

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Reg. with the Civic Trust in the North West

CHAIRMAN: Tony McCann, O.L.A. School
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27 Grange Lane 428-5379



Next meeting -

A GLASGOW CHILDHOOD

by

PATRICIA MCKINNON DAY

In 1962 Patricia McKinnon Day was five years old. She lived in a Victorian tenement building in Glasgow through the years of demolition and subsequent re-building. Her illustrated talk recalls a child's impression of the physical and social cohesion of tenement life and its eventual disintegration following "planning" and "development".

TUESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY 1991.

GATEACRE INSTITUTE at 8 p.m.

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN 1851-1914. - On the 22nd January Mr. Scobie's Mackintosh slides had been mislaid, so he gave us his more general lecture on architecture and design in the second half of the 19th century. Stylistic choice in the first half of the century had been a straight "Classic" or "Gothic", but A.W. Pugin brought reality to the Gothic Revival through studies of the real thing; and "Gothicism" became so popular that in the 1851 Great Exhibition everything had endless, pointless, Gothic ornament.

Reaction was led by young men like William Morris (1834-96) who called for a return to craft-based design for inspiration. Morris opened his own Arts and Craft shop in 1861 in time for the next Great Exhibition.

However, that exhibition also showed a private collection of Japanese objects. This totally new style caught on all over Europe, and public demand for Japanese fans, ornaments and small furniture led to the opening by Arthur Lazenby Liberty of his shop in Regent Street, firstly for the sale of Japanese items. In Liverpool James L. Bowes, living first in Beaconsfield Road, built Streatlam Towers, 5 Princes Road c.1870, with its gallery for the display of his collection of Japanese artefacts. The "art furnishings" descending from this Aesthetic Movement were parodied 20 years on in Gilbert & Sullivan's "Patience".

Meanwhile the work of Morris and the younger architect-designers such as C.F.A. Voysey (1857-1941), M.H. Raillie Scott (1865-1945), C.R. Mackintosh (1868-1928) and A.M. Mackmurdo (1851-1942) in building work tended to be limited to wealthy clients, but in general design and furniture was of wide influence.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect of the Glasgow School of Art, designed a series of Tea-rooms for Miss Cranston complete with his now well known furniture, designed in a style rooted in Scotland's past and the cottage furniture of an ancient tradition. In his hands this became more and more elegant and moved beyond its inspiration into the future (you can still take tea there in Sauchiehall Street). The lecture was richly illustrated with slides.

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Newsletter ? This means that according to our records you owe this year's subscription and Mrs. Plent, the membership Secretary would be delighted to hear from you -

RATES Individual £2. Family £3. Student/Pensioner £1.
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Note all plus £2 for postage if living outside the hand delivery area. Send to Mrs. Plent, 27 Grange Lane.

OAKFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL - We understand that this excellent school is in danger of being closed down by the City Council. Fearing all the land, including house and outbuildings, may be sold to developers for housing we tried, yet again, to get the house listed by the Department of the Environment. Sadly, we heard this morning that it has not been accepted. We have also written to the City Planning Officer asking for a Tree Preservation Order covering all trees on the site - we have no official news of this yet but feel we may be successful here.

C. of E. SCHOOL, HALEWOOD RD. - We have noted an application for the conversion of this building - standing empty since last July - to 6 self-contained flats. We appreciate the problems of entrance and exit to the site by car, but feel that perhaps this use would generate less traffic than others we have heard mentioned.

LITTER BINS - These, mentioned in our last Newsletter, have not yet materialised but we have been assured they are 'in hand', the dangerous bin on the north west corner of Oakfield Avenue, which obscured the view of traffic approaching along Cuckoo Lane from Gateacre Park Drive, has been removed. Anyone who wishes to complain about unswept roads, dangerous pavements, pot holes in the road or blocked gullies should telephone to Mrs. Val. Brookfield, Environmental Improvements Officer, on 225-2284.

S.M.L. 6.2.91.

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Miss Janet Smith
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