

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

OUR NEW 2024 Website: www.gateacresociety.co.uk

OUR NEW 2024 Email: gateacresociety@gmail.com

Executive Committee (2023-24)

Chairman: Sandra Sandland

Vice Chairman: Sue Coldwell

Treasurer: Dawn Styles

Secretary: David Phythian

Membership Secretary: Lynn Ryder

Speaker Secretary: Paula Jones

Environment Secretary: John Wood

Media & Content Secretary: Alan Wilson

Archivist – Sue Coldwell Assistant Archivist: Alan Wilson

Sales Secretary – Pam Ball

Committee Member - Albert Gregory

Honorary Consultant – Brian Doman

Honorary Consultant – Rosemary Doman

Annual Membership Subscriptions

**Household £5 Single pensioner £4 Company, etc. £10
WITH POSTED NEWSLETTERS: Additional £5**

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.

SAVE MONEY WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you would like to receive your Newsletters by email instead of by post, you can save £5 off your membership subscription when you next renew.

If it reads '31/10/22', please renew as soon as possible.

*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 Secretary, David Phythian, 26 Primrose Road, Liverpool
L18 2HE: cheques payable to The Gateacre Society.

*Subscriptions may also be paid by bank transfer or in person at any of our
society talks/meetings. Please email us for our account details.*



Our next meeting:

THE GOLD-HEADED CANE

Our next talk will be held on Sunday, 26th November at 2 pm at the Gateacre Chapel. The speaker will be Captain (Retd.) Peter Woods and the title of the talk is "The Gold-Headed Cane".

Peter has had a long and colourful career in the maritime industry, being a Captain for many years working with various shipping lines.

Peter grew up and was educated in Liverpool before joining the Merchant Navy aged 16 as a Navigating Apprentice with Elder Dempster Lines Limited on the West African Trade.

He then spent the next 42 years at sea with Elders & Fyffes, United Fruit Company, Canadian Pacific Steamships, Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, and Vela (Saudi Aramco). Peter progressed through the ranks becoming Master in 1975. In January 1990, whilst in command of the Container Ship "Canmar Venture", Peter won the gold-headed cane plus a top hat for the first ship entering the port of Montreal, Canada, in the New Year winter ice season.

Since 1880, the Port of Montreal has presented captain of year's first ship with 14-karat-gold-headed cane. While party-goers ring in the new year at midnight with a countdown and a burst of confetti, out on the St. Lawrence River, there are ships' crews at work.

For decades, the captains of those vessels have had an incentive to navigate their ships through wintry waters with one eye on the clock. Every Jan. 1, the first vessel to enter the port is treated to a special ceremony, complete with a champagne toast and the presentation of a gold-tipped cane to the ship's captain. It was a time when Montreal was ice-bound.



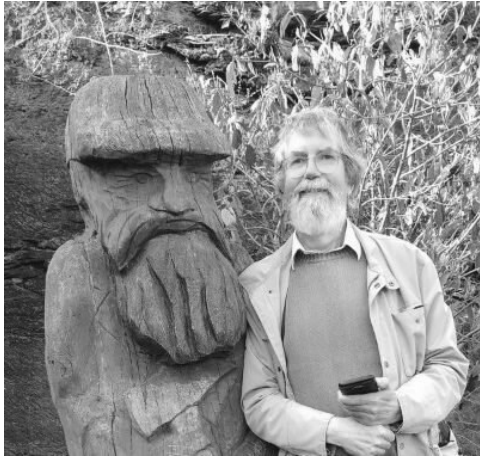
Friends of Childwall Woods and Fields

We would like to thank John for the inciteful talk into how Friends of Childwall Woods and Fields are revitalizing such an important community asset at our talk in August.

John's biography can be found below, and the FCWF website contains a worthy amount of intriguing content for those who would like further information on the works they are undertaking. www.fcwf.org.uk



Tribute to Mike Chitty



Born in London, Mike Chitty moved to Liverpool to work for Merseyside County Council. When MCC was abolished he went to work for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in the Planning Department where he stayed until his retirement in 2008. He helped found the Wavertree Society and after moving to Gateacre joined the Gateacre Society, soon becoming a key committee member taking on many roles essential for the smooth running of the Society. During the Covid pandemic he organised zoom meetings for the committee and members' talks, which kept the Society going. With his work background and special interest in

environmental matters he monitored local planning applications and led our discussions and comments following up with detailed and knowledgeable letters to Liverpool City Council.

He was one of the first Blue Badge guides and had a detailed knowledge of all local listed buildings. He successfully led opposition to plans for Sandown Hall and to an inner ring road which would have involved demolition of a number of Georgian Buildings. He was key in the restitution of the public right of way from Acrefield Road to Woolton Park.

Mike enjoyed good health never having spent time in hospital until he was admitted for an intestinal operation. Very sadly after developing pneumonia he died on June 18th. Until this sudden totally unexpected downturn Mike was actively sending emails from his hospital bed and planning for the next Committee meeting.

Needless to say Mike's death was a huge and tragic loss to his family and to the two environmental societies in which he played such an important part.

Thank You to Eryl Chitty

The Gateacre Society wishes to express its gratitude to Eryl Chitty for her long and active service as a member of our committee as she steps down this year. From 2001 to 2015 she served as Society treasurer. During this time she took on the daunting task of applying successfully to the Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant of £5,600. This funded a display panel showing the key heritage sites in the Gateacre Conservation area and very important technical equipment for the running of the Society. The panel, situated in the heart of the heritage area on the green in front of the Black Bull, stands as a major contribution to the work of the Society in highlighting Gateacre's heritage, and is an achievement of which Eryl herself is justly proud. In 2016 Eryl took on the role of Communications Secretary, which involved reading and sifting through the welter of emails from other groups concerned with heritage and environmental issues and reporting back to the Committee on those relevant to the Society. This helped us keep abreast of new developments and events and gave an opportunity to attend events run by those groups for support, information and raising the profile of our own society and its work.



In recent years, Eryl contributed hugely to the successful running of the Society's A.G.M.s. She made the refreshments and for several years she provided the entertainment in the form of a quiz. The answers were to be found in that year's talks and kept the members on their toes. As well as a useful relearning exercise, members found the quizzes hugely enjoyable. The Committee will greatly miss Eryl's valuable contribution throughout many years to the work of our Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on the 22nd October 2023

It was an enjoyable afternoon for the AGM with entertainment by Eric Corcoran who gave us a musical quiz on the electronic keyboard, followed by refreshments. It was encouraging to see so many members attending. Grateful thanks go to those who volunteered to take on Committee responsibilities.

Brian and Rosemary Doman having led and guided the Society through these difficult last months have decided to stand down from their roles as Chair and Vice Chair. We are very grateful for their many years of dedicated service to our Society. Rosemary and Brian will continue to support the work of the Society and to act as mentors for the new members