

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)
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 - September 2004

Heritage Open Days 2004

CELEBRATING OUR 30th BIRTHDAY

On **Saturday 11th September** we are again participating in the Civic Trust's Heritage Open Days programme. Not having a specific building to 'show off' this year, we shall be featuring the **Village Green** (Grange Lane/Gateacre Brow) and the surrounding Conservation Area. The Gateacre Society was founded in 1974 so we are billing the event as our 30th birthday celebration.

Between 1 and 3 p.m. there will be sales and information tables alongside the Queen Victoria monument publicising the Society's achievements during its 30 year history and the more recent achievements - and future plans - of the 'Friends of Gateacre' organisation.

Mike Chitty will be leading one-hour **guided walks** around the village, starting from the Green at 1.30 and 3 p.m.

GATEACRE CHAPEL is also taking part in the Heritage Open Days scheme, being open to visitors on Saturday 11th September from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. - and also on Sunday 12th after a special service which starts at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be available in the Chapel Hall.

WE'RE IN THE FINAL!

In early August the Friends of Gateacre received the good news that Gateacre Village has won through to the final stage of the North West in Bloom competition. The awards ceremony takes place on 24th September at Old Trafford Cricket Ground, and will be attended by representatives of the Friends' committee. Councillors Barbara Collinge and Barbara Mace have written to all supporters as follows:

"Many congratulations go to everyone who has supported Gateacre's entry and especially to those who took an active part and worked tirelessly to improve the Village and achieve this prize. We have all seen how so many residents have joined together to make your bid a success and Gateacre has looked a picture throughout the summer.

We feel sure your success will be a springboard for long term improvements for the Village in future years."

A.G.M. DATE

Please make a note in your diary that the 30th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held on Tuesday 26th October 2004, at 8 p.m., in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, Liverpool L25. The various officers' reports, and the annual accounts, will be presented for approval, and nominations will be invited for membership of the Society's Executive Committee.

CIVIC SOCIETIES WORKING TOGETHER

A review of our May talk *by Mary Champion*

Stephen Langtree, the Chairman of the North West Association of Civic Trust Societies, came to speak to us on Tuesday 25th May. Stephen was brought up in Millom, went to Manchester University, and has since lived in Lancaster and Chester. He was Chairman of Chester Civic Trust for 8 years and its Secretary for 5 years.

Stephen explained that, in the late 1990s, the Civic Trust in London wanted civic societies to form regional associations. The North West region corresponds to the area covered by various government and other bodies - it is not dependent on the creation of an elected Regional Assembly. There are 95 civic societies in the North West and all are automatically part of NW.ACTS - which can therefore claim to represent their 22,000 members. The running costs are minimal and a grant of £2,000 per year is given by the Civic Trust. There are no staff and no headquarters, though there is a Constitution.

The main aim of the regional association is to get the local societies talking to and helping one another. There are 15 members on the NW.ACTS committee, comprising 3 from each of the 5 County areas. A great deal of networking is undertaken, and several common interests have already been identified. Almost by definition, civic societies are parochial and tend not to get involved with the rest of the region. A survey is being undertaken by NW.ACTS on how they fund themselves, and how they liaise with local councillors, schools and the business community.

Stephen highlighted the fact that most members of civic societies are middle aged to elderly - and they are sometimes seen as out of touch with 'the community'. Some societies, however, have got involved with their local primary schools. The Civic Trust has a scheme called the Pathfinder Training Programme, and Committee members of local societies are also encouraged to attend various seminars, taking advantage of subsidised places for which NW.ACTS has managed to obtain sponsorship.

Stephen concluded his talk by outlining the role of the national Civic Trust. It responds to government consultation documents (25 already, so far this year!) on behalf of all of us. Only about 30 people are employed, and the Trust has recently moved from Carlton House Terrace to Marylebone to save money. The success of the Trust in many ways rests with the regional associations, who are in a position both to develop 'friendly relationships' with bodies like the North West Development Agency and English Heritage, and to ensure that the views expressed by the Civic Trust reflect those of local societies such as our own.

FRIENDS OF GATEACRE - Quiz Evening

at the Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane, on Friday 17th September.

This is both a fund-raising and a social event, and tickets are available price £3 from Lynn Cheng (phone 222 4006).

Gateacre in Bloom 2004

The visit of the 'North West in Bloom' judges *recalled by Beryl Plent*

The morning of Friday July 9th was overcast and chilly but, in spite of the lack of bright sunshine, the village centre sparkled. Never before in Gateacre had so much environmental maintenance been achieved in so short a time, thanks to the efforts of local ward councillors and a small but dedicated band of 'Friends of Gateacre' committee members.

With just two hours to impress the judges, the group set off from the village green, on a route encompassing Halewood Road, Belle Vale Road, Grange Lane, Chartmount Way, Gateacre Brow, Sandfield Road and Dale Mews. It wasn't all just about pretty flowers, though they were seen in abundance, but the overall appearance, attractiveness and cleanliness of the area. Our having so many listed buildings to show off must have helped.

Points were gained for participation by the local community, businesses and shopkeepers. There were at least half a dozen back and front gardens which were noted down and photographed by the judges. I could not but be amazed at the hard work, skill and patience of the gardeners involved - only pressure of time stopped us giving the attention they all deserved.

One example of a small detail which earned us a 'tick in a box' was the painting of an office door shiny black, to match the newly painted bollards which are such a feature of Gateacre. Choosing a favourite from the memorable gardens and flower displays on show, I found exceedingly difficult, but the hanging basket outside St Stephen's Court got full marks from me.

The headmaster, staff and pupils of Gateacre Comprehensive School had all played their part, by giving Queen Victoria's monument a good scrub and by turning out, the day before judging, in the pouring rain for a G-litter raid in and around the village. On our return to the Black Bull, for a welcome coffee, the judges were asked to choose 6 winners from the colourful artwork executed by 12 and 13 year old pupils.

I think the Gateacre Society can be proud of its role as a Patron of the 'Friends of Gateacre', whose first entry into the competition this was. We contributed historical information and maps to the portfolio which was presented to the judges. The photographs in this portfolio highlighted the progress of the Friends' campaign - and reminded us all how much had been achieved in just three months.

PLANNING NEWS

A planning application (ref.04F/2563) has been submitted to build two detached houses in the back gardens of 2 & 3 OAKFIELD TERRACE, Cuckoo Lane - accessed from Oakfield Avenue. We have submitted an objection, on the grounds that such development will spoil the character of Oakfield Terrace (which is a listed building) and lead to an unacceptable loss of the tree cover which is such a feature of this area and provides a valuable wildlife habitat. We also expressed concern about the proposed access arrangements.