

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Officers for 1997/98

Chairman: Tony McCann
Hon.Secretary: Diana Faber, 36 Gateacre Brow,
L25 3PB (428 8526)
Hon.Treasurer: Sylvia Davis
Membership Sec.: Beryl Plent, 27 Grange Lane,
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Environment Sec.: Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way,
L25 5LB (428 7801)

Membership Subscriptions

Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3
Two pensioners £1.50 Company, etc. £5
(all plus £2 postage if outside hand-delivery area)

Already a member?

Your address label indicates the date on which your membership expires.

Want to join us?

Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.

Newsletter sponsored by



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Our next meeting:

**THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE
GLASGOW ARCHITECT
AND DESIGNER**

**CHARLES RENNIE
MACKINTOSH**

(1868-1928)

**FORERUNNER OF THE
MODERN MOVEMENT**

A talk with slides by Christina Clarke
at the Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road
Tuesday 30th June at 8 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. NON-MEMBERS 50p.

DIARY DATE: Tuesday 18th August, a talk on Celtic Art by Dorothy O'Hanlon

CRUISING THE BALTIC

Our May meeting

A two-week cruise took Bernard Lunt from Scandinavia to Russia, Estonia, Sweden and Holland. He recorded his journey with some truly magical slides which, with his descriptions, gave us some idea of the many treasures to be found in the six ports visited. **Oslo** had tall ships, ski slopes and a brand-new concert hall. **Copenhagen** had the famous Little Mermaid, as well as the Tivoli Gardens with a bronze statue of Hans Christian Andersen. In **St Petersburg** the opulent interiors of Catherine the Great's Winter Palace contrasted greatly with the poor state of the roads and public transport - some of the old, rusting trams were falling apart! The old towns of **Estonia** had white-patterned basilicas looking like lace, while in **Stockholm** the Royal Palace Guards' uniforms were so smart, they looked like toy soldiers. And, finally, **Amsterdam** - Venice of the North - with its modern shops and cafe culture, the art of Vermeer and Rubens. The sleek white liner sailed off into the sunset, leaving us with images and impressions of a trip not to be missed.

BP

No more BLACK SPOTS, no more PINK SLIPS ... no more NEWSLETTERS ??

Before you read any further, please have a look at your address label. Does the top line include the date 31/10/97, or 31/10/96, or even earlier? If so, we regret that your membership has expired and - if we do not hear from you by the end of June - your name will be deleted from our mailing list. Please send the appropriate amount (see back page for details) to the Membership Secretary, or hand it to any other Committee member. Please remember to include any arrears, e.g. 31/10/96 means two years' payment due.

If, on the other hand, the date on your label reads 31/10/98, or later, or if there is no date - which means you are either a Life Member or a 'friend' of the Society - please do NOT send us any money (at least for the time being)!

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Our annual project of cleaning the Green, clearing weeds, caring for the trees and waxing Queen Victoria was very successful. A big "thank you" to all involved.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

It was in February 1990 that the weather vane was removed from the roof of Clegg's Flock Factory - the former Fleetwood's Brewery building - in the centre of Gateacre Village. The weather vane became unstable following the winter gales, and it was taken down, together with the surrounding ornamental ironwork, as a safety measure. Clegg's Factory is a Listed Building, an important feature of which was the weather vane. In November 1993 the City Council issued an Enforcement Notice, requiring the restoration or replacement of the weather vane within three months. The owners appealed, and a government Inspector was appointed to adjudicate. In October 1994 he ruled that the Council had acted correctly in asking for the vane and ironwork to be replaced, but agreed with the owners that they should be given more time to comply with the Enforcement Notice. He gave them nine months: expiring in July 1995. Now, more than three years later, the weather vane is still missing from the roof, though until recently it was lying in Blackmore's Smithy in Woolton waiting for the necessary repairs to be authorised. We have written several times to the Council, and they have written several times to Messrs Clegg. We know that the failure to replace the weather vane has stirred up a lot of ill-feeling locally, not least because some residents have, meanwhile, been forced by the Council to spend money on the preservation of far less prominent features of buildings within the Gateacre Village Conservation Area. We hope to have better news to report very soon.



SANDFIELD ROAD

On 11th June we were represented at a residents' meeting in the Chapel Hall, to discuss the traffic problems resulting from Messrs Travis Perkins' operations. The meeting was attended by Mr Hart from Travis Perkins, and Mr Dingwall from the City Council's Highways Division. Having outlined the difficulties which would result from a complete ban on HGVs in Sandfield Road, Mr Dingwall agreed to pursue the idea of a ban on articulated lorries. This idea had the unanimous support of those present - and would not be opposed by Travis Perkins - but will have to go through the proper legal processes before it can be introduced. We hope that the Council will also consider physical measures - such as stronger bollards and the building-out of the pavements - to give further protection to the Listed Building and Chapel wall at the Gateacre Brow end of the road.