

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Officers for 2000/2001

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Membership Subscriptions

Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3 Two pensioners £1.50
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Already a member?

Your address label indicates the date on which your membership expires.

Not a member? Want to join us?

Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If the label reads '31/10/00', we regret that your membership of the Gateacre Society has now LAPSED. In order to be sure of receiving future issues of this Newsletter, please renew your subscription as soon as possible. You can pay for up to three years in advance if you wish.



WILLIAMSON'S TUNNELS REDISCOVERED

Most people will have heard of the **MOLE OF EDGE HILL**: Joseph Williamson, who in the early nineteenth century created a network of underground rooms and passageways in the sandstone around his home in Mason Street, just off Paddington.

Thanks to the Friends of Williamson's Tunnels, many of these have been mapped and explored in recent years, with a view to saving them from destruction and (eventually) opening them to the public.

Two of the Friends - **DAVID HEAD and CLAIRE MOORHEAD** - will tell us about the tunnels' history and these new excavations - and explain how and when people can visit them.



An illustrated talk on Tuesday 15th May
in Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road, L25, starting at 8 p.m.

ALL WELCOME - VISITORS 50p

ALSO: On Saturday 12th May we shall be **CLEANING THE GREEN** and giving Queen Victoria her annual waxing. Please come along and help: meet outside the Black Bull at 10.30 a.m., with gardening gloves and any tools you feel would be useful.

ST JAMES'S CEMETERY

A review of our March meeting

On 13th March, the Liverpool Rangers had lively tales to tell of people and places connected to St James's Cemetery and its surroundings. The old stone quarry, with windmills north and south, became the burial ground for St James's Church, Parliament Street, in 1829. It was overlooked by the then-fashionable Gambier Terrace, where residents had a good view of funeral processions descending the quarry slopes.

The Oratory, originally a mortuary chapel, was built by John Foster, architect of the old Custom House, the Huskisson Memorial and St Andrew's Church in Rodney Street. Amongst the 57,774 people buried in the cemetery, over a period of 100 years, were William Huskisson M.P. (first victim of the railway), William Brown (who gave the city its museum and library), soldiers of the Crimean War, and 36 passengers and crew of the 'Ellen Vannin' which sank in Liverpool Bay in 1909.

The waters from the old spring - now sadly neglected - were once advertised as a cure for all ills. On the Mount, above the quarry, stands Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral. Building began in 1903, the distinctive red stone being supplied by the Marquess of Salisbury who owned Woolton quarry. Giles Gilbert Scott, a Roman Catholic, won the competition for its design, at age 22. He chose to be buried just outside the main entrance of this, his finest building; but did he realise that the stone slab marking the spot would be in the middle of the car park access road?

BP

BELLE VALE PARK

Landscape consultants are drawing up a scheme for the improvement of Belle Vale Park. Ray Kirkham is the Society's representative on the panel which has been set up to assist the consultants.

THE LEE VALLEY MILLENNIUM CENTRE

The long-awaited and very impressive new community centre in Childwall Valley Road - close to Belle Vale Park - is to be opened by the Duke of Gloucester on 2nd May. Part-financed by the Millennium Commission, it incorporates a City Council community library, a cafe (soon to offer internet access at £1 an hour) and a well-equipped Drop In Study Centre (the Lee Valley DISC) which will offer courses in first aid, computing and other subjects. Enquiries to 288 8326.

WHO WAS THAT LADY I SAW ...?

The answer to our mini-quiz in the March Newsletter ('Who was the lady pictured on the right?') was Mrs Hall Walker, the wife of William Hall Walker - later Lord Wavertree - who lived at Gateacre Grange in the late 19th/early 20th century. As mentioned in that Newsletter, we are currently trying to build up our collection of local photographs. In particular, we are looking for pictures of former residents of Gateacre, and of houses now demolished. If you possess, or know someone else who has, any such photographs which we could copy, please contact Beryl Plent on 428 5379.



DON'T FORGET: Queen Victoria will be having her annual wash and brush-up on **Saturday 12th May**. The bronze bust was sculpted by her nephew, Count Gleichen, and - along with the triangular village green - was presented to the people of Gateacre by Sir Andrew Barclay Walker in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Several years ago,



following damage by vandals, the bust was restored, and the Walker Art Gallery supplied us with special wax to preserve the Queen's complexion. We shall also, as usual, be cleaning the Green itself. **Please come along and help** from 10.30 a.m. onwards.

New members will be VERY WELCOME.

NEWFORGE SITE: LATEST NEWS

Morrison Developments have submitted revised plans (though still only in outline form) for the former Spam factory site alongside Belle Vale shopping centre. The size of the proposed supermarket has been increased, and the number of parking spaces has been reduced (though customers will, of course, be able to use the existing Belle Vale shoppers' car park). The new layout appears to be more 'pedestrian friendly' than the original scheme, though we are still unhappy about the inclusion of a petrol filling station so close to the residential properties in Belle Vale Road.

NOW IT'S THE TURN OF THE BEAR & STAFF ...

The 'new look' Black Bull opened for business on 25th April, though the signage has not yet officially received planning permission. Meanwhile the Bear & Staff - traditionally a Greenalls house - has also changed hands, and the new owners Scottish & Newcastle have submitted plans (ref. 01F/0733 and 01A/0748) for minor changes to its appearance, including a new chimney and new signage.

OTHER RECENT PLANNING PROPOSALS

Planning application 01F/0869 has been submitted, proposing the use of No.185 Grange Lane - the current Moran Sound music shop - as a 'coffee shop and takeaway'.

Tree work consent application 01T/0849 has been submitted, proposing the felling of four mature lime trees in the rear garden of No.7 Chartmount Way.

Similar applications to both of these (though in different locations) have previously been rejected by the City Council's Planning Committee. It has always been our view that a second takeaway in the village is unnecessary and would significantly exacerbate the current problems of litter and late-night nuisance, while the fact that a tree 'dominates the garden' and occasionally drops branches is no reason to allow the felling of an attractive and healthy specimen.

APPLICATIONS for planning permission, listed building consent, tree work 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 comments.