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Gateacre Society Newsletter

March
1993

Registered with the Civic Trust

A HISTORY OF THE MERSEY FERRIES

By Captain James Vass

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We are told that this lecture starts with the Monks Ferry, includes King John's Charter and goes on to the time when two ferryboats went to Zeebrugge and winds up with new refurbishment for present day needs. Did you know about an aquarium on the other side of the water, and themed gift shops?

Come and hear all about it!
With slides.

Tuesday 16th March 1993
at 8pm
Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre
Visitors Welcome 25p

Diary Dates:
Because Easter is in the middle of the month there will be no meeting in April
4th May 1993 Landlife, by Richard Scott.

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

Visit To A Restored S

On 16th February our meeting took the form of a visit to the Listed stone house at 8 Church Road, in the Woolton Conservation area which Paul and Debbie Gregory have been living in and restoring for the last 10 years.

No.s 10 and 12 Church Road are shown on the 1835 map, but the four houses of Hadfield Terrace only appear in 1840 - so No. 8 was built about 1837.

The group was built by Robert Crowther (c1781 - 1863) who was born in Heptonstall, Yorkshire, came to Woolton as a young stonemason and by 1813 had bought the site.

Robert and his wife Elizabeth (Hadfield) were living at 12 Church Road in 1841 with 4 of their 5 children. Elizabeth died in 1842 so by 1851 Robert, now 76, with his stonemason son Joseph and daughter Hannah were at 8 Church Road - the group of houses were still in Crowther ownership in 1911.

Outside restoration shows in the iron railings (only 4 railing heads were left when Paul came). The stone walls are 18" and 20" thick, on the outside high quality ashlar, loose rubble fill and a random rubble inner side, and the Welsh slate roof was 'torched' only - plastered on the underside to keep out wind.

The Basement Kitchen was found with 6 layers of carpet / lino



/ carpet (a recipe for exaggerating dampness), the original York Stone Flags have been relaid on concrete over a layer of insulation on the native rock. The walls have been tanked and an electro-osmosis dampcourse fitted. Now with an Aga cooker and new double hung sash windows on two sides it is warm and attractive.

The back basement is the 'washus' (the WC. was under the front steps - now a store) and the room is a modern bathroom.

There are just 2 rooms on the ground floor (No. 8 is a small house). The sitting room welcomed us with a real fire in a replacement cast iron grate of correct date. The floor has the original boards, sanded and sealed with polyurethane, the windows are original and with shutters on the Lodes Pond side only. The panelled door protected for years by hardboard sheets is now stripped of paint, elegant, and unscathed.

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our subscription money

Stone House

The Dining Room, originally the Kitchen (with outer door to the backyard where No. 8a was added over 100 years ago) now has the cast iron grate and surround from upstairs. Both rooms have no plaster cornices

On the first floor two Bedrooms once had fireplaces, and although it is not noticeable, the ceilings have been lowered some inches to make the studio possible above. Otherwise cupboards have been fitted, doors lovingly stripped and all is now delightful.

The loft conversion among the purlins - one at least is a re-used timber (John Rushton's timber yard was on the other side of Church Road when the houses were built) required a new sash window for the blind opening in the gable wall, and also rooflights.

The staircase too had to be carried up to this level and the joinery details here follow these of the stair below which is original and characteristic of its time.

We had a very happy evening and are most grateful to Paul and Debbie for showing us their house which has been brought up to date - as houses must be over the generations - not only with care and taste but with the scholarly knowledge needed for a house of this importance.

J.B.G.

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a. as possible.

Merseyside Greenbelt.

Our Greenbelt running round Liverpool from Oglet to Southport was confirmed in December 1983. Members will recall that a planning application to build in Naylor's Road just this side of Kelvin Cottage was refused in September 1991 because it lay in the Greenbelt.

Now the Grove Farm housing development on the east side of Halewood Road and in Knowsley, which is proceeding so fast, makes us anxious about the integrity of the Greenbelt. The site which is being developed, between the old railway line and Halewood Road is not protected, but when one goes along Lydiate Lane from Halewood Road and passes under the old railway bridge, and then looks left - there is a splendid expanse of greenfields - and this land on the east of the embankment and up to Kings Drive is Greenbelt land.

It is so valuable in contrast to the pretty dense new development on the other side of Lydiate Lane.

We are anxious about the integrity of this part of the Greenbelt.

Some Recent Planning Applications.

Rosehill Court, Woolton Road.

To carry out treework.

3 Rockbourne Avenue

Proposed tiled roof over covered pool.

125 Gateacre Park Drive

Erect bedroom and bathroom extension

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Miss Janet Smith
Archivist, City Library

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