



The Gateacre Society

A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - April 2025

REMEMBERING BERYL PLENT

Gateacre Unitarian Chapel: 15th April

In January 2025 we lost a very dear friend of the Gateacre Society, Beryl Plent. We would like to invite you to gather to remember Beryl at Gateacre Chapel 2.30pm Tuesday 15th April.

If you are able to attend please let us know by calling 07967 020744 before 8th April. Please see within this newsletter for a Tribute to Beryl and her commitment to our society



OUR NEXT TALK:

***Monday 12th May 7:30pm at
Gateacre Unitarian Chapel***

Captain Peter Woods will give a Talk entitled 'Worse things happen at Sea'.

The talk will start with maritime disasters past and in the very near past. Also, a look at life on board dealing with medical issues, who is the Doctor, what happens if the patient does not make it, bad weather and occasions where ship's staff have got everything wrong.

As well as the serious, Peter will also discuss the more humorous happenings at sea. With the latest collision in the North Sea, it looks like we may be the first to hear a new updated talk!



PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION - We would like to take the time to inform members that when attending our talks, it would be advisable to avoid using the Bear and Staff car park, which operates with ANPR parking cameras. Users of the car park need to make sure they remember to go inside the pub and register their vehicle on the machine to ensure they don't incur a fine. Therefore the best option to avoid a fine would be to park on the road along Gateacre Brow. **Please note that the society are unable to provide transport for members to and from talks due to financial and insurance restraints, and attendees must arrange their own transport.**

MACKINTOSH TALK REVIEW

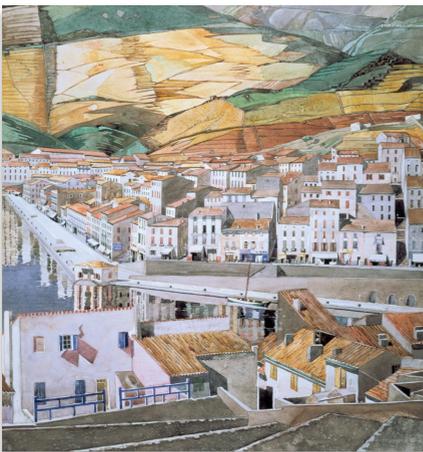
Christina Clark gave a very enlightening and informative talk on Charles Rennie Mackintosh, his life and creativity from his birth in Glasgow in 1868 to his death in London in 1928.

Mackintosh worked as an architect, designer, water colourist and artist his reputation being made at the Glasgow School of Art in 1909. His style was predominately Art Nouveau influenced stating functionality and practicality of design.

His creations include Glasgow Art Gallery, Hill House Helensburgh which as Christina showed is still furnished with his original furniture designs. The Willow Tea Rooms, Glasgow, still there, was built under the patronage of Kate Cranston. The Glasgow School of Art sadly burned down and was demolished in 2018.

Much of his work was done in collaboration with his wife Margaret Macdonald and his friend Herbert McNair who married Margaret's sister Frances. Together they were known as The Four.

In later life his main interest was watercolours with his recognisable style of strong geometric angles and floral decorative work. Much of this in



collaboration with his wife Margaret. In 1923 after an unfortunate incident in Walberswick when he was briefly arrested as a German spy in 1915, he and Margaret lived in Vendres, Southern France creating some memorable art work.

He died in London in 1928 his legacy being the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society which promotes his work.

Thank you Christina.



A TRIBUTE TO BERYL PLENT

Beryl Plent was a dedicated committee member of the Gateacre Society for over 40 years, during which she contributed hugely to its functioning and its success. She served as membership secretary for twenty-two years, hand delivering newsletters and knowing personally many Society members. Throughout she was heavily involved in campaigns to safeguard Gateacre's heritage, determinedly pursuing adherence to licensing and development regulations regarding heritage buildings.

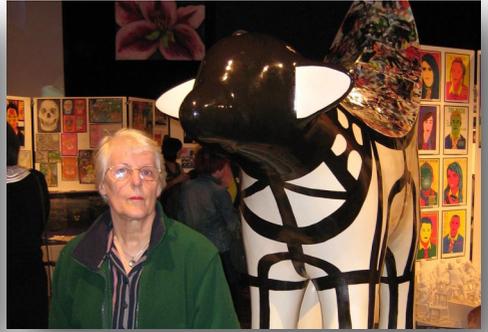
Beryl was a keen and fluent speaker to members and non members alike. Her most outstanding talk on the Gateacre Time Capsule was delivered to a rapt audience of 62, who filled the Gateacre Chapel Hall. She also enthused students at a local adult education centre with a ten week local history course, delivered free, and became sought after as a local history speaker by a range of groups beyond the Gateacre area.

As the Society's Archivist Beryl amassed a wide range of Gateacre Memorabilia over many years some of which she used to compile her wonderful book. Her crowning achievement, with the technical expertise and support of Mike Chitty, is the Gateacre and Belle Vale In Pictures book published in 2009, which sold widely and continues to do so still.

A stroke in 2018 deprived Beryl of much of her independence and capacity, but she chose to move to Turner's Court to be close to the Gateacre community and heritage. Despite declining health, Beryl never lost her knowledge and love of Gateacre and its heritage. In the last two years, Beryl noted her excitement at witnessing our newsletters becoming more colourful and image-rich which helped her continue to express an interest in our work, we hope this newsletter would have excited her just as much.

We in the Society owe her an incalculable debt.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following dates cover our scheduled talks for the rest of the year. We expect these to take place in Gateacre Chapel but we will communicate with you if a different location is required.

14/07/2025 7.30pm: The Great Hunger & Liverpool (Ken Pye)



15/09/2025 7.30pm: Liverpool & the American Civil War (Elaine Allen)



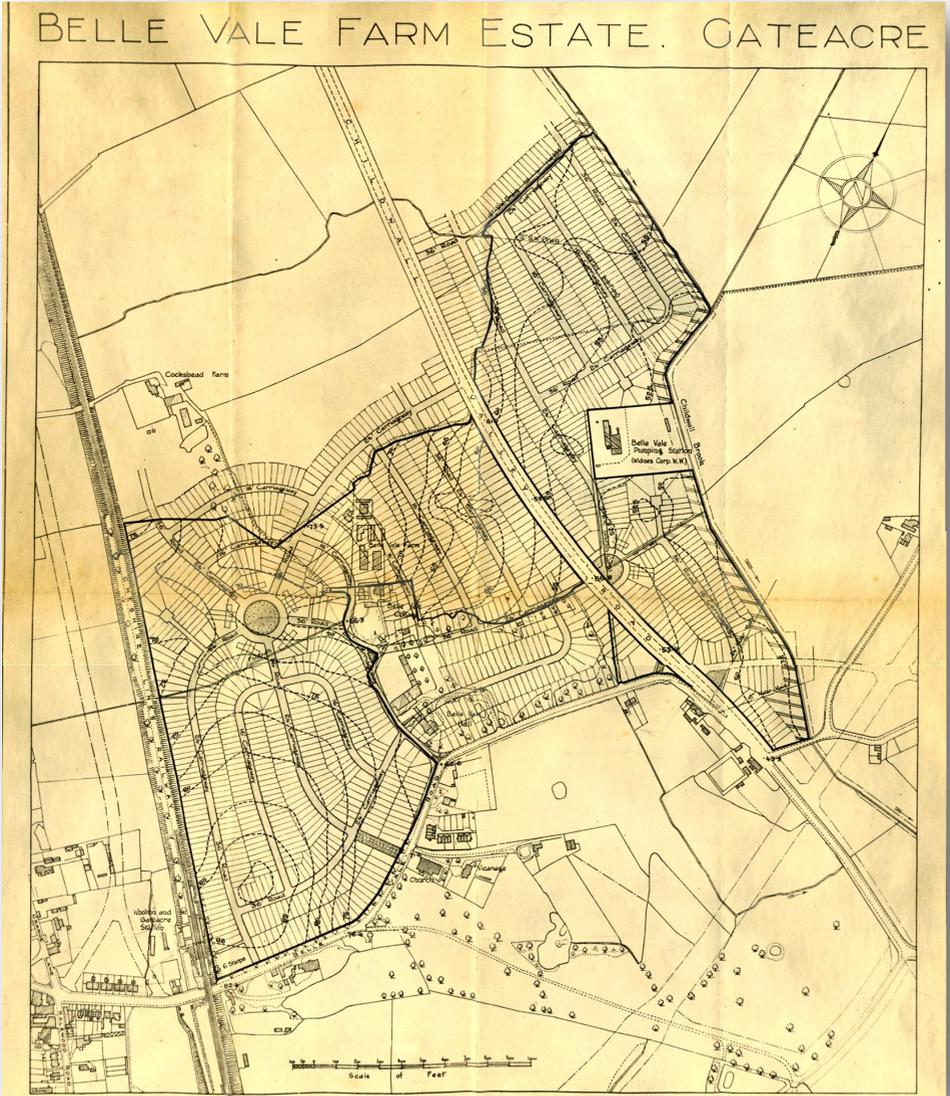
19/10/2025 Sunday: Annual General Meeting

02/11/2025 2.00PM: Pendle Witches (John Coventry)



THE ESTATE THAT NEVER WAS...

We recently received a lost estate plan covering the whole of Belle Vale from 1938. During this time the land was considered intermediary land for housing, however it seems WWII put a stop to the plans and only a small part of this estate was actually completed (Belle Vue Road). It is quite fascinating to see how our area could have looked... Large plots, no Belle Vale Park, No Gateacre Park North, No space for prefabs, No Belle Vale Shopping Centre and no land for Gateacre School. How different our area might have been! The plan was designed by Alfred Ernest Shennan, a famous Liverpool architect responsible for many esteemed local cinemas.



**WHY NOT INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN THE SOCIETY?
We have included our membership form below.**

Please fill this form out IN PRINT CAPITAL LETTERS

Salutation: Miss Ms Mrs Mr Other: _____

Full Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Post Code:** _____

Telephone/Mobile: _____

I consent to give Gift Aid: Yes No

Choosing Yes under GIFT AID DECLARATION means: "Please treat all my subscriptions and other donations to the Gateacre Society until further notice as Gift Aid. My annual UK income tax is more than the tax the Society will reclaim. I will notify the Society if I cease to pay sufficient tax in the future.

I consent to my personal information being held in accordance with the Privacy Policy as set out on the Gateacre Society's website: Yes

I DO NOT agree to receive updates by:

Post Telephone Email

My chosen subscription: (Payments can be taken by cash, cheque, or bank transfer)

1/2/3 year Household with emailed newsletters – £5/£10/£15

1/2/3 year Single Pensioner with emailed newsletters – £4/£8/£12

1/2/3 year Company with emailed newsletters – £10/£20/£30

Optional Extra: Posted newsletter via Royal Mail/Hand Delivered - £5 per year

**Send this form to: Lynn Ryder (Membership Secretary), 4 Roxborough Walk,
Liverpool, L25 5HN or hand it to any Committee member**

CONTACT US

Founded 1974. Registered Charity No.508024. A member of the British Association for Local History and the Merseyside Civic Society

Website: www.gateacresociety.co.uk

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Secretary: David Phythian

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