



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - May 2008

Our next meeting:

THE NEW MUSEUM OF LIVERPOOL



**A Presentation by Helen Robinson
in Gateacre Chapel on Tuesday 3rd June at 8 pm**

Helen Robinson works for National Museums Liverpool (NML) who are currently building what they hope will be - when it opens in 2010 - "one of the world's leading city history museums". The X-shaped building, at the Pier Head (Mann Island), will have four main galleries, each showcasing a different aspect of Liverpool's history: provisionally entitled Port City, Global City, People's City and Creative City. Helen will be telling us more about what is currently planned, and inviting our comments and suggestions.

PLEASE NOTE: The venue for this meeting is the Unitarian Chapel in Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25 - NOT the Chapel Hall in Sandfield Road

ALL WELCOME - Gateacre Society members free of charge - Visitors 50p

Our summer coach trip:

**To LANCASTER on Saturday 26th July
departing from Gateacre Brow at 8.45 am.**

Once again our friends in the Wavertree Society have invited us to join them on a day trip, this time to the historic city of Lancaster where we will be shown round by guides from Lancaster Civic Society. There will be a coach tour, and a choice of 'fast' and 'slow' walking tours of the city centre. To secure your place, send the full cost (£10 per person, non-refundable) to Robert Zatz, 65 Sandown Road, Liverpool L15 4JA. (Cheques payable to 'The Wavertree Society', enquiries to Robert on 733 5878). There will be an additional pickup point at Lake Road, Wavertree (near the Picton Clock) at 9 am, and an optional visit to Lancaster Castle (£4 payable on arrival).

GATEACRE GETS A ... SPRING CLEAN

On Saturday 26th April the Friends of Gateacre had a Spring Cleaning Day. Local residents, schoolchildren, cycling groups and others - including local Brownies who planted wild flowers along the edge of the cricket field in Belle Vale Road - turned out to clear litter and to repaint some of the planters ready for Gateacre in Bloom 2008. Special thanks are due to Ernie Hodgkinson, the organiser, and to the officers of the City Council and Sustrans who attended and supported the event.



CLEANSING ROTAS - INFORMATION AT LAST

Following the publication of our February 2008 Newsletter - and having failed to obtain answers to our questions from the City Council - we submitted a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act. This was the Council's response (a list of the next three dates when various footways were due to be swept):

1. Pedestrian way: Besford Road to Beechurst Road

12/03/08, 19/03/08, 26/03/08.

2. Pedestrian way: Chartmount Way to Gateacre Brow

24/3/08, 21/4/08, 19/05/08.

3. Pedestrian way: Grange Weint to Cuckoo Lane

28/03/08, 25/04/08, 23/05/08.

4. Woolton Road (raised footway on south side): Rosehill Court to Rose Brow

25/03/08, 22/04/08, 20/05/08.

5. Acrefield Road (footway on west side): Glenacres to Rose Brow

25/03/08, 22/04/08, 20/05/08.

We have since been checking to see whether the cleansing is actually being carried out. In at least one case we suspect that it is not; parts of the raised footway alongside Woolton Road are still covered in last autumn's leaf mulch - dangerously slippery when wet.

GATEACRE GETS A ... SUPERLAMBANANA

Earlier this year, community organisations in and around Liverpool were invited to take part in 'Go Superlambananas 2008' as part of Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations. About 120 two-metre high versions of the Superlambanana sculpture are to be installed at various locations for a ten-week period, forming a Lambanana trail which will be advertised to visitors. The Friends of Gateacre were successful in obtaining funding for one of these, and asked the pupils of Gateacre Comprehensive School to come up with an appropriate design and colour scheme. For a few weeks now, two professional artists have been working with a team of pupils to decorate 'our' Lambanana, which is due to take up residence in the village centre ready for the launch of the trail on 16th June.

*Right:
Painting in
progress at
Gateacre
Comp,
May 2008*





Our 'Awards for All' Project:

A Progress Report

Our series of local history talks, based on over 400 old photographs of Gateacre streets, buildings and people, drew large and appreciative audiences to Gateacre Chapel between February and May. Now we are working on the next phase of the Lottery-funded project, which is a 'lectern style' heritage display board to be installed on the village green, adjacent to the Wilson Memorial Fountain.

This board will contain a brief history of the village, a map, and pictures of some of the more prominent historic buildings. We had to apply for Advertisement Consent (a type of planning permission) from the City Council, and we understand that the Planning Department sent letters to various neighbouring properties inviting the occupiers to comment on our proposal. One of these letters was, it seems, addressed to the bronze bust of Queen Victoria - we wonder whether she was amused to receive it?

Now that we have been given the go-ahead by the Council, we have ordered the board - from a firm in Speke who are leaders in the field, having installed similar boards in historic locations all over the country - and hope to see it in position within the next two months.



Supported by

The National Lottery
through Awards for All



AYMESTRY COURT TO BE RESTORED

The former Woolton Redbourne Hotel in Acrefield Road has been acquired by Mr Tom Morris - head of T J Morris Ltd, a.k.a. Home Bargains - who is proposing to convert it back into a house for his own family's use. An extension - swimming pool plus roof terrace - is to be built at the rear, and a detached garage block at the side, but the essential character of the listed building will be preserved and its period details (inside as well as out) restored. We have supported the application for planning permission and listed building consent, and also supplied the new owner with some historical particulars:

The house was originally called 'Aymestry Court', this name being derived from Aymestry in Herefordshire. The village of Aymestry (sometimes spelt Aymestrey) was the former place of residence of Herbert John Robinson, the original occupier, and his wife Agnes Esther, the daughter of Henry Tate the sugar refiner. Henry Tate had bought the land in Acrefield Road, Woolton, in 1879 and built the house in 1881-82, giving it in trust to his daughter (apparently as a belated wedding present).

Henry Tate had been living in Woolton Park nearby, but moved to London at about the same time that his daughter moved into Aymestry Court. Henry Tate was the son of a Unitarian minister, which probably accounts for his choice of Woolton (close to Gateacre Chapel) as a place to live. His sugar refinery in Love Lane, Liverpool, opened in 1874. Knighted in 1898, following his gift of 'The National Gallery of British Art' - later known as the Tate Gallery - in London, Sir Henry Tate joined up with Abram Lyle in 1921 to form Tate & Lyle.

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Founded 1974. Charity Registration No.508024.

'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'

Website: www.gatsoc.org.uk Email: info@gatsoc.org.uk

IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS

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Officers for 2007/08

Chairman:	Tony McCann
Vice Chairman:	Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Hon.Secretary:	<i>Post vacant</i>
Hon.Treasurer:	Mrs Eryl Chitty
Membership Sec.:	Mrs Rosemary Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Environment Sec. & Newsletter Editor:	Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (428 7801)

Membership Subscriptions

Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6

You may pay for up to three years in advance, if you wish, at these annual rates.

Already a member?

To find out whether you are a paid-up member of the Gateacre Society, please check your address label, which indicates your membership expiry date (e.g. 31/10/08).

Not a member? Want to join us?

If you wish to join the Society - or to renew - please send the appropriate subscription to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, Liverpool L25 4SL: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.