

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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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.

Newsletter sponsored by



E.H. Williams (Environment) Ltd



Our next presentation:

**ALL
WELCOME**

**VISITORS
50p**

CINEMA MEMORIES

For one night only:

***Tuesday 23rd May, starting at 8 p.m. in
Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road, Liverpool 25***

Clive Garner has been broadcasting on BBC Radio Merseyside for the past ten years. His talk will be illustrated with slides and film sequences.

***And before that ... on SATURDAY 20th MAY as part of
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK, we shall be staging our
annual CLEAN-UP OF THE GREEN, including the washing
and waxing of Queen Victoria. Please meet on the Green at
10.30 a.m., with gardening gloves, brushes and hand tools.***

'A personal tour of the NMGM' A review of our March meeting

We had a most interesting talk by Stephen Guy, Press Officer of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (who also happens to be Chairman of the West Derby Society). Mr Guy's talk was illustrated with very good slides on the NMGM's 8 venues: Liverpool Museum, the Maritime Museum, H.M. Customs & Excise Museum, the Museum of Liverpool Life, Walker Art Gallery, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sudley House and the Conservation Centre.

We heard about **Sudley**, the home of George Holt - a Unitarian - housing paintings by Millais, Gainsborough and others. Emma Holt gave it to the City in 1944. We heard about the **Walker Art Gallery**, which exhibits 1,000 paintings and sculptures but also owns many works that there is no room to show. It is noted for its many fine medieval paintings - and also for the biennial John Moores Exhibition of contemporary art. **Liverpool Museum** is a treasure house, including a wonderful exhibition of watches and clocks, a Natural History centre and an Egyptian Gallery. The **Museum of Liverpool Life** reflects everyday life on Merseyside, and even includes a chip fryer.

The **Merseyside Maritime Museum**, in one of the converted Albert Dock warehouses, includes a huge collection of ship models - including one of the Titanic made at the same time as the real vessel - of which only about one-third can be shown at any one time. The Slave Trade Gallery and the Emigrants Gallery are of great interest to the many visitors from America whose forbears sailed from Liverpool. Within the Maritime Museum, there is also a **Customs Gallery**. We saw excellent slides of the **Lady Lever Gallery** in Port Sunlight, housing a collection built up by Viscount Leverhulme and donated to Merseyside. We also heard about the work of the unique **Conservation Centre**, which is a centre for sculpture conservation and the repair of all things old, and was opened in 1998.

For the future, Mr Guy told us that there is a plan to double the size of our museums in the next few years at a cost of £34 million. He told us that the Prince George Gallery in the Walker is to be restored for visiting exhibitions, and Liverpool Life is to have two new galleries this July.

A lot to see now - and even more soon!

MSC

TEA TOWELS

Remember: our Village tea towels are still available at £2 from Joan Gadd (428 8884).

Rights of Way - Latest News

We have identified 21 possible additional public rights of way in the Gateacre area, for inclusion on the definitive map which is being prepared by the City Council. The Council's Rights of Way Officer is currently investigating these, and we are encouraged by his obvious enthusiasm for the job and efficiency in contacting the various landowners and other interested parties.

Meanwhile, the Council has advertised the proposed stopping up of the footpath which leads from Halewood Road (opposite the Turners Court retirement flats) to Broad Hey Close, which is a cul-de-sac off Hunts Cross Avenue. This closure was apparently requested by residents of Broad Hey Close, but will inconvenience the many people who find it a useful 'short cut' away from the traffic of Halewood Road. The proposed closure was brought to our attention many months ago, and the Society's Committee decided to oppose the plan. The grounds of our objection are:

- ◆ The footpath is well used, especially by parents and pupils walking to and from Woolton County Primary School but also by shoppers en route for Sainsburys supermarket.
- ◆ The alternative route via Orient Drive and Hunts Cross Avenue is less direct and less pleasant.

- ◆ To close a useful path such as this would be contrary to national and local policies which aim to encourage walking as a means of transport for short journeys.
- ◆ To close this path might set a precedent which could threaten other, similar, paths in the Gateacre area.

If you wish to register your own objection to the planned closure - and if this Newsletter reaches you in time - you should attend Magistrates Court No.15 at Crown Buildings, Victoria Street, Liverpool, at 1.45 p.m. on Thursday 11th May. A date will then be arranged for the full hearing of objections. Otherwise, please contact our Environment Secretary, Mike Chitty (428 7801) for details of how to object - or if you are concerned about any other threatened or neglected public rights of way.

OTHER NEWS

We are trying get the Loop Line bridges repaired and repainted: notably the one in Belle Vale

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CAN YOU HELP US?

We have been very pleased by the good turnout of members and friends at recent meetings. Joan Gadd has been doing an excellent job booking speakers, and we hope that members feel that the Society is doing useful work keeping an eye on the local environment, monitoring planning applications and objecting when necessary. There is plenty more going on 'behind the scenes', especially at the meetings of our Executive Committee which take place on Tuesday evenings every 4-6 weeks. But we do need more volunteers to join the Committee, and to ease the load on the existing members who are sharing the various essential jobs between them. In particular, we need someone to **receive the correspondence** which is addressed to the Society, and to report on it to the Committee. We also need someone to **take the minutes** of meetings. Both of these tasks require skills which we feel sure are possessed by many of our members, and we hope this note will prompt at least two people to come forward! Don't be shy: contact any existing Committee member for an invitation to attend the next meeting or two as an observer, if you don't want to commit yourself straight away.