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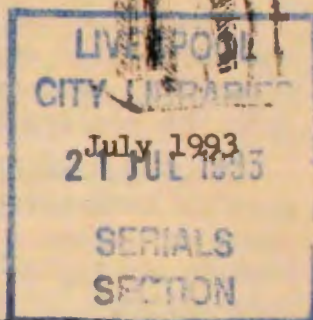
THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust

CHAIRMAN: Tony McCann, O.L.A. School
Hedgefield Road 487-9301

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. Joan Gadd
59 Hunts Cross Ave. 428-8884

MEMBERSHIP SEC: Mrs. Beryl Plent
27 Grange Lane 428-5379



Next meeting -

LIFE AT CROXTETH

until the turn of the Century

by

Mrs. Frankla Corris
Dip. Loc. Hist.

Croxteth Hall was a world of its own - with, of course, coachmen, footmen, maids, but also a blacksmith, paviour, glazier, tailor, sewing-maids and dairy maids, lots of horses and shooting parties.

Mrs. Corris is the leader of a team of guides and is skilled in arranging special events to illustrate what happened on a country estate so near to Liverpool.

A way of life that no longer exists !

SLIDES

TUESDAY 6 JULY 1993

at 8.00 p.m.

GATEACRE INSTITUTE, GRANGE LANE
visitors welcome

Diary dates:

7 Sept: Fascinating characters whilst fundraising,
by Mrs. Sylvia Luckman

19 Oct: Annual General Meeting
we hope in Gateacre Chapel

GATEACRE MINI-WALK FIVE - visit to Grange Lodge

On Tuesday 15 June the Society had the pleasure of an informed talk by John Dewsnap and Janet Gnosspelius on Grange Lodge, the former home of our colleague, the late Sylvia Lewis.

We had expected a slightly larger number of people than usually attend our meetings but were surprised and very pleased to have over 50 people, with representatives from both The Woolton Society and The Wavertree Society.

The large crowd were not disappointed as both John and Janet gave an interesting and well informed talk on this famous house in Gateacre (in Little Woolton) including as detailed a history as is, so far, possible, for a site identifiable from c1240.

A leaflet was printed and distributed which gave Notes on the land and property, along with sketches of the house that further illustrated the commentary of John and Janet.

One of the most interesting aspects of the talk is the discovery through research and analysis of new information coming to light which fills in gaps in the history of this house. The story was brought to life through Sylvia Lewis' information on previous occupiers and their contribution to stages of development. The various additions can plausibly be pin-pointed to named occupiers, including a series of alterations to the 'original' house, both externally and internally. Despite the experience and knowledge of our guides, there are still many unanswered questions that, we hope, will be answered in time.

We were able to inspect the house internally and our guides were kept busy by the many interesting questions from the floor. At the end of the walk, refreshments were provided and enjoyed by all who attended. A generous vote of thanks was given by Tony McCann, Chairman of The Gateacre Society, who thanked Sylvia's son Michael and his wife Jayne, and also his sister Sara, for allowing us to see this historic house. (The Notes, price 50p. will be available shortly. Grange Lodge is a private house, not generally open to the public.)

It was a pleasure to see so many people there and so thoroughly enjoying themselves. Even the threatening rain at the beginning of the evening managed to stay away!

Tony Levitt.

LETTER BOX - Gateacre Brow / Rose Brow corner

We have been informed by the Post Office that the letterbox set in the sandstone wall, which has recently been closed up, is to remain in place, and we trust will be maintained by the Post Office as and when necessary. This 'wall letterbox' bears Queen Victoria's Royal Cipher "V.R." and so must date from 1901 at the latest. Because it is set in the wall of Gateacre Grange (the 2nd part of the house was built 1883-4) we think that (Sir) Andrew Barclay Walker (1824-93) built his new boundary wall c1884 with the top of the plinth swept up to accommodate the letter box, so dating the box itself.

SOME RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

McRae and Price, builders, on Halewood Road, have applied for planning permission to erect three pairs of semi-detached houses, and also for the conversion of existing buildings in their builders yard to a day-nursery. Subject to satisfactory plans and the solution of any access problems, we welcome the conversion of these commercial premises to residential use in the Gateacre area.

'St. Stephens Court' (Gateacre C. of E. School) We have written to the Planning Office regarding the conversion of the former school into flat accommodation, welcoming this new use for a building in the Conservation Area that was rapidly becoming derelict. We have viewed with favour much of the work that has taken place, but have reservations on a small number of matters, especially the angle of the roof to the new front porch; we trust our views will be considered by the Developers, and by the Planning Authority - with whom rests the decision to approve or disapprove.

T.L.

QUEEN VICTORIA on the Green - why wax her ?

Members will recall that the bronze bust of Queen Victoria was knocked off its granite pedestal in October 1978 and was taken into protective custody by Liverpool Museum, who then did conservation work on the surface of the metal. Bronze castings exposed to weathering develop a green patina which is protective, but 'our' Queen Victoria, standing amongst trees (where birds are too) was suffering from streaks and pitting - a type of corrosion - which caused the Museum a good deal of trouble to restore. She came back to be re-erected on 21 April 1980 with an unpitted complexion, and with a pot of MICRYSTALLINE wax and instructions that she was to be washed & waxed yearly to preserve her from damage. So we have been washing & waxing her for 12 years, and are glad to report that the treatment is working well !

J.B.G.

10 FRD FRD FRD

Miss Ja
(ivist)

We apologise for reverting to a duplicated Newsletter but with only three weeks between events, time presses, and the talk by Mrs. Corris is so fascinating that we do not wish to give Members inadequate notice.