

Hq 942-7211 SAT

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the 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

MEMBERSHIP SEC: Mrs. Beryl Plent,
27 Grange Lane 428-5379



Next meeting -

AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF S.W. LANCASHIRE

by

MICHAEL ROYDEN

Mr. Royden has been carrying out work in tandem with Rob. Philpot of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, where an official archeological survey of the area is being carried out.

TUESDAY, 26th MARCH 1991.

8 p.m. GATEACRE INSTITUTE.

DIARY DATE: Would members please make a note of our next meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th April as it is just possible that Newsletters may be delayed owing to the absence of our printer and delivery organiser during early April. Speaker - Dr. Alan Tulley on Chemicals in the Environment.

A GLASGOW CHILDHOOD - On the 26th February Patricia McKinnon Day told us about her early life living with her grandmother in a tenement in Plantation Street, Glasgow. The idea for her research sprang from her conviction that a painter's work is influenced, to a greater or lesser extent, by what she saw around her and experienced as a child.

The year she researched was the Glasgow of 1962 (making some of feel very old !). She used newspapers, photographs, maps and the memories of people who had lived there at that time; in the local Records Office, wondering what had been there before the tenements, she found maps showing mansions with large gardens owned by wealthy merchants who had plantations in the West Indies.

She found that people lived in closely knit communities, going out and never locking their doors; there was little vandalism and in the streets were barrow boys, rag and bone men and lascars walking to the market in single file and all around was the decay of the shipyards - all very reminiscent of a Liverpool we knew.

"All slums were tenements but not all tenements were slums" she was told and the one she lived in until she was 17 wasn't. We saw pictures of sandstone tenement blocks, some as long as a street, comprising many flats, as we would call them, but to the Scots they are houses. They had arched entrances to the stairs, cleaned by tenants on a weekly rota. There is a tradition in Scotland of living in flats as there is in Europe, quite unlike England. The flats had mostly 2 rooms, a kitchen with a bed recess and a bedroom and hers also had a lavatory with a lock on the door - a special place where there was privacy and books could be read and homework done. Some flats had their lavatories on the landing to be shared with others and, even worse, some were outside.

There was the same type of football rivalry that we are used to in Liverpool - Rangers, the protestant team, whose foundation was on the dockside and Celtic which was founded by a priest to get the boys off the streets. Houses had shrines to their heroes and religion played a large part in this male dominated community, churches were active and well attended.

The great demolition started in 1962 and she was rehoused on the 20th floor of a high rise block which seemed wonderful - at first. She felt it was sad that so much demolition had taken

place instead of the tenements being rehabilitated. On her return she found that Plantation St. was covered with houses where the yuppies lived.

H.G.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK - this year will be from 11th - 19th May. Have any members any bright ideas about what we can do to improve our environment, apart from our annual cleaning and waxing of Queen Victoria ? If so please let the secretaries know - 428-8884.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CIVIC TRUST SOCIETIES - Officers will be attending the launch of this new body in Chester on Tuesday 12th March when we hope to meet our elected representatives on the N.C.C.T.S - Mrs. Kathie Fishwick of the Rawtenstall Civic Society and Mrs. Gillian Robinson of the Wilmslow Trust. They will meet with others from all over the country on a quarterly basis and raise any problems we may have by talking directly to Ministers, local authorities and developers etc.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS -

Land at rear of Aymestrey Court to erect 3 detached houses
Acrefield Road with garages

We have written to the City Planning Office asking for this application to be refused as it affects the setting of a listed building, and if granted will hide the best elevation of Aymestrey Court and obstruct the view from the house.

KNOTTY CROSS - members will be pleased to know that the application to run a nursery school on these premises has been refused.

MIDLAND BANK, GATEACRE BROW - this application for a change of use to a Health Centre was approved, with conditions, on the 4th March so work should be starting here very soon. We are going to lose one tree sadly, but another is to be planted in a suitable position on the site.

CONSERVATION OFFICER - contrary to what we read in the newspapers we understand that Liverpool is to appoint a new Conservation Officer, which is very good news for the City.

S.M.L. 13.3.91.

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Miss Janet Smith
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