

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'

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

Officers for 2003/04

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

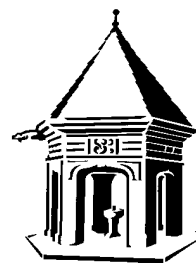
Household £3 Single pensioner £2 Company, etc. £5
(all plus £1.50 postage if outside hand-delivery area)
You may pay for up to three years in advance, if you wish, at these annual rates.

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. 31/10/04).

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, Mrs Beryl Plent: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - May 2004

Our next meeting:

Civic Societies WORKING TOGETHER in the North West

A talk by Stephen Langtree
on Tuesday 25th May at 8 p.m.
in Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road, Liverpool L25

Stephen Langtree is Chairman of NW.ACTS - the North West Association of Civic Trust Societies. This recently-established body aims to encourage local societies like ours to share ideas and to learn from one another's experience. The Gateacre Society celebrates its 30th birthday this year, and throughout that time we have displayed the words 'Registered with the Civic Trust' on our letterhead. What does this mean? What does the Civic Trust do? What projects do other 'registered' civic societies undertake, that we do not? Mr Langtree will attempt to answer questions such as these, based on his knowledge and experience of civic societies in the North West of England.

ALL WELCOME -
Gateacre Society members
free of charge - Visitors 50p

Let's Get Gateacre Blooming!

As a result of the Public Meeting held on 31st March, an enthusiastic group of local residents has now taken on the task of preparing Gateacre Village for the North West in Bloom competition. Various planters and hanging baskets should soon begin to appear in Gateacre Brow, Sandfield Road, and the 'conservation area' sections of Grange Lane, Belle Vale Road and Halewood Road. A list of 'grot spots' has been drawn up, and discussions held with City Council officers with a view to these being dealt with and other local improvements made.

The new group has adopted the name 'FRIENDS OF GATEACRE', and members have been very active in visiting local traders, public houses and schools to enlist their support. They will also be appealing for funds from various charitable sources. If you would like to take part - or know of any organisation which may be willing to assist financially - please contact Cllr Barbara Mace on 281 3453 or Cllr Barbara Collinge on 722 6862.

Coach Trip to NOTTINGHAM - it's 'first come, first served'

In our last Newsletter we gave advance notice of an outing to Nottingham, and more details were announced at our meeting on 30th March. The trip takes place on Saturday 19th June, leaving Gateacre Village at 9.30 a.m. and returning about 7.30 p.m. Members of the Nottingham Civic Society will give us a guided tour of their city, and a choice of guided walks round the city centre. The event has been organised jointly with the Wavertree Society, and very few tickets now remain. If you are interested, please telephone the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Eryl Chitty, on 428 7801. Please note that the trip is open to paid-up members only, and the cost is £10 per person (payable in advance).

Happy Family decision

On 1st April the City Council's Planning Committee decided to grant planning permission for evening opening and the sale of takeaway food at 185 Grange Lane, but only until 1st April 2005. This is 'in order to allow the local planning authority to assess the impact of the evening opening hours of the premises on parking and traffic in the area, in the interests of highway and pedestrian safety'.

LIVERPOOL 800

Owing to pressure of space in this issue, Mary Champion's review of our March talk has been held over until the next Newsletter.

Pevsner Guide on Sale

The new Pevsner Architectural Guide to Liverpool - written by Joseph Sharples who gave us an excellent talk in February - is due to be published on 20th May. We hope to have a limited supply for sale at our meeting on 25th May, price £9.99, alongside our usual range of books, leaflets and tea-towels.

'Plot A', Hunts Cross Avenue

It seems that, as well as damaging the supposedly 'protected' pine trees (see last Newsletter) the new house between 32 and 38 Hunts Cross Avenue has not been built in accordance with the approved drawings.

A retrospective planning application (ref. 04F/0751) has therefore been submitted to regularise the situation.

Merseytravel News

Last December we contacted Merseytravel with three separate enquiries:

1. When will the promised improvements be carried out to the Belle Vale (Hedgefield Road) bus facility? Will these include the provision of timetables in the correct locations, and maps showing which services go where?
2. Will the forthcoming EU-funded improvements to the 89 bus service also include the provision of Real-Time Passenger Information displays for route 174 in Gateacre Village? ('Real time' displays are radio-controlled and indicate what time the next bus will actually arrive, rather than what time it is due).
3. Why has there been such a lengthy delay in the replacement of the bus stops and shelters in Rose Brow, following the completion of the mini-roundabout scheme?

We finally managed to get some answers to these questions in March and April:

1. The Belle Vale scheme is currently being implemented. It will include access kerbs, new pedestrian signs and information boards, including a local area map.
2. Merseytravel have not yet taken 'a fundamental decision' on RTPI along the 89 route but 'clearly the 2 bus stops in Gateacre Village which are also serviced by the 173/174 would be a candidate'.
3. Two new 'fully accessible' shelters, with seating lighting and information, will be installed in Rose Brow by mid-June. They will be 'in our conservation colours, with grey being predominant'. (No explanation of the delay was offered, however).

Hillside & Atalaya - a case of maladministration?

On 1st April the City Council's Planning Committee granted planning permission for 10 flats (in two blocks) on the site of Hillside and Atalaya in Gateacre Brow. The decision was taken on the basis of revised plans, on which local residents had not been consulted. We were not even told about these new drawings, even though we had explicitly asked, back in January, to be notified. The day before the meeting, having read the Planning Officer's report recommending the granting of planning permission, we drew attention to a number of shortcomings in the report, which we felt gave a misleading impression of what was being proposed and of the impact which it would have on the locality. The Planning Department's response was an email: 'This application has been withdrawn from the agenda of 1 April Planning Committee. I will put your comments on file and the case officer will address the other issues raised upon his return from leave on 6 April. I hope this information is of help.'

As a result of this message, some local residents abandoned their plans to attend the meeting and voice their objections. It turned out, however, that the item had NOT in fact been withdrawn from the Agenda, and the decision was therefore taken in their absence. Formal complaints have since been lodged with the Council's Chief Executive, both by the Society and local residents, as a prelude to referring the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman.

SANDFIELD ROAD Action at Last

As a result of our December site meeting with City Council officers (see last Newsletter) the Council has now confirmed its intention of taking the following actions during the current financial year:

- ◆ To build out the existing eastern kerb line in Sandfield Road (around the junction with Gateacre Brow) so that the upper floor of 28b Gateacre Brow does not overhang into the live carriageway. "Additional bollards (in keeping with the conservation area status) may also be introduced to further highlight the necessity of keeping that area of the highway clear of vehicular traffic."
- ◆ To introduce further waiting restrictions on the northern side of Gateacre Brow. Approximately 30 metres of additional yellow lines (limiting waiting for either all or part of the day) would be provided. "These restrictions would serve to allow a greater turning arc for larger vehicles requiring access to Sandfield Road. However, the implementation of such restrictions is subject to public consultation."
- ◆ Informing any heavy goods vehicle operators, such as Travis Perkins and Onyx of the legal prohibition of reversing for longer than is necessary: Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, regulation 106. "On-site observations have revealed that there is sufficient room in the Travis Perkins yard for HGVs to turn around and exit Sandfield Road using a forward gear. This is obviously more conducive to road safety and less likely to damage property."