

**The Gateacre Society**  
**Fortieth Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 26th October 2014**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 39th A.G.M.  
*(See overleaf)*
3. Annual Report  
*(Please refer to the written report attached)*
4. Financial Report  
*(Please refer to the Income & Expenditure Account attached)*
5. Chairman's Remarks
6. Appointment of Committee:  
*(Up to 12 members may be appointed. Please ask for a Nomination Form if you wish to join the Committee.)*
7. Any Other Business

***Please make sure that you write your name on the Attendance List, indicating whether or not you are a member of the Society***

*Only paid-up members of the Gateacre Society are allowed to speak or vote at the A.G.M.*

***If you wish to join the Society***, we shall be happy to accept your annual subscription:  
*Single pensioner £3, Other household £4 per annum.(Please ask for an application form).*

***If your membership expires on 31st October 2014***, you will have received a Renewal Notice with your October Newsletter. We hope you will renew today. *(Please enclose your renewal form and subscription in an envelope, and hand it to the Membership Secretary).*

**The Inaugural Meeting of the Gateacre Society took place on 23rd October 1974. After the business part of today's meeting there will be a celebration of our 40th birthday, and copies of items from our 2014 Time Capsule will be on display. You are invited to enjoy complimentary refreshments.**

# MINUTES of the Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society, held on Sunday 13th October 2013 in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25.

**THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED** by 17 members, as follows: Eryl Chitty, Mike Chitty, Irfon Clarke, Arthur Cope, Brian Doman, Rosemary Doman, Joan Fearn, Peter Fearn, M McGuire, Jessica McKenzie, Gillian Morgan, David Phythian, Joan Phythian, Elsie Pimblett, Beryl Plent, Sandra Sandland and Susan Smith.

**THE MEETING BEGAN** at 2.08 p.m. with the Chairman, Brian Doman, extending a welcome to those present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Pam Ball, Anne Daniels, Mr & Mrs Dempsey, Phyllis Garside, George Keen and Margaret Reid.
2. **The MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, held on 14th October 2012 had already been circulated to those present. The Chairman allowed people two minutes to read them. On a proposal by Beryl Plent, seconded by Jessica McKenzie, they were approved as a true record.
3. **ANNUAL REPORT.** A written report had been produced, outlining the past year's activities, and copies had been distributed to all those present. The Chairman allowed two minutes for everyone to read it. He then invited questions, but there were none.
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT.** An Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2013 had been prepared by the Hon. Treasurer, Eryl Chitty, and circulated to those present. Mrs Chitty gave a brief verbal report on its main features:

Sales of tea towels were up substantially, owing to the introduction of the new full-colour version, and we had sold almost as many books as in the previous year. Donations at meetings, which are always much appreciated, were boosted by the £65 given by those attending Peter Cahill's talk, which was passed on to his nominated charity 'Water Aid'. We also received a very generous £100 donation from an individual member this year. On the expenditure side, we spent £100 on advertising in the Gateacre Journal, but very little on postage because a large batch of stamps was bought in 2012 before the rates went up.

Mrs Chitty assured those present that the Committee is careful with their money. She expressed the hope that members feel they get good value for their subscriptions, which have been kept at the same level for yet another year. There have been six talks and six Newsletters to enjoy, as well as an impact on the local environment through our campaigning.

Questions on the report and the Accounts were invited. Why had Subscriptions income fallen by £25 when the number of members had risen by 1? (Some people pay for three years at a time so the annual income can vary). On a proposal by Arthur Cope, seconded by David Phythian, the Accounts were approved.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.** Brian Doman drew attention to two of the year's highlights: the High Sheriff's visit to Gateacre on Heritage Open Day, and the granting of planning permission for a new Aldi store in Gateacre Park Drive. He questioned the need for speed bumps, which had been made a condition of Aldi's planning permission. He expressed thanks to the Chapel (and to Arthur, for opening up for our meetings) and to the members of the Committee, especially Mike Chitty and Beryl Plent who had been particularly active this year. He announced that the next talk would be by John Tiernan, about Libraries in Liverpool, on Sunday 24th November.
6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.** Brian Doman read out the list of nominations already received for membership of the Executive Committee: Pam Ball, Eryl Chitty, Mike Chitty, Brian Doman, Rosemary Doman, Beryl Plent and Sandra Sandland. All of these people were existing Committee members. The Chairman reminded members that the Society's Constitution requires 'not less than five and not more than twelve' Committee members. He appealed for further nominations from the floor, but there were none. On a proposal by Jessica McKenzie, seconded by Margaret McGuire, the seven persons named were declared duly Appointed.
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Eryl Chitty gave thanks to Rosemary Doman for carrying out the onerous task of Membership Secretary so efficiently. Arthur Cope congratulated the Committee on finding such a range of outstanding speakers this year. Jessica McKenzie thanked the Committee for all the work that they do.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting was declared closed at 2.27 p.m.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GATEACRE SOCIETY, presented to the 40th Annual General Meeting on 26th October 2014

During the year ending 30th September 2014 we held five public talks in Gateacre Chapel:

- In November 2013, John Tiernan on *Benevolent Patronage: Libraries in Liverpool*.
- In January 2014, Pauline Hurst: *The Story of Whiston Workhouse*.
- In March, Graham Dodd on *The Shropshire Union Canal*.
- In June, Mike Murphy: *The Liverpool Overhead Railway*.
- And in September, Claire Moorhead on *Joseph Williamson: Maker of Tunnels Beneath Georgian Liverpool*.

We participated in the national Heritage Open Days programme by holding a display of members' photographs at 28 Gateacre Brow. This pre-1835 building has recently become the 'Antiques & Art' shop, and we were pleased to welcome about 80 visitors on Saturday 13th September.

Early one morning in June (at 7.30 on the 19th, to be precise) we staged an outdoor 'event' in Gateacre Park Drive. This was the unveiling by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Erica Kemp, of a commemorative plaque close to the site of our new Time Capsule. We are very grateful to Aldi Stores Ltd for providing the site and paying for the plaque - and to the Lord Mayor for doing us the honour of unveiling it before she went on to open the new supermarket, a few yards away, at 8 o'clock. The time capsule, celebrating 40 years of the Gateacre Society, 1974-2014, was the idea of our Committee member (and Hon.Treasurer) Eryl Chitty.

We issued five Newsletters to publicise these activities. We also added 56 further pages to our website, which at the end of the year consisted of 845 pages of news and historical information about Gateacre. Our home page recorded 1,620 visitors during the year.

Altogether there were eight Committee meetings, held in the Chapel vestry. We are grateful to the Chapel committee for allowing us to use their facilities, and to Arthur Cope for all his help.

At our Committee meetings, as in previous years, we discussed a variety of local planning applications. We submitted written comments in respect of seven proposals, some of which were amended or re-submitted versions of plans to which we had previously objected.

In October 2013 we objected to the proposal to allow the flats on the site of St Gregory's House, Halewood Road, to be occupied by people of any age. We reiterated our previously expressed concerns over parking provision and traffic. The application was subsequently modified, and the flats were marketed to the 'over 55s'.

In January 2014, and again in March, we wrote about the plan to use the Black Bull's cobbled forecourt as an external seating area. We asked for stringent conditions to be imposed - restricted hours and months of operation, and numbers of tables - so as to minimise nuisance to nearby residents. We also wanted the Black Bull's owners to be forced to re-lay and maintain the cobbled surface correctly. The Council, in granting planning permission for a temporary period, did impose conditions, but said they had no power to order the remedial work we had requested. Later on in the year we welcomed the new pub sign, but objected to the proposed lettering on the front elevation of the building.

In March 2014 we commented on a proposal to reduce the height of 2 sycamore trees within Bear & Staff car park. We suggested that felling would be preferable, as they are causing damage to the Chapel's boundary wall. However the Council simply refused consent for the pruning, on the grounds that it would spoil the trees' appearance. In April 2014 we objected to the felling of 2 lime trees at 1 Gateacre Rise, which are covered by 'TPO No.1' - Liverpool's very first Tree Preservation Order, imposed in the 1960s. We were pleased to hear that consent was refused.

In August 2014 we objected to the application to use the whole of the Crying Tree in Grange Lane (previously Grange Manor, subsequently the Top Hat) as a 'drinking establishment'. In September we objected to the housing layout proposed for the Falstaff site in Gateacre Park Drive, which appeared to make no provision for the previously promised 'green strip' along the eastern boundary. No decision on either of these applications has as yet been made by the Council.

The major 'environmental' issue with which we have been concerned this year has been the City Council's proposal to introduce traffic calming measures in Gateacre Park Drive, to be paid for by Aldi Stores Ltd as a condition of their planning permission. As mentioned in previous Annual Reports, we felt that the proposed speed cushions would encourage drivers to use Gateacre Brow/Belle Vale Road as a through route in preference to Gateacre Park Drive. We were pleased to co-operate with local resident Alan Farrington, who masterminded a campaign of opposition that ultimately, on 2nd September 2014, led the Council to abandon the plan.

Among the other environmental matters discussed was the continuing saga of the 1897 Jubilee Signpost in Belle Vale Road. Its lettering is now successfully re-gilded, but its weathervane is still missing. We helped the owners of 1 Church Cottages (a listed building) reach a compromise with the Council over the design of their new fence. We continued to monitor the former Gateacre Comprehensive School site in Grange Lane, where there is still no official word on exactly what is proposed. This will probably be one of our main concerns in 2015 as - along with several other Green Spaces in the Gateacre area - it has recently appeared on a list of sites for possible re-designation as 'Residential' in the forthcoming Liverpool Local Plan.

We have continued to exchange information about local and family history with researchers around the world. This year we have received enquiries about the sculptor James Forsyth (who possibly worked on Gateacre Grange and the Wilson Memorial Fountain), the artist Hugh Magenis (whose painting of 28 Gateacre Brow we reproduced on Heritage Open Day) and a building called 'Jumps Mansions'. We were emailed a picture of a wool work picture produced by Mrs Niven, of Grange Lodge, which turned up in an antique shop in Sussex and is now in New Zealand!

We remain a member of the British Association for Local History and the Merseyside Civic Society. There was an article about our Time Capsule in the BALH magazine, 'Local History News'. We have continued to advertise in the Gateacre Journal, and to liaise with the Belle Vale Prefab Project (who helped us by selling books and tea towels on our behalf at the recent Big History Weekend in St George's Hall). We continue to support and publicise the activities of the Friends of Gateacre. We have also liaised with the Woolton Society, most recently with regard to the proposed relocation of St Julie's School. In November 2013 we were represented at the unveiling of a plaque in Woolton to commemorate the centenary of the absorption of Woolton and Gateacre into Liverpool. Ken Dodd unveiled the 'Proud of My Roots' mural, to which we had contributed, four days later at Belle Vale. Both unveilings are recorded for posterity on our YouTube channel.

At the end of September 2014 the Gateacre Society had 203 paid-up members (at 155 addresses) compared with 204 at 152 the year before. We have recently made Daphne Roberts an Honorary Life Member, in view of her past services to the Society. 17 new members (at 14 addresses) joined during the year. 47% of our Newsletters are now sent out by email, compared with 45% a year ago, and 22% are delivered by hand.

We currently have only seven members on our Committee, which is the lowest number for many years. Everyone now has a 'post', Pam Ball having taken on the role of Sales Officer, with Sandra Sandland assisting her as well as being responsible for welcoming visitors to meetings. The Newsletter now includes a regular appeal for more Committee members to come forward, and we hope that this will happen before too long.

This concludes the Annual Report for the year ending 30th September 2014.

*Mike Chitty  
Acting Hon. Secretary  
The Gateacre Society  
26th October 2014*

**THE GATEACRE SOCIETY**

**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2014**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>£</b>
Gateacre & Belle Vale books	150.00		420.00	
Other books	0.00		2.50	
Tea towels	201.50		457.50	
Pictures	0.00		1.00	
Signpost leaflet	0.00		15.00	
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Total sales of goods	351.50	351.50	896.00	896.00
Gift Aid		448.92		0.00
Membership subscriptions		449.00		507.00
Donations at meetings		70.73		115.65
Other donations		26.00		109.00
Guided tours		0.00		45.00
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Total income		1346.15		1672.65

**EXPENDITURE**

Gateacre & Belle Vale books	0.00		324.75	
Tea towels	0.00		0.00	
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Total goods purchased for sale	0.00	0.00	324.75	324.75
British Association for Local History	65.00		65.00	
Merseyside Civic Society	10.00		10.00	
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Total subscriptions to organisations	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Postage and telephone		148.00		16.30
Stationery and printing		146.76		203.20
Speakers		160.00		150.00
Chapel hire		210.00		180.00
Table hire		0.00		10.00
Refreshments		21.96		0.00
Website		0.00		0.00
Equipment		5.49		8.00
Time Capsule		32.12		0.00
Advertising		0.00		100.00
Donations		100.00		65.00
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Total expenditure		899.33		1132.25
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Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year		446.82		540.40

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 1st OCTOBER 2014**

<b>Current assets</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
HSBC current account	5936.76	5523.64
Cheques issued but not yet cleared (-)	0.00	-42.00
Cash in hand	0.00	8.30
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<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS REPRESENTED BY:</b>	<b>5936.76</b>	<b>5489.94</b>
Reserves as at previous 1st October	5489.94	4949.54
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year	446.82	540.40
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Reserves at end of year (1st October)	5936.76	5489.94

