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LIVERPOOL  
CITY LIBRARIES

April  
1992

# Gateacre Society Newsletter



Registered with the Civic Trust

## Restoring Stone Houses in Woolton By Robert Kronenburg

This talk will be a description of some work carried out over the last 10 years on stone houses which span four centuries in our immediate area. The sort of 'restoration' that our member Robert Kronenburg has been doing results in extending and continuing the life of buildings for future owners. It has been done and is being done with an architects knowledge, skill and sensitivity and is an important part of what conservation is all about. Much Woolton Old School in School Lane was but a shell when he took it on. Now he is at work at number 5 Belle Vale Road. (Illustrated with slides).

Robert was born in Liverpool, had his architectural education at the Liverpool Poly Department of Architecture, has taught at Manchester University School of Architecture, and is now back in Liverpool.

**Tuesday 5th May 1992  
at 8 pm**

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

Visitors Welcome

For June we are hoping to arrange an outing to Port Sunlight.

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>CHAIRMAN</b>       | <b>Tony McCann O.L.A.School Hedgefield Rd.<br/>051 487 9301</b>  |
| <b>HON. SEC.</b>      | <b>Mrs. Joan Gadd, 59 Hunts Cross Ave.<br/>051 428 8884</b>      |
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# THE HISTORY OF IRONS

On 7th April Peter Gidman came to talk to us about the history of irons., with slides and selections from his own collection. He took us through a variety of fabric smoothing techniques.

Cold processes include 17th Century Scandinavian use of mangling action with decoratively carved wooden mangling boards pressing on a roller. Another north European technique was the use of a glass *toadstool* with calf-skin ironing board.

Hot processes began very long ago with Chinese charcoal heated irons with a brass base. Flat irons could be heated on a range or a special stove; box irons with a stirrup (closer at the blunt end) were heated with interchangeable *slugs* heated in a fire.

Irons have also been heated by charcoal, hot water, steam, liquid or solid Methylated spirit, town gas, gasolene, etc., etc., to our own modern electricity.

Mr Gidman's slides showed a bronze Burmese charcoal iron of Chinese inspiration but Victorian date; an illustration of a Tudor ruffmaking workshop - corn-starch had become available and fashionable; an Isaac Wilkinson brass-soled box-iron; a flat iron with a bevelled

bottom; a flat iron with removable slipper from the 1940s; a huge square ended billiard table iron made in Accrington; a 12lb. tailors iron from Ohio; Mrs. Potts sad irons, double ended, from America; a charcoal iron from Oldham (price 12/6d); a Mrs. Potts shaped gas iron; a business like gas-iron made in Warrington with a bobbin handle; a Polish made Methylated spirit iron; a Boudoir meta-fuelled folding travelling iron; a Kerosene iron of the 1920s and an Electric iron of the 1930s with adjustable adapter for different voltages.

Among the items from his collection which Mr. Gidman handed round were the Wilkinson box iron c 1750; a 7" iron brought home from Minorca which, with its flying horse handle, was made in Germany c. 1800 especially for export to Norway (now-a-days export of these from Norway is prohibited); an egg-iron with an iron goose-size egg on the end of a bar - for getting at the inside of sleeves; and tiny sample flat irons for commercial travellers to carry on their rounds.

By the time we had passed this collection around we were exclaiming at their weight compared with the irons of today.

*J.B.G.*

## Some Recent Planning Applications.

- |                     |                           |  |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 92P/459             | 72 Halewood Road          | To erect detached house and garage at rear   |
| 92P/563<br>92L /564 | The Hollies, Grange Lane  | To convert existing outbuildings to three dwellings, demolish existing conservatory and construct new extended sun lounge to link with Listed building |
| 92A / 724           | Black Bull, Gateacre Brow | To display brewery signage   |



## THE NEWS FROM OLDHAM IS GOOD !

Have you heard the good news that on 7th April Mr. Justice Chadwick, in the High Court, dismissed Oldham Council's application to sell **Clayton Playing Fields**? This area of 22 acres was given to the Council 30 years ago for use as playing fields - it is six football pitches and a popular area of open space. The council thought that it would be a good idea to sell for a Marks and Spencer and a Safeway store and 1800 parking spaces, and use the £14 million proceeds to provide and maintain several new playing fields elsewhere.

The judge has ruled, in the first of two test cases, that this is land held by the local authority on charitable trust for the public benefit, here

An appeal is being considered.

## ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1992

**Gateacre Green; Saturday  
16th May at 11.00am.**

Queen Victoria's statue will be having a wash and brush up. Will anyone who can volunteer to come and help with cleaning up the green, from such humble jobs as picking up litter onwards, please let our Hon. Sec: Mrs. Joan Gadd - 428 8884- know that you can come.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

On 20th March in the Town Hall the Lord Mayor presented the **Commendations** awarded by the Civic Trust in 1991 for improving the quality of the environment; work done over two years in the Metropolitan Boroughs. There were 613 entries nationally, 19 from Liverpool; average awards per area were two, and we had five in Liverpool.

Our **assessor** was Derek Latham, architect, of Derby, and the **lay advisor** was Sylvia Lewis of Gateacre.

The winners were:-

**Canning Conservation Area** - comprehensive restoration of 124 properties  
Architect: Brian Evans of TACP, Brunswick Business Park.

**5 Devonshire Road** - conversion to nine flats and rehabilitation.

Architects: Ainsley Gommon Wood, Hamilton Square.

**Lyceum** - restoration and conversion to Post Office

Architect for restoration: Edmund Percy Scherrer Hicks, London.

Architect for fitting out: Holford Associates, Liverpool

**Rice Street and Pilgrim Street.** - 22 flats and two houses, newly built.

Architects: The Owen Ellis Partnership, Liverpool.

**St. Aidan's Church, Speke.** restoration  
Architects: J.M. Wilson and Son, St. Helens. (This scheme received a Special Mention rather than a Commendation for the technical reason that the most important work is inside, and so, not always open to the public.)

It is good to see that Liverpool with this list of successes is a front runner with other progressive areas. It also gives us satisfaction that of the six architects concerned, five are local firms.

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Miss Janet Smith  
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