

H09427211 GAT

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. Boryl Plant  
27 Grange Lane 428-5379



August 1993

Next meeting -

FASCINATING CHARACTERS

met whilst fundraising

by

Mrs. Sylvia Lukeman

Mrs. Lukeman, educated in Liverpool, has spent the last 28 years doing voluntary work and fundraising for local charities including Marie Curie. She opened Liverpool's first Oxfam shop in 1966, and was involved with campaigning for blood donors, and over 17 years has been helping to improve conditions for Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union.

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 1993

at 8.00 p.m.

GATEACRE INSTITUTE, GRANGE LANE  
visitors welcome

Diary date:

19 Oct: Annual General Meeting - in Gateacre Chapel

## LIFE AT CROXTETH

On 6 July we had a most entertaining and interesting talk from Mrs. Frankla Corris on life at Croxteth around the turn of the last century. The Molyneuxes reckoned their ancestry from Normans in the time of William the Conqueror; by the end of the 12th Cent. there were Molyneuxes "of Sefton" and this was the centre of their widening estates for centuries. Croxteth came to them in the 15th Cent. & by 1540 was one of their principal residences - part of the building is Elizabethan. William, 4th Viscount, built the spectacular West Wing dating from 1702, and ranges went on being added until 1902.

When Lord Sefton died in 1972 he left Croxteth Hall and a good deal of the estate to the people of Liverpool. The City now runs this Country Estate with an imaginative variety of events in the Hall, Kitchens, Bathrooms and plumbing services, Farm, Laundry, Dairy, Stables, gardens, ponds, fields & woods.

Mrs. Corris from a wealth of slides showed us different ages of the Hall and estate buildings. She told us fascinating stories about the family, how they lived and entertained - including the founding of the Grand National, hare coursing and shooting in the woods. We heard of the upstairs/downstairs way of life, & were shown slides of the many different trades & professions of the staff who kept the estate running.

Mrs. Corris, who has known Croxteth for most of her life, is leader of a team of guides at the Hall & has at her fingertips a mass of information, both historical and anecdotal, that had the larger than usual audience hugely intrigued. Our only regret was that the talk had to finish when we were eager for more, but it was later than we thought.

The talk stimulated questions, expertly and authoritatively answered, and has whetted everyone's appetite for a visit to Croxteth in the near future. The Events Programme for '93 shows what a range of things are going on so near to us with something sure to attract visitors of all ages.

A.G.M. We have been working with only 7 Committee Members this year - our full complement is 10 - so there are vacancies to be filled (we have about 8 Committee Meetings a year & running an amenity society is interesting work.) This year we really need an Assistant Hon. Sec. to understudy Mrs. Gadd, and a Public Relations Person to arrange our programme of speakers.  
Are there any volunteers around ?



HALEWOOD ROAD It is good to see that iron railings have been reinstated to the front gardens of 5, 7 & 9 Halewood Road. Such restorations (which require Listed Building Consent from the planning authority - no fee) are very welcome, and those are done with a pleasing air of authenticity - now we can see what has been missing here from the street scene for 50 years!

BLACK BULL We understand that a major refurbishment is to take place to this popular local public house, and trust that this Listed Building and its forecourt will continue to be an integral part of the centre of the Village and worthy of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker's firm who have owned it for more than a century.

LETTER BOX - Gateacre Brow/Rose Brow corner

Our Vice Chairman writes "We are still in correspondence with the Royal Mail regarding safeguards for this post box. We need to be ever vigilant in safeguarding the many different buildings and artifacts within our Conservation Area."

Our mention of this Letter Box in the July Newsletter has prompted our member Stan Roberts - who was once the junior of the Telephone Service staff who looked after the batteries which powered GATEacre Exchange - and some years ago wrote the History of the Telephone Service - to write: -

" ... I was able to visit this box earlier this week and, as far as I can tell, it is of the type which was current from 1861 to 1871. ... From 1871 similar boxes had an 'upshoot' letter aperture to prevent rain entering the box. This box does not seem to have this feature, but should have a flap for this purpose, but with the aperture being blocked at the moment I could not check this, but a photograph I took on 29 January 1976 clearly shows the flap. If I am correct, the box therefore dates from a period earlier than the building of the wall referred to in the Newsletter. Either it could have been in this location in an earlier wall, or the box could have been second-hand ... I would guess the former .... In Gore's Directories in 1862 no suburban letter boxes are listed, but Post Offices including Gateacre are. In 1865 a few suburban boxes are listed, none in Gateacre. However in 1867 & 1871 pillar or wall letterboxes are listed at Gateacre Brow, Gateacre Village and Gateacre Road. This seems to place the .. box in question firmly in the mid 1860s at or very near its present location, thus supporting my guess ! "

Great news! This helps to date the wall, & A.B.Walker!

Again we apologise for a sub-standard duplicated Newsletter - our excuse being that our Typesetter is in America. The colour of the paper is also somewhat different, we hope it is acceptable. T.L. and J.B.G.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 19th  
Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society  
will be held on  
Tuesday the 19th October 1993 at 8.00 pm.  
in GATEACRE CHAPEL, Gateacre  
Joan Gadd, Hon. Sec.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 18th A.G.M. of 20th  
October 92 (circulated before the meeting.)
3. Hon. Secretary's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report
6. Local History 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 Members of the Committee  
retire each year & are eligible for re-  
election.)
10. Any other business.

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