

Hq 942.7211  
GAT



October  
1992

# Gateacre Society Newsletter

Registered with the Civic Trust

Next Meeting

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 18th Annual General Meeting of  
The Gateacre Society  
will be held on

Tuesday 20th October 1992  
at 8 pm.

Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre.  
Visitors Welcome

Diary Date: On Tuesday 17th November 1992, Dr. Ben Rees  
will talk to us about "Liverpool Women"

**CHAIRMAN**

Tony McCann O.L.A.School Hedgefield Rd.  
051 487 9301

**HON. SEC.**

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

**MEMBERSHIP SEC**

Mrs. Beryl Plent 27 Grange Lane Gateacre  
051 428 5379

*For the first time in 18 years when our members gathered to hear our advertised talk on care, our speaker failed to arrive or send a message, and we sat hoping that he had not been squashed by a branch in Menlove Avenue.*

*When 8.30 came and went we invited our sculptor Committee Member Marilyn Lothian to tell us about her recent work*

## The Cutty Stool of Jenny Geddes In St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

In England most of us are woefully uninformed about the Reformation in Scotland, though we have heard of John Knox (c1505-1572) and know that 'our' King James I (reigned 1603 - 25) had been James VI of Scotland for 36 years before he succeeded Queen Elizabeth.

James understood the Calvinist church of Scotland, but his son Charles had not the same understanding of the strength of Scots feeling.

So when in 1637 he tried to impose the **English Book of Common Prayer** on the Scottish Church there was trouble.

By King Charles' order on 23 July 1637 his Bishop was in Edinburgh and the Dean, from the readers desk, began to read from the new book.

This was a hugely unpopular thing to do, and when he came to the Collect, a lady in the congregation, "Jenny Geddes" stood up and threw her Cutty Stool at the Dean, and a riot ensued.

The Bishop and the Dean escaped with their lives, but there was a serious riot led by women, the more anonymous but well informed and strong minded members of the community. Many of the ring leaders were locked up overnight, but let go next day - when the King heard that they had been released without their names being taken, he was furious.

This riot was a protest against depotism and one beginning of the Civil War

In the 1630's there was little furniture in St. Giles but the cutty (cutty = short, old Cutty Sark) or stool of repentance, was an available missile.

Marilyn had the inspiration, to make a portrait sculpture of such a very ordinary stool in bronze (twice life size) and on 22 August this year it was unveiled in the Westray Aisle as a memorial to Jenny Geddes and the moment of retaliation against oppression.

We were most grateful to Mrs Lothian for stepping into the breach at a moment's notice and giving us such an exciting and satisfying short talk about a very interesting piece of sculpture.

We hope that members who go to Edinburgh will go to St. Giles and see the Cutty Stool.



## Some Recent Planning Applications.

**St. Stephen's Primary School.** - to carry out external alterations and demolish 2 - storey extensions at rear and side.

We are objecting to proposed rooflights disrupting the polychromatic fish-scale slates to little purpose, and we ask for care with removal of tops of two buttresses in centre

**17/99 Gateacre Park Drive** - change of use to taxi cab office. We asked that taxis should be discouraged from congregating at the rear where they could be a nuisance to Acregate Court.

**Land at the corner of Woolton Hill Road/Woolton Park** - erect detached dwelling. An imaginative scheme, we wish the CPO well with it..

**Grange Lane Service Station.** - erect pitched roof to existing workshop. We welcome this scheme.

---

## Gateacre News Items

**BANG                      BANG                      BANG                      BANG                      BANG**

At noon precisely, did you see the Prime Minister blocks exploded on Sunday 13th September?

### Gateacre Brow - Double Yellow Lines.

Big vehicles have difficulty turning into Sandfield Road, and the double yellow lines on the opposite side of the Brow are missing just there. We have made several enquiries via the City Engineers Department and hope that they will be reinstated soon.

### Cell Door saved from Quarry Street Police Station

When in 1984 the former Woolton Police Station in Quarry Street was converted into dwellings among the fittings discarded were doors from the cells. We salvaged one of these most impressive heavy metal clad doors with bars and peepholes and tremendous bolts, and have had it in storage ever since.

Now the Lancashire County Museum Service in Preston have taken it to add to the Police collection which they look after on behalf of the Lancashire Constabulary.

We are glad that this artifact which must date from about 1873 has found a good and proper home where it will form part of the history of the police service.

Quarry Street Police Station and Court, architects Culshaw and Sumner was built when Woolton was part of the area policed by Lancashire Constabulary.

## A Scrap from the history of BELLE VALE HALL

"I was born in Huyton, outside Liverpool, on 5th March 1908 into the final flamboyant years of the Edwardian era.....

I had a normal, fairly boring English Middle Class childhood, enlivened by visits to my eccentric grandmother Harrison, who lived in a grand house, Belle Vale Hall, Gateacre, with stables tennis courts and a cricket ground, where she had brought up her large family of seven boys and a girl, and the upkeep of which she could no longer afford. I can still vividly remember her tearing through the house at a great pace in an electrically driven wheelchair yelling "Got to eat hash, got to eat stew. No money, no money, no money !!"

This is a quotation from the autobiography of Rex Harrison (1908 - 1990) the actor, who went to school at Liverpool College and whose sister Sylvia married David Maxwell Fife, later Lord Kilmuir.

We thought our members would be interested with this vivid little glimpse of life at Belle Vale Hall in its last years as a private residence.

## Annual General Meeting - 20th October 1992

We look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the Annual General Meeting and hope that there will be an influx of New Active Committee Members ready and willing to be elected!

Newsletter deliverers in all areas are desperately needed - please give your name to the Hon. Sec Mrs Joan Gadd.

After the A.G.M. you will be rewarded with wine and biscuits. You will also have the opportunity to pay your subscription - if you have not already done so.

For the Society to prosper we need your membership and your money.

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY  
Registered with the Civic Trust

Chairman: Mr. G.A. McCann, O.L.A. Jun. School  
Hedgefield Road 487 - 9301  
Hon. Sec: Mrs. Joan Gadd, 59 Hunts Cross Ave.  
428 - 8884

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 18th A. G. M. of THE GATEACRE SOCIETY will be held on Tuesday 20th October 1992 at 8 p.m. in the Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 17th A.G.M. held 22nd October 1991  
(previously circulated)
3. Hon. Secretary's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Hon. Membership Sec's Report
6. Local History Unit - Report
7. Chairman's Remarks
8. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice Chairman
  - c. Hon. Secretary
  - d. Hon. Treasurer
9. Election of Committee (All Officers and Committee retire each year & are eligible for re-election)
10. Any other business

Nomination forms are available from the Hon. Sec.  
now and at the meeting.

28.9.92.