

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Officers for 2001/02

Chairman: Tony McCann
Vice Chairman: Brian Doman
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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. If the date is '31/10/01', please make Beryl's job easier by sending her your subs as soon as possible.

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

Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary. You may pay for up to three years at a time if you wish.



Our next meeting:

HALE VILLAGE - THEN & NOW

A slide presentation on two screens
by Ralph Mills

TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER

in Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road,
starting at 8 p.m.

BOLD STREET

A review of our September meeting

On Tuesday 25th September Roger Hull gave us a talk on Bold Street, illustrated with maps and statistics. He described Bold Street as a 'feminine' street, with a touch of class, and quite different from any other Liverpool street.

A map of 1765 shows the area which is now Bold Street to be rural, but with a ropery near by. By 1800 Liverpool was the second largest town in England, and Bold Street was changing. Gore's Directory tells us who lived in the street: 16 households in 1796, 110 in 1829. They were ladies, gentlemen, merchants, professionals, traders and the forces. People tended to come to Bold Street and move on. In 1839 the traders included merchants, furnishers, high fashion clothiers, joiners, ironmonger and sellers of food and drink.

By 1905 there were 4 clothiers, 17 photographers, 14 health and beauty outlets, 12 service specialists, 11 furnishers, 11 food and drink purveyors, 6 sellers of luxury items, a diamond dealer, an antiques dealer, a piano maker, gilder and picture framer, along with several banks, artists and palmists! The early 1900s was Bold Street's heyday and of the early shops, Cripps survived until 1970. Cripps was the largest shawl manufacturer in the U.K., the shop is now Waterstones (formerly Dillons), but the original façade can still be seen above the ground floor.

'Bold Street is still different' - Mr Hull concluded - it has trendy fashion houses and designer names, and retains its own character.

MSC

A big welcome ...

to all those of you who have recently joined the Society. At the A.G.M. in October, Beryl Plent was able to report that the Society had 256 paid-up members. This is a new record high - after four years of steady growth in membership - and the attendance at the A.G.M. was also substantially greater than in recent years. In addition, as you will see from the back page of this Newsletter, we have some new faces on the Committee; but there is still room for more! The next Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th December, and if you are at all interested in joining us (or just coming along as an observer) please contact any existing Committee member as soon as possible.

Takeaway refused

On 25th September the City Council's Planning Committee voted to refuse planning permission for conversion of 185 Grange Lane (the former Moran Sound shop) to a hot food takeaway and café. The Planning Officer had recommended the application for approval, but the Committee instead agreed with the arguments put forward by local residents and the Society (see our May Newsletter for details). It seems that the applicant, Mr Chu, has already completed the purchase of the premises, and may well lodge an appeal. However, we doubt whether a government Inspector will share the Council Officers' opinion that 'car borne custom can be accommodated on and off-street without detriment to highway safety' (there being an apparent assumption that takeaway customers will be allowed to use the Black Bull car park).

'Hale Village - Then & Now'

More details of our meeting on 27th November

Ralph Mills' forthcoming talk is based on a substantial collection of black and white slides, taken from both early postcards and old photographs of Hale Village. These are compared - side by side on two screens - to a set of slides that have already become 'historical documents' as they were taken some few years ago, but show in full colour a contemporary view of this historic village.

This presentation will enable members and friends to visit Hale and to see the village today, and know how it looked in both the recent and distant past. You might be surprised how much some, and how little other parts of the village have changed over the years. A brief commentary with just a few dates, several anecdotes, and other stories of village life should make this an interesting evening.

The meeting takes place in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road (off Gateacre Brow), Liverpool 25, on TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER, starting at 8 pm, and all interested are welcome to attend.

Another footpath threatened?

We have previously reported that some of our local public rights of way have been extinguished: i.e. Broad Hey Close (July 2000 Newsletter), and Ashton Square (September 2001). Further closures have been proposed, in an attempt to 'prevent' - or, more probably, divert - the anti-social behaviour by a small minority of young people which is, unfortunately, a fact of modern life.

The latest example is the path which connects Sandfield Road with Glenville Close, and which also forms part of a very pleasant, convenient and relatively traffic-free route for pedestrians between Woolton and Gateacre villages, linking (amongst other destinations) Sainsburys supermarket, Woolton Primary and Gateacre Comprehensive Schools. We managed to avert a similar threat to this path several years ago, with the assistance of our then local councillors, and since that time it has been re-surfaced and improved. However, we understand that, following receipt of a petition from local residents, the Council has recently undertaken pedestrian counts to find out how well the path is used. The next step will be to officially advertise the proposed closure, and invite objections.

If you have any views to express, or simply wish to be kept informed, please contact our member Mr Ellis Venables: tel. 428 4167. We hope to convince the Council of the value of this long-established right of way, before they spend (our) money on the necessary legal processes. It would therefore be a great help if regular users of the path could write to Mr Brian Mason, of Liverpool City Council's Road and Transport Division, at Millennium House, Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JS, as soon as possible - and send a copy, please, to Mr Venables at 10 Gateacre Rise, L25 5LA.