



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - March 2000

Our next meeting (with slides):

'A personal tour of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside - and a look at the future'

by Stephen Guy (Press Officer, NMGM)

**Tuesday
28th March,
starting at
8 p.m.
in Gateacre
Chapel Hall,
Sandfield
Road,
Liverpool 25**

**ALL WELCOME.
VISITORS 50p.**



'GATEACRE 150 YEARS AGO'

A review of our February meeting

If December's talk was a bus ride around Woolton, then this one on 8th February could best be described as a brisk ramble across the fields and stiles of nineteenth-century Gateacre. Adrian Wood - now a Wirral resident - admitted that he does not know present-day Gateacre particularly well; instead he sees it through the eyes of his great-great-grandfather Richard Wood (a sawyer living at Gorse Cop Cottage), his great-grandfather James Wood (a coachman living in Nook Lane), and his grandfather Alexander Bibby Wood (who was recorded by the 1841 Census at the age of just two months!).

Mr Wood speculated on the middle name Bibby (which he shares) being a token of respect to John Bibby - of Garden Lodge - his great-grandfather's landlord. He came well prepared, handing out photocopies of maps from 1840, 1849 and 1890 as well as transcripts of the Census enumerator's returns. Almost, but not quite, prepared enough: for his talk attracted a record audience of almost 70 members and friends. On the maps he pointed out some familiar names - Belle Vale, Netherly (sic), etc. - and the series of large houses - Gorse Cop (now Grange Manor), Lee Hall, Throstle Nest, etc. - most of which have long since been demolished. Some places he had found in the Census and other records, but had been unable to find on a map. Where was Rainbow Lane? Or Orchard Farm? Or Pear Tree Farm?

Mr Wood also posed - and answered - a number of questions about life in Gateacre 150 years ago. He touched on the weather, religion, transport, education and general living conditions. After Mr Wood's talk, many of us will look at the streets of Gateacre through new eyes - and others will be encouraged to research their own family histories using the sources of information he so comprehensively and enthusiastically identified.

MRC

BLACK BULL SOLD

After many years as a Tetley Walker pub (more recently part of the Allied Domecq drinks empire) the historic Black Bull has recently been transferred to Bass Leisure, as part of a nationwide property deal. The new owners are reviewing their new acquisitions, and assessing what repairs and other changes are needed.

We have already made contact with the new manager, and reminded the company that the Black Bull is a Listed Building within a Conservation Area. We shall be supplying them with historical details of the pub, as well as a copy of our bulky dossier on the 'cobbles saga' of 1993/94, in the hope that any changes will enhance rather than detract from the building's character.

Gateacre Grange - Latest News

Following a spate of recent rumours, we have contacted the estate agents who are handling the sale of Gateacre Grange. In response, they say:

"We confirm that we are very close to finalising a disposal of the building. The proposed purchase is not subject to any particular conditions and therefore we are not able to be specific as to the future proposed use although we understand it to involve a proposed conversion to residential use."

Last summer, we were sent a copy of the City Planning Department's 'development brief'. This included the following guidelines for all prospective purchasers:

(i) The demolition of Gateacre Grange or any of the other buildings will not be supported.

(ii) No extensions to the main house will be permitted. Minor extensions to the other buildings will be considered on their merits.

(iii) The selective demolition of non-original extensions will be supported (i.e. the single-storey entrance to the east elevation of the main house and the porches to staff house and the lodge).

(iv) The further subdivision of rooms within the main house and Barclay House, particularly those which retain their architectural features, would not be supported.

(v) The removal of non-original partitions would be welcomed as would the reinstatement of original windows, features, etc.

(vi) The reinstatement of the original glasshouse would be acceptable in principle.

(vii) Redevelopment within the gardens will not be permitted as this would affect the setting of the listed building, the character of the conservation area, the amenity of nearby residents and would be contrary to green space policy.

(viii) Severance in terms of ownership is not generally acceptable due to its likely adverse effect on the long-term future of the site. Barclay House could be considered as a separate site, with the original boundaries rebuilt, provided that any profit from the sale was used to restore the other buildings. This would be subject to all other planning issues being resolved and the applicant entering into a Legal Agreement.

(ix) No other physical severance of the site by the erection of walls/fences would be acceptable."

Our front cover picture

The illustration advertising our March talk is reproduced from 'Building News' of 7th September 1877. It shows the newly-completed Walker Art Gallery: which was, of course, the gift of the wealthy brewer Andrew Barclay Walker (of Gateacre Grange). As Stephen Guy will reveal on Tuesday 28th, there are still some individual benefactors around, willing to contribute to the 'NMGM 2001' appeal: but the bulk of the £34 million museum and gallery expansion project will be funded by the National Lottery.

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Website: www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk

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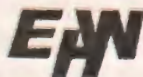
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