

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY
Registered with the North West Civic Trust

CHAIRMAN: G. Anthony McCann, O.L.A. School
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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 1986.



Next meeting -

THE HISTORY OF LIVERPOOL
TELEPHONES

by

STAN ROBERTS

Mr. Roberts, a long-standing member of the Gateacre Society, was for 44 years on the staff of the Post Office Telephones retiring in 1980 as Head of Division. Over 100 years ago Gateacre had one of the first suburban exchanges and Mr. Roberts, with the aid of slides, will trace the development of this and others in Liverpool.

TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 1986 at 8 p.m.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Rd. Visitors welcome 25p.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held on Tuesday 21st October in the Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane at 8 p.m. We hope as many members as possible will come to this important Society meeting.

VISIT TO RUFFORD - On the evening of Tuesday 24 June we went to Rufford Old Hall, a house in the care of the National Trust. No guide being available, Miss Gnosspelius took on the onerous job of describing the house. First in the garden pointing out the late 15th century Great Hall with its north side virtually unaltered; the west end where the plan of the lost parlour wing can be traced in the lawn and the south side with its huge stone chimney stack - a later addition - and then the avenue leading towards the church

Inside the Great Hall we saw the four hammerbeam roof trusses, and that north of England speciality, the spere truss between the body of the hall and the screens passage. We weighed up whether, as a party of the family's retainers, we would have been able to shift the immense 'moveable' screen of richly carved bog oak; we did not really think we could. The fireplace is still used for wood fires and the smell lingers adding to the atmosphere of this late mediaeval living room where the high table for the family, lit by the tall bay window - someone has been writing on it with a diamond - the armour around the walls and the lantern in the middle of the roof where once the smoke from the central fire found its way out through a louvre, is a memorable experience. It is no surprise to be told that a priest's hiding hole has been discovered behind the high table, or to see the spy-hole for, they say, keeping an eye on who might be calling at the front door.

We also saw the later rooms in the house, of 1662 with its oak floor, and of 1821 and peeped through the spy hole. Also the miscellaneous but fascinating exhibits in the museum rooms including a filter stone for water (such as used to be common in Woolton) even at midsummer the light was beginning to fail. We finished our visit with a welcome cup of tea, and so home to Gateacre.

GATEACRE/WOOLTON SOCIETY WALK - we owe an apology to those members who came on this walk on Saturday 3rd May, during Environment Week, and received a free copy of the notes on the architecture and occupants of the houses in Beaconsfield Road a page is missing, but if you will return your notes to the Secretary you will be provided with a complete copy.

'BUNGALOW' GRANGE LANE/OAKFIELD AVENUE - a recent renewal of planning permission to build a bungalow on this small plot of land - east of La Girelle - led to drawings being submitted to the City Planning Office for approval. We saw the plans which

were for a large house - far too large we felt for the site available so we wrote accordingly to the C.P.O. The plans, which have now been passed, were amended and building has already started but we still think that this house - with five bedrooms - will be over-dominant in this position.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING HALEWOOD RD./OUT LANE - We have been asked to try, once again, to get a safe crossing over Halewood Rd. for the benefit of those people, often elderly, who wish to walk up Out Lane to the shops in Woolton. If any other members feel that such a crossing over this busy road would be of benefit, would you please write supporting the idea to the City Engineer, Steers House, Canning Place, Liverpool L1 8JA.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - some of our members may wonder why applications in the Netherley area appear on our Notice Board. It is because we tend to take an interest in any developments in the old township of Little Woolton and not just those in the centre of Gateacre.

STREET NAM NG - the City Engineer's Dept. asked for our comments about the naming of the new road in the Venture Housing Assn's scheme at St. Stephen's Church. We suggested either Cornelius Way or Sherlock Way to commemorate the name of the architect Cornelius Sherlock who designed the Church in 1872-74 and Church Cottages too - we now hear that the City Council have decided to call the road Vicarage Way.

CHURCHFIELD COURT - our hearty congratulations to those responsible for the gardens at Churchfield Court. We understand that they have won the First Prize in the Regional Garden Competition organised by the Anchor Housing Association, and that they are on the short list for winning the National Competition - well done Mrs. Green and her staff.

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As already announced I shall be resigning as Secretary at the A.G.M. It is not yet known who is to be my successor but I take this opportunity of wishing him/her/them an enjoyable and interesting term of office.

S.M.L. 29.8.1986.