

# THE GATEACRE SOCIETY

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

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## Executive Committee 2018/19

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Sandra Sandland *Assistant Sales Officer*

Sue Coldwell

Geraldine McAndrew

John Wood

*Officer Posts (in italics) are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting*

## Annual Membership Subscriptions

**Household £4 Single pensioner £3 Company, etc. £6**

If you wish to join the Society, please send the appropriate subscription to the Membership Secretary, David Phythian, 26 Primrose Road, Liverpool L18 2HE: cheques payable to 'The Gateacre Society'.

*The Society's membership year ends on 31st October. If you are already a member, your address label indicates the date when your next subscription payment is due.*

**Our Book - Gateacre & Belle Vale: in old photographs** - is on sale at our meetings and events, price **£9** (bookshop price £12.99).

**Our Tea-towel** is also available, price **£4**. See our website for details.

## DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

If so, and if you would like to receive your Newsletters by email instead of by post, please let us know by sending a message to [membership@gatsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@gatsoc.org.uk) quoting your name and postcode

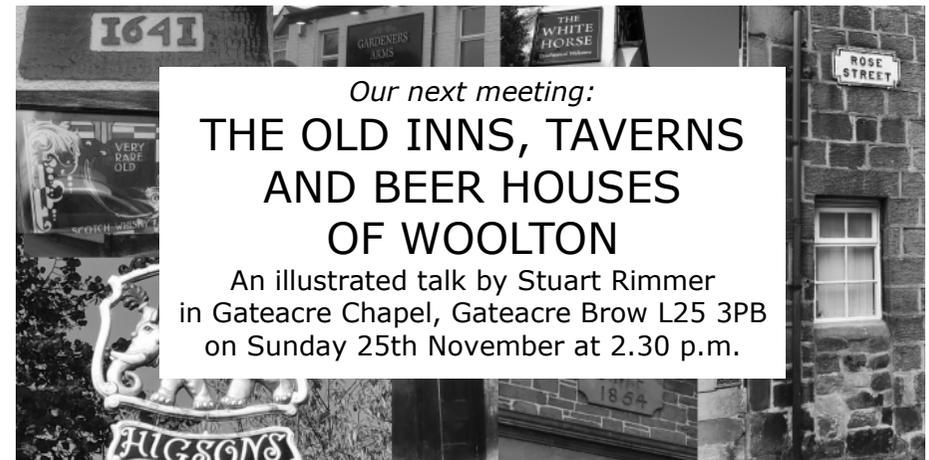
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# The Gateacre Society

*Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future*

## NEWSLETTER - November 2018



*Our next meeting:*

## THE OLD INNS, TAVERNS AND BEER HOUSES OF WOOLTON

An illustrated talk by Stuart Rimmer  
in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow L25 3PB  
on Sunday 25th November at 2.30 p.m.

Woolton is well known for its many pubs, most of them historic establishments from the Victorian era or older. At the beginning of the 19th century, it was a small country village with a population of less than 500 people - and two taverns. By mid-century the population had exploded, and so had the number of licensed houses. At one time Woolton boasted almost forty inns, taverns and beer houses. Quarry Street alone had eighteen. However, by the early 1900s most of those establishments had disappeared.

Stuart Rimmer is a local resident who has been investigating Woolton's lost and forgotten pubs. His presentation will look at the reasons for the huge increase in licensed houses, what happened to them and why. He will talk about their history, what they looked like, where they stood and what they were called. He will also make brief reference to the pubs and beer houses of Gateacre - which is his current area of research.

Stuart will have copies of his book - 'The Old Inns, Taverns and Beer Houses of Woolton' - available for sale at the meeting, price £13.99.

ALL WELCOME

Admission free - Donations invited

# LIVERPOOL COWKEEPERS: A FAMILY HISTORY

Our July 2018 talk – reviewed by Mike Chitty

Dave Joy grew up in Garston. His father ran the Wellington Dairy. Having recorded his childhood memories in the book 'My Family and Other Scousers', Dave realised that his family's experience was part of a much bigger story, in which farmers from the Pennine Dales became cowkeepers in Liverpool. For the past three years he has been telling that story all over the North West.

The Joy family farmed at Hebden, near Skipton, in the mid-19th century. The lead mining industry in that area was declining, while the trade and population of Liverpool was increasing rapidly. Milk didn't travel well, and Dales farmers started moving their cows to the city. End terraced houses – with the advantage of an accessible rear yard – were transformed into 'an extension of the home farm', with a shop at the front, dairy at the back, and living accommodation upstairs. In the yard was built a shippon, big enough for 6-8 shorthorn cows. All the milk produced by these cows was sold within the immediate vicinity.

There were no fields nearby, but the cows were well fed. Grass cuttings (from parks), bran and spent grain (from breweries), molasses (from sugar refineries) and oil seed cake were all readily available. Sawdust came from local sawmills. Straw and hay came from farms on the edge of the city – in exchange for muck!

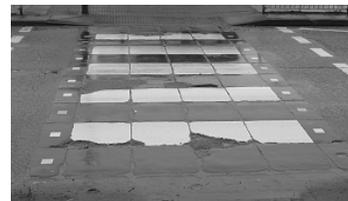
The cowkeepers socialised, and inter-married, within their own community. The Liverpool Cowkeepers Association organised parties, dinners and outings. The Christmas Fat Cow Show at Stanley Abattoir and the Lancashire County Show (which was held annually – occasionally on the Mystery in Wavertree) attracted hundreds of entries from local cowkeepers. The corporate dairies claimed that their 'railway' milk was superior, and that 'local' milk was contaminated or watered down. The cowkeepers responded with the words 'Inspection Invited'. They proudly displayed their certificates and trophies in their dairies, and paraded their prize-winning cows through the streets.

In 1863 Orlando Joy and his sister Hannah had set up in business in Edge Hill. Later his brother George moved to Wavertree, and another brother, David, took over the Island Road Dairy in Garston. By the early 20th century the Garston business had moved to Wellington Road, and expanded. The new shippon was purpose-built for 13-14 cows, which were taken to and from grazing land at The Avenue twice a day. Several generations of Joys worked at the Wellington Dairy: Anthony (Dave's great-granddad), Anthony Percival (Dave's granddad, known as Percy) and Anthony Eric. Dave (Anthony David) explained that giving them all the first name Anthony avoided the need to repaint the signboard ('A. Joy & Sons') when someone died. His mother told him that this was because they were all 'tight-fisted Yorkshiremen'!

After WW2, things changed. The Milk Marketing Board was created, and road transport became more efficient. Many of the former cowkeepers (including the Joys) began to 'buy in' milk from the big dairies such as Hansons. However, the Joys continued to use horses for delivery until 1969 – the summer of memories that inspired Dave's first book.

As Dave's pictures revealed, some of the old cowhouses can still be recognised in the back streets of Liverpool. His talk sparked off a series of questions and reminiscences from the appreciative audience – and his two books (the second entitled simply 'Liverpool Cowkeepers') sold well.

## A HAZARDOUS ZEBRA?



When planning permission was granted in 2013 for the new Aldi store in Gateacre Park Drive, it was on condition that various 'off-site' highway improvements were made. These were to

include an upgraded zebra crossing (our plea for a pelican crossing having been rejected) on a raised 'table' level with the adjacent pavements. This would have been in conjunction with speed bumps along the whole length of Gateacre Park Drive, up as far as Woolton Road.

Together with local residents, we campaigned against the proposed speed bumps, and as a result the City Council decided to abandon that part of the scheme – along with the 20mph speed limit that was to accompany it. Since that time, nothing at all has been done to the zebra crossing. The surface is potholed, the white stripes are patchy and uneven, and the warning signs at the approaches are hardly visible. Local residents have reported several 'near misses' as drivers seem reluctant to stop – or are oblivious to the crossing's existence. The Highways Department's view is that, because the speed bumps plan was abandoned, they cannot force Aldi to pay for any improvements – and there is no alternative source of funding. We are pressing them for a re-think before someone is seriously injured.

## A.G.M. REPORT

Everyone enjoyed themselves – thanks, at least in part, to the refreshments and the quiz! – on 28th October. Several matters of local concern were brought to our attention, for discussion by the Committee.

Our appeal for new members resulted in three people – Sue Coldwell, Geraldine McAndrew and John Wood – being elected to the Committee for the first time.

One of our longest-serving Committee members, Beryl Plent, has recently had to stand down owing to ill health. Beryl's designation as an Honorary Life Member of the Society, in recognition of her many years of service as Membership Secretary and Local History Secretary, was greeted with spontaneous applause at the A.G.M.

## AN 'INCONGRUOUS' FENCE



In our March 2018 Newsletter, we reported that the City Council had refused retrospective planning permission for the erection of a black-and-gold fence and gates at

82 Childwall Lane. The owners of the property subsequently appealed against the decision, and the Government-appointed Planning Inspector has now published his report. In dismissing the appeal, and ratifying the Council's decision to refuse planning permission, the Inspector has condemned the fence in no uncertain terms. In his decision letter of 17th September, he describes it as "an incongruous feature in the street-scene that is wholly at odds with the prevailing character of the area". He also points out that it has "resulted in an impenetrable visual barrier that obstructs views along the road into the important landscape of Childwall Woods".

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our new membership year began on 1st November. If (but ONLY if) the date on your Newsletter address label reads 31/10/18, then please RETAIN THE ENVELOPE and use it to enclose your subscription (for 1, 2 or 3 years, at £3 p.a. for a single pensioner or £4 p.a. for any other type of household). Hand it in at our November talk, if you like, or send it (with a cheque payable to The Gateacre Society) to our Membership Secretary. Thank you for your co-operation.