

**The Gateacre Society**  
**Forty-second Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 30th October 2016**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 41st 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**, the Membership Secretary will 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 this month*** then we hope you will renew today – for either 1, 2 or 3 years. *(Please hand your subscription cash or cheque, payable to The Gateacre Society, to the Membership Secretary – and if in doubt please ask).*

**After the business part of today's meeting, you are invited to enjoy complimentary refreshments.**

Please also take part in our Picture Quiz. Write your answers on the sheet provided. On the other side of the paper you'll find space to give us your comments on what we've done, what we should be doing, how we should do it and whether you'd be willing to help. We hope you'll find the time to fill this in, and hand it to any Committee member before you go home.

# MINUTES of the Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society, held on Sunday 25th October 2015 in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25.

**THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED** by 24 members, as follows: Pam Ball, Ron Brown, David & Pauline Buckley, Jim Callaway, Eryl & Mike Chitty, A E Daniels, Brian & Rosemary Doman, Val Edwards, Margaret Gofton, Joyce Jelley, Cedric & Maureen Jones, Phil Jones, George Keen, David & Joan Phythian, Elsie Pimblett, Beryl Plent, Colin Pyle, Sandra Sandland and C Webster.

**THE MEETING BEGAN** at 2.07 p.m. with the Chairman, Brian Doman, extending a welcome to those present.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Peter & Joan Fearn, Mr & Mrs Don Houghton, and Eric Keen.
- 2. The MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, held on 26th October 2014 had already been circulated to those present. The Chairman allowed people two minutes to read them. On a proposal by Sandra Sandland, seconded by Margaret Gofton, 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 three 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 2015 had been prepared by the Hon. Treasurer, Margaret Gofton, and circulated to those present. Margaret Gofton gave a brief verbal report on its main features:

Sales income and subscriptions income had both increased, but overall income was down because we didn't claim any Gift Aid this year. (For convenience, we only claim it every 3-4 years). On the expenditure side, printing costs were high because we delivered a leaflet about the proposed Gateacre Comp Site development door-to-door throughout the surrounding area. Postage was down, because we had bought stamps in bulk the previous year, before postage rates increased. The large 'refreshments' payment was mainly due to the splendid cake we bought to celebrate our 40th birthday. The 'equipment' was a comb binding machine that we'll use to produce local history booklets in future years. By far the largest item of expenditure, though, was the £662 we spent on tea towels. Again, this cost will be recouped in future years. Overall, we have a reasonably healthy bank balance. The £8 charged by the bank was a mistake; we challenged it and it was refunded.

Questions on the report and the Accounts were invited, but there were none. David Buckley thanked the Society for its donation to Chapel funds, which had been used to install a new heating system. Eryl Chitty thanked Margaret for having taken on the job of Treasurer. On a proposal by Sandra Sandland, seconded by Eryl Chitty, the Accounts were approved.

- 5. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.** Brian Doman said that, once again, we were very grateful to the Chapel Committee for allowing us to use the Chapel and Vestry for our meetings. The year's activities had been fully described in the Annual Report, the biggest issue having been the former Gateacre Comprehensive School site. He said the signs are that Lord Salisbury won't be able to prevent the proposed housing development taking place. The Chairman concluded by thanking the Society's Committee for all their help, in particular Mike for all his advice, Eryl for her 13 years of service as Treasurer and Rosemary for her 7 years of service as Membership Secretary. He also thanked Margaret and David – both of whom had been co-opted to the Committee at the beginning of the year – for taking over these two key posts.
- 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, Margaret Gofton, David Phythian, 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 David Buckley, seconded by Joan Phythian, the nine persons named were declared duly Appointed.
- 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Brian Doman reminded members that the next public meeting would be a talk about the history of The Gorse Cop on Sunday 29th November. David Buckley announced that he will be retiring as Chapel Leader at Christmas, and was proud of the Chapel's longstanding relationship with the Gateacre Society: John Keggan having been a founder member in 1974, and Alan Kennedy having been a Committee member more recently. He was also proud of the fact that, two weeks ago, the Chapel had been the venue for the first same-sex partnership in South Liverpool.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting was declared closed at 2.29 p.m.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GATEACRE SOCIETY, presented to the 42nd Annual General Meeting on 30th October 2016

During the year ending 30th September 2016 we held four public talks in Gateacre Chapel:

- In November 2015, David Wilson: *The Gorsey Cop*.
- In February 2016, Sandy Stewart: *Memories of Gateacre Village and Chapel 1943-54*.
- In April, Alice Bennett: *The Real Eleanor Rigby*.
- And in May, Carole Codd: *Further Anecdotes of a Registrar*.

We participated in the Big History Show, in St George's Hall, Liverpool, in April, and in Heritage Open Day at Gateacre Chapel in September. In July we shared a coach trip to Stoke-on-Trent with the Wavertree Society.

We issued five Newsletters to publicise these activities. We also added 32 pages to our website, which at the end of the year consisted of 1,020 pages of news and information about Gateacre.

Altogether there were eight Committee meetings, seven of which were held in the Chapel vestry - for which we have the Chapel committee to thank - and one at the Bear & Staff. As in previous years, we discussed a variety of local planning applications. We submitted written comments in respect of four proposals: for Rose Cottage (in Grange Weint), 10 Gateacre Brow, Brewery Gardens, and Grange Hollies (in Grange Lane).

In the case of Rose Cottage, we objected to the use of the building as a children's nursery owing to the potential problems of car access and on-verge parking. At 10 Gateacre Brow we had no objection to the provision of iron railings in front of the former shop, but felt that the height proposed (1.5 metres) was excessive. At Brewery Gardens (the former Cleggs site) we reiterated our previous objections to a new-build apartment block at the rear of the site, on the grounds that it would be too high and would overshadow the adjacent buildings in Halewood Road including the Brown Cow's beer garden. Although the design of the block had been modified to reduce its impact, we considered that the resultant 'building on stilts' would be incongruous and would prolong the life of the large and unattractive metal-roofed shed to which it appeared to be attached. While we welcomed the refurbishment of Grange Hollies, and had no objection to its conversion from a care home to flats, we felt that the proposed extension was much too high and would be over-dominant when viewed from the road. In spite of our objections, planning permission was granted for the Rose Cottage and Brewery Gardens proposals. Decisions on the other two applications are still awaited.

Other environmental matters discussed during the year included tree preservation, the rebuilding of the collapsed sandstone wall mentioned in last year's Annual Report, local speed limits and Public Rights of Way.

In January, a large horse chestnut tree was felled within the car park of the former Crying Tree pub in Grange Lane. This made us realise that not all of the 'landmark' trees in Gateacre are covered by TPOs (i.e. Tree Preservation Orders). Our Committee members Beryl Plent and David Phythian have therefore been carrying out a survey of our other trees, and making suggestions for new TPOs. As yet, the Planning Department's Tree Officer has declined to impose any new TPOs, on the grounds that it is not 'expedient' to do so until the tree concerned is actually under threat.

In March, the rebuilding of the collapsed wall between Chartmount Way and Gateacre Brow was finally completed. The stonemason, David Churchill, did an excellent job. We submitted a dossier of evidence to the City Council's Chief Executive, arguing that the Council was the part-owner of the wall, and responsible for the trees which had led to its collapse. However,

he was adamant that the whole cost had to be borne by Ian Jackson of York Cottages. It would seem that Mr Jackson's only chance of redress would be to take legal action against the Council.

Between October and June, we tried to persuade the City Council to modify their proposals for a 20mph Area covering Gateacre and its surroundings. We had no objection to the principle of slowing down traffic within residential streets, but we pointed out a whole series of anomalies in the detailed plan. Some roads – such as Woolton Park and the Gateacre section of Hunts Cross Avenue – were proposed to be left at 30mph, while several cul-de-sacs – such as Sandfield Road and Dale Mews – were to be made subject to a 20mph limit even though they are too short for drivers to attain this speed. The result, we felt, would be a mass of signage for no obvious benefit. As a result of our objections, the 20mph Area is now going to include Woolton Park and Hunts Cross Avenue – and the residents of some of the cul-de-sacs will be asked whether they really want 20mph signs to be put up.

In March, a brick wall was built by the owners of Byron Court (a private block of flats) blocking the path between Acrefield Road and Woolton Park which has been used by pedestrians for the past 50 or so years. Although just outside our official area, this path was well-used by Gateacre residents walking to Reynolds Park – and our Society has past experience of fighting to preserve local Rights of Way. We have therefore been campaigning on behalf of those directly affected – with the full support of the Woolton Society – and are hopeful that the path will in due course be added to the City Council's Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way.

Our interest in local history has continued, and most recently we have been assisting David Wilson with his research on the Black Bull. It would seem that parts of the building are very much older than the Conservation Officers had previously suspected, and we look forward to the publication of his book on the subject. We have once again exchanged information with researchers – and people with Gateacre ancestors – in various parts of the world. Beryl Plent took the Liverpool branch of the Victorian Society on a much-appreciated guided walk round Gateacre in July, while in September Mike Chitty led public walks between the Chapel and Reynolds Park as part of Heritage Open Day. Also in September, Mike was presented with a British Association for Local History (BALH) Personal Achievement Award, in recognition of his work over four decades for both the Gateacre and the Wavertree Society.

We have continued to advertise in the Gateacre Journal, and to liaise with the Friends of Gateacre, the Merseyside Civic Society, the Wavertree Society and the Woolton Society. We have recently added the Woolton Society's long-awaited book – *Woolton Stone and Liverpool Cathedral* – to our stock of items for sale.

At the end of September 2016 the Gateacre Society had 74 Household members, 63 Pensioner members, 1 Company member and 7 Life members; a total of 145, compared with 156 a year earlier. 52% of our Newsletters are now sent out by email, compared with 49% a year ago, and 27% are delivered by hand.

We still have nine members on our Committee, but regrettably Margaret Gofton had to resign as Hon. Treasurer in June owing to ill-health. We hope that others will volunteer to join the Committee, to help spread the workload – and to bring us new ideas for the future.

This concludes the Annual Report for the year ending 30th September 2016.

*Mike Chitty*  
*Joint Hon. Secretary*  
*The Gateacre Society*  
*30th October 2016*

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2016

INCOME		2016	£	2015	£	EXPENDITURE		2016	£	2015	£
Gateacre & Belle Vale books		90.00		180.00		Gateacre & Belle Vale books		292.28		0.00	
The Lee books		75.00		0.00		Woolton Quarry books		40.00		0.00	
Tea towels		398.90		333.00		Tea towels		0.00		662.40	
Total sales of goods		563.90	563.90	513.00	513.00	Total goods purchased for sale		332.28	332.28	662.40	662.40
Gift Aid		0.00		0.00							
Membership subscriptions		395.00		525.00		British Association for Local History		65.00		65.00	
Donations at meetings		61.18		68.76		Merseyside Civic Society		10.00		10.00	
Other donations		137.00		132.00							
Guided tours		50.00		20.00		Total subscriptions to organisations		75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Bank charge refund		0.00		8.00		Postage and telephone		180.54		48.36	
						Stationery and printing		184.48		216.43	
Total income		1207.08		1266.76		Reference material		50.00		0.00	
						Speakers		125.00		120.00	
						Chapel donation		150.00		190.00	
						Refreshments		43.09		92.18	
						Website		99.38		40.00	
						Equipment		0.00		91.52	
						Advertising		100.00		100.00	
						Other donations		0.00		300.00	
						Sundries		5.19		0.00	
						Bank charges		0.00		8.00	
						Total expenditure		1344.96		1943.89	
						Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year		-137.88		-677.13	

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 1st OCTOBER 2016

Current assets	2016	2015	Total net assets represented by:	2016	2015
HSBC current account	5121.75	5459.63	Reserves as at previous 1st October	5259.63	5936.76
Cheques issued but not yet cleared (-)	0.00	-200.00	Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year	-137.88	-677.13
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00			
			Reserves at end of year (1st October)	5121.75	5259.63
	5121.75	5259.63			

