

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Web site: [www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk](http://www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk) E-mail: [gatsoc@liverpool.ndo.co.uk](mailto:gatsoc@liverpool.ndo.co.uk)

## Officers for 1999/2000

Chairman: Tony McCann  
Vice Chairman: Joe Brannigan  
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. Our thanks go to those who have recently renewed. *If the label reads '31/10/99', please help us by renewing as soon as possible. You can pay for up to 3 years in advance if you wish.*

## Not a member? Want to join us?

Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.

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# The Gateacre Society

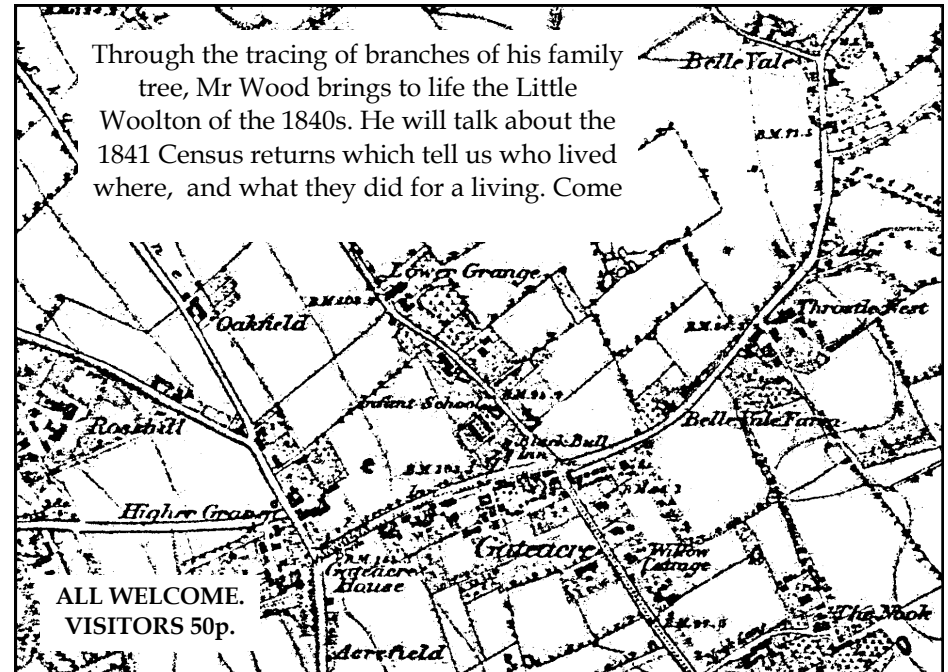
*Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity*

**NEWSLETTER - January 2000**

*Our next meeting:*

**GATEACRE 150  
YEARS AGO**  
**BY ADRIAN WOOD**

**Tuesday 8th  
February,  
starting at  
8 p.m. in  
Gateacre  
Chapel Hall,  
Sandfield  
Road,  
Liverpool 25.**



## 'OLD WOOLTON' by Frank Cain

On Tuesday December 7th, we were entertained to a pictorial journey stretching nearly 900 years by Frank Cain. Frank asked us to imagine we were on a bus journey through Woolton and its surrounding hamlets of Speke, Hale, Garston and Gateacre - and we travelled with him from the 12th century to the eve of the new millennium.

And what a fascinating journey it was. Present-day MTL could not possibly compete. We met John Constable, Lord of Halton and Widnes, the Knights of St John, soldiers, scholars, French prisoners-of-war, mill owners, the landed gentry, Todds, Reynolds, Gascoynes, Benedictines, King John and a host of other notables. We were not too surprised to learn that Woolton used to have 40 pubs and that the Law was keeping a close eye on them. The Police Station was next to the White Horse.

Humour and history kept the large audience spellbound. We heard how Frank had persuaded a bus driver to stop his bus - on which Frank was travelling - so that Frank could attend to a man who had, apparently, fainted on the sidewalk along Menlove Avenue. The Good Samaritan found that his help was not required: the man was merely clearing a drain and had his arm down a grid.

Frank can be certain that, if he brings his bus down Gateacre Brow again, he will have no shortage of passengers.

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## Speaking of which ...

Merseytravel's JUPITER 2 project (Joint Urban Project in Transport Energy Reduction) - which is partly funded by the European Union - has resulted in a revamp of the 173 and 174 bus services which pass through Gateacre Village. The new 'eco-friendly' buses have low-sulphur diesel engines, exhaust filters, low-step entrances and buggy/wheelchair ramps. Service 174 runs from Belle Vale to Penny Lane via Gateacre Park Drive and Childwall Fiveways: passing through Gateacre Village at about 7 and 37 minutes past each hour every day, from 6.07 am (Mon-Sat) and 10.37 am (Sun) until 11.07 pm. We have been asked to publicise the service, and to invite feedback from members. Our immediate comment was that the new timetable needs more publicity: details of the service are not even displayed at local bus stops.

## PLANNING NEWS

Among recent proposals in our area are the following:

**Stanley Racing, 181 Grange Lane** (Application Ref. 99P/2415). To replace shop frontage and night-security perforated shutter.

**89 Gateacre Park Drive** (Ref. 99P/2541). To change use of premises from children's play centre to restaurant.

**31 Sandfield Road** (Ref. 99H/2644). To replace existing windows with double-glazed windows.

**21 Grange Weint** (Ref. 99F/2776). To erect a bungalow in rear garden (renewal of planning permission 95P/0960).

**Former Newforge Foods, Belle Vale Road** (Ref. 00O/0029). Outline Application to develop site for Class A1 (Retail) foodstore, petrol filling station, car parking and servicing arrangements, with new access to Besford Road (re-submission of application 99P/0144).

We have lodged an objection to the Gateacre Park Drive application, arguing that the opening of another restaurant in this area will increase the late-night noise nuisance suffered by local residents, and will reduce the daytime attractiveness of the parade to shoppers.

We shall be reiterating our objection to certain aspects of the Newforge proposal: namely the petrol filling station (which we feel is too close to residential properties), the loss of landscaping in Besford Road, and the lack of a direct pedestrian route from the Redwood estate/South Station Road footpath to the new store entrance.

## MAPS OF GATEACRE

The cover of this month's Newsletter features an extract from the 1851 edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map. The previous issue featured the 1936 edition of the 1:2500 scale map. Despite the 'fuzzy' quality of some of our archive copies, maps are one of the best sources of local history, and we are always on the lookout for more. If you have - or know of anyone else who has - old maps of Gateacre which we could borrow and copy, please contact any Committee member.

## RIGHTS OF WAY

After several years of pressure from ourselves and other groups, Liverpool City Council has appointed a full-time Public Rights of Way Officer. His job is to publish the Definitive Map: a legal record of every public right of way that exists in Liverpool. The officer has been checking through various archives looking for evidence: and in the records of Widnes Corporation, for example, he has found proof that the paths across Lee Park Golf Course are public rights of way. If you are concerned to ensure that any particular footpath is registered as a right of way, please contact our Environment Secretary Mike Chitty on 428 7801; or phone Andrew Ventin - the Council's Rights of Way Officer - direct on 233 5424. Note that rights of way within the built-up area will normally be put on the map only if they run across privately-owned land, or have not been 'adopted' by the Council.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES, WHY NOT JOIN THE COMMITTEE? WE MEET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS, EVERY 6 WEEKS OR SO, TO DISCUSS MATTERS LIKE THE ABOVE. FOR DETAILS