

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 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.*

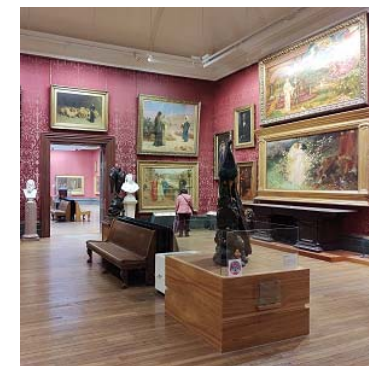
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Our next meeting:

THE WALKER ART GALLERY

An illustrated talk by Christina Clarke
on Monday 11th July at 7.30pm
in Gateacre Unitarian Chapel,
Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25 3PB



Christina Clarke is a Liverpool University graduate, a committee member of the Liverpool Victorian Society and a founder member of the Save Our City Campaign. She will be talking to us about the history and contents of the Walker Art Gallery – which she describes as “a representation of the best of European Art of all periods”. This gallery, of course, was the gift of a Gateacre resident: the wealthy brewer Andrew Barclay Walker. It has benefited from generous bequests of paintings and funding, not only from Walker but also his son Lord Wavertree and other prominent individuals.

Christina will illustrate her talk with six slides of famous paintings which are on display in the Walker gallery. She describes one of these as “my favourite painting in the world”. Can you guess which one it is?

LOST MANORS

Our March 2022 talk – reviewed by Mike Chitty (Part 2)

Stuart Rimmer came to Gateacre Chapel on 13th March to talk about his book 'Lost Manors: A history of the townships and alehouses of Gateacre and Childwall'. Part 1 of this review was published in our May 2022 Newsletter

The Black Bull was extended by the Fleetwood family (who made it double-fronted) to take in the site of the Manor Court House. The Bear & Staff existed in the early 1700s, but – if its name the 'Bear & Ragged Staff' is indeed attributable to the Earls of Warwick – it would have had a different name prior to 1760 when this became the Earls' official emblem. The Brown Cow was a sandstone cottage, converted to a beer house by George Fleetwood in 1847. Finally the Childwall Abbey – which existed in 1615 but was rebuilt in the early 1700s – probably acquired its name, some time prior to 1773, because it was run by Ellinor Abbot, and not (as previously assumed) because of the nickname of nearby Childwall Hall.

The 'lost' pubs researched by Stuart include the present day No.1 Stone Cottages and No.1 Paradise Row, the recently-demolished Bridge Inn, and the nearby Halfway House on the site of Belle Vale Fire and Police Stations. There were also three alehouses on the original Wood Lane (which was diverted in the 1960s). Skillington House, Stuart told us, was "the only alehouse to survive Cromwell". This last-named building stood in Belle Vale Road, opposite the end of Wambo Lane, but was demolished many decades ago.

Stuart's talk, inevitably, only covered a fraction of the information contained in his book, which has 36 chapters spread over 164 pages. Most of the information in it has never before been published, and we are very fortunate that Stuart has found the time to research it so meticulously. We are also lucky that – at the third attempt – we managed to arrange a Covid-free date for him to tell us all about it.

SHAKESPEARE IN PRESCOT

Our decision to have a talk about Shakespeare (a humorous one, we're told) in September was in part inspired by the news that the Shakespeare North Playhouse is finally opening this July. The building is situated in the heart of Prescott, its official address being Prospero Place, L34 3AB. Everyone will have a chance to visit it – and look 'behind the scenes' – over the weekend of 16th-17th July. The doors will be open from 10am onwards each day.

On Saturday 16th there will be "dancing and DJs, drama, drums and drawing, raves and rappers, talkers and stilt walkers". On Sunday 17th there will be "tours, crafts and the chance to explore. All the doors will be open, go wherever you want, have a good nosey round".

Further details of the opening season are available at www.shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk or by phoning 0300 303 4204.

CRYING TREE LATEST

It would seem that the planned conversion of the former Gorse Cop/ Grange Manor/ Crying Tree pub in Grange Lane to apartments – along with the building of new houses in the grounds – has now been abandoned. The owner, Mr Lee Goldsmith, has submitted a planning and listed building consent application (ref 22F/1104 & 22L/1208) to convert the building, instead, into a Day Nursery capable of accommodating up to 165 babies and pre-school children.

Unlike the previous proposal, the new application does not involve the demolition of the extensions that were added to the original Victorian house during the 20th century. Nor does it include the erection of new buildings within the grounds. Instead, the existing hard-surfaced area is to be marked out as a 37-space car park (20 spaces for staff and 17 for drop-off/pick-up) and the overgrown garden area at the rear of the building is to be, in part "re-laid as lawn" for the children to enjoy.

According to the submitted Heritage Statement, "a key element of the scheme is that the primary rooms within the building will be retained, including all decorative features, doorways, fireplaces, etc. [and] repairs to existing windows and roofs will be carried out by suitably qualified specialist contractors".

While we have no objection to the proposed use, we are concerned that the plans will do little to enhance the setting of the Listed Building. The fine chestnut tree that was felled in 2016 is still not to be replaced, and there are no proposals for landscaping or planting, even around the perimeter of the car park.

IN BLOOM AGAIN

Despite Covid restrictions over the past two years, which have prevented regular meetings, the Friends of Gateacre have not been idle. As you may have noticed, new tubs have been purchased, and new flowers have recently been planted, thanks to generous donations from individuals and a grant from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity. The voluntary efforts of the Friends, who are solely responsible for planting-up, maintaining and watering the tubs, are much appreciated.

DIARY DATES

Wed 13th July: BURNLEY COACH TRIP

Details of this visit were given in the last Newsletter. It will include a guided walk hosted by members of the Burnley Civic Trust, a visit to the Weavers' Triangle area alongside the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, and a tour of Queen Street Mill Textile Museum. The coach will pick up outside the Black Bull, Gateacre, at 9am and at Lake Road, Wavertree, at 9.15, returning by 6pm.

The price of the trip is £20 per person. It is organised by the Wavertree Society, and will only take place if sufficient seats are sold. If you'd like to go, but haven't yet booked, please telephone Robert Zatz (Wavertree Society Chair) on 0151 733 5878 as soon as possible.

Mon 26th September: SHAKESPEARE

by Coral Greenwood. A talk in Gateacre Chapel, 7.30pm. Further details will be given in our next Newsletter.

Sun 23rd October: Gateacre Society AGM

in Gateacre Chapel, 2.30pm. The formal notice of this, our 47th Annual General Meeting, will be included in the next Newsletter.