

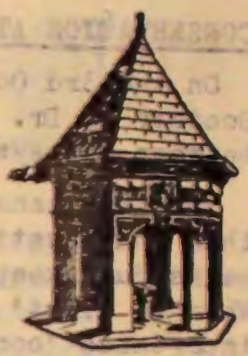
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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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 -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 15th Annual General Meeting of The Gateacre Society
will be held on**

TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER 1989

at 8 p.m.

THE GATEACRE INSTITUTE, GRANGE LANE

**SUBSCRIPTIONS - these become due at the A.G.M. for all
members (except those who have joined the Society since
July). Please help our Membership Secretary by sending
your subscription to her promptly - thank you**

Rates: Individual £1. Family £3. Student/Pensioner £1.

**Corporate £5. All plus £1 towards postage if
living outside the hand delivery area.**

**To: Mrs. Beryl Plent
27 Grange Lane
Gateacre**

or any Committee member

CONSERVATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

On the 3rd October an excellent talk was given to the Society by Dr. T.D. Yeomans when a comparison was made between our system and that of the U.S.A.

The Americans are more concerned with preservation rather than conservation. The U.S. term "historic preservation" means just keeping the historic character of a building. When we 'list' a building for its architectural or historic importance 'consent' is required for any work, but the U.S. does not interfere with the rights of private ownership in this way. They protect their historic buildings by offering a carrot rather than wielding a stick and they encourage rehabilitation by tax incentives - 25% reduction.

America has a set of 10 standards which must be adhered to before tax relief can be claimed and these standards apply throughout all the States. In the end it may be up to the Courts to decide whether a building qualifies for tax relief or not. On the presentation of a scheme a State Reviewing Officer will make his recommendations to the owner, and if the scheme is turned down there is a right of appeal.

All additions to buildings to be preserved in America must be seen to be modern and not something done to try and match the original building. Additions such as a ramp access for the disabled to a Carnegie library must have modern railings and not some specially cast to match the period of the building as we might do.

We saw slides of examples; in one a new building was erected on the site of a historic building and just the old facade retained with a 10-storey block of modern offices built behind. In another example a whole street frontage was left intact with a passage behind, then modern shops, offices etc., were built at the rear.

We were left wondering whether in England our system, for all its faults, will leave us with more historic buildings for the future.

H.G.

THE LANDMARK TRUST -

This is a Registered Charity which has rescued and restored more than 150 historic buildings, these

include forts and follies, castles and cottages, temples and towers, throughout Britain. These are all available for short holidays. Full details from The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3SW. Telephone Littlewick Green (0628 82) 5925.

CHURCHFIELD COURT - Our congratulations and best wishes go to the residents here who once again have won an award for the best-kept garden, chosen from other small gardens throughout the North West belonging to the Anchor Housing Association - well done Lee Park.

OAKFIELD SCHOOL - some members have noticed and been worried by the demolition of the sandstone wall in Oakfield Avenue. We made enquiries and understand that the wall was considered dangerous and that it is to be rebuilt with a brick wall behind for added strength.

CHILDWALL CHURCH - we are very concerned to learn of the proposals to alter the inside of this Grade I listed building in the Childwall Abbey Conservation Area. This is the only remaining medieval church within the municipal boundary, and some of the suggestions are horrifying - the removal of pews, alterations to the fabric - including demolishing part of the north wall to allow for the insertion of new glazed doors to a "fully glazed colonnade link extension" leading to a new multi-purpose hall to be built on the 'bloody acre' and involving the relocation of some of the oldest burials. We trust that no decisions will be made before the fullest consultation with all interested parties.

MIDLAND BANK, GATEACRE BROW - we hear that this branch is to close on the 2nd February 1990, the business being transferred to the refurbished bank in Woolton. Meanwhile we are anxious about the future of this very good and well-liked building in the Gateacre Village Conservation Area - commended as "excellent" by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in his book The Buildings of England for South Lancashire. Designed in 1964 by Weightman & Bullen, with great care to minimise its visual impact on the village, it is a modern building, of

classical composition, using the black and white tradition of its neighbours - we trust that a suitable new use will soon be found.

TRIP TO HARROGATE - This year there is to be a coach trip to Harrogate on Saturday, 25th November organised by the Woolton Society. Tickets cost £6 and reservations can be made by 'phone to Mrs. Jean Davies - 428 2680. The coach will leave from St. Peter's Church at 9 a.m. returning at 5.30 p.m.

SOME NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS - (the complete list of applications in our area can be seen on the Notice Board in the village; any comments should be sent in writing to the City Planning Officer, Wilberforce House, 25 The Strand, Liverpool 2 as soon as possible).

10 Gateacre Brow	to retain front sandstone elevation as pointed
179 Grange Lane	change of use, laundrette to video shop
Land between Holt Hall Training Centre & Falcon P.H., Caldway Drive	golf driving range with pavilion, bar and shop
Palmerston Special School, Besford Road	to erect 60 bed 2-storey nursing home

TREASURES OF LANCASHIRE - Mr. & Mrs. Gadd attended the launch of this new book by Norman Bilsborough, held at Houghton Tower on 4th October, arranged by The North-West Civic Trust. Copies of the book will be on sale at the A.G.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - We look forward to seeing many of our members on this occasion. Once the business part of the meeting is over, refreshments will be available and we look forward to having time for informal discussions with our members.

S.M.L. 18.10.89.