

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

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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

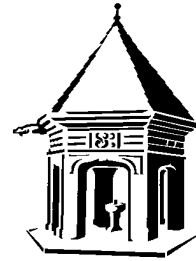
Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6
You may pay for up to three years in advance, if you wish, at these annual rates.

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 - August 2008

HERITAGE OPEN DAY IN GATEACRE Saturday 13th September

Once again, **St Stephen's Church** and the **Unitarian Chapel** are taking part in the Civic Trust's Heritage Open Days scheme this year. Visitors will be welcome to the Church in Belle Vale Road (10am-4pm) and to the Chapel in Gateacre Brow (10am-5pm) on Saturday 13th September.

On the same day, the Children's Society is holding a sponsored walk to raise money for disadvantaged children in the UK: a 'Walk & Explore' interactive trail from St Stephen's Gateacre to St Peter's Woolton via Reynolds Park. One of the check-points will be on **Gateacre village green** (Queen Victoria monument) where the Gateacre Society will have an information/sales table from 10am-12.30pm. We look forward to welcoming anyone who wants to know more about the history of the village or the work of the Gateacre Society.

Details of the Children's Society event - including the sponsorship arrangements - can be obtained from Kate McNulty on 428 2180. The Gateacre Chapel opening will be followed by an Open Evening on Tuesday 16th September (7.30pm) at which anyone interested can hear a talk about the history and beliefs of the Chapel.



A VISIT TO SUDLEY HOUSE Sunday 21st September

Sudley House, in Mossley Hill Road, L18, has recently reopened to the public after a major refurbishment programme. It was the home of the merchant and shipowner George Holt, who amassed a collection of artworks. His daughter Emma Holt bequeathed the house and paintings to the City of Liverpool in 1944, and Sudley today provides a rare chance to see the art collection of a wealthy Victorian in its original setting.

We have arranged a private guided tour for Gateacre Society members on the afternoon of 21st September. Meet at the house at 2pm. (Refreshments are available in the tearoom from 10 am-4.30 pm). There is no charge for admission or for the tour, but we do need to know numbers in advance. Please phone either Rosemary or Brian Doman (722 6368) by Wednesday 17th September at the latest.

THE NEW MUSEUM OF LIVERPOOL

A review of our June talk - by *Mary Champion*

On Tuesday 3rd June Helen Robinson, who works for the National Museums Liverpool, came to talk to us about the new Museum of Liverpool. It is to be an X-shaped building on the site of the abandoned Cloud project at Mann Island, Pier Head.

Helen asked us for our expectations and the responses from the floor came fast and furious. Here are just a few of them: Maritime history, Kitty Wilkinson, the first Railways, Family life, Architecture, the Western Approaches - and not too much about the Beatles! Other requests were for plenty of hands-on displays (with smells, etc.) - and knowledgeable staff.

Helen's presentation on a screen showed the four main galleries: Port City, Global City, People's City and Creative City, these themes having been decided on two years ago. Building work started in 2007, and the museum is due to open in 2010. The staff are currently preparing the exhibits - and talking to people like former workers from the Overhead Railway. In the Children's Gallery - within the Port City - the initial emphasis will be on clean water. There will also be an A-to-Z of the museum's contents: e.g. I is for Insects. In the Global City there will be a 20 minute film telling the Story of Liverpool. In the People's City there will be a hands-on 'History Detectives' feature. In the Creative City we shall find music, writers, football, the Beatles and a football match.

This brief write-up doesn't really show what a good time we all had! Helen was a knowledgeable speaker and made us laugh a lot. We are looking forward to visiting the Museum as soon as it opens.

ST GREGORY'S HOUSE

A planning application (ref. 08F/1349) has been submitted to demolish the red-brick Victorian building known as St Gregory's House, Halewood Road, and to build a four-storey block of sheltered flats in its place. The building - which was until recently a training establishment for Catholic priests - was originally a pair of semi-detached houses called 'Red Lyn', built for a Mrs French in 1883.

We discovered a reference to it in the minutes of the Little Woolton Local Board of Health for December 1883; the Board's surveyor reported that Mrs French had built her new house over an old stone drain, despite his specific instruction that she must not do so! This could account for the subsidence, affecting the party wall between the two houses, which the current owners have given as a reason for the proposed demolition. If so, then it seems likely that the differential settlement took place very early on in the building's life - and could be remedied fairly easily.

Although situated just outside the Gateacre Conservation Area, we feel that the loss of this fine building will affect the character of the area and that the proposed large, flat-roofed block of flats will not be a worthy replacement. We have therefore submitted an objection to the planning application. The City Council's decision is currently awaited.

**COME AND
SEE a 'picture
history' of
Halewood
Road at our
A.G.M.
on Sunday
19th October,
2 pm in
Gateacre
Chapel.**

**PLEASE PUT
THE DATE IN
YOUR DIARY!**
(See note on
right)

OUR NEW HERITAGE LECTERN



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through Awards for All



As many members will already know, the Gateacre Society's heritage information board was installed on the village green on 25th July. It is the main component of our Lottery-funded project, which aims to make as many people as possible - visitors, local residents and schoolchildren - aware of Gateacre's history and its wealth of interesting buildings and monuments. The idea of a cast-metal 'lectern' was inspired by similar boards which we noticed in Northwich town centre about two years ago. Northwich, like Gateacre Village, is characterised by black-and-white buildings, and we thought that this was an ideal way of depicting them. The fact that the manufacturers, Photocast Products, are based in Liverpool (though they have customers all over the country) was an added bonus.

We knew that a lectern would be relatively expensive - over £3,000 - so our Hon. Treasurer Eryl Chitty set up a meeting with the National Lottery's regional manager at which the various funding options were discussed. In the end we successfully applied for an 'Awards for All' grant to cover not only the cost of the lectern but also the computer equipment which we needed to digitise, catalogue, exhibit and publish the Society's extensive collection of old photographs. (The resultant book is due to be published by Tempus - The History Press - next year).

Eryl also arranged a visit to the Photocast factory in Speke, where we discussed our requirements in detail. Our initial sketch design, based on a map of the village centre surrounded by text and pictures - was then turned into the finished product. Photocast's professional artist created line drawings from our photographs, and incorporated our historical notes and captions into the final design, which was printed onto a large sheet of film. This was then used to etch the cast-zinc inlay panel, which after painting and polishing was ready for fixing onto the aluminium lectern.

We hope that members will agree that all the effort has been worthwhile. The Gateacre Society is responsible for the upkeep of the lectern, so please let us know as soon as possible if you notice that any cleaning or repair work is needed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Gateacre Society will be held on 19th October 2008 at 2pm in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25 3PB. Following the success of our Sunday afternoon 'history in pictures' meetings earlier in the year, we have decided to combine the next one with our AGM. Beryl Plent will be showing a selection of historic images of the Halewood Road area, after we have concluded the 'business' part of the meeting which will include reports on the past year's activities and the election of a new Committee. We shall also - subject to the agreement of the meeting - be taking the opportunity to amend our Constitution: reducing the quorum for General Meetings from 20 to 15, and specifying that the Society's Officers will in future be elected by the Committee rather than directly at the AGM.