

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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## Officers for 2000/2001

Chairman: Tony McCann  
Vice Chairman: Joe Brannigan  
Hon. Secretary: *Post vacant*  
Hon. Treasurer: Sylvia Davis  
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Environment Sec./  
Newsletter Editor: Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (428 7801)

## Membership Subscriptions

Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3  
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(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 '31/10/00', PLEASE HELP US BY  
RENEWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU CAN PAY FOR

Not

## a member? 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 - March 2001

OUR NEXT MEETING:

# THE HISTORY OF ST JAMES'S CEMETERY

BY A LIVERPOOL PARK RANGER



Come and hear about the cemetery - now in the shadow of the Anglican Cathedral - which is the last resting place of William Huskisson (M.P.), Sarah Biffin (artist), Kitty Wilkinson (washhouse pioneer), William Brown (merchant) and many other famous Liverpool personalities. Hear about the 'healing' mineral spring and other interesting features of this former quarry.

All are welcome  
-  
Visitors  
50p

**TUESDAY 13TH MARCH IN  
GATEACRE CHAPEL HALL,  
SANDFIELD ROAD, L25,  
STARTING AT 8 P.M.**

## A VISION OF LIVERPOOL

### A review of our January meeting

On 16th January, Graham Marshall spoke to an attentive audience about the work of the country's first urban regeneration company: 'Liverpool Vision'. Set up by the government 18 months ago, this organisation aims to involve the private sector; and Mr Marshall himself, its Planning Director, had come from a private sector background. But, unlike traditional private developers, the aim is the long-term revitalisation of Liverpool rather than short-term financial gain.

A number of feasibility studies have been commissioned: looking at ways of encouraging the speculative building of new office blocks in the Commercial District, along with the potential for a 'Fourth Grace' (an unfamiliar term which resulted in many puzzled looks - Mr Marshall meant another large building at the Pier Head!) and the future of The Strand (which as a main traffic route tends to cut off the city from its river). Among the company's broad aims are to ease the movement of cars to the edge of the city centre (but not beyond), and to enable more people to live right in the heart of Liverpool. The most important objective, though, Mr Marshall explained, is 'to get things built - not just to talk about it'. And a theme he kept returning to was that Liverpool must keep its traditional character - 'not try and become another Trafford Centre' - and capitalise on its assets: especially the 'world class' waterfront.

Mr Marshall's talk stimulated a large number of questions from the audience. What will happen to Chavasse Park? Isn't Liverpool's image its biggest problem? Can the city's population decline be halted? Are Liverpool's listed buildings an attraction or a deterrent to developers? Many of the questions were politely sceptical, but most of Mr Marshall's answers were positive, and we were left with the impression of a man with clear ideas, who 'feels' for Liverpool (though only having been here a short time) and is not afraid to speak his mind. But we were also made aware that the really important decisions are likely to be made by others. We heard of the two rival retail schemes for the city centre, and the six alternative proposals for the Kings Dock area. So many ambitious plans have come and gone during the past 30 years, that we were left wondering whether these would be any different. We can only hope that, in Mr Marshall and his colleagues at Liverpool Vision, our city has at last found the secret of success.

MRC

### OLD PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

WE ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO BUILD UP OUR COLLECTION OF LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES OF LONG-STANDING RESIDENTS OF GATEACRE, AND OTHER PEOPLE WITH LOCAL CONNECTIONS. ALSO, PICTURES OF HOUSES NOW DEMOLISHED: LEE VALE, BELLE VALE HALL, ROUGH GRANGE AND ELSMFIELD (GRANGE LANE), ORIENT HOUSE (HALEWOOD ROAD), ROCKFIELD AND THE SLOPES (CUCKOO LANE), ETC. IF YOU POSSESS, OR KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS, ANY SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH WE COULD COPY, PLEASE CONTACT BERYL PLENT ON 428 5379.

(Who is the lady on the right? Answer in the next Newsletter!)



### BRIDGE REPAIRS AT LAST

For some years now we have been pressing for the former railway bridge over Belle Vale Road to be repaired. It forms part of the Loop Line cycle path, but the charity Sustrans which owns the route has been short of funds as a result of other engineering problems further along the line. Now, repair work is underway, and an Advertisement Consent application has been submitted (ref. 01A/0345) to paint the bridge with the words 'Trans Pennine Trail'. This will revive an old tradition; the words 'Gateacre Station - Cheshire Lines Railway' having been prominently displayed on the bridge when it was first built.

### NEW PLANS FOR GATEACRE GRANGE

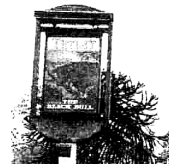


We only recently learned that the proposed sale of Gateacre Grange to the TRB Estates Group (see the September 2000 Newsletter) fell through before Christmas, and it has instead been sold to Mr Bill Doyle of Mossley Hill. He has submitted an application for listed building consent and planning permission (refs. 01L/0318 and 01F/0339) to convert the house and ancillary buildings into 20 apartments. We have not yet studied the plans in detail, but they have been drawn up by reputable local architects. Once again we shall be looking for assurances about the future maintenance of the buildings and grounds.



### A McDONALD'S FOR BELLE VALE?

A planning application (ref. 01F/0069) has been submitted by the owners of the Belle Vale Shopping Centre. The proposal is to demolish part of the overhead walkway system, and insert four new shop units into the existing basement level, fronting on to Childwall Valley Road. Between the bus shelter and the new Community Centre would be a taxi rank and customer car park, together with a free-standing McDonald's 'drive thru' restaurant with its own parking area behind.



### NO BEACON FOR THE BLACK BULL

The application for an Ember Inns trademark 'beacon' in front of the Black Bull (see last Newsletter) was withdrawn by Bass on 31st January. An alternative application for new signage has now been submitted (refs. 01A/0390 and 01L/0391). We assume that this will be for something more in keeping with the Listed Building and the Conservation Area; though as yet we have not yet seen the drawings.

**APPLICATIONS for planning permission, listed building or advertisement consent**, such as those mentioned above may be inspected in the City Council's Planning Department on the 2nd floor of Millennium House, Victoria Street, Liverpool. It is best to telephone in advance (233 4547) to find out whether a decision has already been made, or what the deadline is for any