

Hq 942-7211 GAT

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Reg. with the Civic Trust in the North West

CHAIRMAN: Tony McCann, O.L.A. School
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Next meeting -

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH AND THE ARTS & CRAFT
MOVEMENT

by

WILLIAM SCOBIE

Mackintosh (1868-1928) was a central character in the most important Decorative Arts movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

TUESDAY, 22nd JANUARY 1991. GATEACRE INSTITUTE at 8 p.m.

A very Happy New Year to all our members

On the 19th November Mr. David Holland, an area biologist employed by the National Rivers Authority an organisation set up after the water undertakings were privatised last year, came to talk to us about the quality of water in the Mersey.

One of the best ways of studying this is to monitor the kind of life, if any, present in the water. In the early 1960s it had been recorded at Widnes that the water contained no oxygen at all there and hence no life. - this area is the most unstable part of the river bed - but now fish are to be found as far up the river as Fiddlers Ferry.

Mr. Holland showed us slides of diagrams indicating the improvement of the oxygen content in the water and we also saw pictures of marine life. At Crosby there are mussels, cockles, barnacles, crabs, fish and seaweed; in fact the river and sand are humming with life. In New Brighton too there is plenty of life in the pools in the sandstone rock and crustacians and bivalves upon which great varieties of birds feed. At the Pier Head sea anemonies are found on Princes Jetty - a good place for taking samples as it is a three stage structure.

Garston is still very dirty with the outfall from the docks discharging into the river at high tide and much rubbish left about on the foreshore. At Speke and Oglet point, an S.S.S.I. (site of special scientific interest) the mud flats have been colonised by spartina grass and the Nature Conservancy Council is running a campaign to keep it down in the interest of the bird life which is important on a European scale.

The Mersey Easin Campaign is tackling the problem of our sewage pollution and has converted the Sandon Dock into a huge sewage works. They are now building interceptors to replace the 13 outfalls after which no raw sewage will go into the river on the Liverpool side.

Mr. Holland felt that the Mersey Barrage scheme would have many merits but agreed that it would have an effect on the birds. He also told us that any object dropped into the Mersey at Warrington would take thirty days to reach the estuary - toing and froing with the tide.

He ended a most interesting lecture with a plea for financial help towards Water Aid, a voluntary organisation set up ten years ago to provide expertise and low tech. methods of

providing water and sewage treatment for the third world.

KNOTTY CROSS - there has been an application for a nursery for up to 50 children on these premises. In view of the lack of car parking here and the amount of traffic on Halewood Road we have asked for this application to be refused.

NOTICE BOARD - We are sorry our Notice board is damaged at present and hope to have it repaired very soon.

HOWARD HADDLETON - It is with regret that we have to report the death of Howard Haddleton just before Christmas. Howard had been a valued member of the Committee since 1987 and his contribution to our work will be missed.

OAKFIELD SCHOOL - The future of this excellent school is under threat, and we are doing our utmost to at least have the building listed (for the third time) and to get a T.P.O. covering all the very fine trees in the grounds.

RECREATION GROUND, BELLE VALE ROAD - work is due to start on the 14th January on the up-grading of this valuable open space. Any damaged grass areas will be reinstated, gravel paths will be laid and a number of trees planted, maintenance is assured for the next two years as E.H. Williams have been awarded the contract.

LITTER BINS - Any day now we are expecting to see 5 new litter bins in Grange Lane, these we hope will encourage the children from the Comprehensive School to be more tidy with their sweet and crisp packets and mean less curry and chip containers thrown over our garden walls.

CONSERVATION AREA SIGNS - Members will have noticed that at last the City Engineer has replaced the two missing Gateacre Village Conservation Area signs - 1 in Belle Vale Road and the other in Grange Lane. We have no news yet of the replacement GATEACRE signs - the one outside Knotty Cross is looking very shabby.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Many thanks to all those who have paid for 1990/1991. PLEASE make sure you have your new Membership

Cards, if not your subscription will be gratefully received by Mrs. Plent our Membership Secretary, and so avoid incurring the dreaded BLACK SPOT on your next News letter.

S.M.L. 10.1.91.

Miss Janet Smith
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