

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

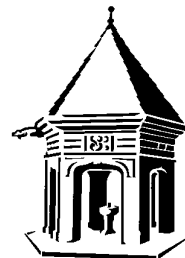
Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3
Two pensioners £1.50 Company, etc. £5
(all plus £2 postage if outside hand-delivery area)

Already a member?

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.



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - June 1999

Our next event:
Tuesday 6th July at 7.30 pm



*A privileged
visit for paid-up
members only.
Numbers are
limited: phone
Beryl Plent on
428 5379 as
soon as possible
to book your
place!*

INSIDE GATEACRE GRANGE

'The future of Liverpool city centre' - a review of our May meeting

Dr Layth Bunni's choice of Liverpool as his home, in preference to London, endeared him to his audience immediately. He certainly has many visions for his adopted city in the fields of art, culture, leisure and tourism. As Director of the Liverpool City Partnership, his first successful project was the Mathew Street Festival in August 1998, which is to be repeated on an even bigger scale this summer. He has many more festivals planned, including biennial and millennium events.

Talking non-stop for an hour and a half, Dr Bunni stressed the need to embrace the electronic age, attract commerce and industry back to the area, upgrade the retail sector (Liverpool has dropped to 17th in the national league table) and also to give the 45,000 students resident in the city an incentive to stay and work here. The key words were planning, direction, motivation and organisation, and he indicated that an injection of cash from the City Council would not go amiss!

Improving Liverpool's image and rejuvenating inner-city areas is no easy task. Dr Bunni believes it can be done and - given his obvious energy and enthusiasm - we can look forward to a brighter future.

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PLANNING NEWS

The following extracts from recent City Council Planning Committee reports will be of interest to members. They illustrate the 'hard line' being taken by the Planning Department within the Gateacre Village Conservation Area, regarding alterations to both listed and non-listed buildings:

4 ROSE BROW (Listed Building) - retrospective application to install UPVC windows. Recommend refusal, because "the windows, by reason of their modern synthetic materials within an historic elevation ..., frame proportions and methods of opening, do not satisfactorily match the original windows of this or adjoining properties, and as such harm the character and appearance of this row of listed cottages and the Gateacre Village Conservation Area". In addition, recommend the issuing of a Listed Building Enforcement Notice on the owners of 1a, 2 and 3 Rose Brow, "requiring the removal of all unauthorised and unacceptable front doors and UPVC framed windows and the installation of timber framed windows and doors ... within six months".

38 SANDFIELD ROAD (Non-listed Building) - application to demolish chimney stack and insert two windows to gable elevation. Recommend refusal because "the proposal constitutes unsympathetic alterations to this prominent dwelling which are detrimental to the character and appearance of the Gateacre Village Conservation Area".

We have not yet heard whether the Planning Committee accepted these recommendations.

More on our GATEACRE GRANGE visit:

Members of the Society will be aware that Gateacre Grange, the former Apostleship of the Sea residential home on Rose Brow, has been empty and for sale for over a year now. As soon as we became aware of its closure, we wrote to the estate agents seeking assurances that prospective purchasers would be made fully aware of its protected status: a Listed Building within a Conservation Area, standing in grounds designated as Greenspace and covered by a Tree Preservation Order. We received a courteous reply, and have recently received confirmation that the building has not yet been sold. We know that many people, even those living nearby, have never been inside the Grange, which was originally built for the brewer Andrew Barclay Walker in the 1860s, extended in the 1880s, became the home of his son William Hall Walker (Lord Wavertree) and later served as a school and then a hospital before becoming a home for retired seafarers. We have therefore arranged for members to see the building at close quarters: including the fine interior. *Please note that this visit is restricted to PAID-UP MEMBERS ONLY, numbers are limited, and names MUST be given to Beryl Plent (phone 428 5379) in advance.* The visit takes place on Tuesday 6th July, starting at 7.30 pm.



LOOKING AHEAD TO HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND

This year's Heritage Open Days will be Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September. This is a Europe-wide event, co-ordinated in Britain by the Civic Trust. Societies like ours are encouraged to 'open up' historic buildings or to arrange other events to focus attention on the local heritage. Last year's exhibition of photographs was a great success, so this year we are doing something similar - but with an important difference. We have invited the

South Liverpool Art Group to sketch and paint local scenes, with the emphasis on the Gateacre Village Conservation Area. The results will be on display in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, on the Saturday from 10.30 am to 5 pm, and on the Sunday from 2 till 5 pm. In response to demand, we shall also be re-exhibiting some of the old photographs from the Society's