

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Founded 1974. Charity Registration No.508024.
'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'

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

Officers for 2003/04

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Membership Sec.: Beryl Plent, 27 Grange Lane, L25 4RZ (428 5379)
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& 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 - July 2004

Our next meeting:

The Work of THE LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE

An illustrated talk by David Stoker

on Tuesday 20th July at 8 p.m.
in Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road L25

The Liverpool Record Office (and Local Studies Library) is situated on the fourth floor of the Central Libraries complex in William Brown Street. Within the last few years it has undergone a dramatic transformation to make its collections more accessible both to the casual visitor and the regular researcher.

David Stoker, as City Archivist, is the man in charge and has agreed to talk to us about the facilities which are available. Whether you want to trace your family tree, study the history of your local area, or just browse through old newspaper cuttings, pictures or maps of Liverpool, this talk should be of great interest.

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

JUDGEMENT DAY is only the beginning!

On Friday 9th July, the North West in Bloom judges are due to visit Gateacre village, which has entered the competition for the very first time. A group of enthusiastic local residents, assisted by the City Council, have been organising the installation of planters and hanging baskets. Others have been busy with paint-brushes, mops and brooms. It has been a real community effort, and we are pleased that so many local businesses have agreed to participate or to make cash donations. We are also delighted to hear that pupils of Gateacre Comprehensive School will be giving Queen Victoria a much-needed wash and brush-up!

The good work will not end on 9th July, though. The new 'Friends of Gateacre' organisation - of which our Society is a Patron - will be raising funds during the coming months to pay both for future 'Gateacre in Bloom' displays and other community projects.

THE LIVERPOOL 800 PROJECT

A review of our March talk *by Mary Champion*

On 30th March Dr Jon Murden from the School of History at Liverpool University came with Professor John Belchem to talk to us about 'Liverpool 800'. This project, celebrating the 800th anniversary of Liverpool's first 'charter' from King John, will culminate in the publication in 2007 of a new work outlining the history and development of Liverpool.

Jon Murden, who is leading the project team, told us that they hope that people will come forward with ideas, and will feel a part of the finished history. The book - the first commissioned history of Liverpool since Professor Ramsay Muir's in 1907 - will highlight Liverpool's cultural and economic diversity, and will aim to get rid of misconceptions about the city.

Although 800 years old, Liverpool was hardly mentioned prior to the 17th century. But in the 18th and 19th centuries it developed an international reputation. Where did the people come from? (Liverpool has always been cosmopolitan). Where and how did they work? (Not all Liverpoolians were dockers or seamen). What were the social implications for a city dominated by mercantile rather than industrial capital?

Dr Murden said he hopes that the book will successfully grapple with the legacy of the slave trade and the troubled race relations of the 20th century. It will also discuss the complex nature of working class political activity and 'militancy' within the city.

Post-war Liverpool became a 'city of change and challenge', with declining employment in the docks and in firms processing imported raw materials. New outlying industrial communities were created, and urban renewal took place. The book will examine the over-dependence on satellite manufacturing plants in the 70s and 80s, and the public response to the rise of Militant.

Today, despite problems on some of the housing estates, the impact of prosperity is once again visible in Liverpool - in music, retailing, pubs, clubs, cinema, theatre, comedy, art and sport. All fuelled by affluence. Dr Murden said that the aim of the Liverpool 800 Project is not just to produce a definitive history, but also an accurate picture of where the city is today.

Did you get a GREEN LETTER?

PLEASE NOTE that if you received a green-coloured personalised reminder with the May Newsletter, and have not yet renewed your membership, this is the FINAL NEWSLETTER we shall be sending you.

The response so far has been good, but there are still quite a few 2003/04 subscriptions outstanding.

GATEACRE CHAT - give it a try!

With more and more people now using email and the internet, we thought it was time to add a Message Board facility to our website.

If you visit www.gatsoc.org.uk you can record your memories of old Gateacre or your views on current plans and projects, including Gateacre in Bloom. You can also post details of forthcoming local events which others may not be aware of.

WILLIAMS' NURSERY - 'Say No to Flats'

As most members will already know - thanks to the yellow banner displayed on Acrefield Road by a concerned resident - a planning application has been submitted by David Wilson Homes to build a total of 28 flats and 10 houses on the site of E.H. Williams' Gateacre Garden Centre. These would be partly accessed from Acrefield Road and partly from an extension of Glenville Close.

We have lodged a lengthy objection both to the loss of the existing nursery and to the form of new development proposed. We feel that the planned three-storey houses on the Acrefield Road frontage are too tall and too close to the road and would also threaten an existing horse chestnut tree. We feel that, overall, the site can comfortably accommodate no more than half the number of dwellings currently proposed. And we believe that, if residential redevelopment has to occur, the vehicular access should be from Hunts Cross Avenue rather than Glenville Close or Acrefield Road.

We asked David Wilson Homes for permission to reproduce their layout plan in our Newsletter and on our website, but they refused, saying that it is company policy not to make drawings available - except at Council offices. In this case they can be inspected at Millennium House, Victoria Street, Liverpool, the application reference number being 04F/1882.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY - advance notice

The Civic Trust's Heritage Open Weekend this year is 10th-13th September. Our contribution will be a 'Gateacre Society 30th Birthday Event' on the village green, on the afternoon of Saturday 11th September. The exact format has not yet been finalised but we expect to offer guided walks and talks, along with an exhibition featuring the Society's achievements since 1974. We shall also be inviting the Friends of Gateacre to promote their ideas for the future enhancement of the village. If you are able to lend a hand with this event, please contact any Committee member as soon as possible.

GATEACRE COMP - greenspace on the way back!

The temporary classrooms at the north end of Grange Lane have now been removed. The planning permission granted in August 2003 specified that the site was to be 'returned to its original grass turfed condition' by the end of July 2004, and we therefore look forward to seeing this restoration take place very soon.