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**Gateacre  
Society  
Newsletter**

**January  
1993**

**Registered with the Civic Trust**

**Next Meeting  
LANDLIFE**

**by  
Richard Scott**

Because of Landlife's work, in June 1992 Knowsley was Christened "The Wild Flower Borough" by a special motion in the House of Commons - come and hear why.

**Tuesday 19th January 1993  
at 8 pm  
Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre.  
Visitors Welcome 25p**

- Diary Dates:-  
16th February 1993. A stone house restored in Woolton - visit to Paul Gregory's House - to be confirmed.  
16th March 1993. A History of the Mersey Ferries - talk.

**Smoking.**

We feel that members may find smoking at meetings somewhat unpleasant in a rather small room - so we are not going to smoke - as a New Years Resolution - and hope that this will improve attendances



# The Women of Liverpool

Dr. Ben Rees, Minister, author and a lecturer for Liverpool University talked to us on 17th November.

Liverpool grew rapidly in the reign of Queen Victoria with large scale immigration from Ireland and other parts of Britain. The vast influx of people brought overcrowding, unemployment and associated problems - some of which are still with us,

Some of the notable women Dr. Rees talked about shared the poverty of their neighbours, some were well to do but wished to give back to Liverpool something for their inherited advantages.

His first subject was **Kitty Wilkinson**, born in Derry in 1786 who came to Liverpool with her widowed mother, was inspired to help people in poverty like herself. In the 1832 cholera epidemic she came to realise that contaminated clothing need not be burned and, helped by the bequest of a mangle, she boiled other people's clothes in her own kitchen.

So valuable was this example that when in 1846 the **Frederick Street Washhouse** was built by the Corporation, Kitty and her second husband Thomas Wilkinson were appointed Superintendents.

**Agnes Jones**, trained by Florence Nightingale in London, was brought to Liverpool to take charge of the Brownlow Hill Hospital. She intro-

duced new practices and set up a school of nursing with new standards of care, but died at the early age of 35.

**Josephine Butler**, social reformer in the 1870s also knew the inmates of Brownlow Hill Hospital and was concerned with the well being of prostitutes as well as adult education. She was only in Liverpool for a dozen years but made a mark on the life of the City.

**Eleanor Rathbone**, 1872 - 1946, daughter of the sixth William Rathbone the M.P., was educated at Somerville College Oxford, came back to Liverpool and became the first woman member of the City Council in 1909 sitting as Independent for Granby Ward.

She became President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and in 1929 was elected M.P. for the Combined Universities, a seat she held until her death in 1946.

She concentrated on the problems of urban poverty, founded the Personal Service Society and in 1940 wrote a paper "The Case for Family Allowances".

**Bessie Braddock**, born 1899 in Liverpool was a tireless campaigner for the unemployed in the City. In 1930 she was elected a Labour member of the City Council, and in 1945 M.P. for the Exchange Division

She never achieved office in Government or Opposition but was well known for her work as an M.P. in Liverpool.

We all enjoyed Dr. Rees's lecture.



## **Some Recent Planning Applications.**

Smithy Tuck Shop	Change of use to Children's Nursery
Site at Peckmill Green	Erect 10 dwellings

**Decision:** 65 Gateacre Park Drive. The application for change of use to hot food take away has been approved in accordance with the Planning Officer's recommendation. In his report to Committee the Planning Officer recalled that the hot food takeaway at 103 Gateacre Park Drive had twice won appeals to the Dept. of Environment against Council refusals, rejecting the arguments concerning loss of amenity.

## **Fairy Lights on the Village Green?**

Following the example of Woolton we were hoping for lights in Gateacre this Christmas. Our Vice Chairman Tony Levitt investigated but found that Mr. Hannah of Eclipse Electrical that bulbs and cable would cost nearly £1,500, so although Mr. Hannah would have installed them free and the Black Bull would have supplied free electricity, without help from other local traders it was not possible this year

We will start earlier next year and hope that 1993 sees a brighter and more colourful Christmas

Meanwhile we thank 'Hair By Stephen' for their effort this year and Agustas Barnet for their colourful window display.

## **Village Green.**

We hear from Mr. Kirkham, who keeps a watchful eye on our trees, that it may still be possible to have our Green registered and so protected, through the Open Spaces Society. Members will recall that we submitted details of our Green to the Commissioner for Registration under the 1965 Commons Registration Act but that in 1983 it was not considered eligible - we will make further enquiries.

## **Sycamore Tree**

We have said goodbye to an old friend this month - the sycamore tree in the pavement outside the Conservative Club has been felled. We knew that it was unhealthy but hoped that its life could be extended, but sadly Environmental Services (Parks and Gardens) took it down on 3rd December.

# The Village Green

## Village Green

**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  
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