

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Founded 1974. Registered Charity No.508024.
A member of the British Association for Local History
and the Merseyside Civic Society

Website: www.gatsoc.org.uk Email: info@gatsoc.org.uk

Executive Committee 2015/16

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Eryl Chitty *Joint Hon. Secretary*
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Sales Officer
Sandra Sandland *Assistant Sales Officer*
Rosemary Doman
Margaret Gofton

Membership Subscriptions

Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6

If you wish to join the Society, please send the appropriate subscription to the Membership Secretary, David Phythian, 26 Primrose Road, Liverpool L18 2HE: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.

If you are already a member, your address label indicates the date when your next subscription payment is due.

Our Book - Gateacre & Belle Vale: in old photographs - is on sale at our meetings and events, price **£10** (bookshop price £12.99).

Our Tea-towel is also available, price **£4**.

Visit our website - or contact Beryl Plent or Pam Ball for further details.

DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

If so, and if you would like to receive your Newsletters by email instead of by post, please let us know by sending a message to membership@gatsoc.org.uk quoting your name and postcode



The Gateacre Society

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - August 2016

Our next meeting:

THE MERSEY GATEWAY

'A Bridge to Prosperity'

**A talk by Bernie Carr
on Monday 17th October**

at 7.30 p.m. in Gateacre Chapel,
Gateacre Brow L25 3PB



The Mersey Gateway bridge is currently rising out of the Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes and, within the next 15 months, will become one of the North West's most iconic structures. The £1.6 billion project is a key part of improving the transport infrastructure for the Merseyside area, particularly for the expansion of Liverpool Airport and the Port of Liverpool.

Bernie Carr is one of about 30 community volunteers with Merseylink: the consortium who are designing, building and will eventually operate the bridge and its associated roads. His talk will cover the scope and benefits of the project, the design of the bridge, construction methods, timetable, progress to date, operation of the bridge, the future of the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge, and where to get further information.

ALL WELCOME – Admission free – Donations invited

Wednesday
7th September
**A TALK IN
WAVERTREE**

Saturday 10th September
**HERITAGE OPEN DAY
IN GATEACRE
AND WOOLTON**

Sunday
30th October
**OUR ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

For details of these Forthcoming Events, please turn the page

A TALK IN WAVERTREE Wednesday 7th September

**BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
FOR LOCAL
HISTORY**

We nominated Mike Chitty for a BALH (British Association for Local History) Personal Achievement Award – of which four are made, nationally, each year – in recognition of his services to the Gateacre Society since 1984. Mike was unable to attend the Awards Ceremony in London in June, so we were asked to arrange a special local event at which his BALH certificate could be formally presented. The respected local historian, author and broadcaster Ken Pye has kindly agreed to 'do the honours' on 7th September (7.30pm) at the Olive Mount Community Centre, Edgewell Drive, Liverpool L15 8GG.

The hosts are the Wavertree Society, who also nominated Mike for the Award (because of his even longer services to them, dating back to 1977). Ken Pye will be giving an informative and entertaining talk entitled THE JOYS OF SCOUSERS AND SCOUSE. Gateacre Society members are very welcome to attend, and we hope that many will join us in showing appreciation for Mike's hard work and dedication to both societies. Further details of the event are available on our website.

NOTICE OF A.G.M. Sunday 30th October

The **42nd Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society** will take place at 2.30pm in Gateacre Unitarian Chapel, Gateacre Brow L25 3PB. We hope to see you there, so please put the date in your diary now. The business part of the meeting will, as usual, be followed by complimentary refreshments, and a chance to meet and chat to your fellow members.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY Saturday 10th September

The only Gateacre building in this year's Heritage Open Days programme is the **Unitarian Chapel** – built in 1700 – which will be open to the public on Saturday 10th September from **10.30am until 4pm**. A self-guided tour (including child-friendly 'I Spy' tour) will be available, featuring the stained glass window given by Sir Henry Tate, the bust of anti-slavery campaigner William Shepherd, and the tombs of the Gaskell family and others. Volunteer interpreters will be on hand, and refreshments will be available.

In Woolton, the only participants this year are the **Friends of Reynolds Park**. They are holding a Litter Pick from **12 noon to 3pm**, and will have an information table just inside the Park entrance (Church Road) with self-guided Heritage Trail leaflets available. They will also be serving light refreshments to visitors.

To link these two local events, we shall be offering a series of circular **guided walks** – led by Mike Chitty – departing from the Chapel at **12noon** and **2pm** and from Reynolds Park (inside the gates nearest to Calvert Court) at **1pm**. This timetable will allow Reynolds Park visitors to spend 30 minutes in the Chapel before returning via Sandfield Road and Woolton Mount, and will allow Gateacre Chapel visitors to spend 20 minutes in the Park before returning via Woolton Hill Road and Gateacre Brow.

For further details of these events, and other venues open elsewhere in Liverpool - free of charge - during the period 8th-11th September 2016, please visit our website.



OUR RIGHT OF WAY CLAIM

On 23rd May we formally submitted a claim that a Public Right of Way exists between Woolton Park and Acrefield Road via Glenacres (see last Newsletter). This claim was supported by 49 individual User Evidence Statements signed by local residents.

The City Council now has to decide whether to add the path to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way – but before doing this they had to give the various landowners the opportunity to comment. With the support of our local Councillors, we are pressing for a quick decision – but the legal process is convoluted and may involve a public inquiry.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Every year, when the Annual General Meeting comes round, we appeal for volunteers to help run the Society. This year the need is greater than ever. We share out the various tasks among our Committee (which is elected at the A.G.M.) but at present we only have 8 active Committee members, rather than the 12 which the Society's Constitution allows. Our Hon. Treasurer has recently had to stand down owing to ill-health, and we would welcome offers of help from Society members with any type of administrative experience, to ease the load on those who remain.

Perhaps you are new to Gateacre, and have ideas about what the Society should be doing? Or perhaps you are newly-retired, with time and skills available that we could put to good use? If you are interested in finding out more, please contact any existing Committee member (see back page of Newsletter) in advance of the A.G.M.

OUR TREE SURVEY

Following the loss of the horse chestnut tree at Grange Manor (see our January Newsletter) we have been checking to see whether there are any other prominent trees in Gateacre which are not currently covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Would you like to help? Is there any local tree about which you are particularly concerned? If so, please contact Beryl Plent or David Phythian, who are co-ordinating the project.



20mph SCHEME UPDATE

We were the only objectors to the City Council's Traffic Regulation Order (see last Newsletter) which will put a 20mph speed limit on almost all of the residential streets within our area. Our objection was to the inclusion of various cul-de-sacs (such as Sandfield Road/Dale Mews) where – we pointed out – it is physically impossible to drive at more than 20mph and, in our view, the display of '20mph' signs would be wasteful, confusing and unnecessary. On 30th June the relevant City Council committee – the Highways & Public Spaces Representations Committee – decided to confirm the Order without amendment. The only concession made was to ask the Highways officers to re-consult residents of the cul-de-sacs, asking them whether they really want the signs to be installed.