

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

Website: [www.gatsoc.org.uk](http://www.gatsoc.org.uk) E-mail: [info@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto: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 - October 2005

# AG

Our 31st Annual  
General Meeting  
will be held at  
8 pm on  
Tuesday 25th  
October in  
Gateacre Chapel  
Hall, Sandfield  
Road, L25



Our November talk:

# OVER HERE!

The Americans  
in Britain  
1942-45  
by Mike Murphy

on Tuesday 22nd November  
at 8 pm in the Chapel Hall

Mike Murphy, who has visited us before, will speak this time on the theme of 'the peaceful invasion - and how the Brits and Americans got on'. The talk will take place in the Gateacre Chapel Hall, Sandfield Road, L25, starting at 8 o'clock.

After the 'business' part of the meeting, members and their guests will have an opportunity to hear more about the recently-discovered Gateacre Time Capsule and about the Belle Vale Prefab Project (see inside for details). 'Gateacre in Bloom' Calendars for 2006 will also be on sale at £5 each - *subject to availability, as there are now very few left.*

Every year we invite members to volunteer for election to the Committee - and this year we really do mean it! In particular, our Membership Secretary is anxious to stand down and devote her energies to the production of our long-proposed book of Old Gateacre Photographs.

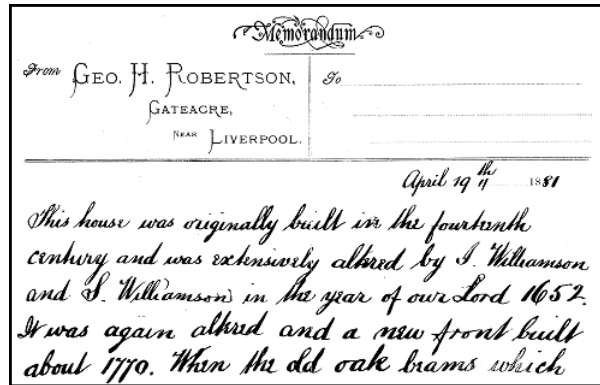
*Do you have administrative or computer skills? Are you keen to help keep the Society running smoothly? If so, PLEASE put yourself forward at the A.G.M. when we ask for nominations.*

## BEAR & STAFF LICENCE EXTENSION REFUSED

We recently - though belatedly - became aware of the fact that the Bear & Staff pub were seeking an extension of their licensing hours to 1 a.m. (alcohol and entertainment) and 1.30 a.m. (food). Under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003, there is a strict deadline for objections to such applications, but fortunately a number of local residents had already made representations and, at the City Council's Licensing Sub-Committee meeting held on 10th October, the application was refused.

The only concession made was to allow alcohol to be served until 11 p.m. on Sundays, instead of the current 10.30. 'Closing time' for the sale of alcohol therefore remains at 12 midnight, Monday-Saturday, and for entertainment it remains at 11 p.m. (Mon-Sat) and 10.30 (Sun).

**Pictured (right)** is the old sandstone doorcase, with its lintel inscribed 'IW SW 1652', now re-erected by Bellway Homes within the grounds of their new apartment development



## THE TIME CAPSULE

Shortage of space in this issue of the Newsletter prevents us from including more than a 'taster', but reproduced above is part of a document written by 15-year-old George Hunter Finlay Robertson in April 1881, when his father was reconstructing the family home - the house off Halewood Road which later became the Gateacre Hall Hotel. Together with various other documents, this was hidden alongside an old doorway - and only discovered a couple of years ago when the masonry was salvaged for re-erection within the grounds of the Woodsome Park development (see last Newsletter). To find out more, come along to our A.G.M. on 25th October!



## GATEACRE WINS AGAIN!

At the North West in Bloom awards ceremony held at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, on 23rd September, Gateacre was declared 'second runner up' in the Small Village category. This was the same ranking as last year - but there were more entries this time so the Friends of Gateacre had no reason to be disappointed. In addition, certificates were awarded to six Gateacre 'small neighbourhoods' which had entered the competition for the very first time this year: Dale Mews, Grange Mews, Paradise Row, Soarer Cottages, Stone Cottages and York Cottages. Dale Mews was one of only five such neighbourhoods in the North West - out of 33 entries - to be classed as 'Outstanding'. All those concerned can be justifiably proud of their achievements.

## OTHER 'FRIENDS' NEWS

The Friends of Gateacre will be holding their first Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday 11th November, in the Gateacre Institute, Grange Lane. The evening will include refreshments, and a showing of the videos produced for the very successful World War II commemorative event in August. For further details phone Lynn Cheng on 222 4006.

The Friends are also planning a Victorian Christmas event, to take place at various indoor and outdoor venues around the village on Sunday 27th November. Look out for local publicity nearer the time!

Right:  
Belle  
Vale  
Road  
in the  
1960s



## MORE ABOUT THE PREFAB PROJECT

The Prefab Project - mentioned briefly in our July Newsletter - is moving ahead very quickly. The project, which is locally based but now also has the support of Liverpool Museum, aims to contact members of the Belle Vale prefab community (1947-1968), to reunite long-lost friends and neighbours, and to record their memories of life on the estate. A visit has taken place to prefabs which still survive in Cardiff - the idea being to record on video the memories of former Belle Vale residents as they tour buildings similar to those in which they grew up or raised their families. We look forward to seeing the results of this very interesting project. Anyone who would like to be involved should contact Sandra Sandland (tel. 07967 020744). Regular meetings are now taking place at the Millennium Centre, Childwall Valley Road, the next ones being on Thursdays 27th October and 24th November (7 p.m.).

## GREENSPACE RESTORED - AT LAST

The status of Gateacre Comprehensive School's playing field as urban greenspace has been acknowledged by the City Council, who have within the last few weeks restored the area at the north end of the Grange Lane site which had been used for temporary classrooms and car parking. In order to achieve this, local residents - backed by the Gateacre Society - had to appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman to intervene. Our thanks go to all those who have supported us over the past 5½ years!