

The Gateacre Society
Forty-third Annual General Meeting
Sunday 29th October 2017

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 42nd 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
*(To include a discussion of local Heritage/
Environmental issues)*

***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.**

MINUTES of the Forty-second Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society, held on Sunday 30th October 2016 in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow, Liverpool L25.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED by 22 members: Albert Anthony, Pam Ball, Jim Callaway, Joan Chidlow, Eryl Chitty, Mike Chitty, Ann Daniels, Brian Doman, Rosemary Doman, Val Edwards, Joyce Jelley, Phil Jones, Jessica McKenzie, Bev Mullock, Marie Passey, David Phythian, Joan Phythian, Beryl Plent, Colin Pyle, Margaret Reid, Sandra Sandland and Cliff Webster.

THE MEETING BEGAN at 2.32 p.m. with the Chairman, Brian Doman, extending a welcome to those present.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Anna Alexander, Cllr Alice Bennett and Margaret Gofton.
- 2. The MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, held on 25th October 2015 had already been circulated to those present. The Chairman allowed people two minutes to read them. On a proposal by Ann Daniels, seconded by David Phythian, 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. A member asked whether there had been any progress with the Glenacres right-of-way claim. Mike Chitty replied that, on 22nd October, he had been told that the Council had agreed to add the path to the Definitive Map, but this would have to be publicly advertised and objections invited before the removal of the wall could be ordered.
- 4. FINANCIAL REPORT.** An Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2016 had been prepared by the Acting Hon.Treasurer, Mike Chitty, and circulated to those present. Mike Chitty gave a brief verbal report on its main features:

On the Income side, sales of goods were up (mainly due to the launch of our booklet about The Lee) but subscriptions were down (probably because so many members had already paid for 3 years ahead). On the Expenditure side, we had spent over £300 on books but nothing on tea towels this year. The donations we had made in 2015 had not been repeated, so the overall expenditure total had fallen considerably. We are still spending more than we're receiving, but to a lesser extent than in the previous year, and our bank balance remains healthy.

Questions on the report and the Accounts were invited. One member asked why there was no Gift Aid income. Mike explained that, for convenience, we only claim this every 3-4 years, which has the advantage that HMRC pay us interest on the arrears. Another member asked why the 'Postage and telephone' figure was so high. Mike explained that we had purchased a stock of stamps in anticipation of postage rates going up. On a proposal by Sandra Sandland, seconded by Eryl Chitty, the Accounts were approved.

- 5. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.** Brian Doman gave thanks to the Chapel Committee for allowing us to use the Chapel and Vestry for our meetings. He thanked all members and Committee members for their support during the year, and was sorry that Margaret Gofton had had to give up her post as Hon.Treasurer owing to ill-health. An important event had been the Personal Achievement Award presented to Mike Chitty by the British Association for Local History, in recognition of all his work for both the Gateacre and Wavertree societies. Mike goes through the lists of planning applications and sends in our comments to the Planning Department. We have recently objected to the plan to use the Conservative Club as a children's nursery, which we feel will exacerbate the traffic problems at the crossroads. Another concern, of course, is the development of the Gateacre Comprehensive School site, which has led to complaints about noise and dust. In April, Committee members met with the project manager on site, and we are hopeful that things will improve now that the construction phase has started.

- 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, 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 Jessica McKenzie, seconded by Joyce Jelley, the eight persons named were declared duly Appointed.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mike Chitty reminded members that a Feedback Form was included with the Agenda Pack they had been given. He encouraged everyone to fill it in, with their comments on what the Society has done recently and what it should be doing in the future.

Jessica McKenzie, on behalf of the membership, gave thanks to the whole Committee and assured them that their efforts are much appreciated.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was declared closed at 2.50 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GATEACRE SOCIETY, presented to the 43rd Annual General Meeting on 29th October 2017

During the year ending 30th September 2017 we held six public talks in Gateacre Chapel:

- In December 2016, Anna Alexander: *A Tour of Speke Hall in Words and Pictures*.
- In February 2017, Stephen Guy: *Forgotten Liverpool – Merchant Palaces & Personalities*.
- In March, Steve Lyus: *Liverpool Botanic Gardens 1802-2017*.
- In May, Tom Preston: *Robb Wilton – the day Robb broke out*.
- In July, Pauline Hurst: *Kitty Wilkinson – the Saint of the Slums*.
- And in September, Bill Sergeant: *Liverpool Heroes*.

We participated in the Merseyside Big History Show at St George's Hall in April, and in Heritage Open Day in September, when we offered guided historical walks between the two local venues. In July we shared a coach trip to Holywell and Colwyn Bay with the Wavertree Society.

We issued six Newsletters to publicise these activities. We also added 80 pages to our website, which at the end of the year consisted of 1,100 pages of news and information about Gateacre.

Altogether there were nine Committee meetings, eight of which were held in the Chapel vestry and one at the Black Bull. As in previous years, we discussed a variety of local planning applications. We objected to just three of them: for the Conservative Club (last October), 28a-d Gateacre Brow (July) and the former Gateacre Comprehensive School site (August). We submitted written comments in respect of three others: tree works at Gateacre Chapel (in April) and 31 Chartmount Way (May) and the conversion of an outbuilding at 2 Gateacre Brow (May).

In the case of the Conservative Club, we felt that the proposed day nursery accommodating 50 children would exacerbate the local traffic and parking problems. However our objections were not supported by the Planning Department and permission was granted. At 28a-d Gateacre Brow, the black-and-white building on the corner of Sandfield Road, we supported in principle the proposed conversion to flats, but thought that 3 or 4 units would be preferable to the 5 proposed, bearing in mind that there will only be 4 car parking spaces. A decision on this planning and listed building consent application is still awaited.

In the case of the Gateacre Comp site, we were very disappointed to hear that Countryside Properties want to increase the total number of houses from 200 to 231. We submitted a lengthy objection, reiterating many of the points we and others made in 2015, and Mike Chitty spoke on our behalf at the Planning Committee meeting just a few days ago, but once again our objections were overruled by the City Council. We can only hope that the points we made about the need for an effective Travel Plan (to reduce the use of private cars by the new residents) and the need to spend the so-called 'Section 106 money' (for improvement of an existing public open space) locally rather than elsewhere in the city, will be acted upon.

At Grange Hollies, in Grange Lane, we were pleased to learn that the proposed extension to which we had objected to last year had been scaled down. Planning and listed building consent for the amended scheme was granted in March, and the conversion work is currently underway.

Other environmental matters discussed during the year included 'the state of the village'. We drew up a list of issues for discussion with our local councillors, in particular Cllr Alice Bennett who has been appointed Mayoral Lead for Heritage. Unfortunately we have not, as yet, been able to fix a mutually-convenient date for this discussion, though we are currently awaiting written answers to some of our questions.

One very specific improvement we had in mind was the repainting in 'heritage' colours of the redundant wall-mounted 'VR' letter box at the top of Gateacre Brow. However, the Royal Mail promptly told us that it must be left black – and sent a man out with a brush to do the job.

We have made some progress with our Public Right of Way claim for Glenacres-Byron Court, which was mentioned in last year's Annual Report. Our claim was accepted by the City Council, and the necessary Order was published in December. Because 5 people objected, however, the final decision will have to be made by the government. We have recently been notified that a Public Inquiry will be held next March, so the verdict should be known by the time of our next AGM. It is unfortunate that the city's Definitive Map of Rights of Way, drawn up about 15 years ago, was not completed as originally intended. We made this point in September, in our response to the Liverpool City Region Rights of Way Improvement Plan. It remains to be seen whether the necessary resources will be made available.

We are still waiting for extra bus stops in Grange Lane – or an explanation from Merseytravel as to why they cannot be provided. However, our request for a bus link between Gateacre Park Drive and Woolton Village has been met – by the diversion of the 174 service along Church Road following the withdrawal of the 173.

Following the recent appearance of unusual street names and house numbers in the area, we have re-established contact with the relevant section of the City Council. We are hopeful that we shall be able to comment on such proposals in future.

We have continued to assist people researching Gateacre-related family and local history. David Wilson has published his history of the Black Bull, and will be presenting his findings to a meeting of the Society very soon. Other recent enquiries have been about York Cottages, Thomas Downward, Garden Lodge, the Place family and Halewood House.

We have continued to advertise in the Gateacre Journal, and to liaise with the Friends of Gateacre, the Wavertree Society and the Woolton Society. We remain members of the Merseyside Civic Society and the British Association for Local History.

At the end of September 2017 the Gateacre Society had 64 Household members, 77 Pensioner members, 1 Company member and 7 Life members; a total of 149, compared with 145 a year earlier. 53% of our Newsletters are now sent out by email, compared with 52% a year ago, and 25% are delivered by hand.

We have been discussing ways of increasing the Society's membership. One idea is to deliver a 'welcome letter' to new residents when houses change hands. As a start, we delivered a special leaflet, in August, to the first 40 houses occupied on the former Gateacre Comp site, with information about our aims and our forthcoming activities.

We still have nine members on our Committee, including Margaret Gofton who rejoined the Committee as a co-opted member part way through the year. Our advertisements now positively invite people to put themselves forward as Committee members, to help run the Society. We really do need you!

This concludes the Annual Report for the year ending 30th September 2017.

*Mike Chitty
Acting Hon. Secretary
The Gateacre Society
29th October 2017*

THE GATEACRE SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th September 2017

INCOME		2017	£	2016	£	EXPENDITURE		2017	£	2016	£
Gateacre & Belle Vale books	100.00			90.00		Gateacre & Belle Vale books	0.00			292.28	
The Lee books	27.00			75.00		Woolton Quarry books	40.00			40.00	
Woolton Quarry books	40.00			0.00		Tea towels	0.00			0.00	
Tea towels	120.00			398.90							
						Total goods purchased for sale	40.00	40.00		332.28	332.28
Total sales of goods	287.00	287.00		563.90	563.90	British Association for Local History	65.00			65.00	
Gift Aid		0.00			0.00	Merseyside Civic Society	10.00			10.00	
Membership subscriptions	437.00			395.00							
Donations at meetings	118.13			61.18		Total subscriptions to organisations	75.00	75.00		75.00	75.00
Other donations	37.00			137.00		Postage and telephoning		110.00		180.54	
Guided tours	0.00			50.00		Stationery and printing		169.21		184.48	
						Reference material		0.00		50.00	
Total income	879.13			1207.08		Speakers		220.00		125.00	
						Chapel donation		230.00		150.00	
						Refreshments		51.36		43.09	
						Website		40.00		99.38	
						Equipment		4.60		0.00	
						Advertising		100.00		100.00	
						Other donations		0.00		0.00	
						Sundries		10.00		5.19	
						Bank charges		0.00		0.00	
						Total expenditure		1050.17		1344.96	
						Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year		-171.04		-137.88	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 1st OCTOBER 2017

Current assets	2017	2016	Total net assets represented by:	2017	2016
HSBC current account	5134.03	5121.75	Reserves as at previous 1st October	5121.75	5259.63
Cheques issued but not yet cleared (-)	-183.32	0.00	Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) for the year	-171.04	-137.88
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00	Reserves at end of year (1st October)	4950.71	5121.75
	4950.71	5121.75			

