

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Officers for 1999/2000

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Vice Chairman: Joe Brannigan
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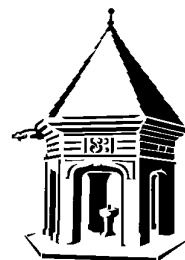
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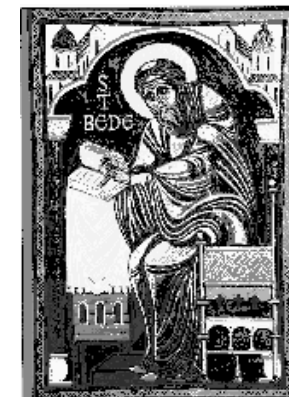
The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - September 2000

Our next meeting:

The Golden Age of Northumbria



A talk by Dorothy O'Hanlon
in Gateacre Chapel Hall on
Tuesday 26th September at 8 pm

By popular request, we have invited Dorothy to speak to us again - this time about the Venerable Bede and other aspects of Northumbrian history. All interested are welcome to attend (members free, visitors 50p) in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, Liverpool 25.

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held on **TUESDAY 31st OCTOBER 2000**, starting at 8 p.m., in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the Annual Report, approve the Accounts, and elect the Society's Officers and other Committee members for the coming year. Please do your best to attend this important meeting. Nominations for election to the Committee will be accepted on the night, or may be sent in advance to Joan Gadd, 59 Hunts Cross Avenue, Liverpool L25 5NU.

HOW LIVERPOOL GOT ITS WATER

A review of our July meeting

On July 18th we were entertained to a fascinating lecture by Peter Cahill, a senior manager with North West Water. With humour and a fund of facts, Peter led us on a watery journey from the 16th century to the present day. We quickly learned just how unhealthy the 'good old times' were. The Fall Well provided water to the citizens of Liverpool until the 1780s. It would seem that water from the well was not always a bargain, even at a halfpenny a bucket: we heard that James Hughes, an Irishman, was charged with polluting the Fall Well by, allegedly, bringing an unspecified disease from ... Manchester!

Did you know that there was also a spring situated in St James's Cemetery? Or that Bootle water was being pumped to Liverpool at the rate of 200 gallons per minute in 1780, through elm pipes some of which were still in good condition over a century later? Peter knew, and told us all about it.

The growth of Liverpool produced serious sanitation problems in the late 18th century, while the huge influx of Irish Famine refugees between 1845 and 1849 produced horrendous problems for a town which had no sanitation system other than the 'night soil' men. Liverpool became 'the hospital and cemetery of Ireland'. The city fathers were forced to react quickly: Dr Duncan was named as Medical Officer of Health (the first in the country), James Newlands became Borough Engineer, and James Simpson was contracted to build a reservoir at Rivington Pike near Chorley to provide clean water for Liverpool. In 1846 the Liverpool Sanitation Act had been passed, and it proved to be a model for the rest of the country.

Another landmark in the journey towards health and hygiene was reached with the building of the great reservoir at Lake Vyrnwy, Wales, in 1880. This was the largest in Europe, and although most of Peter's audience thought that we own it, it appears we do not. It now belongs to Severn-Trent Water, and a compensation water payment of 40 million gallons has to be diverted to the River Severn on 4 days each month between March and October.

Peter's talk ended all too quickly, but the question and answer session afterwards threatened to continue until breakfast time! We thank Peter for a most enjoyable evening and feel certain that, though he may occasionally get into deep water, he will never be 'out of his depth'.

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HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND

For the first time in several years, the Gateacre Society did not participate in the Civic Trust's Heritage Open Days scheme this time. We hope that - in spite of the fuel shortage - members will have taken the opportunity to visit some of the many buildings which were opened by other organisations on September 16th-17th. If anyone can suggest a local building which could feature in Heritage Open Weekend 2001 - and, more importantly, if anyone has the time available to make the necessary arrangements - please let us know. (See back page for contact names and addresses).

REFURBISHING THE BLACK BULL:

Bass Leisure Retail have submitted a listed building consent application (ref. 00L/1633) and a planning application (00F/1664) to "carry out internal and external alterations and erect an extension to the public house". The main proposal is the conversion and extension of the beer/bottle store behind the wooden gates - to the right of the front door - to form a lounge, with an entrance porch immediately behind the gates (see picture). The application shows the function rooms at the rear being converted to storage/kitchen use, and states that the 'effective drinking area' will only be slightly increased. (Presumably, though, they are expecting more customers, to make the expenditure worthwhile). We have written to Bass Leisure asking for more information on what is being proposed for the interior of the pub, and also asking to be consulted on any plans for re-laying the cobbled forecourt.



CONVERTING GATEACRE GRANGE:

Applications 00H/1651, 00F/1652, 00F/1657, 00F/1658, 00L/1659, 00L/1660 and 00L/1661 have been submitted to "convert Gateacre Grange into 13 apartments, convert the former stable block into 5 cottages, construct a cottage adjacent to 5 Rose Brow, and erect garages for the new cottage and Barclay House at rear". We have made contact with the developers - TRB Estates of Tithebarn Street, Liverpool - who inform us that they are currently in the process of completing the purchase of the building. They say that they will be marketing the properties themselves (i.e. not selling-on the site) and that they see the extensive 'communal gardens' shown on the plans as "a major selling-point", to be financed by a service charge. We shall be pressing the Planning Department to make sure that proper legal provision is made for this, and also for the protection of the building pending the conversion work taking place.

The plans for the above proposals may be viewed at the City Council's Planning Department on the 2nd floor of Millennium House, 60 Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JF. Any comments should be sent to the same address. Although the official deadlines are 19th and 27th September respectively, it is unlikely that letters received shortly after these dates will be ignored by the Council.