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Gateacre Society Newsletter

January
1994



Registered with the Civic Trust

Twenty Years Conservation Work In Gateacre

by Janet Gnosspelius

POOL
LIBRARIES
15 AUG 1994
SERIALS
SECTION

We have told members of the visit of a group of foreign students last September and how we took them round Gateacre. This talk is an extension of the lecture given to them, with lots of slides, many showing the village in summer too, which should be warming for a winter evening. Come and see what you remember of what has been achieved, and what yet needs to be done.

Tuesday 18th January 1994
at 8pm
Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, Gateacre
Visitors Welcome - 25p

Diary Dates: Tuesday 22nd February 1994. Local History Meeting.
(an experiment to give members a chance to join in)
Tuesday 22nd March 1994 Speaker to be announced

Friends of the Civic Trust.

All members of our Society have a relationship with the Civic Trust because we are registered with them. Now the Civic Trust are inviting individuals to become 'Friends' - Joan Gadd our Hon. Sec. has the letter for anyone interested.

Domestic "History" in Liverpool

On 16th November the Society had the pleasure of a talk by Ken Stanton, Warden of the League of Welldoers. As usual our speaker gave a most interesting and illuminating talk but there was only a small audience.

One of the activities of the Welldoers is to go into hospitals and old people's homes and talk to groups of residents who still have vivid and lucid memories of days gone by. Ken showed us the slides he uses to get them talking - made from photographs he has been collecting, partly from them - and we found that as 'old' and not so old, the pictures and the tales they told were fascinating to us too.

We saw Garston Baths about 1907, pictures of children in schools with teachers, a wash-house and illustrations of laundry equipment from a rather splendid mangle to a posser; wash day is a subject that gets people talking!

But perhaps the most interesting were pictures of kitchens with the fireplace or range and table laid for a meal - all with mum, dad, and the children gathered round, and the series of half dozen pictures ran from well before the turn of the century to c1930 (there was a wireless in the last one). The development of fireplace-with-hob into a range-with-black-lead into a fireplace again; and the things kept on the mantelpiece; and the way the table was laid, was a wonderful commentary of the changing lifestyles of modest households very nearly within the memory of the older amongst us.

Those of us who were there were very grateful to Ken Stanton for a most interesting evening and wished he would go on for hours!

TREES AT ATALAYA, GATEACRE BROW.

Members will be aware that the two magnificent beech trees at the top of the Brow were felled on the 5th November. We now know that they had been inspected by the City's arboriculturalist in August and found to be diseased, and so had to be removed on the grounds of public safety. But so that Environmental Maintenance at Calderstones and the Planning and Development Office who administered T.P.O.s may be saved from many frantic telephone calls from the public and from members who suddenly see work being done without any explanation, we have asked if in the future we may, please, be told of such decisions so that we can circulate a warning of imminent work, and also have a chance to say good-bye to old friends.

At our December Committee Meeting our Chairman referred to a recent item in the local press about the Oakfield Development and concern about the resulting loss of trees; he said it is good to see that now the ECHO is taking on board peoples' anxiety over trees.

GATEACRE'S CHRISTMAS TREES on the canopy of Grange Lane Shops. Our Vice Chairman would like to thank Beryl Plent, Membership Secretary, Lionel Shepherd from the chapel, Ted Hannah of Eclipse Electrical, Ray Kirkham, Rees Jones Ltd. and the shop owners who have all contributed to the erection and lighting of 5 Christmas Trees. We regret that, at the time of writing, Mr. Tony Moran of Moran Sounds has not felt that the arrangement of the trees was sufficiently close to his shop for him to contribute, and we trust that next year he will join in after seeing this year's display.

BLACK BULL: we are still not happy with the state of the cobbles taken up and re-laid in front of the pub, so far as we know this job has not been the subject of a formal planning application. The men who laid the York Stone flags against the front of the building in mid-November came from Barrowford by Colne, so we think that what we said about the craft skill for laying cobbles so that people can walk over them is scarce. Our Environment Secretary Mike Chitty is taking up the question with the top management of the Brewery.

THE PLANNING OFFICE - now we have to remember to call it "Planning and Development Services" is moving from Wilberforce House to the 5th floor of Steers House, Canning Place (the floor above the City Engineer's Office). Moving house for the department is a big job and has been going on since the end of November, it is expected to be complete by the New Year. Inevitably there is some dislocation in their work but by the time we next write we expect all to be going smoothly again. We wish them a Happy New Year in their new home.

GAS MEN AGAIN. All members in Gateacre will know, but for our far away readers and the record - in mid December British Gas dug up the cross roads yet again and for four or five days we were picking our way around the excavations and the brow was full of impatient traffic.

RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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| 93P/2391 Belle Vale Fire Station
Childwall Valley Road | Erect a steel framed drill tower
44ft high. |
| 93P/2435 Land at and in the vicinity
of Liverpool Airport including
the Northern Airfield | Expansion of airport includ
ing new terminal and airport
related facilities |

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Liverpool
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FRD FRD

Smith

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