

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Reg. with the North West Civic Trust

CHAIRMAN: Tony McCann, O.L.A. School
Hedgefield Road 487-9301

HON. SECS: Joan and Harold Gadd
59 Hunts Cross Ave. 428-8884



Next meeting -

LIVERPOOL THE CHESHIRE RING
CITY LIBRARIES

by

MISS LILIAN HODGETTS

This will be a talk with slides and Miss Hodgetts will take us on a canal journey from Worsley via Manchester to Whaley Bridge, cruising on the Bridgewater, Rochdale, Ashton and Peak Forest Canals (with some historical notes).

TUESDAY, 7th FEBRUARY 1989

at 8 p.m.

THE GATEACRE INSTITUTE, GRANGE LANE

Come and bring a friend - visitors welcome 25p.

?? HAVE YOU GOT A BLACK SPOT ON YOUR LABEL ??

THE TREASURES OF CLWYD -

Most of us have been to the Vale of Clwyd but how many of us have stayed awhile to visit the treasures to be found there? John Dewsnap gave a talk at our November meeting telling us about some of his favourite treasures. We started with the Edwardian (1272) Castle of Flint designed by Master James of St. George, a simple structure with a large circular keep. This castle was one of six built in North Wales around this time. At Llanrhaeadr we saw the medieval Church with its double nave - so characteristic of the area - and its spectacular Jesse window. Tremeirchion Church has a late C.14 Priest's monument. We saw Bennar House here too, designed c.1908 by the architect known as "Bungalow" Briggs.

At Nannerch Church there is a Grinling Gibbons monument of 1694, and Royal Arms of c.1500 in stained glass, and at Ruthin Castle, where much work was done in the 1880s, there are some famous chimney pieces. We saw many other places of interest, such as the house 'Hafodunos' by Sir Gilbert Scott; at Llanynys an early C15 St. Christopher wall painting; at Northop a C.17 school (with ecos of Woolton old school) and a school designed by G.E. Street at Towyn. As there are so many places full of interest we suggest that next time you visit the area you have a good look round and see what other Treasures you can find.

H.G.

Those of you who attended the meeting will find a copy of Mr. Dewsnap's notes enclosed with this Newsletter.

MERSEYSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST -

On Saturday 26th November the Secretaries attended a "Workshop" meeting at the Blue-coat Chambers on Obtaining Funds for Environmental Projects. Speakers were there from local government, the voluntary sector and representatives from London and the North West Civic Trust. The Workshop was to give people from amenity societies some ideas about how to obtain funding for environmental improvements - in our case improvements in the area of the Village Green. If any members have realistic ideas of ways to improve the village, then please get in touch with the Joint Secretaries whose address is on the front of this Newsletter.

J.G.

GREENWEDGES -

We mentioned the Calderstones/Woolton Greenwedge in our last Newsletter and now we are delighted to say

... this has now been defined, agreed and was accepted by the City Council on the 7th December 1988. The Report which was adopted contains seven Policies to be applied in Greenwedges, these provide for the City Council to:-

1. Seek to protect & improve the open character, landscape, recreational and ecological quality of Greenwedges.
2. Adopt a clear presumption against any new development that would adversely affect the predominantly open character of Greenwedges or reduce the physical separation between existing built-up areas. The fact that land has been allowed to become derelict or is underused will not be regarded as sufficient reason for permitting inappropriate development.
3. Apply strict development control standards in the exceptional circumstances where new building development (including conversion or extension) is permitted, such standards to include, inter alia, fulfillment of the following conditions -
 - a. The retention, in appropriate cases, of existing vegetation and special site features;
 - b. The use of materials sympathetic to the character of the area;
 - c. The provision of appropriate new landscaping;
 - d. A high standard of building design.
4. Support proposals which would enhance the role of Greenwedges and which offer forms of development which accord with its open character and do not conflict with Policies 1 - 3 above.
5. Retain its own land in open use and resist the loss of other open land.
6. Consider and actively support all appropriate means to secure the continued use for open space and sporting purposes of sports grounds which the owners consider are surplus to requirements.
7. Encourage the retention of trees in good condition and the replacement of older trees where necessary and adopt a programme of Tree Preservation Order declarations to protect existing trees. "

A map of the area covered by this first Greenwedge can be seen on the Society's Notice Board in the Village.

This is a wonderful achievement by the City Planning Office and the Legal, Land & Transportation Committee and they are

to be congratulated. None of this Greenwedge is within The Gateacre Society's area but we have made strong representations for an area covering the large gardens up Beaconsfield Road, over the hill to the Black Woods and so down to Childwall Woods to be considered in a future Greenwedge or to be an extension of this first one.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscriptions already, but for those who have not yet done so this is the time of the dreaded BLACK SPOT. If you have one of these on the label of this Newsletter it means, that according to our records, your 1988/89 subscription has not yet been paid. We do ask you to help our Membership Secretary, who is new to the job, by sending it at once to her:

Mrs. B. Plent
27 Grange Lane.

Rates:

Individual £2. Family £3. Corporate £5.
Student or Pensioner £1.

All plus £1. towards postage if living outside the hand-delivery area.

If it is more convenient Subscriptions may be handed to any of the Committee members.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS in Village centre - it was suggested at the A.G.M. that too little time was allowed for pedestrians to cross the road in safety. We took this up with the City Engineer who sent someone to check the timing. According to his reply (which can be seen on the Notice Board) we have, overall, 9 seconds in which to cross.

GATEACRE C. of E. SCHOOL - we are still worried about the possible closure of this school and have written to the Bishop, our M.P. Eddie Loyden and the Chairman of the Education Committee. From the replies that we have received it seems that no decision has been taken yet but that meetings and discussions are taking place and proposals will be put before the City Council in the Spring.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - permission was requested to erect a pre-fabricated concrete garage, with a flat roof, in the car park. We wrote to the C.P.O. asking that the garage

should be in brick, to match the building and with a pitched slate roof. We also asked if the Conservation Officer could ensure that the hole in the wall - between the car park and York Cottages - was properly repaired by a stone mason.

Gateacre Nurseries, Halewood Road - We have put a lot of effort into getting this development, for flats for the elderly, better but the proposal is still for a 3-storey block which we feel is out of scale in this situation. We also think that it is too near the trees belonging to Gateacre Hall Hotel and may cause damage to them. A decision by the Building and Development Control Sub-Committee is expected on the 23 January.

Gateacre Grange - An application here has set our red warning light flashing. It is to "develop for residential purposes". So far we know no more about this but we will be keeping a close watch and being ready to take appropriate action if necessary. Gateacre Grange was built in two halves - the first in 1869 designed by Cornelius Sherlock and the second in 1883 designed by Sir Ernest George for Sir Andrew Barclay Walker, the very wealthy brewer. As far as we know it is the only work designed by Sir Ernest George in Liverpool. It is Listed Grade II and is in the Gateacre Village Conservation Area.

'GATEACRE' SIGNS - Members will have seen our appeal, in the three Liverpool Newspapers, for help in finding our lost 'GATEACRE' signs. We are happy to say that one was found near Widnes, by a Mr. Brooks of Gateacre, who brought it home - for which action many thanks. Enquiries are going on about the other two so we are keeping our fingers crossed.

We would like to thank all the Newspapers for their co-operation - particularly Mersey Mart and The Star who did us proud.

We end this Newsletter by wishing all our members a very happy and prosperous New Year, and a plea to you all to try and give just a little bit more of your time to helping us keep our environment as we wish to see it.

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state roof. We also asked if the Conservation Officer could
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the Cottage - was properly repaired by a stone mason.

Widdowson House, Rainwood Road -

We have put a lot of
effort into getting this development for flats for the
elderly, better but the proposal is still for a 3-storey
block which we feel is out of scale in this situation. It
is clear that it is too near the trees belonging to
the Mill Hotel and may cause damage to them. A conservation
area is being set up and Development Control Committee is
meeting on the 27 January.

Widdowson House -

An application has been submitted
for a change of use to residential. It is to be a change from industrial
to residential. We know no more about this but we will be
visiting the site and taking views to take appropriate
action if necessary. Widdowson House was built in two
phases - the first in 1889 designed by Thomas Colquhoun
and the second in 1891 designed by Sir Ernest George for
the late Robert Walker, the very wealthy brewer. As far
as we know it is the only work designed by Sir Ernest George
in Liverpool. It is listed Grade II and is in the
Conservation Area.

Widdowson House -

Widdowson will have seen our appeal in the
Liverpool News, for help in finding our lost
Widdowson. We are happy to say that one was found
in Widdowson, by Mr. Brooks at Widdowson, who brought it
to us - for which action many thanks. Widdowson are going on
with the other two as we are keeping our fingers crossed.
We would like to thank all the newspapers for their co-op-
eration - particularly the Star and the Star who did us

and the Widdowson by stating all our names a very
kind and generous Mr. York who has to you all to try
and find that a little bit more of your time to helping us
and the Widdowson as we will be grateful.