

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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Officers for 2001/02

Chairman: Tony McCann
Vice Chairman: Brian Doman
Hon.Secretary: *Post vacant*
Hon.Treasurer: Eryl Chitty
Membership Sec.: Beryl Plent, 27 Grange Lane, L25 4RZ (428 5379)
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Membership Subscriptions

Individual £2 Pensioner £1 Family £3 Two pensioners £1.50
Company, etc. £5 (all plus £1.50 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? Please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If the label reads '31/10/01', 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.



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - May 2002

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 21st May at
8 p.m., in Gateacre
Chapel Hall,

Liverpool's CHINATOWN

Liverpool has the oldest-established Chinese community in Europe. John Edwards will talk about how the Chinese came to settle in Liverpool, the troubles they encountered, and their way of life in and around Pitt Street. He will bring the story up to date with a mention of the new Chinese Arch in Nelson Street, and the community festivals which still take place.



A talk with
slides by
JOHN

ALL WELCOME -
Gateacre Society
members free,
visitors 50p

LIONEL SHEPHERD

We are sorry to report that Lionel Shepherd, who served on our Committee for a number of years and was latterly an Honorary Life Member of the Gateacre Society, died on 29th April following a major operation. Although usually described as the 'caretaker' of Gateacre Chapel, Lionel was much more than that. He took on the post at the age of 55, when others would have been thinking of retiring. 34 years later, until almost the day of his death, he was still working - still looking after the Chapel and Hall, and helping with our plans for future events. A familiar and friendly face both at our meetings and around the village, Lionel was always ready to chat and to offer help to others. We shall miss him, and our condolences go to Gertie and the rest of the family.

AINTREE & ORRELL PARK IN OLD POSTCARDS

A review of our March meeting *by Mary Champion*

Peter Woolley gave us a fascinating talk and slide show on Tuesday 19th March. Peter is a deltiologist - a new word for most of us - meaning a collector of picture postcards. His interest in the subject began over twenty years ago, when he was in the Bootle police force. One day he came across an old picture postcard in an antique shop in Hawthorne Road - and discovered that whole albums could be picked up quite cheaply.

He told us that in the 1860s, when people went away and wanted to write home, they could buy photographs with room for a message. Then proper postcards came in. Peter founded the Merseyside Postcard Club 21 years ago and became very keen. A publisher later wanted to turn his Bootle collection into a book. Further volumes followed - including postcards of Liverpool city and docks. Altogether he has written eight books on the subject.

Peter's idea was to take us on a journey by postcard from Liverpool Exchange station to Aintree. He showed slides made from old postcards, then slides of the same place today. There was a wonderful picture of Exchange Station with 8 or 9 platforms, with frequent trains to Southport and main-line trains to Scotland. Outside in the street we saw horse-drawn traffic and straw-hatted men. Today's shots showed endless cars - and more people.

Arriving at Aintree we saw postcards of the Cheshire Lines Central Station with wonderful sleek coaches. The site of the station - on a line closed down by Beeching - is today an industrial estate. We heard of a shop in Aintree made of corrugated iron, and saw a slide of Aintree Station with a full-length canopy for Grand National travellers. There was a good photograph of the old Sefton Arms pub with two police constables in the middle of the road directing traffic. We saw a postcard of a lovely tram, followed by a modern slide of a bus in the same place. We saw postcards of Prince Monolulu, the crowds heading towards the Grand National course, and one of the Railway Hotel - built for railway staff but later acquired by the Tophams to accommodate jockeys.

Heading in the direction of the Black Bull pub, Peter showed us a slide of a very old house on the corner of Melling Road, bought by Mirabelle Topham for her family, and a present-day slide of the catering establishment it has now become. We saw an old postcard of houses in Roosevelt Drive - prosperous looking and tidy - and a present-day slide showing them to be much the same. The modern slides, though, made us realise how very ordinary the shop-fronts in Warbreck Moor have become, in comparison with the old postcard scenes.

Reminders of the Grand National were never far away. It was good to see a postcard of St Peter's Church, Warbreck Moor, where tea and sandwiches were sold outside on race days. It was a fascinating evening - and Peter Woolley laced his commentary with Liverpool humour.

CHEESE & WINE AT THE BEAR & STAFF

A personal appreciation *by Beryl Plent*

What an air of conviviality greeted me when I arrived for our Cheese & Wine Evening on 9th April. The wine was flowing and there was a wide choice of excellent cheeses, an array of biscuits and fresh bread plus grapes on each table. We thank our hosts Yvonne and David for the hospitality extended so freely. I am sure many will return to savour the delights of the restaurant's extensive menu - such as baked trout stuffed with prawn and spring onion, or smoked duck lasagne with garlic bread, to mention but two.

PLANNING NEWS: On 18th April, following a site visit, the City Council's Planning Committee granted permission to Mr G.Chu to use 185 Grange Lane as a daytime cafe (8am-7pm only). Mr Chu had lodged an appeal against the Council's earlier refusal of his application for a takeaway - but this appeal has now been withdrawn.



JUBILEE DAYS in Gateacre



On Tuesday 24th May 1887, Sir Andrew Barclay Walker presented the Gateacre Institute, the Village Green and a bronze bust of Queen Victoria to the people of Gateacre, to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. This is how the Liverpool Daily Post described the scene:

"The village was tastefully and elaborately decorated. The village green was literally covered with flags, and the different thoroughfares were spanned with numerous streamers, while from almost every house bunting was profusely displayed. The decorations in front of the Bull Hotel were most attractive. The front of the building was covered with evergreens, in which were interwoven with leaves the following words 'God bless our Queen'. From several other large buildings appropriate mottoes were exhibited, and no matter from which direction the village was entered, the spectacle was exceedingly pleasing and gay."

On SATURDAY 1st JUNE 2002, the Gateacre Society will be marking the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with an event on the same Village Green, alongside the bust of Queen Victoria. We cannot reproduce the pomp, pageantry and splendour of the 1887 event - though reprints of the full Daily Post article will be on sale! We shall, however, be celebrating the Society's achievements, promoting our aims and activities, recruiting new members, and offering a range of merchandise for sale: Gateacre Village tea towels, framed pictures of old Gateacre scenes, various historical publications, hand-crafted scarves and woollen dolls, together with a selection of plants and secondhand books, etc. We hope that as many people as possible will come and see us - between 11am and 4pm. (In the event of inclement weather, an alternative venue will be signposted).

PLEASE NOTE:

DONATIONS of books, videos and CDs for the secondhand stall will be very welcome. Bring them along to the Green on 18th May (10.30-11.30am), to our meeting in the Chapel Hall on 21st May (8pm), or phone Mrs Eryl Chitty (428 7801) who is co-ordinating the event and will be pleased to arrange collection or advise on delivery.

HELPERS are also needed to man the various stalls on the day. The more people we have, the easier it will be for those involved. Even if you have never helped us before, please think about supporting this very special event. Eryl Chitty is drawing up the list of volunteers - so please phone her on 428 7801 if you are willing to be included.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 18th May - CLEANING THE GREEN. In preparation for the Jubilee event, we shall be tidying the Green and giving the Queen her annual waxing. Please meet outside the Black Bull at 10.30 am, with gardening gloves and any tools you feel would be useful.

Saturday 6th July - COACH TRIP TO STOCKPORT. Our friends the Wavertree Society are organising a visit to the unique World War 2 Air Raid Shelters and the Hat Works Museum in Stockport, and have invited us to join them. Subject to numbers, the coach will pick up outside Gateacre Chapel. The provisional cost of travel and admission is £12 a head. If you are interested, please phone Mike Chitty on 428 7801.