

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

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Executive Committee (2019-21)

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Rosemary Doman *Vice Chair*
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Environment Sec., Newsletter Editor & Acting Hon.Treasurer
Eryl Chitty *Hon.Secretary*
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Sandra Sandland *Assistant Sales Officer*
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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.

*New members joining the Society after 1 July are regarded
as 'paid up' until 31 Oct the following year.*

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'.

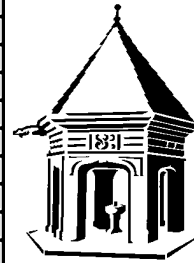
*Subscriptions may also be paid by bank transfer.
Please email us for our account details.*

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.*

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The Gateacre Society

A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - September 2021

**Our next talk
is by Stuart
Rimmer**

on **Monday 27th
September,**
at 7.30pm
in Gateacre
Unitarian Chapel,
Gateacre Brow,
Liverpool L25 3PB



LOST MANORS

**– 'a history of the townships and
alehouses of Gateacre and Childwall'**

Our last two Newsletters have mentioned 'Lost Manors', which is the title of our member Stuart Rimmer's new book. Stuart has been delving into the Manor Court and other local records, and has uncovered an amazing amount of information about the many long-lost – as well as the few surviving – pubs of Little Woolton and neighbouring parts of Much Woolton and Childwall.

Stuart has also been reading through local newspapers, and his book includes accounts of a variety of misdeeds and tragic events, as well as some amusing stories. His researches have collected evidence about places like 'The Holt', 'The Lee' and 'The Grange' which were of great historical importance but whose ancient boundaries are now largely forgotten. Stuart has also come up with a new – and very convincing – explanation of the name 'Gateacre'. To find out more, come along to his talk!

Gateacre Chapel has adopted various 'Covid safe' procedures. Social distancing will be practised on the left-hand side of the chapel (nearest to the pulpit). Hand sanitising facilities will be available on entry. Face coverings are optional. In order to regulate the number of people attending, we have decided to make this event 'Gateacre Society members only' – though membership application forms will be available at the door for anyone wishing to join on the night.

ZOOMING THROUGH 2021 – A REVIEW

In common with several other local organisations, the Gateacre Society invested in a Zoom licence in 2020, when it became apparent that 'physical' meetings would not be resuming any time soon. Initially it was used only for Committee meetings, but we soon became aware that there was a demand from our members for talks via Zoom, and there were speakers available to give them. So far we have held five talks – all well-attended, and all well-received. The titles were 'Ancient Liverpool and its Seven Streets' by Ken Pye, 'The Battle of the Atlantic' by David Hearn, 'Seeing History Through Stamps' by Bill Douglas, 'From Admiral to X-Rays (Rodney Street)' by Marie Passey, and 'The Mersey Ferries' by James Seddon.

The online format enabled some of our far-flung members to attend Gateacre Society meetings for the first time (all of the talks were billed as 'members only') and the average attendance was 23 people – about the same as our past average for talks in Gateacre Chapel. Not surprisingly, there were a few technical glitches, but as the year went by these became easier to diagnose and to resolve. We have recently – tempted by the offer of a large discount – renewed the Zoom licence to the end of July 2022, so there is every prospect of further Zoom talks during the winter and early spring when the cold wet weather and long dark evenings have traditionally discouraged members from attending our talks in the Chapel.

If you can recommend topics and speakers heard elsewhere, please do let us know – just contact any member of the Committee, or email info@gatsoc.org.uk

GATEACRE GRANGE NEWS

The recent so-called 'upgrade' of the City Council's planning applications computer system is making it difficult for us to monitor local proposals. No 'Weekly Lists' of applications received have been issued since May, and we are reliant on information from local residents – who are still being notified (by post) of nearby planning applications.

One such application is 21F/0535, which is described on the computer system (and the applicant's own submitted form) as relating to 'Gateacre Lodge, Grange Lane' but is, in fact, a plan to build a pair of large semi-detached houses in the grounds of Gateacre Grange, Rose Brow. The submitted Design & Access Statement is misleading in several respects. It says that the proposal "seeks to make an enhanced contribution in townscape terms to the Gateacre Conservation Area with a sensitive conversion that retains and restores the building's original character" and "seeks to create a mews like development that discreetly sits within the grounds of Gateacre Grange". The reality, in the opinion of several nearby residents, is that it will be quite out of keeping with the existing new-build properties on the site (which were only given planning permission because they occupied the footprints of a former summer house and glasshouses) and will be harmful to the setting of the listed building – Gateacre Grange, the former home of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker which, after serving as a home for retired seafarers, was converted to residential apartments in 2004.

Meanwhile the sandstone wall adjacent to the Gateacre Grange entrance in Rose Brow has been severely damaged. In June a car being pursued by the police crashed into the wall and caused it to collapse. We are told that the wall will be rebuilt – but only when the complexities of liability and insurance have been sorted out.

Stuart Rimmer will have copies of his 'Lost Manors' book on sale at the meeting on 27th September, price £12.99. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can buy a copy at Brown's Newsagents in Woolton, or by visiting the website – www.capalettepublishing.co.uk – or by phoning 07875 160191.

NOTICE OF A.G.M.

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held in Gateacre Unitarian Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25 3PB, at 2.30pm on **Sunday 24th October 2021.**

The reports and financial accounts will cover a two-year period (ending on 30th September 2021) as a result of the Covid pandemic, which prevented an AGM being held last year. We hope for a good attendance, and to see new as well as familiar faces.

As usual at an AGM, an Executive Committee will be elected for the coming year. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact any existing member (see list on back page) before the meeting; or just come along on 24th October to find out what is involved.

REMEMBER THE MIDLAND BANK?

For the past 47 years, the Gateacre Society has banked with the HSBC – or its predecessor the Midland Bank. However, recent events have forced a re-think: our branch in Woolton closed down, the branch in Allerton Road Mossley Hill is about to become 'counterless' ... and now we have been notified that, if we wish to continue as their customer, we'll have to transfer to a 'Charitable Bank Account' and pay £5 a month, plus 40p per cheque paid in or out. For a small society such as ours, such charges are, we feel, out of all proportion to the benefit we derive from banking with them – so we shall be taking our custom elsewhere.

The reason we were with the HSBC is, of course, because in 1974, when the Society was founded, the Midland Bank actually had a branch in Gateacre. It was the building near the bottom of Gateacre Brow that is now the doctors' surgery. When it first opened in the 1960s (shortly before Gateacre Village became a Conservation Area) its design – by the Liverpool architects Weightman & Bullen – was praised by the architectural commentator and historian Prof. Nikolaus Pevsner. In 'The Buildings of England (South Lancashire)', published in 1969, he called it "excellent". Although slightly extended in 1991, after the Midland Bank had sold it for conversion to a

medical practice, its essential character remains – and it can still be regarded as part of the 'black-and-white tradition' for which Gateacre Village is well-known.

