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The Gateacre Society

A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - November 2022

Our next talk:

TALES FROM THE ELIZABETHAN UNDERWORLD - A Warning to Country Folk

by Graham Harrison

on Monday 21st November, at 7.30pm on ZOOM



Graham Harrison, who lives in the south of England but whose talk has been recommended to us by another Liverpool group, has a passion for military and social history. He has many years' experience as an historical re-enactor, interpreter and community artist with organisations such as English Heritage and the National Trust. He also works for the NHS as a patient simulator, involved in the training of doctors and other medical staff.

He describes his talk as "An often light-hearted examination of some of the cons, swindles and outright thievery practised on unwary visitors in 16th Century London. From a cross-dressing female highwayman to a psychic horse thief, this talk is both shocking and amusing - and you thought today's cities were dangerous places!"

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 and we'll add you to the list (and send you guidance notes, in case you're new to Zoom).

DIARY DATE

Our first talk of 2023 will once again be on Zoom. It takes place on Monday 30th January, at 7.30pm, when Helena Smart will talk to us about the photographic collections held by Liverpool Central Library, and her colleague Lindsey Sutton will talk about the Chambré Hardman collection. For confirmation and further details, see our next Newsletter.

OUR LOST PHONE BOX: BT's RESPONSE

It is now more than four years since the iconic 'type K6' telephone kiosk disappeared from the corner of Grange Lane and Belle Vale Road. As reported in previous Newsletters, no-one was aware of BT's intention to remove it until it was too late. We contacted Ofcom – who issue guidelines regarding community consultation on such matters – but they simply referred us to Liverpool City Council. We contacted the Council, but they told us that they had no prior knowledge of BT's intentions. We then returned to Ofcom, and eventually were given an email address for BT themselves. (As a communications organisation, BT make it remarkably difficult for individuals to get in touch with them!).

This is the reply we have now received. It came – mysteriously – from an individual whose job title is "Team Member, Bangor, Voice Services/Payphones/StreetHub/Welsh Helpdesk":

"I can see from our records that we followed the OFCOM ruling on removals on the kiosk it was posted on 7th September 2016 with an intent to removal notice and the 90 days was followed and we had a nil response from the council (details below) which means we had no objection and the kiosks on the list were all removed.

Chief Planning Officer, Liverpool City Council, Planning Department, Municipal Building, Dale Street, Liverpool L2 2DH

Liverpool Council did not respond to our consultation. These are treated as approvals to remove.

Additionally a notice was posted on 7th September 2016 advising the public of our intentions to remove the kiosk and to contact the council with any comments.

Hope this helps you understand that the kiosk was removed as per OFCOM's agreed terms."

We now have to decide whether to take this matter further. The defibrillator which we had hoped might be housed in the redundant kiosk has, of course, now been fixed to the wall alongside the pharmacy in Grange Lane. Any comments/suggestions/advice will be very welcome.

Please contact us with your views!

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

As reported at the A.G.M., our membership has been increasing recently. We have only had to 'strike off' 4 members for non-renewal, as the rest have responded to reminders or had already paid their subscription in advance. Now we are in a new membership year – which began on 1st November – and about 40 percent of members' subscriptions are once again due. Please take the time to look at your Newsletter address label (or the 'message header' if you receive it by email). If the date reads 31/10/22, we look forward to receiving your subscription – for 1, 2 or 3 years – either by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

A CORONATION TREE FOR 2023?

After a long absence of face-to-face meetings, due to Covid, the Friends of Gateacre met once again on 2nd November, at the Bear & Staff. The discussion produced a number of ideas, one of them being the planting of a tree on the village green to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

As many people know – and some may even remember! - a tree was planted "by the children of Gateacre" in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. A plaque, close to the Wilson Memorial Fountain, records the event.

Our own Society has been urging the City Council, for some time, to plant 3 or 4 trees on the green to replace those which have been lost as a result of decay/disease over the past several years, and this would seem to be an ideal opportunity. Please contact us if you have any comments (or memories) that you think would be of interest to us – or if you would like to be put on the Friends of Gateacre email list to receive details of future meetings.

A.G.M. REPORT

We had a convivial afternoon on 23rd October, when the Society's 47th annual general meeting was held in Gateacre Chapel. Four of our Committee members reported on the Historic England/Merseyside Civic Society Listed Buildings Project that took place earlier in the year, and the interactive website that is currently being developed to present its results to a wider audience. The Annual Report was presented, the Accounts were approved, and all of the existing 10 Committee members were re-elected. (We still have space for more, if you'd like to volunteer). Amongst other things, the Report revealed that our membership increased during the year, and now stands at 63 households, 62 pensioner members, 8 life members and 1 'company' member.



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THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

Website: www.gatsoc.org.uk **Instagram:** @TheGatSoc

Email: info@gatsoc.org.uk **Twitter:** @TheGatSoc

Executive Committee (2021-22)

Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (0151 722 6368) *Chairman*

Rosemary Doman *Vice Chair*

Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (0151 428 7801)

Hon. Treasurer, Environment Sec. & Newsletter Editor

Eryl Chitty *Hon. Secretary*

David Phythian, 26 Primrose Road, L18 2HE *Membership Sec.*

Sue Coldwell, 30 Killester Road, L25 3QD *Local History Sec.*

Pam Ball, Flat 1 St Stephens Court, Halewood Road, L25 3PG (0151 428 0500)
Sales Officer

John Wood, 3 Soarer Cottages, Grange Lane, L25 5LF *Assistant Environment Sec.*

Sandra Sandland *Assistant Sales Officer*

Paula Jones

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.