

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Officers for 1998/99

Chairman: Tony McCann
Vice Chairman: Ray Kirkham, 33 Westbrook Road,
L25 2PU (487 9517)
Hon.Secretary: *Post vacant*

Hon.Treasurer: Sylvia Davis
Membership Sec.: Beryl Plent, 27 Grange Lane,
L25 4RZ (428 5379)
Environment Sec.: Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way,
L25 5LB (428 7801)

Membership Subscriptions

Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3
Two pensioners £1.50 Company, etc. £5
(all plus £2 postage if outside hand-delivery area)

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Your address label indicates the date on which your membership expires. *If the label reads '31/10/98', please renew NOW!*

Want to join us?

Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.

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The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - May 1999

Our next meeting:

NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME

Tuesday 11th May at 8 pm

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road

NON-MEMBERS
50p



*A talk by
Dr Layth
Bunni*

*Director, Liverpool
City Partnership*

THE FUTURE OF LIVERPOOL

(See inside for details)

LOOKING BACK:

Our January meeting - 'A tale of two villages'

On Tuesday 19th January we were entertained to an account of life in a French village and its contrast to that in Gateacre by Diana Faber. It soon became obvious from Diana's fascinating, humorous account that the village of ECLIMEUX has a life-style light years away from ours. The nearest shop is some 16 kilometres away, there are neither bars nor regular buses, the railway station is a two-hour journey on foot ... and there is a total absence of litter. We were introduced to a selection of local characters, including the bow-legged greengrocer, and - just as we were beginning to believe in the value of the Channel Tunnel - Diana concluded what was, we hope, only Part One of a very enjoyable talk. The evening concluded with a little *haute cuisine* of French bread, cheese and wine, courtesy of Joan Gadd. Merci bien, a bientot.

TMc

Our March meeting - 'Gifted pirates'

DIANA FABER WILL BE LEAVING GATEACRE SHORTLY, HAVING BEEN THE SOCIETY'S HON. SECRETARY FOR OVER FOUR YEARS. AT THE RECENT COMMITTEE MEETING, OUR CHAIRMAN THANKED DIANA FOR HER MUCH-VALUED SERVICES TO THE SOCIETY, AND THIS WAS ECHOED BY THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE. WE WISH HER ALL THE BEST FOR THE

On Monday 22nd March Dorothy O'Hanlon gave us an enlightening talk. We learned that, around 1066, the Normans were not only making a conquest in England, but were invading as far south as Sicily. The invasion was largely the work of one remarkable family: the twelve sons of Tancred of Hauteville who, with one exception, went to south Italy. In alliance with the Pope they absorbed the cultures of the Lombards, Greeks and Arabs and developed the brilliant kingdom of the 'Two Sicilies'. Dorothy showed us some beautiful slides of southern Italy and Sicily, some depicting the churches of Siculo-Gothic style of which the most famous is Monreale near Palermo. We look forward to hearing more about Dorothy's travels and accounts, enriched by her learning and love of Italy.

DF

HUNTS CROSS AVENUE:

Detailed planning permission for a third new house in the former grounds of Aymestry Court was granted by the City Council in January. Our concerns regarding the adjacent group of pine trees resulted in conditions being imposed, including one specifying that any foundations within 6 metres of the crown spread of the closest tree shall be hand-dug to avoid damaging the tree. Two new trees will also be planted nearby.

THE FUTURE OF THE CITY CENTRE

by Dr Layth Bunni

Director, Liverpool City Partnership

Tuesday 11th May

Dr Bunni has a Ph.D. in molecular genetics, but worked for several years as a management consultant before starting his present, very different, job in May 1998. He was the man behind the controversial 'metal tree' in Church Street last Christmas, the Gold Zone scheme which aims to rid the Bold Street area of litter, graffiti and fly-posting, and the team of uniformed Navigators who are on duty in the city centre to help visitors and locals alike. Dr Bunni was born in Baghdad, lived for the first 20 years of his life in Dublin, but later moved to Liverpool where he now lives with his TV-researcher wife and young family. He is full of ideas for the future of the city, and welcomes the chance to share them with others. Judging by the similar meeting which he attended in Wavertree a few months ago, this should be a fascinating evening.

Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. 8 pm.

OUR SPRING CLEAN DAY:

Saturday 15th May



Janet Gnospelius will be giving Queen Victoria her annual wash and wax treatment on 15th May. We hope that other members will come and lend a hand, as we do our bit to tidy up the Village Green prior to National Environment Week. If you can help, please phone Beryl Plent for details (428 5379) - or simply turn up, from 10.30 am onwards, armed with any available gardening tools, brushes, gloves, etc.

10 GATEACRE BROW:

Planning permission for change of use (from hairdressers/residential to financial services office) was granted in January, and the conversion work is now underway. A listed building consent application (99L/0831) has now been submitted, to remove the wooden fence and to 'hard landscape' the frontage. While we have not yet seen the detailed drawings, this should restore the building more closely to its former appearance as a shop.