

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

and would like to receive your Newsletters by email instead of by post, please let us know by sending a simple message to membership@gatsoc.org.uk quoting your name and postcode

Officers for 2008/09

- Chairman: Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Hon.Secretary: Bill Blundell, 6 Sussex Gardens, Ty Gwyn, Wrexham LL11 2YB
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Membership Sec.: Mrs Rosemary Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
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Sales Officer: George Mason, 83 Grange Lane, L25 4SA
Local History Sec.: Beryl Plent, 27 Grange Lane, L25 4RZ (428 5379)

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.

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

If you are already a member, your address label indicates the date (e.g. 31/10/09) when your subscription is due for renewal.

PERIODICALS

- 3 SEP 2009

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The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - September 2009

HERITAGE OPEN DAY EVENTS IN GATEACRE

Saturday 12th September

The Heritage Open Days programme this year runs, nationally, from 10th-13th September, and in Liverpool from 10th-20th September. In Gateacre the ONE day to make a note of is Saturday 12th, when two local churches will be open to visitors: St Stephen's, Belle Vale Road (10am-4pm) and the Unitarian Chapel, Gateacre Brow (2pm-5pm). The Gateacre Society will have an information table on the village green (Grange Lane/Gateacre Brow) from 11.30am-2.30pm, and the Children's Society will be holding a sponsored walk on the theme 'Back to the Future' (see overleaf for details).



Our next meeting:

THE ADVENTURES OF A VICTORIAN MILLIONAIRE

A presentation by Richard Baker at 7.30pm

Richard Baker is one of Liverpool's park rangers, a role which he has been filling for 16 years. He is responsible for delivering environmental education to schools, and other activities including guided walks. The walks cover many different aspects, including local history which is one of Richard's particular interests. Richard is also a broadcaster for Radio Merseyside, presenting 'Nature Watch' on Andy Ball's Saturday morning show, and 'Nostalgia Night' weekly with Linda McDermott.

In his costumed presentation on 28th September, Richard will tell us the story of Liverpool-born Henry Yates Thompson. Henry was a millionaire explorer who travelled the globe, eventually settling down and marrying. Back in Liverpool, he became involved in the city's parks movement, and became a great benefactor. The talk tells of his amazing adventures, and the fascinating tale of his beautiful Sefton Park Palm House. There's even a ghost story involved in his intriguing tale!

ALL WELCOME - Admission Free - Donations invited

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PLANNING UPDATE

The following recent decisions of the City Council will be of interest to members:

GATEACRE PARK MOTORS, Thurne Way. We mentioned this planning application (08O/2065) in our March 2009 Newsletter. Planning permission was REFUSED by the Council on 1st May, on the grounds that a three-storey building would be inappropriate in this location, and that the creation of new shops here might jeopardise the redevelopment of the adjacent Neighbourhood Centre.

GATEACRE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, Gateacre Park Drive. Planning permission for application 09O/0322 (see our May Newsletter) was GRANTED by the Council on 3rd July. Although the Hathaway Close pedestrian access point will be sealed off - as requested by local residents - the developers will be required to provide or pay for improved pedestrian facilities elsewhere, and also to prepare a Green Travel Plan to promote forms of transport other than the private car.

YORK COTTAGES access road, off Grange Lane. Planning permission was GRANTED on 19th June for the resurfacing of the access road with tarmac (application 09F/0955). This work is to be paid for by Riverside Housing, who own the majority of the cottages. We supported this proposal, as the existing trackway - which is unadopted, and therefore not the responsibility of the City Council - was becoming more and more pot-holed and hazardous. The Gateacre Society was involved in saving the cottages from demolition in the 1970s, and having the front garden area landscaped in the 80s, and we are pleased that a solution to the problem of the access road has at last been found.

FORMER ELECTRIC LIGHTING STATION, 13b Sandfield Road. Revised plans for the conversion of this historic building to 5 dwellings were submitted by the owners in June 2009, and planning permission was GRANTED on 12th August. As with the previously-approved plans (reported in our January 2007 Newsletter) we supported the principle of conversion, but expressed doubts over the car parking provision and also the materials to be used for the new south elevation. A condition attached to the planning permission (09F/1205) requires a planting scheme to be drawn up for the southern boundary, which was another of our particular concerns.

WALNUT COTTAGE, 30 Sandfield Road. We briefly mentioned this application for UPVC windows (08H/2885) in our January Newsletter. We initially expressed doubts as to the suitability of UPVC, but we (and the City Council's planning officers) were reassured by the detailed drawings subsequently submitted by the applicant. These show that the glazing bars are to be correctly profiled and of the 'stick on' style - rather than 'sandwiched between the panes'. Planning permission was GRANTED on 21st August.

WALK & EXPLORE 2009: BACK TO THE FUTURE

The Children's Society 'Back to the Future' event will take place on Gateacre's Heritage Open Day, Saturday 12th September. The walk starts and finishes at St Stephen's Parish Centre, Belle Vale Road.

The Centre will open at 11am and the walk officially begins at 11.30. Walkers can start any time until 1.30pm, and the course - which takes in many places of historic interest in Gateacre and Woolton - will close at 4.30. The course notes will guide everyone through an adventure into the area's past.

There will be fun for all ages, with a replica dalek and cyberman at St Stephen's, crafts and lunches at St Peter's Church Hall, and games - plus live music from the Salvation Army band - in Reynolds Park.

Come dressed as your favourite character from Liverpool's past, or in Science Fiction fancy dress! The cost is £3.50 for adults, £2 for children 3-16, and £1 for the under-3s.

For further information - or to volunteer as a marshal or helper - please call Kate McNulty on 428 2180.

GATEACRE IN BLOOM 2009

Our congratulations go to the Friends of Gateacre for the splendid planting and floral displays which have brightened up the village centre this summer. The judges from North West in Bloom visited Gateacre on 23rd July, and we understand that they have recommended the village for an award. A copy of the Friends' *Gateacre in Bloom Portfolio 2009* can be viewed on our website.

Our new book of old photographs

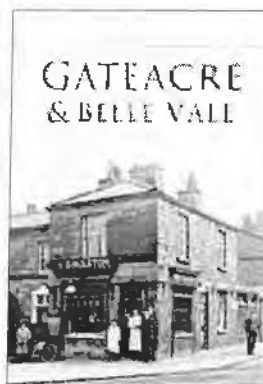
'GATEACRE & BELLE VALE' by Beryl Plent & Mike Chitty

COMING
VERY
SOON!

The Gateacre Society has an extensive collection of 'archive' photographs of the village and its once-rural surroundings, a selection of which have been exhibited at various local events over the past 35 years. Now, at last, we have been able to bring over 200 of them together in an attractive, 128-page paperback volume, complete with informative captions.

Arranged geographically, the book includes chapters entitled Gateacre Brow, Grange Lane, Belle Vale, Halewood Road, Rose Brow and Woolton Hill, and the pictures are of people as well as places; schoolchildren and family groups as well as famous local residents from Little Woolton's past.

Published by The History Press at £12.99, the book is expected to be available from late September at all good bookshops. The LOCAL STOCKISTS will be Grange Lane Stores (Gateacre) and Browns Newsagents (Woolton) and we understand that it may also be on sale in Morrisons (Belle Vale). For further details of the book and its availability, please phone Beryl Plent on 428 5379; or visit our website.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held at 2pm on **Sunday 25th October 2009**, in Gateacre Unitarian Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25 3PB. Nominations for Committee membership will be invited, and anyone interested in helping us run the Society is strongly urged to put themselves forward. (Please contact any existing Committee member for details of what is involved. The Committee now meets on Monday evenings, about every 6 weeks). After the business part of the meeting, Beryl and Mike will give a light-hearted, illustrated talk about the compilation of the book 'Gateacre & Belle Vale'.