

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 2004/05

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. 31/10/05).

Not a member? Want to join us?

If you wish to join the Society - or to renew - please send the appropriate subscription to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Beryl Plent, at 27 Grange Lane, Liverpool L25 4RZ: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.



The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

NEWSLETTER - May 2005

Our next meeting:

CAPITAL OF CULTURE: PLANS, PROGRESS AND PARTICIPATION



A talk by NEIL PETERSON on TUESDAY 17th MAY at 8 pm in Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, L25

Neil Peterson, 'Head of Liverpool Welcome' at the Culture Company, will tell us how the plans for 2008 are shaping up. Neil's talk will cover the structure and organisation of the Liverpool Culture Company, an overview of the 'Sea Liverpool' activities taking place in 2005, and plans for the themed years 2006-2008 and beyond. The talk will also look at the ways in which local people and organisations can get involved, particularly through the Volunteering programme which Neil is leading and which will be launched this summer.

Neil - who was married in Gateacre Chapel - lives locally with his wife and three children. He grew up in Childwall and, after University, worked in a variety of roles for the Civil Service in London. He returned to Merseyside with the DfEE in 1992, and joined the Charity Commission in 1998. He then spent some time delivering employment and training programmes in the private sector, before taking up his current post in January 2005.

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

QUIZ NIGHT - 20th MAY

A Gateacre Chapel fundraising event is being held in the Chapel Hall on Friday 20th May, starting at 7.30 p.m. The cost is £10 per table (maximum 6 people) - bring your own food and drink.
Bookings/enquiries to Joan Chidlow on 428 8432.

GERTIE SHEPHERD

We are sorry to report the death of Gertie Shepherd. She was a good friend of the Society for many years, and helped with the arrangements for our meetings until a very short while ago. Nothing was too much trouble for Gertie, and she will be sadly missed.

THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN

A review of our March talk by *Mary Champion*

On Tuesday 22nd March Colin Twist came to talk to us, and illustrated his talk about the Romans in Britain with some excellent slides.

Julius Caesar came over in 55BC, probably on a reconnaissance mission. At this period Britain was a collection of Iron Age tribal kingdoms. Caesar tells us that the Britons were dyed with woad, had shaved bodies, long hair and moustaches, and shared their wives with brothers, fathers and sons.

This first invasion did not last long. But in AD43 the Emperor Claudius sent four legions and many auxiliaries led by Aulus Plautius to invade. Caractacus was the main leader of British resistance, but the Romans controlled south-east England in about a year. Some tribal leaders made peace and were established as 'rulers of client states' by the Romans. One of these was Cogidubnus for whom the magnificent palace of Fishbourne near Chichester was constructed. Caractacus was eventually captured, and with his wife and children was exhibited in Rome. The Iceni tribe of Boudicca rose up against the Romans, killing thousands, but were eventually defeated.

Roman defence work can be seen in many places. Portchester on the south coast was a haven for the fleet, and walls and towers remain. St Albans has a bit of Roman wall, and the Cathedral builders used Roman brick and stone. In the museum is a wonderful floor, and Roman artefacts.

One percent of the population lived in villas. There is a ruin of one at Lullingstone in Kent - including mosaics and remains of a Christian chapel. The Museum of London has a re-created Roman dining room and kitchen. Wroxeter in Shropshire has foundations and Roman columns, and remains of an impressive bath house. In Bath are many remains - and also a wooden model of the Roman baths. At Chester the south-east tower of the wall is Roman, at Colchester can be found an amphitheatre, and at Caerleon there is a barrack block and a shrine to Nemesis.

We must not forget that legionaries built roads - and also Hadrian's Wall from Wallsend to Carlisle: the eastern part of stone, the western part of turf and wood. Gradually, however, Roman rule weakened - and by the end of the seventh century the Saxons were in control of England.

This was an excellent and interesting talk.

'FRIENDS OF GATEACRE' NEWS

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, various activities are being planned for Gateacre on Sunday 10th July: a service in the Chapel, an exhibition in the Chapel Hall, entertainment at the Conservative Club, and an event at the Gateacre Institute. Watch out for local publicity nearer the time.

Meanwhile 40 hanging baskets have been ordered, and several new tubs and planting boxes purchased, in preparation for Gateacre in Bloom 2005. The City Council is carrying out various improvements in Belle Vale Road, including the cricket field, and a team of volunteers is being recruited by the Friends to help with miscellaneous weeding and planting around the village. If you would like to help, please drop a note in to 3 Halewood Road or email info@friendsofgateacre.org

ANY MORE FOR LEEDS?

There are only a few tickets left for our members-only day trip to Leeds (organised jointly with the Wavertree Society) on Saturday 21st May. The coach will leave from Gateacre Brow, outside the Black Bull, at 8.45 a.m.

Please phone Eryl Chitty on 428 7801 if you would like to come - the cost is £10 a head, payable in advance.

DIARY DATE -

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

On Saturday 10th September two of our local buildings - Gateacre Chapel and St Stephens Church - will be open to visitors, and we shall be arranging a series of guided historical walks between the two venues.

GRANGE LANE

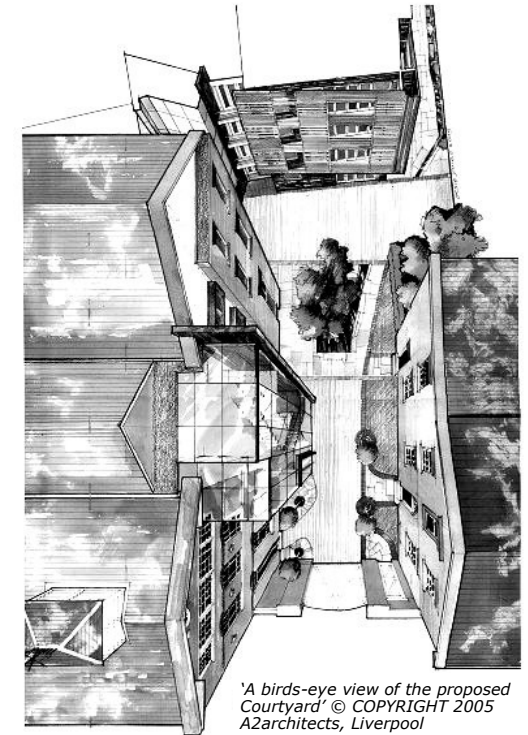
FLATS PLAN

A planning application (ref.05RM/0776) was submitted in March to build a block of 10 flats and lay out 13 car parking spaces on the garage site at 167-169 Grange Lane.

We support the principle of residential development here, the design and materials of the new building (red brick with sandstone detailing, and black-and-white gables in the 'Gateacre tradition') and its siting in relation to the adjacent houses. However, we have questioned its height - and also whether there is enough parking space available for the number of flats proposed.

185 GRANGE LANE

The owner of the 'Happy Family' restaurant has applied for renewal of the temporary planning permission (which expired on 1st April) so as to allow evening opening for a further twelve months. We understood that the same temporary permission also covered the sale of takeaway food - but there is no mention of this in the current application. We are seeking clarification of this from the City Council before deciding whether to reiterate our previous objections.



'A birds-eye view of the proposed Courtyard' © COPYRIGHT 2005 A2architects, Liverpool

CLEGG'S DEBATE CONTINUES

Our report of the plans for the Cleggs Felt Factory site in our last Newsletter encouraged several local residents to view the drawings at Millennium House, and to submit their comments to the Planning Department. We know that strong objections have been lodged by residents of Dale Mews (who are concerned that Sandfield Road will be unable to cope with the extra traffic from 30+ apartments) and St Stephens Court (who are worried about overlooking and overshadowing).

The Society's Committee will be discussing the plans at its next meeting, and we shall be forwarding our views to the Planning Department immediately afterwards. Meanwhile the architects for the scheme have given us permission to reproduce some of their drawings - both here in the Newsletter and on our website.