

## THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Website: [www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk/gatsoc](http://www.liverpool.ndo.co.uk/gatsoc)

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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)  
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 £1.50 postage if outside hand-delivery area)

### Already a member?

Your address label indicates the date on which your membership expires. You may pay for up to three years in advance if you wish.

**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 - July 2002

**OUR NEXT  
EVENT:  
Tuesday  
9th July**

**In search of Diddy Men and Little Bongs ...  
Jam Butty Mines and Nelson's Column ...**

## EXPLORING KNOTTY ASH

**in the company of a MerseyGuide**

Many people outside Merseyside believe Knotty Ash to be a figment of Ken Dodd's vivid imagination - but of course we all know it to be a real place with a long history. PAM KRUEGER will show us round, on foot, separating the fact from the fiction and pointing out some of the more interesting features of this 'lost village' of Liverpool.



**Meet at the corner of Brookside Avenue and East Prescott Road,  
Liverpool L14, ready for a 7.30 p.m. start**

NO CHARGE - BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT IS ONLY  
OPEN TO PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

# LIVERPOOL'S CHINATOWN

A review of our May meeting by *Mary Champion*

On Tuesday 21st May, John Edwards gave us an interesting talk on Chinatown, with some good slides. He told us that there used to be a mystique about the area, and rumours of opium smoking, gambling dens and 'lurking dangers' - all fictitious, he said.

The Chinese came to Liverpool after Liverpool ships went to the Orient in 1834 and returned crewed by Chinese sailors. Gradually boarding-houses, shops and restaurants were opened by them in Cleveland Square, and Pitt Street was taken over by Chinese grocery shops. Mr Edwards commented that we never see Chinamen with pigtailed now. He explained how at one time women with small feet - achieved by binding them - were greatly admired, but this foot-binding was forbidden in 1912. During World War II there were 30,000 Chinese people in Liverpool, but Chinatown was destroyed. The inhabitants moved to Bedford Street, Nelson Street and Great George Square. A Chinese village was planned after the war, but was shelved for lack of money.

We were also told about the advent of Chinese laundries. After World War II there were 100 of these in the city, but now there is only one: G. Leong in Penny Lane. There are also souvenir shops, restaurants, martial-arts shops, a supermarket in Berry Street and a fine new restaurant, the Tai Pan, over another supermarket in Great Howard Street. We saw slides of Chinese Arches around the world, and at last Liverpool has one in Nelson Street - very attractive it is, too.

We finished the evening with some slides of Chinese characters, and a demonstration of how words are built up. We were a bit slow, but soon began to get the hang of it! Altogether, this was a very good and instructive evening.

## PLANNING NEWS

### PINE TREES SAVED

We have been notified by the City Council's Planning Department that the application to fell four pine trees in Hunts Cross Avenue (reported in our March Newsletter) has been REFUSED. We are still waiting to hear whether any action is to be taken against the owner for failing to protect them during the house construction period.

### A MORRISON'S FOR BELLE VALE

Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc have ended months of speculation by submitting detailed plans for a new foodstore on the site of the derelict Newforge Foods (Spam) factory. A deal has apparently been signed between the City Council and St Modwen Properties plc to develop the site and refurbish the adjacent surface car park, so as to benefit both the new store and the existing Belle Vale Shopping Centre. A petrol station - to be accessed from Besford Road - is still proposed behind the shops/flats in Belle Vale Road, despite our previous objections. But the pedestrian access arrangements to the store from the Station Road/Redwood Estate footpath - which we also commented upon - have been greatly improved since the original outline plans were drawn up in 1999. The current planning application (ref. 02F/1638) is available for inspection at the City Council's offices: Millennium House, Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JF.

# A JUBILEE THANK-YOU

After many weeks of planning, and anxious eyes on the weather, Saturday 1st June dawned bright and the sun shone all day. It was the start of the Queen's Golden Jubilee weekend, and the day chosen for our own celebration on the village green. We welcomed lots of Society members old and new to our stalls arranged around the Queen Victoria monument, and a steady trickle of passers-by attracted by the colourful bunting strung between the trees. It was gratifying that so many members willingly gave up their time to help out. The original idea was simply to promote the name and achievements of the Society, and also to remind local residents that the Green - along with the bust of the Queen, and the Institute in Grange Lane - was given to the people of Gateacre in honour of a previous Golden Jubilee: Queen Victoria's in 1887. (The donor was the wealthy brewer Sir Andrew Barclay Walker, not the Queen herself as erroneously reported in Merseymart!). But the event also proved to be a useful fund-raiser, as our souvenir history packs, tea-towels and framed prints were in great demand all day - as were the plants, books and other items which had been donated by members for sale.

**Our grateful thanks** go to:

- ◆ The Bear & Staff, for donating bunting.
- ◆ The Gateacre Institute, for putting up the bunting on the Saturday morning and taking it down again at the end of the long Jubilee weekend.
- ◆ Woolton Conservative Club, for the loan of the tables.
- ◆ E.H. Williams Garden Centre, for donating bedding-plants.
- ◆ Gateacre Chapel, for 'standing by' with the offer of indoor accommodation - our insurance against bad weather!

And finally, everyone who helped on the day to make the event such a success.

## HOW THEY DID IT IN 1887

Here are some more extracts from the LIVERPOOL DAILY POST's account, published on 25th May 1887, of Gateacre's lavish Golden Jubilee celebrations (see last Newsletter):

"Mr E. Healy then, in the name of the Local Board, presented Sir A.B. Walker with a beautiful illuminated address ... Sir A.B. Walker, in accepting the address, said he appreciated highly the honour they had conferred upon him ... It had been a source of great gratification to him to have been able to do what he had done. ...

"Mr Clarke Aspinall said it had been truly remarked that Sir A.B. Walker had great wealth, but he had with it a great heart, ... Sir Andrew by dint of indomitable industry and manliness and Christian Spirit had made for himself a place in the first rank of English citizenship (applause) and had entwined himself around the hearts and affections of the people (applause).

"The ceremony then concluded, and the crowd proceeded to the lawn, where athletic sports were engaged in during the remainder of the afternoon. In the evening there was a beautiful display of fireworks in the village. The whole proceedings passed off most successfully, excellent order being maintained by a body of twenty constables under the command of Inspector Mayoh."

**You can read the whole of this account of the 1887 Jubilee celebrations in our new publication: 'How Gateacre got its Queen', priced at 30p. We have also produced a 'Brief History of Gateacre' and a reprint of the 1907 Ordnance Survey map of Gateacre Village, at 10p each. Please contact Mike Chitty (tel. 428 7801) if you wish to purchase any of these items - which will also be on sale at future meetings.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BEAR & STAFF

"Dear Neighbours,  
We are hoping to hold a Charity Jazz Festival on Sunday 4th August this year. All proceeds will be going to Radio City's 'Give a Child a Chance'. The event will be taking place outside in our beer garden and will be going on throughout the day until early evening. Hopefully, with everyone's support, this event will be a great success. If you have any queries please contact either James or Clare at The Bear & Staff on 0151 428 2526.  
Thank you!"