

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 Instagram: @TheGatSoc

Email: info@gatsoc.org.uk Twitter: @TheGatSoc

Executive Committee 2019/20

Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (0151 722 6368) *Chairman*

Rosemary Doman *Vice Chair*

Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (0151 428 7801)

Environment Sec., Newsletter Editor & Acting Hon.Treasurer

Eryl Chitty *Hon.Secretary*

David Phythian, 26 Primrose Road, L18 2HE *Membership Sec.*

Sue Coldwell, 30 Killester Road, L25 3QD *Local History Sec.*

Pam Ball, Flat 1 St Stephens Court, Halewood Road, L25 3PG (0151 428 0500)

Sales Officer

John Wood, 3 Soarer Cottages, Grange Lane, L25 5LF *Assistant Environment Sec.*

Sandra Sandland *Assistant Sales Officer*

Geraldine McAndrew

Annual Membership Subscriptions

Household £5 Single pensioner £4 Company, etc. £10

The Society's membership year runs from 1 Nov-31 Oct. If you are already a member, your address label indicates the date when your next subscription payment is due. **If the date reads '31/10/20', please renew now.**

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

Subscriptions may also be paid by bank transfer. Please email us for our account details.

Owing to the Coronavirus Pandemic, no Gateacre Society indoor meetings have been held since March 2020. We continue to monitor and comment on local planning applications, and the Committee meets via Zoom. Please keep us informed of local news or issues that you feel deserve the Society's attention. Until such time as an A.G.M. can be held, the existing Committee members (listed above) will remain in post.

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.

If you are a member of the Society and you have notified us of your email address, you will be sent details of our Zoom talks and invited to participate.

© COPYRIGHT 2021. This Newsletter may not be copied – or redistributed electronically – without the written consent of The Gateacre Society.



The Gateacre Society

A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - May 2021

Our next talk (on Zoom):
Monday 17th May, 7.30pm



**FROM
ADMIRAL
TO X-RAYS**
by Marie Passey

This will be a 'virtual walk' along Rodney Street – one of Liverpool's best known Georgian thoroughfares – hearing about some of its beautiful buildings and the fascinating people who have lived and worked there since the 18th century.

Marie Passey was a French teacher in Liverpool for 35 years. After retirement, she qualified as a Blue Badge guide in 2013. Since that time, she has taken coach tours and walking tours around the City Region – including, of course, guided walks along Rodney Street.



This is a 'members only' meeting. If you attended any of our previous three Zoom events, you'll automatically be sent a link for this one a couple of days beforehand. Otherwise, if you're a Gateacre Society member and wish to attend the talk, please email membership@gatsoc.org.uk and we'll add you to the list (and send you guidance notes, in case you're new to Zoom).

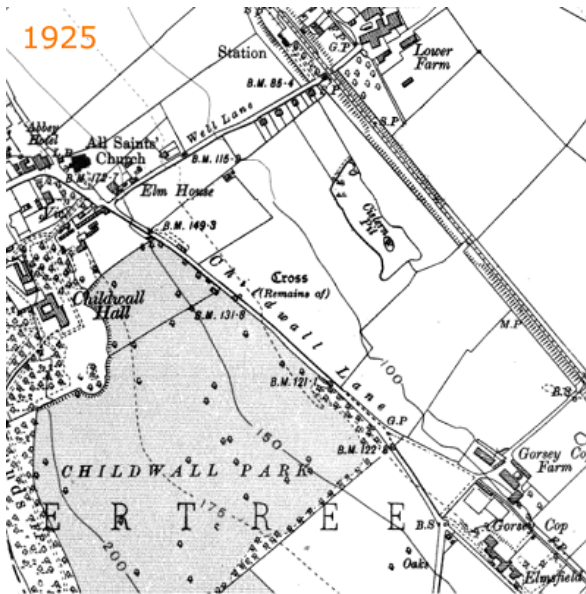
THE HISTORY OF OUR GREEN SPACES

No.5: ALDERMAN JOHN VILLAGE GARDENS

Between Escor Road and Headbourne Close, on the eastern side of Gateacre Park Drive, is a public open space which used to be the site of Jackson's Pond (marked as 'Cistern Pit' on 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps). This was a popular place for local – and not so local – youngsters to visit, to enjoy fishing and raft building (and, occasionally, ice skating in the winter). The pond was fed by the spring or well – in Well Lane – that, probably, gave Childwall its name.

The public open space was first designated in Liverpool Corporation's Town Planning Scheme No.2 in the 1930s – the same document that led to the construction of Gateacre Park Drive. Its official name is Alderman John Village Gardens; though there is no signboard currently displayed, and some sources call it 'John Alderman Village Gardens' owing to an error on Google Maps.

The open space was named after a man called John Village (1888-1964), who was a prominent member of Liverpool City Council from the 1930s onwards. He is listed in the 1911 Census as a 'Motor Car Driver, Taxi Cab', living in Harrowby Street, Toxteth Park. By 1919 (Gore's Directory of Liverpool) he was a 'taxi-cab proprietor', his garage being at 104 South Street on the other side of Princes Road. In 1931 – by which time he was listed as a 'director', living at 2 Menlove Gardens South – he was elected as a Conservative Councillor for Wavertree.



Above: An extract from OS Six-inch Map Sheets Lancashire CVII.SW & CXIV.NW (revision of 1925) and the present-day OS street map of the same area.

Councillor John Village was Chairman of the Parks & Gardens Committee in 1944/45 and the Road Safety Committee in 1946/47. In 1949 he was made an Alderman, which was a title awarded to well-respected Councillors, enabling them to serve on the Council without having to be elected for a particular ward. By then, his profession was described as "a company liquidator specialising in the construction industry" and he was also connected with various Liverpool estate development companies.

Jackson's Pond was filled in around 1966-68 – presumably for public safety reasons, as many hundreds of houses and flats (both Council and private) were being built nearby in that decade. The ground remains boggy, yet in 2015 it was on the list of green spaces being considered for development/ sale by the City Council. Fortunately this proposal (reported in our January 2015 Newsletter) was soon abandoned, and the open space – which has direct links to the Sustrans Loop Line cycle path – remains as a well-used and appreciated local amenity.

PLANNING UPDATE

THE BROWN COW

Work on refurbishing the building, renewing the windows and creating a beer garden at the rear (see our last two Newsletters) has been progressing rapidly. Planning permission and listed building consent has not, as yet, been granted; but the owners are clearly confident that their proposals will meet with official approval.

THE BEAR & STAFF

The planning application to retain the timber fence along the western boundary of the car park (see our Oct.2020 Newsletter) has been granted. However, it is subject to conditions: that the section nearest to Gateacre Brow be removed within six months, and that the remainder of the fence be stained dark brown or black to make it less obtrusive. Both of these conditions were suggested in the email which we submitted, objecting to the original planning application.

'LOST MANORS': A new book, out now

Stuart Rimmer gave us a talk in 2018 about the Old Inns, Taverns and Beer Houses of Woolton. Since that time, he has extended his researches to cover Gateacre and Childwall. The end product is much more than just a history of our local pubs. It's an account of the development of the townships of Little Woolton and Childwall, as revealed by the old Manorial Court records. Where did the name 'Gateacre' come from? Why was Little Woolton so much bigger in area than Much Woolton? You'll need to read Stuart's book to find his answers!

For information on how to buy *Lost Manors*, visit our website. We are also hoping that Stuart will give us a 'live' talk – and bring along copies of his book for sale – in Gateacre Chapel on 28th June. See our next Newsletter for confirmation and further details.

