

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Officers for 2000/01

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./
Newsletter Editor: 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.

Not a member? Want to join us? Or want to renew?

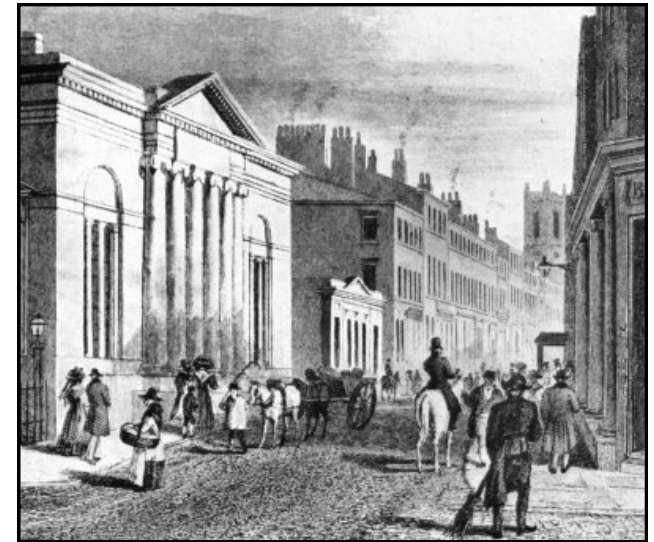
Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.



Our next meeting:

BOLD STREET

An illustrated
talk by
Roger Hull
at 8 p.m. on
Tuesday 25th
September
in Gateacre
Chapel Hall,
Sandfield
Road.



Bold Street, Liverpool, began life as a Georgian residential street. Within a short time, however, it had been transformed into 'the Bond Street of the north': wholly devoted to business, renowned in particular for its clothing outlets. Since then, Bold Street has changed with the times, and today it is once again a lively, bustling street: one of the few in the centre of Liverpool to retain a character of its own. Roger Hull will talk about the economic and social history of Bold Street over the past 200 years.

ALL WELCOME - MEMBERS FREE - VISITORS 50p

A WALK ROUND WOOLTON

A review of our Summer Evening event

There was a good turnout for our walk on 3rd July with Merseyguide Margaret Benham. From the village cross (restored in 1913) we advanced to 43-47 Woolton Street where nuns, banished from their convent near Cambrai, France, found refuge in 1795. They advertised for girl pupils, making this one of the first Catholic convent schools in England. The order still exists today at Stanbrook, near Worcester.

Ashton Square held a delightful surprise: a true cottage garden in all its summer splendour. No wonder it was judged the best Woolton garden in the 'Britain in Bloom' competition. We were amongst the last to traverse the footpath from Speke Road into the Square; soon afterwards it was closed to the public with 'Private' on the gate.

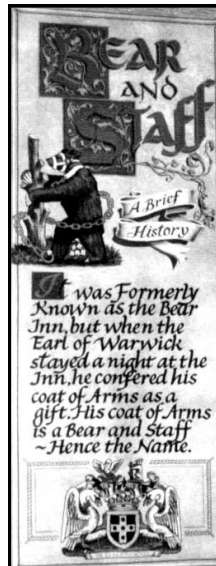
Woolton Hall was opened to us. The present owner let us view his 'gallery' - portraits of previous owners of this gracious abode - as well as some of the Hall's still-handsome rooms.

Altogether a short but tantalising look at the history of Much Woolton. BP

WARWICK SLEPT WHERE?

On 6th August 2001, the Bear & Staff on Gateacre Brow reopened after extensive 'de-modernisation'. While the pub was closed, we were approached by a P.R. firm who had been engaged by the new owners to plan the re-launch. We told them of the occasion, in 1985, when the old stables were converted into a restaurant, and when - a week before the opening - the Gateacre Society was asked to 'confirm the story' that the Earl of Warwick had once stayed there, and been so impressed by the hospitality that he had allowed the innkeeper to display his bear-and-staff symbol. The Society's then Secretary had replied that this was almost certainly untrue; but the story was nevertheless prominently displayed (see picture) for many years afterwards!

This time, we supplied the 'real' history of the building: mentioning that the pub - the 'Bear and Ragged Staff' in the 18th century - was indeed named after the Earl of Warwick's crest, but probably only because this was an easily-recognisable symbol in the days when few could read and inns relied on their hanging signs for identification. Unfortunately, it seems our information arrived too late: because the new bar snacks menu repeats the legend of the satisfied Earl!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 23rd October - Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and memorabilia evening. See opposite page for details.

Tuesday 27th November - A talk by Ralph Mills on the history of HALE VILLAGE. See our next Newsletter for details.

OUR A.G.M. - AND GATEACRE MEMORIES

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held on **TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2001**, starting at 8 p.m., in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, Liverpool 25. 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.



We hope to make this year's A.G.M. a bit special by expanding it into a Memorabilia Evening. Beryl Plent will be bringing along a selection of the Society's archive photographs of Gateacre, and we hope that other members (and their guests) will come equipped with pictures, old documents, family mementoes or simply reminiscences of Gateacre people and places. Many of our recently-joined members are new to the area and, we are sure, will be interested to hear about how the village has changed within living memory.

Please arrive promptly so that we can get the business meeting over with, and leave as much time as possible for this display and discussion (plus, of course, the usual A.G.M. refreshments!).

MORE PLANS FOR THE GRANGE

Applications for planning permission (01F/1914) and listed building consent (01L/1915) have recently been submitted by the owners of Gateacre Grange. They propose to build a number of 'garden cottages' (single-storey buildings with roof-lights/dormers) in the grounds: a block of 3 on the foundations of the old summer-house near Grange Weint, and a block of 6 on the site of the former glasshouses.

We have no objection to these proposals; but we have lodged a strong objection to another part of the plan which is to build a two-storey cottage adjacent to 5 Rose Brow, involving the felling of the very prominent mature beech tree just behind the Rose Brow boundary wall. The applicants claim that this is an 'old tree becoming dangerous', but we feel that it deserves to be retained.

CURBING DAMAGE TO THE GREEN

As reported in our January Newsletter, we have been concerned for some time about lorries damaging the surface of the village green. So, when the resurfacing of Gateacre Brow began in July, we asked the Council if they were going to take the opportunity to install the promised new kerbstones. Two of our Committee members met the Council's officer-in-charge 'on site', early one morning: and, as a result, a granite kerb has now been provided opposite Cleggs' factory entrance.