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June
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Gateacre Society Newsletter



Registered with the Civic Trust

GARDEN CITIES AND GARDEN SUBURBS

By Mike Chitty

In our last newsletter we promised a June trip to Port Sunlight. This has, unfortunately been delayed, but in its place we have an illustrated talk about the history and influence of such Victorian 'model villages' as Port Sunlight and their Edwardian descendants the garden suburbs. Mike Chitty will talk about socially conscious pioneers such as William Hesketh Lever, the Cadbury Brothers, Ebenezer Howard, and Raymond Unwin who have left their mark on the shape of towns and cities today. The talk will be illustrated with slides of Bournville, Letchworth Garden City, and Hampstead Garden Suburb as well as places closer to home like Bromborough Pool, Hartleys Village, and Liverpool's own Wavertree Garden Suburb.

Tuesday 23rd June 1992

at 8 pm

Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre.

Visitors Welcome

Port Sunlight Coach Trip

This half day guided excursion is being planned jointly with the Wavertree Society for a Sunday Afternoon probably in early July.

Picking up in Gateacre Village the anticipated cost is £4 per head, including the services of a Mersey Guide throughout and visits to the Port Sunlight Heritage Centre and the Lady Lever Art Gallery. For further details and tickets please contact Mike Chitty on 051 428 7801

CHAIRMAN

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HON. SEC.

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

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ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1992 GATEACRE GREEN.

Saturday 16th May

It was a lovely day and we reaped three benefits from being the first item on the Merseyside Environmental Trust poster. First, Professor Tony Bradshaw, Chairman of the Trust, called to encourage us in what we were doing.

Then a cameraman from the Echo arrived, and those who saw Monday's paper will have seen the youngest of our working party, Martin Chitty, attending to Queen Victoria with a feather duster. Thirdly we were grate-

ful to our Committee Member Ray Kirkham who had arranged for the grass and brushwood to be cut.

That left us with litter to pick up, broken glass to collect, a detailed sweeping as well as watering our three newly planted Silver Birch trees.

We left the green looking neater for Environment week than ever before, and we were only sorry that so few of our members were able to participate in this enjoyable event.

New Tree Preservation Order 'OAKFIELD AVENUE'

When the future of Oakfield School was in question some time ago we suggested to the City Planning Office that trees on this site needed protection. Now we are delighted to be able to announce that a new T.P.O. covers the whole site from Oakfield Avenue to Gateacre Comp, and from Grange Lane to Cuckoo Lane, except for the newer houses on Cuckoo Lane to the south of Oakfield Terrace

SNOOKER TROPHY FOR THE GATEACRE INSTITUTE.

The Gateacre Institute have been making their premises available for our Society meetings and for the meetings of our Executive Committee for a number of years now.

They make us very comfortable in their upstairs room, on Tuesdays, but will not take any payment,

Feeling our indebtedness to them, our Committee suggested that a trophy for their snooker might prove acceptable, and we were very pleased to be able to tell members that we have succeeded a Trophy for their competitions.

SOME RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

92P/961 21 Belle Vale Road

To use for preparation of poured plates to be supplied to microbiology laboratories

92A/916 183 Grange Lane

Display illuminated fascia sign (chemist)

92P/1002 The Cottage,
Halewood House
Halewood Road.

Demolish existing shed, and erect extension to existing garage.

RESTORING STONE HOUSES IN WOOLTON

On 5th May Robert Kronenburg, architect, came to talk to us about the four stone houses he has worked on in the last dozen years.

He emphasised that stonework is so easy to damage irreparably - you can make a new window (well or badly) and you can re-roof a building finding slates or stone slabs which are a good match with the original material. But Woolton Sandstone is special:

- a) the face of a stone in a wall may be coming away in sheets - 'exfoliating' - because it was laid on the wrong bed originally: the only cure is a stone laid correctly.
- b) a wall may bulge (there is an example in Mason Street) and the bulge may have got to the stage where the wall will have to be entirely rebuilt, plumb.
- c) repointing - and the damage to the stone this work can do, both in cleaning out the joint and in using too strong a mortar: and former clumsy repairs can leave a legacy of damage.
- d) look at St. Peter's extension, built in a carefully chosen new stone (from Cumberland) and obviously new. So should the old stonework be cleaned? 'Cleaning' Woolton stone is a subject fraught with problems, and danger of damage, and the advice of Liverpool's Conservation Officer should be sought before anything is decided, even to clean it at all.

When Robert came to Much Woolton

Old School in 1982 he found the listed building a stone shell with the roof surface in disarray; and a 19th century brick dividing wall with fireplace.

His aim was to make the building habitable - and to keep the interior as a superb single space at the upper level - with sleeping galleries at each end.

His big investigation revealed that the oak roof timbers were still so strong after 300 years that they could carry a slate/stone slab- roof for more centuries, with some splicing in of new oak. The stone walls on either side and below the sills of the Gothic end windows were in good condition but the upper parts of the end walls were rather poor so an inner leaf has been added here for strength. Details of the mullions of the windows to School Lane were retrieved from the heads and sills and replacements made an fitted - and the doorway cleaned up (the surface of the Lane is now a foot higher than when that door was built).

.The top of the Gothic window at the east end fell to pieces so a new top has been carved out of a single piece so that it will be obvious to posterity that it is a replacement.

The pointing has been done in a 1 cement: 1 lime: 9 sand mix intended to be softer than the stone, and blends with the building..

This is only a fragment of what Robert told us, with slides and we were fascinated with what he had to say.

RESTORING STONE IN WOOD

Old School in 1850. It was built in 1850, and was a stone building with the first floor in granite, and a 19th century brick facade with iron balconies. His aim was to make the building last for 100 years - and to keep the interior as a museum. The building was built in 1850, and was a stone building with the first floor in granite, and a 19th century brick facade with iron balconies. His aim was to make the building last for 100 years - and to keep the interior as a museum.

When Robert came to Wood Street, he found the building in a state of ruin. The stone was crumbling, and the iron balconies were rusted. He decided to restore the building, and to make it last for 100 years. He started by cleaning the stone, and then by repairing the iron balconies. He used the same materials as the original building, and he used the same techniques. He finished by painting the building, and by making the interior as a museum.

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Miss Janet Smith
Archivist, City Library

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