

119
THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

LIVERPOOL
CITY LIBRARIES

Report of the Honorary Secretaries, presented to the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society, held on the 1st November, 1988

This year there have been 5 open meetings, held in the Gateacre Institute, the January meeting had to be cancelled owing to urgent repair work being carried out, which started on the morning of the day we were to meet: Our Chairman and Sylvia Lewis stood for nearly an hour at the door in case anyone that we had not been able to get in touch with turned up. We were unable to arrange a further meeting until May. However when we did get restarted we enjoyed some very interesting talks, all illustrated with slides. These were :-

24th November 1987	Mr. R. Capper - Huyton Historic Society
17th May 1988 -	Mike Chitty - 'Looking at Liverpool's History'
21st June 1988	Nigel Sharp Urban Ranger - 'The Story of Liverpool Parks'
26th July 1988	Ann Coombes, Merseyguide 'Port Sunlight'
20th September 1988	Tony McGann - 'The Eldonian Village'

The Chairman and four members of the Committee were present on 5 December when Mr. Kelley received an award from the Merseyside Civic Society for his work on restoring Druids Cross Stable block.

A Jumble Sale was held last November in the Chapel hall. We are sure Janet will tell us how much the funds have benefited from this.

I attended a meeting on 21st April in Manchester, to launch Environment week which was hosted by Stuart Hall.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK was held 22nd April - 2nd May. On Saturday 23rd April, about 20 members met on The Green for our annual spring clean. The Cubs and Brownies from Our Lady of the Assumption School had started the day before. Bin bags were supplied by the Cleansing Department, and we must thank Mr. Williams of the Black Bull for allowing us to leave all the rubbish in his skip for removal. Our thanks to Ray Kirkham for cutting the grass, and to Irene Scott for those very welcome cups of coffee.

On Sunday 1st May, as part of Environment week, Janet Gnosspelius and John Dewsnap took us on a guided architectural walk along Acrefield Road. Details of the Acrefield Road Walk have been entered for the 'Wimpey Walks Award' by Sylvia Lewis, and we must thank her, John Dewsnap, Janet Gnosspelius and Joan Borrowscale for all the hard work involved in preparing the walk.

On the 10th May there was a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. These were joint ventures with the Woolton Society.

Efforts are being made to have a seat put on The Green, but there was very little response from members when we asked for their views in a newsletter. In fact only 3 people responded. We wonder if this is due to apathy, or to not wanting a seat in case it is damaged. Perhaps we could ask again now, what are the views of our members ?

A letter was sent to the City Engineer complaining about the state of the pavement on Gateacre Brow, this seems to have had some effect, because soon afterwards the job was done, and the pavement reinstated.

Newsletters/Newsheets have gone out to members, keeping them in touch with what is happening. Daphne Roberts is no longer living in Gateacre, but has consented to carry on producing the newsletter.

There have been 7 Committee Meetings and there will be another one next week. These are some of the things we have been working on :-

Mr. Downey of Grange Manor has obtained a licence until 12 midnight, this in spite of many representations by Mrs. Lewis, and Mrs. Plent. We hope that members will let us know if they are still bothered by noise or vandalism. Car parking at Grange Manor is still under review by the Local Authority and the Police.

The land previously owned by Turners Gateacre Nurseries was sold during the year, and outline plans submitted for a block of flats, first for 45 units and then for 39. It was felt that this was still over development. Some members of the Committee attended a site meeting on the 31st August, and spoke to various members of the Planning Committee. The bungalows have now been demolished, and we still await an amended scheme. On the 25th August Janet and Sylvia visited a number of sites on both sides of the river, built by the same developer, they were not impressed!

Members will have noticed a number of new green litter bins around the village. We were instrumental in obtaining extra ones in Grange Lane, and are trying to ensure that they are all emptied regularly.

We have heard that the Gateacre Church of England Primary School in Halewood Road may be closed. This school was started in 1838 in the premises where they are now, and when this building became too small the present school was opened in 1878. We are concerned not only for the children and parents, but that we may be left with an empty building for which it would be difficult to find an alternative use.

Another matter of concern was the rumour that a developer was trying to buy the recreation ground in Belle Vale Road. We have written to various Departments to find out what is going on. It is owned by the City Council, and we are assured that it is not 'for housing', but will be upgraded as a recreation ground.

Another space that is due for development is McNeile's builders yard in Sandfield Road. Our Environment Secretary is keeping an eye on this, and her ear to the ground, as on all these other matters. We have written to the CPO regarding overlooking problems, and hope for a sympathetic scheme.

This year the Wilson Memorial on the village green has been refurbished, with new gutters and pigeon cote. We are grateful to the City Estates Department for getting this work done before the winter sets in.

In April Mr. McCormack (Tree surgeon) a friend of the Local History Unit, helped us by removing an overhanging branch from a tree on Gateacre Brow which had been causing a lot of concern as it had loosened the coping stones on the wall.

We are approaching the 300th Anniversary of Gateacre Chapel's Congregation. The Chapel would like finger post sign to be sited at the top of The Brow, and we have contacted the City Engineer.

There have been problems with damage to the building previously owned by the Prudential, 28 Gateacre Brow by vehicles visiting Rees Jones builders yard, and this situation could get worse if lorries continue to use Sandfield Road when building starts on the Chapelfields site.

Last year Mike Chitty wrote to the Management of Belle Vale Shopping Precinct regarding the neglected state of the surroundings. This year there has been a marked improvement. The grass has been cut, flowers appeared and most of the litter removed from alongside the car park, which has been resurfaced.

In an attempt to get the old Railway Bridge over Belle Vale Road painted, but without success, as they had not decided what they will eventually do with it.

We received a letter from the Civic Trust asking for a list of members, as they needed to increase their subscription list. I urge anyone who has not subscribed, but is thinking of doing so to go ahead. It is a very interesting magazine, and keeps us in touch with what is happening all over England.

Our interests are not all parochial! We wrote to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Transport, and David Alton M.P. expressing our concern over the proposed closure of the Settle to Carlisle Railway line.

We also wrote to The Inspector about the No. 1 Poultry London Inquiry on 1st June expressing our opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the Mappin and Webb building which is close to the Mansion House.

We both attended a public meeting with Sylvia Lewis and Janet Gnospelius, called by the Calderstones Residents Association regarding The Calderstones/Woolton Green Wedge, an area between Harthill Road and Woolton Golf course, which has sections currently under threat of development.

The Local History Unit consisting of Sylvia Lewis, Janet Gnospelius and Joan Borrowscale is very active, and a report will be presented to the meeting.

Lastly we would like to thank all the members of the Committee who have helped to ease us through our first year.

Joan & Harold Gadd