

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

Founded 1974. Charity Registration No.508024.

'Guarding the Past, Safeguarding the Future'

Website: www.gatsoc.org.uk Email: 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 quoting your name and postcode

Officers for 2007/08

Chairman:	Tony McCann
Vice Chairman:	Brian Doman, 6 Hayles Grove, L25 4SL (722 6368)
Hon.Secretary:	Post vacant
Hon.Treasurer:	Mrs Eryl Chitty
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

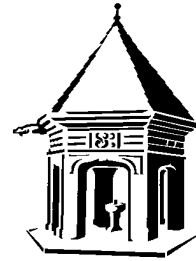
Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6
You may pay for up to three years in advance, if you wish, at these annual rates.

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. 31/10/08).

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 - February 2008

Forthcoming events

A PICTURE HISTORY OF GATEACRE



A series of Sunday afternoon meetings in Gateacre Chapel

The Gateacre Society will be holding a series of monthly 'history in pictures' meetings from February onwards. At each meeting, a varied selection of old photographs and maps from our collection will be projected and discussed - each session concentrating on a different area of Gateacre.

Come and share your own memories with those of others; and if you have family or friends who grew up, went to school, lived or worked in Gateacre, bring them along too.

We shall be holding these meetings on Sunday afternoons, starting at 2 pm. And the venue for the meetings will be GATEACRE UNITARIAN CHAPEL in Gateacre Brow (not the Chapel Hall).

Here are the dates and the topics:

- 17th FEBRUARY - the Grange Lane area
- 2nd MARCH - Gateacre Brow/Sandfield Road
- 6th APRIL - Rose Brow and Cuckoo Lane
- 4th MAY - Netherley and Belle Vale



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ALL WELCOME
Admission Free

HALE FROM 1081 TO TODAY

Our November talk - *Reviewed by Mary Champion*

Don Allerston talked to us on Tuesday 13th November 2007. Don lives in Hale village, enjoys living there very much and is exceedingly knowledgeable about the whole area. He says that, traditionally, people have associated Hale with thatched cottages, cream teas and wild flowers, but there is much more to it than that. His standard tour of Hale (by minibus) takes three-and-a-half hours!

There have been three churches on the site of the present one. The most famous grave is that of the 'Childe of Hale', John Middleton, who was 9ft 3in tall and died in 1623. He lived in a cottage in the village, and slept with his feet sticking out of the window! His walking stick, 4ft 11in long, was later displayed in Hale Hall. Middleton became nationally famous after fighting - and defeating - the King's wrestler in London.

There is a Duck Decoy Pond - once a prolific source of food for Hale Hall - about half a mile from the village. It has existed for at least 350 years and is nowadays home to many species of wild duck. A salt refinery was built on the Mersey shore nearby, at Dungeons Lane, in the 17th century; it was later owned by Nicholas Ashton of Woolton Hall. There was a shipbreaker's yard, which became a stonemason's and later the site of Price's fireworks factory. The first lighthouse was built in 1836, and replaced by a new one in 1906.

The village has had two charters, the first one in 1203 gave the Lord of the Manor rights over things like ferry tolls and salvage, and in 1304 a second charter gave him 'seigniorial' rights - including the right to appoint a Mayor. Today there is still a Lord Mayor of Hale, and the Annual Court is held in January. In the High Street, next door to the Court, were the blacksmith's shop and the wheelwright's, which later became a Telegraph Office.

Education was not neglected. William Part, a sea captain, paid for a school to be built - its weather vane in the shape of a sailing ship. By 1876 it was not big enough and a new one was built. There are also a few pubs in the village - including the 'Childe of Hale' which is the southernmost pub in the old county of Lancashire. Of Hale Hall itself, all that is left is the walled garden, nutwalk, stables, a dovecote and an icehouse.

This was an interesting talk, full of surprises. Don told us at the start that the love of his life - apart from his wife! - is History, and that was well demonstrated to us during the course of the evening.

GATEACRE PAST

Where? Who? When?

Find out by coming to our 'Picture History' meetings

See front page for meeting dates and details



GATEACRE PRESENT

Litter and Leaf Fall

Autumn has lasted a long time in our part of Liverpool! Only during the last week of January - following a series of complaints to the City Council - were the fallen leaves finally cleared from some of our local pavements and passageways. The recent heavy rain had turned the leaves to a slippery pulp, hazardous to pedestrians on their way to the Belle Vale shops and elsewhere. We are still waiting for a reply to our questions asking how frequently these footways are meant to be swept.

Members can assist us by reporting any further accumulations of leaves or litter to the Council, either by phone (Liverpool Direct, 233 3001) or via the LCC website (Go to www.liverpool.gov.uk then follow the links: 'Report it' > 'Highways/road problems' > 'Litter').



Photos taken 15/01/08

Gateacre Comp Plans Update

There is still no news of a decision on the proposed housing development on the site of Gateacre Comprehensive School (Application No. 07O/0891, as described in our April 2007 Newsletter). But, more recently, an application (No. 07F/2939) has been submitted to erect exercise equipment for the school's pupils on a new outdoor training area - on the existing green space adjacent to the swimming pool. We responded to this latest application by asking that, if possible, the new equipment should be located within the area proposed for housebuilding - and, if not, that the restoration of the green space (when the School closes) should be made a condition of any planning permission which may be granted. A decision on this application is expected shortly.

GATEACRE FUTURE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Several times, over the past few years, we have appealed in the Newsletter for members to put themselves forward for election to the Committee, and to help us with the running of the Society. As those members who attended our A.G.M. last October will be aware, however, we are now almost at 'crisis point' with far too many of our Committee posts left unfilled.

If you (or anyone you know) would like to help us carry out specific tasks like record-keeping, booking speakers, or reporting on correspondence received, or would simply like to take part in our discussions of local environmental matters, the Society's future activities, etc., then please get in touch as soon as possible. Perhaps you (or they) are recently retired, or new to the area ... or have particular skills or experience which would be useful to us.

Our Committee meetings currently take place on Tuesday evenings, about every 6 weeks, and you will be most welcome to come along to a couple of meetings as an 'observer' if you want to get a better idea of what's involved.