

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

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

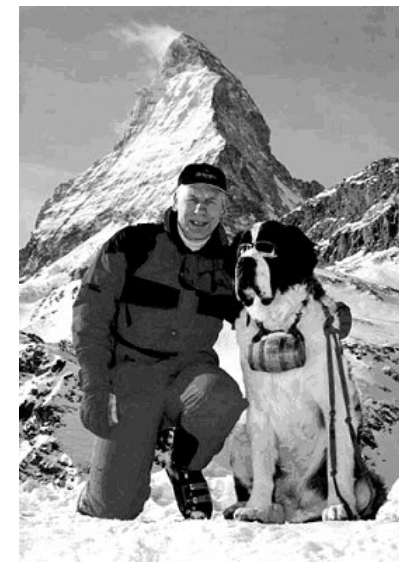
NEWSLETTER - October 2004

PEOPLE AND PLACES

A Pictorial Presentation

by Martin Reece MBE ARPS

on Tuesday 9th November at 8 p.m.
in Gateacre Chapel Hall,
Sandfield Road, Liverpool L25.



Martin Reece - a former President of the South Liverpool Photographic Society - is an award winning photographer, having been made an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society in 2003 following his documentary and visual journalism work on the Venice Carnival. He combines photography with his many other interests: walking, skiing, travel, music and architecture, to name but a few. His presentation to us - a series of pictures projected from a laptop computer - is entitled 'People and Places' and should include something for everyone. Many of the sequences are combined with appropriate music, to make them even more enjoyable to watch.

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

A.G.M. REMINDER

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will take place on **Tuesday 26th October**, starting at **8 p.m.**, in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road. Please come and join us to discuss the year's activities, approve the accounts and elect a new Committee. And afterwards, enjoy a glass of wine and a slice of our special 30th birthday cake! Members old and new are invited to attend this meeting. Those willing to volunteer for the Committee will be particularly welcome. Our usual selection of books, leaflets and tea-towels will be on sale.

THE WORK OF LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE

A review of our July talk *by Mary Champion*

David Stoker, the City Archivist, came to speak to us on Tuesday 20th July. His talk was interesting and informative, and made one want to visit the Record Office which is situated, with the Local Studies Library, on the fourth floor of the Central Libraries complex in William Brown Street.

The Record Office is open 7 days and 6 nights a week (66 hours in total) and has 40,000 visitors a year. It employs three archivists, one librarian and other support staff, including a conservator to do restoration work.

The work of the Office is varied. They continue to collect archives: for example they found consultants' records from the 1930s when a hospital was closing down. They look after collections for other organisations: for example they have been cataloguing Jewish Community records and have put them on a website. They get lots of enquiries, both written and by telephone. Family history is very popular, and unusual requests have included 'What is a Wet Nellie?'

The Liverpool Charter of 1207 is there to be seen, and other City records are available for research. 158,000 photographs are available to look at, some of the early ones being on glass plates. Examples include scenes of horse-drawn traffic at Mann Island, the Open Air Baths at the Pier Head, and the unveiling of the Edward VII statue, to name but a few. The Housing Department's records are very extensive, and we were shown some very good photographs of Gerard Gardens and houses in Speke.

There are Church Records (both Anglican and Roman Catholic - burials, marriages and baptisms), Poor Law records (Brownlow Hill Workhouse having been the largest Poor Law Institution in the land) and Cemetery records (both parochial and City). Also there are family records, including Lord Derby's papers which are in the process of being catalogued, and many fine maps, including Ordnance Survey maps from the mid-1800s onwards.

In the Local Studies Library the Electoral Registers from 1860-1970 are available, as are various theatre archives. There are 7,000 watercolours: as examples we were shown views of St Nicholas Church 1860, Smithdown Place 1945, and a fine picture of Cope's Tobacco Works.

David urged us to use the Record Office - and also to let the Office know if we have anything of interest to show them. The telephone numbers are 233 5817 (general enquiries) and 233 5811 (microfilm bookings). Or e-mail: recoffice.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk

PLANNING NEWS

The planning application to build two houses in the back gardens of 2 & 3 **Oakfield Terrace**, Cuckoo Lane (see last Newsletter) has been WITHDRAWN.

New planning applications within our area include the following:

Refs. 04F/3228, 04L/3230 & 04L/3231 - to extend and convert the **Woolton Redbourne Hotel** (main house) into 8 apartments, to convert the Lodge into 2 apartments, and to build a pair of dwellings on the site of the 'school house' in the rear garden.

Ref. 04F/3743 - to use the vacant shop at **1 Halewood Road** (i.e. the former Post Office) as a café.

These applications are available for inspection at Millennium House, 60 Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JF. Any comments should be sent to the Development Control Division, Liverpool City Council, P.O.Box 88, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2DH.

The good news for Gateacre - potentially - is that a so-called **MORATORIUM** on new residential development in Liverpool's southern suburbs came into force on 30th July. The City Council has approved a policy stating that planning permission for new houses or flats will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that the development will benefit the city's 'Pathfinder' area - essentially the area of Inner Liverpool which has the greatest social deprivation and housing need. It is difficult to see how proposals such as the Williams Nursery development (see our July Newsletter) can be said to comply with this policy.

Blooming Marvellous!

Gateacre did outstandingly well in the North West in Bloom competition this year. At its very first attempt, it won third prize in the 'Small Village' category - behind Heysham and Churchtown (Wyre).

This award is a tribute to the hard work of our local Councillors, Council officers and contractors - and, most of all, the group of village residents who have banded together as the 'Friends of Gateacre'. The Friends are already busy planning for 2005, and would welcome new members - especially volunteers who can help with potting plants, distributing leaflets, etc. (Please contact Lynn Cheng on 222 4006 if you wish to be put on the mailing list - even if you can offer help for only one hour or one day).

The Friends of Gateacre are also hoping to install Christmas trees and lights in the village this year. To raise funds for this and other future projects, they have produced a Christmas card featuring the Black Bull and village green under snow. Again, Lynn Cheng has the details.

GIFT AID

PLEASE SIGN UP!

We have received confirmation from the Inland Revenue that the Gateacre Society is eligible for Gift Aid. This means that, by completing a simple declaration, our members can enable us to reclaim money from the taxman: currently 28p for every £1 given to the Society in the form of subscriptions or donations.

All you have to do is to circle the word YES on your membership renewal form - and sign and date the form. We will do the rest. It will cost you nothing, and will not commit you to making any future donations. Even if you have already paid your subscription in advance, it's not too late for us to reclaim the tax - please ask for a special form at one of our meetings, or contact the Hon.Treasurer (428 7801).