

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

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## Officers for 2004/05

Chairman: Tony McCann  
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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. 31/10/05).

## 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 - January 2005

Our next meeting:

# AN ARCTIC CRUISE

An illustrated talk  
by Bill Wilcock

on Tuesday 1st February  
at 8 p.m.  
in Gateacre Chapel Hall

Our speaker, Mr Bill Wilcock, will use slides to escort us round the ship, then take us on a visit to the Faroe Islands and Iceland. We cross the Arctic Ocean to see the Midnight Sun, followed by two stops in Norway: at Tromso and Trondheim. Snatches of music, here and there, will enliven the presentation - which starts at 8 o'clock in the Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, Liverpool L25 (off Gateacre Brow).

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

## 'Friends of Gateacre' – Making Plans for 2005

The Committee which was set up to mastermind Gateacre in Bloom 2004 continues to meet every few weeks, and has a number of projects lined up for the coming year. Apart from the winter planting of tubs which has already taken place, there are plans for a map/leaflet featuring the history and 'sights' of the village, a Gateacre Gardens competition, a black-and-white chain fence around the Green in Grange Lane/Gateacre Brow - and, of course, a bigger and better Gateacre in Bloom 2005. The Friends are looking for local residents willing to help with these and other specific projects, and will be distributing a leaflet door-to-door appealing for volunteers.

## Christmas Lights

The Friends of Gateacre arranged the installation of Christmas trees on local business premises in November/December. Unfortunately the work was delayed, through no fault of theirs, but now that the brackets are in place (paid for by the Friends) it should be a simpler matter to organise future displays. The possibility of lights on the Green is also being investigated, though this is likely to cost much more than the funds currently available.

## PHOTOGRAPHING 'PEOPLE AND PLACES'

A review of our November talk *by Mary Champion*

On Tuesday 9th November 2004, Martin Reece MBE ARPS came to the Gateacre Chapel Hall to give us a pictorial presentation entitled 'People and Places'. He is a most skilled photographer, using a Canon digital camera. His interests are wide and this was reflected in the pictures we saw. Many of them were accompanied by music - like a wonderful cinema show.

Martin began life in Lincoln, where his father was in the Fire Service. Martin moved eventually to Liverpool, he too was in the Fire Brigade until retiring 2½ years ago. He was invested with the MBE in recognition of his work for the Fire Service Benevolent Fund.

We saw a wide range of excellent pictures of Liverpool: firefighters and fire engines, the Liver Buildings by night, an Elvis impersonator at the Mathew Street Festival, the Palm House, an Art Deco window at the old airport. Then some magnificent studies taken at Knowsley Safari Park: an elephant's skin, eyelashes and face, a group of deer and a superb tiger. We moved to Regents Park and saw herons, then to a Gloucestershire bird sanctuary for studies of birds of prey and owls. Then brilliant photographs of the Red Arrows and other aircraft - including a Stealth bomber - at the Fairford Air Tattoo.

Martin took us on a cruising holiday to Norway, and across the Arctic Circle. He showed us Northumbria, including wonderful studies of the 'Angel of the North' and Dunstanburgh Castle. He took us skiing to Zermatt, with striking pictures of the Matterhorn, a St Bernard dog, snow scenes, icicles and a study of skis outside a mountain hut.

Perhaps the most spectacular shots were of the Venice Carnival. Misty pictures of the Salute, the canals and many studies of masked, richly-costumed people taking part in the carnival. St Mark's Square, packed with visitors, contrasted with late-afternoon reflections in the canals.

This was a show to remember - and this account is just a 'taster'. We saw, and heard, much more. Thank you Martin.

## FAREWELL ALAN

We were sorry to say goodbye to the Rev. Alan Kennedy, who left for pastures new in Newcastle-upon-Tyne just before Christmas. Alan was not just the Minister of Gateacre Chapel - he did much to involve himself in the community, and was for two years a Committee member of our Society.

## More on the 'Moratorium'

The temporary embargo on new housing development outside the inner-city Pathfinder area (see last Newsletter) is to be superseded by a Supplementary Planning Document, a draft of which was issued by the City Council in November. We were consulted on this, and submitted a number of comments which we hope will be reflected in the final version. We are supportive of the ban on housebuilding in the southern and eastern suburbs, and in favour of some of the proposed exemptions: for example permitting the conversion of listed buildings where necessary to ensure their conservation. We are worried, however, that some of the other 'loopholes' in the new policy could be exploited by profit-seeking developers. We have pointed out that there are already plenty of secondhand houses available in the Woolton/Gateacre area to satisfy the demand for 'up-market' family accommodation, and the proposal to allow "the provision of ... houses of 4 bedrooms or more, at lower densities" in such areas may have undesirable consequences.

## PLANNING NEWS

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of **28 Gateacre Brow** - the former Joan Molyneux hair salon - into a double-glazing showroom for Fairview Windows Ltd. A conservatory and small extension will be built at the rear, but the approved plans do not indicate any changes to the front elevation apart from a new front door and a simple painted fascia sign.

The application by David Wilson Homes to build houses and apartments on the site of **E.H. Williams' Gateacre Garden Centre** was WITHDRAWN on 22nd November.

Planning permission to use **1 Halewood Road** - the former Post Office - as a café was granted, in spite of objections from ourselves and others, in November. This permission will NOT now be implemented, however. Instead, Messrs Desmond Bannon are opening the premises as the 'Sandstone House Funeral Home' in early March. A planning application for this change of use is not required, as funeral directors and post offices both fall into Use Class A1 - 'Shops'.

## Street Cleansing - A Result?

Following several unsuccessful attempts to find out about the street sweeping arrangements for Gateacre, we submitted a formal request to the City Council under the Freedom of Information Act. This new Act - which came into force on 1st January - allows anyone to ask questions of a public body (without having to give a reason) and gives the respondent 20 working days to provide the answers. Within 48 hours we received the following reply from Mr Adnan Zeb Shah, the new Street Cleansing Manager for Enterprise-Liverpool (the organisation which has the contract to sweep the city's streets):

**Q:** When will the northern footway of Gateacre Brow, and the steps and public passageway leading to Chartmount Way, be swept?  
**A:** *'The footways have been swept today' (Friday 7th January).*

**Q:** How often are they meant to be swept by Enterprise-Liverpool?

**A:** *'The footways are meant to be swept once every fortnight on a Friday.'*

**Q:** On what dates have they in fact been swept since July 2004?

**A:** *'The amount of days they have been swept since July 04 is a paper chasing exercise which will take some time checking through, I would like to think that the answer to this is 12 times as that's the amount of fortnights to date from July 04.'*

The reason why we complained about Gateacre Brow was that the pavement - which is very well used by pedestrians walking down the hill from the bus stop in Rose Brow - had become dangerously slippery owing to the accumulation of wet leaves and litter. This happens every autumn, yet the Council always seems to be unprepared.

The e-mail from Mr Shah also stated:

*'I sympathise with your members about reporting such incidents and nothing happening. I have instructed the managers and inspectors to keep a watchful eye over this area to ensure nothing like this happens again. I will also pay a personal interest in your area to ensure that no such matter re-occurs.'*

We hope that these words will be translated into actions. We would also encourage anyone concerned about other neglected areas to complain to 'Liverpool Direct' (e-mail [liverpool.direct@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:liverpool.direct@liverpool.gov.uk) or phone 233 3001) and let us know the outcome.