

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

*'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'*

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

## Officers for 2002/03

Chairman: Tony McCann  
Vice Chairman: Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)  
Hon.Secretary: Joan Gadd, 59 Hunts Cross Avenue, L25 5NU (428 8884)  
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?

To find out whether you are a paid-up member of the Gateacre Society, please check your address label, which indicates your membership expiry date (e.g. 31/10/03).

## Not a member? Want to join us?

If you wish to join the Society - or to renew - please send the appropriate annual subscription to the Membership Secretary: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.



# The Gateacre Society

*Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity*

## NEWSLETTER - September 2003

*Forthcoming events:*

# HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND

13th-14th September

Each September the Civic Trust encourages the owners of historic properties throughout the country to open their doors to the public free of charge.

This year the Gateacre Society has arranged for **28a-d Gateacre Brow** (the black-and-white building on the corner of Sandfield Road) to be part of this scheme. We are grateful to the owner, Mr Alan Hutchinson, for allowing us to welcome visitors on **SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER between 11am and 4pm**, and to explain the historical and architectural significance of the building (see overleaf).

**Gateacre Chapel**, next door, will be open to visitors at the same time (11am-4pm on the Saturday) and there will be refreshments available in the Chapel Hall. On **Sunday 14th September** there will be a '1700 style' service - open to all, period costume optional - starting at 11am.



## A LIVERPOOL QUIZ EVENING

**Tuesday 23rd September at 8 pm**

Our Environment Secretary Mike Chitty has lived in Liverpool for 30 years, and during that time has accumulated a large collection of colour slides of the city's buildings, open spaces, people and events. Rather than give a simple talk based around these slides, he has opted to present them in the form of a picture quiz.

Who? What? Where? Why? Come along to **Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, L25** at 8pm on **TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER** and see how much you remember about Liverpool's recent past. We anticipate dividing the audience into teams of 4 - just a bit of fun, but with a prize on offer to the winning team.

*All are welcome to attend - Gateacre Society members free of charge, friends and visitors 50p.*

# Heritage Environment of Liverpool Project

A review by Alan Kennedy

On the 20th May, John Stonard of English Heritage gave us a very informative and detailed talk on the Historic Environment of Liverpool Project (HELP). Many aims and objectives have been identified to direct the project, but they can best be summed up in these words, "To promote the appreciation of Liverpool's diverse historic environment and to ensure that it is adopted as a dynamic part of the City's future and as a basis of a sustainable strategy for its long term regeneration and conservation."

The three-year project was launched in March 2002 with a range of initiatives:

- HERITAGE MAPPING - A major programme of heritage mapping as a basis for regeneration, tourism and education, publications and exhibitions.
  - BUILDINGS AT RISK - A Buildings at Risk strategy and action plan to prevent decay and collapse.
  - WORLD HERITAGE - A World Heritage Site management plan, and a basis for Liverpool's bid for WHS status.
  - PUBLIC OPINION - A survey of attitudes to inform planners of what is valued and requires safeguarding.
  - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - A conference to explore the role of the historic environment in the regeneration of port cities.
  - PEVSNER AND BLUE PLAQUES - A Blue Plaques guidebook, and a new Buildings of England (Pevsner) Guide for Liverpool to be funded.
  - RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS - Development of resource materials for schools etc., wishing to use the historic environment as part of the national curriculum.
- During the life of HELP, English Heritage will be working with several other bodies and individuals. Mr Stonard invited anyone interested to contact the project office on 0161 242 1400.

## ABOUT 28A-D GATEACRE BROW

*(Open to the public on  
13th September, 11am  
-4pm as part of  
Heritage Open  
Weekend - see front  
page).*

This intriguing building on the corner of Sandfield Road was designed in 1889 by W. Aubrey Thomas - who later went on to design the Royal Liver Building and other Liverpool landmarks.

It originally housed a telephone exchange on the first floor, above a shop which later became a branch of Parrs Bank.

Although the present-day interior is of little historic interest, we feel sure that members will appreciate the opportunity to visit this Grade II listed building - which is now the head office of Mr Alan Hutchinson's asbestos removal company - at the heart of the Gateacre Village Conservation Area.

## PLANNING UPDATE

On 14th August the City Council granted Tree Works Consent for the felling of two limes at the rear of **7 CHARTMOUNT WAY**. We had opposed this application, but the Council accepted the owner's argument that the trees were potentially hazardous. The other two limes in the same garden are to be pruned by a qualified tree surgeon.

Following a site visit on 19th August, the City Council's Planning Committee granted permission for the temporary classrooms and car parking area at the north end of **GATEACRE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL** to be retained for a further period - but only until 31st July 2004 rather than 2006 as recommended by Council officers. The site will then have to be returned to its original 'grass turfed' condition. A decision on

the similar application for the south end of the School was deferred pending further discussion with local residents.

On 26th August the Planning Committee reconsidered Mr Chu's application to open the Rising Sun Café, **185 GRANGE LANE**, during the evening (until 10pm) and as a takeaway, rather than solely as a daytime café. The Committee decided to grant planning permission on a temporary basis - until 29th February next - so as to allow the traffic and environmental impact to be assessed. Strong objections to the application had been made by local residents, the Society, and Councillor Collinge, and we would urge members to report any problems which may arise as a result of the extended use.

Also in late August, we were notified that -

following refusal of his application to fell two pine trees on **Plot A, HUNTS CROSS AVENUE** - the owner had appealed against the decision to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. A planning inspector will now visit the site and consider the evidence, including our own detailed account of the long and unfortunate saga which has led to these fine trees being threatened. We feel that this will be something of a test case for tree preservation in Liverpool, and we hope that it will encourage the Council to take its responsibilities more seriously in future.

## MORE FLATS FOR GATEACRE?

The boom in the local property market is being reflected in further planning applications for residential development in Gateacre village.

Application 030/2203 seeks permission for a two-storey block of 10 flats on the site of Michael Taylor Cars at 167-169 Grange Lane, following demolition of the existing petrol station buildings. The application is for outline planning permission, so there are no drawings of the proposed elevations, and no details of the exact siting of the new block.

Application 03F/2571 is for a three-storey block of 12 apartments on the site of Hillside and Atalaya at the top of Gateacre Brow, following demolition of these two existing houses. The submitted drawings show a bulky-looking building in the style of a Georgian/Victorian stepped terrace (see picture on right, reproduced by permission of the architects), with 17 car parking spaces behind.



Any comments on either of these proposals should be addressed, without delay, to the City Council's Planning & Building Control Department, P.O.Box 88, Municipal Buildings, Liverpool L69 2DH. For further details phone 233 5641.

## OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 29th A.G.M. of the Gateacre Society will be held on **TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2003** in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, L25, starting at 8pm. Please make a note of the date in your diary - and please make every effort to attend this important meeting.