons Corner (?), Wood End, Gateacre Brow, Wood Lane and Naylor's Lane.

In October it was resolved that cinders be laid over pathways and cinders & macadam be laid on Red Brow. The Clerk wrote to the Bridgmaster of West Derby Hundred about the state of pavements & footpaths over Notherley & Naylor's Bridges.

S.M.L. 9.1.86.

Hon. Secretary's Report for the year 1984/85.

During the last year 7 meetings have been held in Gateacre Chapel Hall -

- 20th Nov. Enlightened Edwardians & Visionary Victorians - Ann Coombes
- 29th Jan. Pathe News Film - "This in our time".
- 26th Mar. Gladiolii from A to Z - Eric Brown
- 16th Apl. Conservation at the Walker Art Gallery - Jim France
- 7th May Unexpected Liverpool - Fred Camenisch
- 16th Jly. Women in trouble - Bill Emmanuel

We have also been on two outside excursions - on the 18th June we were taken by coach to the Coast Guard Station at Crosby where we were shown round by Mr. E. Brown and on the 3rd September we visited the Motor and Clock Museum in Lark Lane where we had a talk by the curator Jim Baxter, and enjoyed an excellent supper prepared by his wife.

On the 23rd May we were challenged by the Wavertree Society to take part in a Liverpool History Quiz. This was held in Wavertree Town Hall where we were entertained with coffee and very good home-made cakes. The result was a draw, each team scoring 40 points.

The annual Jumble Sale was held in the Chapel Hall on the 18th May. This was organised as usual by Mrs. McKenzie and our thanks must go to her and everyone who helped to make the afternoon a success - nearly £100 was added to the Society's funds.

SOME OF THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

The Committee has met 6 times and 9 Newsletters/News Sheets have been distributed to members.

We continue to receive notices of Planning Applications from the City Planning Office. Those affecting our area are considered, and action is taken if this is felt to be necessary. Mr. Harrison, the City Planning Unsworth has now taken his place.

In November 1984 an application was made by Cleggs - the Felt Factory - to demolish No. 20 Halewood Road and extend the factory as far as the back garden wall of No. 18 Halewood Road. We attended a site meeting on the 13th November and put forward our objections to this proposal and the application was refused. There has been an appeal against this decision, and the report of the Inspector from the Department of the Environment is awaited.

On the 12th December a site meeting was held by the Licensing Sub-committee of the City Council at the Gateacre Hall Hotel and Chez Philippe in connection with the licensing of Discos at these premises. A large number of members and residents turned out to express their objections, but these licences were granted. Chez Philippe had a fire on the premises early in the new year and has not been open since.

In December we were asked for our support by the Chairman of Belle Vale Leisure Ltd., the Rev. C.D. Hendrickes, in their efforts to get Belle Vale Park rehabilitated. It was agreed that the Rev. Daphne Roberts would represent the Society on their committee.

We wrote in February to the Merseyside Civic Society asking them if they would consider an award to Mr. Barry Kelley for his excellent re-habilitation of the Druids Cross Stable block. We heard in August that this had been agreed, the Gateacre Society is to be notified when the award is to be made.

On the 9th April we attended a Police Liason Forum held in Woolton. We raised the problem of Discos and the nuisance they have caused in the village, without getting any very satisfactory answers.

We were asked by the Civic Trust to participate in Environment Week - 27th April - 6th May. In connection with this on the 18th April Sarah and Christopher Bee, Helen Silcock with children from O.L.A. School and the

Church of England school in Halewood Road washed and waxed the statue of Queen Victoria on the village green. This was photographed by Channel 4 T.V. for a programme 'The longest running show on earth' to be shown on the 26th May. In fact our part of the film was not shown, but Mrs. Bee received a video cassette of this recording.

On the 27th April twelve members of the Society cleaned up the village green, removing 12 bin bags full of litter.

We launched a competition for Brighter Business Premises in the village. This was sponsored by Greenall Whitley, Bass Lancashire and the Midland Bank, two prizes being offered, one of £100 for the best overall display and one of £50 for the most improved frontage. We had eleven entrants whose premises were photographed throughout the summer, and then judged by Mr. J. Muir, the former curator of Harthill Gardens and Mr. R.D. Squires, a past President of the Royal National Rose Society. The winners The Windsor Veterinary Surgery, Halewood Road and M/s Sandra Sandland, 31 Belle Vale Road will receive their awards this evening.

To end Environment Week on the 5th May Mr. Michael Chitty took a party of twenty two members and friends on a much enjoyed Gateacre Walk.

In February there had been a planning application for an extension to the Mook Bar at the Gateacre Hall Hotel. This was for a new Disco and we again put forward our objections, but at a site meeting held on the 31st May this was allowed, but with conditions which were found to be satisfactory to those living nearby.

Mr. Quick, the headmaster of Abbots Lea school asked for our help with his porch. This was considered to be dangerous and he feared that the Council may wish to demolish rather than go to the expense of repairing it. We went to see him and provided him with evidence that the porch was listed, and put him in touch with Mrs. Unsworth at the Planning office.

In June the re-survey of Liverpool's listed buildings was published. We have managed to get 6 extra items included in the list, but have had 15 delisted. We are not happy about this and have written to the Dept. of the Environment to say so.

One of our delisted buildings is Knotty Cross (actually in the Woolton Society's area but we fuss about it too) where there is a planning application to build a block of 4 flats in the front garden at present being considered. We objected on the grounds of over-development and unsuitability so close to a listed building. Now that the house has been delisted we fear for its future.

We were ^{asked} for help by Mr. Ognall of Acrefield Road in his campaign to have the entrance/exit to E.H. Williams nursery on Acrefield Road closed, and an alternative access made into Hunts Cross Avenue. This we felt would put Mr. Williams out of business and we were unable to support the scheme.

LOCAL HISTORY UNIT -

We have given help to a number of pupils from local schools, a Mrs. Roberts who was taking an 'O' level examination in local history and wanted information about the chapel, two further education students and Miss Hendricks who is studying for her Diploma in Town Planning at Manchester University.

A Mr. Lyon from Halewood came and copied some of our old photographs and gave the Society four photographs of Gateacre school children in the early years of this century.

We supplied Miss Smith, the City Archivist, with information about Aymestrey Court and Lower Lee for the booklet produced by Councillor McVeigh in aid of the Woolton Garden Fete, and Crawfords Sports and Social Club with information about the Hornby family who lived at Druids Cross and Sandown Hall, Wavertree.

Three of our members attended Local History Classes in Woolton, run by Mr. P.H.W. Booth, a senior lecturer from the University, who has now started an extended course held at Gateacre Comprehensive School.

Strawberry Field, the Salvation Army Home in Beaconsfield Road is to celebrate its 50th birthday next year, and Captain Botting asked us for information about past residents of the house and some early maps for a commemorative brochure they are producing.

Miss Borrowscale has now transcribed all the census returns for Little Woolton from 1841 - 1881 and we are hoping to have lending copies in the near future. Miss Gnosspelius and I have finished the survey of the Chapel graveyard and we have a copy of all the memorial inscriptions.

We continue to exchange Newsletters with our fellow Societies - Sefton Park, Wallasey, Wavertree, West Derby and Woolton. Sadly we fear the St. Michael in the Hamlet Society is no more.

Land at York Cottages - the on-going saga of this piece of land in the centre of the village has been left to the end as I wanted to give you the up-to-date news. I spoke to Merseyside Improved Houses this morning and found out the reason why landscaping this site has still not started. It appears that the occupant of No. 4, who claims to own a strip in the centre of this land has not yet given his permission for the work to go ahead - so we are back again in square one.

I would like to thank Tony for being such an excellent Chairman - he is a tower of strength and always there ready to give sound advice when needed. I would also like to thank members of the Committee and of the Society for all their support during the last two years when I have been busy with my local history course - I couldn't have managed without all the help I have had, particularly from our folders and

delivers of Newsletters. ~~that this is unlikely to be implemented due to lack of finance~~
 By the next A.C.M. I will have been Secretary for ~~several years~~ that is long enough both for me and the Society - I want to be able to spend a lot more time on local history. Please will members think about this, if someone would volunteer now at the opening of the year I could show them the ropes. The job need not prove too onerous, it could be split up e.g. someone producing the Newsletter and someone else attending to the straight secretarial work - I would be quite happy to continue coping with planning applications if needed. Perhaps two friends could share the job (as with the Woolton Society) but by next October this must be settled.

Hon. Secretary