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March
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Gateacre Society Newsletter

Registered with the Civic Trust



The History of Irons By Peter Gidman

Ironing and pressing clothes and fabrics has been a challenge to well dressed people since, at least Egyptian times. The study of smoothing irons can reveal very important aspects of domestic life, throws light on status and indeed family history.

This talk will be illustrated with slides of Roman and Scandinavian irons and will then tackle Tudor fashion, the coming of corn-starch and ruffles. Incidentally irons are very collectable if the searcher knows what to look for, and Mr. Gidman will be bringing a selection from his collection.

Liverpool born Peter Gidman emigrated to Manchester in the early 1970s His interest was aroused when he was given a very nice present many years ago - a box iron of 1750 - 1800.

**Tuesday 7th April 1992
at 8 pm**

Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre.

Visitors Welcome

Diary Date: Tues. 5th May. Robert Kronenburg "Restoring Stone Houses In Woolton"

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DOING A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

On 3rd March Bill Whiteside, known to most of us as the editor of the **Woolton Mercury**, came to talk to us armed with exhibits. He brought some type 'set up' a most impressive "cylinder", a negative of two pages of the Echo, and the newspaper printed from it; and a variety of plates illustrating recent technical developments.

Bill took us through the invention of printing from moveable metal type by John Gutenberg in 1455, and his Bibles. Then the English merchant William Caxton met men who had worked for Gutenberg, and had printed, or printed himself his own translation of The History of Troy in Cologne in 1474. Caxton came home in 1476 and set up a printing works in Westminster printing books - nearly 100 of these still survive.

The first modern newspaper was pinned up in Venice in 1566 and could be read for a small fee, a coin called a gazetto was charged to readers. But in England in 1539, Henry VIII's government censored everything printed. This censorship went on until 1694 and printing went into decline. After 1694 control was exercised on newspapers through a heavy tax which restricted circulation - which was only repealed in 1855.

In spite of this, the Weekly News, the first

newspaper in England started in 1622. Here in Liverpool Williamson's Advertiser was first published on 25th May 1756 and many weekly - or twice weekly - newspapers followed until 1855 when Michael John Whitty started the Liverpool Daily Post.

Most printers like to do a bit of publishing on the side, and, coming nearer home, Joshua Heyes of Acrefield Road (over what is now Annettas florist) did a small Woolton News-sheet before the war.

Also notable in its time was The Woolton and South Liverpool Weekly News.

Bill himself started printing his own papers as a schoolboy and was printing his fourth publication, a "Mercury" in 1948.

In his Canadian period he printed a magazine based in Toronto called the "Merseyside Canadian", and after he came to live in Woolton brought out his first Woolton Mercury in 1977, taking six months to put the first issue together.

This was, of course, the time when the free Merseymart started, and there has been competition, both damaging and stimulating.

We who wrestle monthly with a newsletter, a much lesser thing, admire his one man enterprise and continued dedication.

J.B.G.

Some Recent Planning Applications.

92P / 194	12 Belle Vue Road
92P/ 214	19 Halewood Road
92P/ 450	24 Grangeside
92P/ 424	49 Belle Vale Road

Erect two storey extension at the rear
Loft conversion and kitchen extension.
Extend dwelling house at front
Alter existing surgery and extend rear
to improve facilities.

Protecting Open Spaces

The one day seminar on 15th February at Christ's and Notre Dame College, organised by the Merseyside Environmental Trust proved to be a popular and successful event.

Representatives from many Merseyside organisations, amenity groups, and societies came to discuss how best to protect our urban open spaces.

Members from four South Liverpool groups gave local case studies - a brief outline of the work done in their area to save parts of our heritage, be it woods, fields, parks or buildings and their environment.

Next came advice and information from the Open Spaces Society - a national body - David Lewis a senior Liverpool Planning Officer on 'conflicting pressures' and Liverpool University on unitary development planning. Questions and discussion followed.

After lunch the highlight of the day was guest speaker David Bellamy, as effusive and enthusiastic as ever and passionate about so many green issues.

His message was "By the end of the century 64% of population will be urban dwellers. Green spaces are a vital element of city life yet we are losing them at the rate of 1% per year. We must get our act together before it is too late"

More interesting talks (with slides) followed about Green Space in Sefton, and the work of the Groundwork Trust.

Workshops concluded a most valuable day

B. Plent.

Civic Trust Questionnaire.

Enclosed with the Newsletter this month is a questionnaire from the research organisation working for the Civic Trust. Members may recall that last June some of our Committee went to meet this market researcher at the Leasowe Castle Hotel; this survey will be the next step in his work. He is asking a number of Registered Civic Trust Societies to distribute this form to their members - with it comes a Free-post envelope. The information given will be anonymous and confidential.

It will be a great help if you will fill in the form, how ever much you think you have very little to say - that, in itself, is part of the survey. Then please put the form in the envelope and post it (no stamp required.)

ENVIRONMENT WEEK.

Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th May has been declared Environment Week this year. We are planning our ever necessary clean up of the Green and have a skip on order.

Queen Victoria is anticipating - we hope with pleasure - her wash and brush up. Next month we will be asking for volunteers to let us know whether they can help.

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Miss Janet Smith
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LIVERPOOL 3