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February  
1992

# Gateacre Society Newsletter



Registered with the Civic Trust

## Doing A Community Newspaper By Bill Whiteside

Community Newspapers come in many forms and formats. How do they start? What purpose do they serve? Do people read them? How are they put together?

For our March meeting Bill Whiteside takes you behind the scenes of a number of these publications to answer some of these questions.

Who is Bill Whiteside? To answer this we have extracted the first two paragraphs from an article in a recent issue of the U.K. Press Gazette.

"Bill Whiteside is editor of the Woolton Mercury. But he is not just the editor, this is a one man operation. The whole set up, feature writing, reporting, advertising dept., photography, typesetting, camera work, printing, circulation is the work of one man.

Woolton, which the Mercury describes as a former village seven miles south east of Liverpool Town Hall is where the residents put their teeth in to answer the door and phone"

**Tuesday 3rd March 1992  
at 8 pm**

**Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre.**

Visitors Welcome

**CHAIRMAN**

**Tony McCann O.L.A.School Hedgefield Rd.  
051 428 9301**

**HON. SEC.**

**Joan Gadd, 59 Hunts Cross Ave..  
051 428 8884**

**MEMBERSHIP SEC**

**Mrs. Beryl Plent 27 Grange Lane Gateacre  
051 428 5379**

## HAROLD GADD.

It is with sadness and regret that we have to inform members that Harold Gadd died suddenly on Sunday 26th January 1992. Harold had been the Honorary Secretary of the Gateacre Society, with his wife Joan, since November 1987 and together they, as a team, made a very significant contribution to the work of the Society, and to the smooth running of all our meetings.

Such a friendly character and keen conservationist, he will be greatly missed by all.

We send our condolences to his wife Joan, and hope that she will feel able to continue with their work.

On 17th January Francis Steer, a new member of the Committee, volunteered to plant some bluebells on the Green. As they become established we hope that they do well, and we propose further planting next year.



On the same day a new bollard was fixed to the pavement on the Chapel corner of Sandfield Road. We trust that this will protect the sandstone wall from further damage by vehicles turning into this very narrow road.



Members may have seen in the last edition of the Liverpool Star that one of our members Mr. R. Squires was awarded an MBE. in the New Years Honours list. We send him our congratulations and hope that he will come and talk to the Society about his experiences in the very near future.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you received the BLACK SPOT? If so, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Mrs. B. Plent, 27 Grange Lane, Gateacre L 25.

### RATES

Individual £2    Family £3    Student £1  
Pensioner £1    Corporate Membership £5

Note: All plus £2 for postage if living outside of the hand delivery area

# The Mersey Estuary

By Graham Olsen

On 21st January with a fine series of slides, Graham showed us some of the present problems of the Mersey estuary with pollution from 28 sewers which discharge between Bootle and Speke, Oglet beach which is troubled by chemical plants on Wirral, the Garston sewer laid to discharge far out into the river which was broken inshore by a ship 40 years ago and never mended.

Now we are all inconvenienced by cones on the Dock Road; which are there because a lot is going on underground. The new interceptor sewer costing about £150 million is being built from Bootle to Speke to take the sewage for a population of 600,000 to the Sandon Dock treatment works, for completion in 1996.

The 1650 map of Liverpool marks the "limestone perch" (about the middle of Princes Dock) and since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the people of Liverpool had been ordered to dispose of their filth downstream of this landmark.

By the 1840's our population was 300,000 in a dense area, but disposal of waste had made no advance.

Cholera outbreaks so alarmed the Council that in 1847 at the same time as Dr. W.H. Duncan was appointed Medical Officer of Health, James Newlands was made Borough Engineer.

To Newlands we owe the network of brick tunnels and sewers which were built over the next decade or so, and the sewage problems were transferred to the river.

There are many problems in the new work; if it rains hard flows can rise by a factor of 50, so there must be overflows, but generally huge settling tanks deal with treatment.

Manchester and Liverpool are still licensed to dump residual sludge and grit "off Rhyll", but by 1996 sludge will have to be collected elsewhere for incineration.

The driving of the tunnel - about 10ft in diameter - has worn out two machines so far, and the third, now passing the Cunard Building will arrive at Dingle in five months time.

It is a fascinating story, and there really are turtles in the settling tanks, says Graham.

J.B.G.

## Gateacre Tea Towels

On Sale at the next meeting  
**£2..00**

In and around Broad Green.

A new local history book  
by Eddie Barker. £4.95

This book also covers parts of  
Wavertree, Old Swan, and Childwall  
On sale at our next meeting

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Archivist, City Library  
William Brown Street  
LIVERPOOL 3

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