

# 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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## 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 NEW 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](mailto: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 - January 2022

Our next talk (on Zoom):

**Monday  
31st January  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Dr D Ben Rees**



## A PORTRAIT OF THE LIVERPOOL WELSH

Dr Ben Rees has been a loyal historian to his community. His latest book - 'The Welsh in Liverpool: A Remarkable History' was launched in October 2021. As he says, it is impossible to digest 325 pages in an hour, so this lecture will concentrate on just a few aspects. It will tell the amazing story of those who fled poverty and persecution, in search of a higher standard of living. Some of them failed, but remained in Liverpool. Many of them became rich, and were generous to the Welsh communities, paying for their Chapels and missionary halls where young and old were taught morals and religious knowledge. They made Liverpool the unofficial capital of Wales.

Liverpool attracted men of substance as leaders, and the growth of the city offered an opportunity for Welsh builders to undertake huge building programmes in areas such as Toxteth, Kensington, Anfield, Everton, Orrell, Allerton and Childwall. The Welsh were also heavily involved in school teaching in Liverpool, and missionary work in North-east India. Within their community they organised Festivals, Eisteddfodau, and Welsh-language newspapers. The Liverpool Welsh are embedded in the history of the city: football, commerce, shipping, the docks, industry, large stores, and more.

*If you attended any of our previous Zoom meetings, you'll automatically be sent a link for this one a couple of days beforehand. Otherwise, if you are a Gateacre Society member and wish to attend this talk, please email [membership@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@gatsoc.org.uk) and we'll add you to the list (and send you guidance notes, in case you're new to Zoom).*

## GATEACRE'S LISTED BUILDINGS

Gateacre village and its immediate surroundings has a remarkable concentration of Listed Buildings: pubs, houses (large and small), memorials, a former brewery, a Georgian portico and a Victorian signpost. It's now over 35 years since the List was updated, and Historic England (the government body responsible for creating and maintaining the List) wants to know whether the descriptions of the buildings are still accurate. Merseyside Civic Society has been commissioned to look at them, and to collect historical information to supplement and 'enrich' the List.

This is part of a national project, Gateacre being one of just three 'pilot' areas selected by Historic England. MCS will be recruiting a small team of local volunteers to carry it out, starting very soon and finishing at the end of March. For further information please email Pam Wilsher: [secretary@merseysidecivicsociety.org](mailto:secretary@merseysidecivicsociety.org)

## E-SCOOTERS: HERE TO STAY?

A fleet of Voi electric scooters arrived in Liverpool last year, as part of a pilot project to see whether car traffic can be reduced by offering scooters for hire in the city centre and in selected suburban areas. Gateacre and Woolton are included, the outer boundary of the Voi area being defined by Bentham Drive, Gateacre Park Drive, Grange Lane, Halewood Road, Out Lane, Kings Drive and High Street.

Problems soon became apparent, like scooters being abandoned on pavements without regard to the impact on pedestrians. With the arrival of cold weather, scooter use has declined and most of them are now confined to the officially-designated 'parking spots' – for example at the junction of Grange Lane/Belle Vale Road and (pictured) Gateacre Brow/Acrefield Road. It remains to be seen whether, when the riding season re-commences, last year's problems will re-emerge.

There is now a well-established procedure for reporting dangerous riders and inconsiderate parking: go to <https://report.voi.com/>, enter details of the location, the problem and the 4-digit QR code of the offending scooter, and ideally submit a photograph to illustrate your complaint.



## ARWEN'S AFTERMATH

On 27th November our area, along with many other parts of northern England, was hit by Storm Arwen. The unusually strong northerly gales had devastating effects, which can still be observed in Woolton Woods, Bishop's Lodge grounds and elsewhere. Local pavements were also blocked by fallen trees, branches and fences, Acrefield Road, Gateacre Brow and Grange Lane being three local examples.

Thanks to pressure from Cllr Kris Brown, the Acrefield Road footway was cleared within a couple of weeks. We reported the other two via the City Council's 'street issues' web page, but 7 weeks later the Grange Lane footway (see picture) is still blocked. We hope that action will soon be taken to clear away the debris and restore public access.



In order to report litter or debris that needs cleaning up, phone Liverpool City Council on 0151 233 3001 or visit <https://liverpool.gov.uk/environmental-problems/rubbish-and-litter/>

*If you register your email address at <https://liverpool.gov.uk/Account/LoginPage>, then you will be able to monitor the progress of your complaints online.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The society's new membership year began on 1st November. Many members are already paid-up to next year or beyond (please refer to your newsletter address label to find out the date) and several others have sent us cheques to renew their subscriptions for either one, two or three years. We have been in the process of changing banks, so must apologise for the delay in cashing these cheques.

Now, the new banking arrangements are in place and we are in a position to invite renewals. If (but ONLY if) your address label reads 31/10/21, please send a cheque for the appropriate amount – £4 per annum for a single pensioner, £5 per annum for any other type of household, or £10 per annum for company membership – to the Membership Secretary at 26 Primrose Road, Liverpool L18 2EL. Or, if you wish to pay by online transfer, please email [membership@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@gatsoc.org.uk) and we'll send you our new MetroBank account number and sort code.