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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Reg. with the North West Civic Trust

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BUILDING IN CONTEXT
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Next meeting -

BUILDING IN CONTEXT

by

PETER A. RICHARDSON B. Arch., M.C.D

An illustrated lecture explaining the author's concerns for designing, and subsequently, building in the context of an established architectural culture.

Examples will be drawn from the author's work in Malta and in Liverpool, culminating in his latest project which is presently under construction in Gateacre Village.

The lecture will attempt to explain the inner workings of one designer's architectural conceptions, expanding the concept of "architectural context" to encompass a wider view than merely the appearance of buildings.

TUESDAY, 21st MARCH 1989

at 8 p.m.

THE GATEACRE INSTITUTE, GRANGE LANE

VILLAGES OF LIVERPOOL -

Our February meeting, held at our usual venue, was a talk on the Villages of Liverpool by Mr. Jack Cooper, a "Blue Badge" Merseyguide. Mr. Cooper had very kindly stepped into the breach at short notice as our advertised speaker, Miss Lilian Hodgetts, who was to talk on The Cheshire Ring was poorly with mumps.

Mr. Cooper took us through the geology of the area from the Ice Age to the present time, pointing out influences on the way villages were sited and the materials chosen for the various buildings, some of which have survived to this day.

We visited the old villages of Walton-on-the-Hill, Everton, Toxteth, Freshfield and Formby. In St. George's Everton we have an early church made with a cast iron structure; this idea was later developed and churches were mass produced for export.

In Norman times we lived in the Hundred of West Derby, so called because it had to sustain a hundred armed men. Such areas as Everton and Anfield were mainly cattle grazing pastures. At one time the land round Bootle would have been covered by 'forest', some areas being used for hunting, and in fact the Hunting Lodge of the Stanley's is still there in Merton Road. The Derby's emblem of the Eagle and Child can be seen over the front of the Lodge.

Large areas of the 'Villages' were laid waste during the second World War as Hitler wanted the docks out of Commission; in fact in the area around the North Docks 74% of the houses were obliterated or damaged.

At the beginning of this report I said the meeting was held "at our usual venue", this was just in case members did not know where we met - in the upper room at The Gateacre Institute. An average of 15 people at meetings, out of a membership of over 200, is not very good and is a poor compliment to the quality of our speakers.

H.G.

GATEACRE GRANGE -

Having seen the plans for this outline planning application we have written to the City Planning Officer objecting on the grounds that the 6 new houses proposed are within the curtilage (on the terraced garden) of this important listed building in the Gateacre Village

Conservation Area. Since the Conservation Area was declared in 1969 in fact no significant new development has taken place; and while Conservation Areas are not necessarily "no new-build areas" there should, we feel, be some very good reason for allowing new development to take place - no such compelling reason seems to us to have been established here.

We understand that a number of local residents are also making their separate objections known, and two petitions have been presented to the City Planning Office.

U.P.V.C. WINDOWS - From the City Planning Office we understand that the owner of a house in our Conservation Area has had double-glazed U.P.V.C. windows fitted without the benefit of planning permission. We feel that, for their protection, we should warn all members, living either in a listed building or in a Conservation Area, to beware of salesmen who say that fitting new windows does not require planning permission. This is not true and we suggest that members keep a copy of the Guidance Notes, issued by the City Planning Officer and distributed to all houses in the Gateacre Village Conservation Area, handy by the front door ready to show insistant and high-pressure salesmen. If you have mislaid your copy of the Notes, or know of a new neighbour who may not have received one, please get in touch with the Secretary (or any Committee Member) who has a supply.

GATEACRE NURSERY - The application to build a block of 38 flats in Halewood Road was granted on the 23rd January. Sadly, the developers are to be allowed to build up to three storeys; but the design, if adhered to, will be a great deal better than that first submitted. Just for the record the architect is R. Howard Owen of India Buildings.

BRETTARGH HOLT - Members familiar with the old A6 road just north of Levens may have been intrigued by the name-board of a house called "Brettargh Holt", knowing that this ancient name really belonged in Little Woolton (now the site of Childwall Golf Club in Naylors Road). Recently two members of our Local History Unit, with an hour to spare, called on the owners (Salesian Sisters) to find out if there was any connection. We were told that Brettargh Holt, Levens - a

Victorian gentleman's residence - was built in 1871 by George Henry Brettargh Yeates. We have now found out that he was a direct descendant of our Brettarghs of the Holt in Little Woolton. The name Brettargh first appears as a place name about 1180-5, and was adopted as a family name by the 14th century. We will be sending Sister Margaret Renshaw this information for her interest and records.

S.M.L. 9.3.89.

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Miss Janet Smith
Archivist