

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'

Website: www.gatsoc.org.uk E-mail: info@gatsoc.org.uk

Officers for 2002/03

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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. PLEASE NOTE that if the date on the label is 31/10/02, your subscription for the year 2002/03 is NOW DUE.

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 - January 2003



Our January meeting:

BELFAST AT PEACE

**An illustrated talk
by Alan Kennedy**

Tuesday 28th January in the
Gateacre Chapel Hall, 8 pm

The Minister of Gateacre Chapel, Rev. Alan Kennedy, hails from Northern Ireland. Alan is also a member of the Gateacre Society's Executive Committee, and we have invited him to speak to us on a subject of his own choosing. He has opted for *'Belfast at peace: A selection of slides showing the positive side of Northern Ireland's capital city'*.

The talk will take place in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road (off Gateacre Brow), L25, on Tuesday 28th January, starting at 8 o'clock.

ALL WELCOME - VISITORS 50p



Liverpool
City Council
invites you to a
**PLANNING
WORKSHOP**
on Tuesday
21st January
at the Millennium
Centre, Belle Vale,
starting at 6 pm

This event - which is expected to last about two hours - forms part of the public consultation process on the city's new Unitary Development Plan. (See inside for further details).

Depending on numbers, up to three groups of local residents will work on a large format map of the area. They will be asked to identify those things which they dislike or consider a weakness of the area, and those things which they value and consider a strength. Finally, they will be asked to suggest ways of dealing with the dislikes, and making the good things better - or perhaps something entirely different to bring positive change to the area.

PRIVATE PALACES OF LONDON

A Review of our November meeting *by Mary Champion*

On Tuesday 12th November 2002 Mike Murphy, a retired history teacher, talked to us about the the great houses of London: their rise, flourishing and decline.

In the 16th century there were 17 palaces in London - very imposing residences with lots of servants, which must have cost a fortune. These belonged to the nobility and were mostly in Westminster - the seat of government. Bishops also began to have houses on a grand scale. The Bishop of London lived at Lambeth Palace, and there were other palaces in the Strand and York Place, which were not required after the Reformation. The Civil War confused everything, but afterwards the great Lords moved into London and needed vast houses. Clarendon's daughter Anne Hyde married the Duke of York, later to become King James II. The Northumberland family moved into Northumberland House. Land was leased from the Crown for properties to be built.

In the 18th century Mayfair was developed, and great families also moved into Great Russell Street and Euston. The plan of the houses would be offices on the ground floor, living area on the first floor, bedrooms on the second floor and the servants' bedrooms on the third floor. The 19th century saw the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, infamous for the Highland Clearances. Auspicious marriages provided the money for many houses - e.g. the Duke of Marlborough marrying the rich heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt. The Devonshires and Dorchesters gave magnificent house parties.

Then came 1914 and the First World War. Many heirs were killed, income tax increased and the upkeep of these wonderful places became hard. Lord Lansdowne sold his house in 1924 and others followed. Grosvenor House, with its beautiful ceilings, went in 1931. A number of the houses took on other roles. Marlborough House became the home of Queen Mary. Lancaster House was given to the Nation. Crewe House became the Saudi Embassy. Lansdowne House became a Club. Dorchester House became a hotel. Leicester House became the Odeon Leicester Square. Burlington House became the Royal Academy. Spencer House survives and is now let out for prestigious events. But many houses were demolished and the land used for other purposes.

To finish his talk, Mike Murphy showed us some black and white transparencies: photographs of the some of the houses together with old prints and architectural drawings. A fascinating evening.

AMENDED PLANS for Belle Vale Road

Following our objection to the siting of the proposed flats (see last Newsletter) the block has been realigned slightly and will now be set further back from the road at the western end. The new plans also show additional tree-planting in the car park at the rear, improved pedestrian access arrangements to the flats and a security gate across the entrance to the car park. The application will be considered by the City Council's Planning Committee on 14th January.

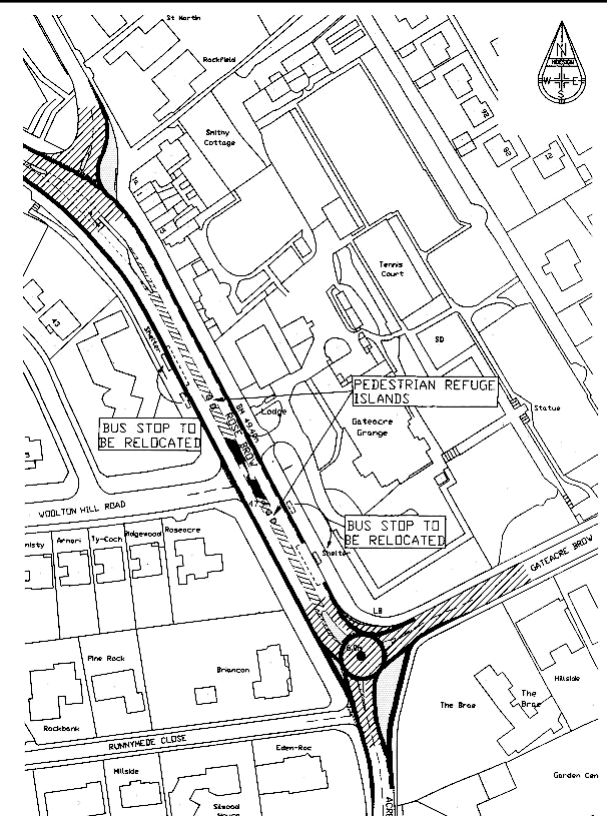
TRYING AGAIN for a Takeaway

The owner of the 'Rising Sun' Chinese café (see our September Newsletter) has now applied for planning permission to sell takeaway food, and to remain open until 10.30 pm instead of the currently-permitted 7 o'clock. We have lodged an objection, feeling that a second takeaway in the village will exacerbate the existing problems of litter and hazardous parking of vehicles in Grange Lane.

A MINI-ROUNDBABOUT for Rose Brow

The City Council is intending to narrow the carriageway of Rose Brow and Acrefield Road at the Gateacre Brow junction, in order to slow down the traffic, make better provision for cyclists and pedestrians, and to make it easier for cars to turn right (at the top of the Brow) towards Woolton Road/Woolton Hill Road. The detailed plans were displayed at our AGM in October, and a much-reduced copy of the engineer's drawing is reproduced here for the information of members.

(The black lines are cycle lanes)



A NEW U.D.P. for Liverpool

The letters UDP stand for 'Unitary Development Plan': the document - a map of the city plus a set of written policies - which will form the basis of future planning decisions in Liverpool. We do, in fact, already have a UDP (the Gateacre Society having been among the organisations and individuals who commented on it when it was first drafted) but it took eight years to produce and is, as a result, out of date. Now the Council's planning officers are working on a replacement - and are hoping that this time the job will be completed both more quickly and more in line with what the people of Liverpool actually want.

An 'Issues Paper' has been published, and a 'Response Booklet' which invites answers to a whole series of questions on topics such as housing, the city centre, transport, economic regeneration and the environment. There will also be a series of public meetings and 'workshops' at which local people can put forward their points of view. The one for Gateacre (also covering Netherley and Woolton) will take place on Tuesday 21st January, starting at 6 pm, at the Millennium Centre, Childwall Valley Road, L25: the new building to the west of the Belle Vale Road traffic lights.

Anyone interested is invited to attend - or to contact Mike Eccles at the City Council for further details: phone 233 5653, e-mail udpreview@liverpool.gov.uk