

# 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) Email: [info@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@gatsoc.org.uk)

## IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS

and would like to receive your Newsletters by email instead of by post, please let us know by sending a simple message to [membership@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@gatsoc.org.uk) quoting your name and postcode

## Officers for 2006/07

Chairman:	Tony McCann
Vice Chairman:	Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Hon.Secretary:	<i>Post vacant</i>
Hon.Treasurer:	Mrs Eryl Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (428 7801)
Membership Sec.:	Mrs Rosemary Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Environment Sec. & Newsletter Editor:	Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (428 7801)

## Membership Subscriptions

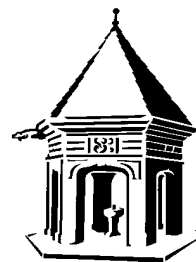
Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6  
You may pay for up to three years in advance, if you wish, at these annual rates.

## 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. 31/10/07).

## 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 Rosemary Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, Liverpool L25 4SL: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.



# The Gateacre Society

Registered with the Civic Trust and as a Charity

## NEWSLETTER - June 2007

*Our next meeting:*

## RIDING FOR THE DISABLED IN LIVERPOOL

An illustrated talk by  
Jennifer Hoggarth  
on Tuesday 26th June, 8 pm,  
in Gateacre Chapel Hall,  
Sandfield Road L25



Jennifer Hoggarth is Chairperson for 'Friends of Beechley Stables' which is part of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA). In the words of one rider "I can only walk slowly now but on a horse I can fly!". Her talk will explain the many ways in which horse riding benefits disabled people, interspersed with anecdotes and experiences as a volunteer.

'Friends of Beechley Stables' was set up about two years ago to raise funds and public awareness of the facilities available in Harthill Road, Liverpool. Stable yard duties have expanded to include organising open days, promotional merchandise, photo shoots and publicity, as well as organising more rider activities and going to RDA competitions. Within one year Beechley was visited by 'the REAL Father Christmas', saw baby Jesus in a stable and Elvis enjoying a Summer Fair. In the words of one trustee "It makes you laugh, tugs your heart-strings and keeps you sane".

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

**Please Note:** Beechley Stables Summer Fair will be held, this year, at the Stables in Harthill Road L18, on Sunday 15th July, 12 noon to 5 pm. Attractions include: a musical ride demonstration, K9 2000 dog agility display, pony rides, face-painting, raffle, 'meet and greet' Police dogs and horses, the Courtyard Café and many stalls.

# THE BELLE VALE PREFABS

Our February Talk - Reviewed by Mary Champion

On Sunday 4th February 2007, in the Gateacre Chapel Hall, we had a fascinating talk by Sandra Sandland about the Belle Vale Prefabs. Sandra was accompanied by a group of people who had lived in them too.

During the Blitz thousands of homes all over Britain were destroyed, and building new homes was an urgent priority. Four million homes were needed. On 26th March 1944 Winston Churchill announced that a Temporary Housing Programme was to be set up and that 160,000 prefabricated houses would be built all over the U.K. The programme began in Liverpool in 1946 with 3,500 units. The smallest was 2 houses in Lark Hill and the biggest was Belle Vale.

The Belle Vale houses were designed by aircraft engineers, and made up of four parts - bolted together on a brick base. They were made of aluminium, often constructed from aircraft shot down. They arrived from the factory on a lorry and it took about 30 to 40 man hours to erect each one. All the fittings and paint finishes were added prior to delivery.

1,159 prefabs were built on open farmland on each side of Childwall Valley Road in Belle Vale. Each one had two bedrooms, a living room, a fitted kitchen and bathroom, a fridge, cooker, ducted heating and indoor loo, plus a garden. Most luxurious compared with some of the homes destroyed.

The prefabs were intended to last for 10 years - but most of those at Belle Vale were up until 1969! A real community spirit grew up on the estate and eventually, when the time came to leave and move to other houses, people were broken-hearted. The estate was not houses in isolation. There were schools and churches and plenty of activities to lead a happy life, some specially built and some already in the area.

The book 'Prefab Days: A Community Remembers' can be bought at Belle Vale Post Office, 121 Belle Vale Road, Liverpool L25 at £9.99. A good read, and lots of pictures.

## Our Shrewsbury Coach Trip: FULLY BOOKED!

Members who attended the West Derby talk may remember that we announced a coach trip to Shrewsbury - arranged by the Wavertree Society - on 14th July. Those who booked should by now have received their tickets from Rosemary Doman. Our apologies go to all others who would have liked to come with us - but the trip is now sold out.

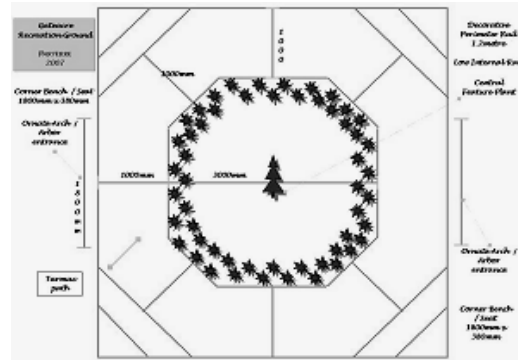
## Advance Notice - GATEACRE MEMORIES - 14th September

We have received an email from Ella Kurrein (née Owen) who with her sister Elizabeth (now living in Vancouver) grew up in Gateacre in the 1920s and 30s. The sisters - who lived at Knotty Cross - will be revisiting the area on Friday 14th September, for the first time in many years, and have asked us to put them in touch with anyone who may remember them. We are proposing an informal gathering to which the sisters will bring along some old photographs and talk about their memories of Gateacre.

Anyone interested in local history will be welcome to attend - contact Rosemary Doman for details of the time and venue.

## The Cricket Field 'Parterre'

Members will have noticed that work is underway to improve the Cricket Field in Belle Vale Road. This is the outcome of lengthy discussions led by the Friends of Gateacre, and is being funded using money contributed to the City Council by Bellway Homes when they built the new flats opposite. We reproduce here (and in more detail on our website) a drawing of how the new formal garden on the Belle Vale Road frontage will look.



## GOOD NEWS!

We have just received a letter from the National Lottery to say that our 'Awards for All' grant application has been approved. We are being given £5,800 to spend on a project entitled 'Discovering and Learning About Gateacre's Past'.

The components of our project are:

- An information board on the village green.
- An archive of historic photographs and digital images using material contributed by local people.
- Illustrated talks on Gateacre's heritage, and workshops to encourage sharing of local knowledge and reminiscence.
- Worksheets for local schoolchildren to encourage observation and appreciation of our local heritage.
- A book of captioned photographs based on the historical archive assembled by the Society.

If you would like to help with the project - for example if you have any old photographs of Gateacre that you would be willing for us to copy - please contact any member of our Committee.

## PLANNING UPDATE

(See our April Newsletter for details of all these proposals):

### Gateacre Park Drive shops

In our comments to the Council on the redevelopment plan, we expressed particular concern that the existing mix of shops and service uses within the centre should be retained. Outline planning permission was granted on 12th June, subject to a number of conditions. The main one is that the non-food portion of the scheme shall consist of a number of small units - which 'shall reflect the current uses in the centre' - rather than a single large store. The foodstore element shown on the original plan has been reduced in size, and will now be no bigger than the existing (though closed) KwikSave building.

### Gateacre Comp site, Grange Lane

In our comments to the Council on the outline housing plan, we suggested that the proposed 'amenity space' at the north end of the site - which was stated as being for 'passive recreational use' only - should be integrated with and managed as part of the playing fields behind, and that a number of smaller amenity areas should be created within the housing development. This would have the dual benefit of allowing the preservation of some of the existing cherry trees, and reducing the overall number of new dwellings. We have also requested further consultation with local residents on the future use of the playing fields. A decision on the planning application is still awaited.

### Blackwood Avenue phone mast

The applicants (T-Mobile) have appealed to the government against the City Council's refusal of planning permission. We have written to the Planning Inspectorate reiterating our objection to the plan, which we feel would spoil the vista of mature beech trees which is currently enjoyed by travellers heading south-east along Woolton Road.