

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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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.

Subscriptions may also be paid by bank transfer. Please email us for our account details. Alternatively they may be hand-delivered to any of the Committee members' addresses listed above.

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 quoting your name and postcode

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The Gateacre Society

Guarding the Past - Safeguarding the Future

NEWSLETTER - March 2019

Our next meeting:

THE FORESIGHT OF MARY WAINWRIGHT

A talk by Margaret Guppy

in Gateacre Chapel,

Gateacre Brow L25 3PB

on Sunday 24th March at 2.30 p.m.



Mary Wainwright was, in 1857, the founder of what became known as the Liverpool Voluntary Society for the Blind (nowadays 'Bradbury Fields'). She headed a committee of 14 women, the initial aim being to teach blind people to read the Moon system of embossed type. In particular, poor blind people were taught to read the Bible, both in the Liverpool workhouse and in their own homes. Within a few years the organisation had progressed to providing employment and vocational training, centred around the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind in Bold Street and, later on, Cornwallis Street.

Margaret Guppy has written a book about Mary Wainwright's life and achievements. Although the book is now out of print, she - and her guide dog Nicola - will be bringing CDs containing the text, for sale after the talk.

ALL WELCOME - Admission free - Donations invited

FRIENDS OF GATEACRE CLEAN-UP

Saturday 6th April, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

The Great British Spring Clean - organised by Keep Britain Tidy and sponsored by the Daily Mail - takes place between 23rd March and 22nd April. Gateacre's contribution will be a clean-up of the village centre, and the pavements leading out of it, organised by the Friends of Gateacre. Meet on the village green (Grange Lane/ Gateacre Brow) ready for a 10 o'clock start, on Saturday 6th April. For details - and to register your interest in advance - please go to bit.ly/gbscFOG or email fgateacre25@btinternet.com

INNS TAVERNS & BEERHOUSES OF WOOLTON

Our November 2018 talk – reviewed by Rosemary Doman

For lack of existing research on Woolton pubs, our speaker Stuart Rimmer had done his own. In 1815, the population of 500 involved mainly agricultural workers, blacksmiths, those in service and shopkeepers. From two taverns in 1820 the pubs increased to thirty by the 1850s, as the population swelled through the demand for stone. The Woolton Quarry workforce, and the development of other trades, resulted in a population of over 6,000 by the 1890s. The Beerhouse Act in 1830 made it easier to open a pub selling just beer, judged to be a safer option than the scourge of gin. It required two persons to stand recognizance in the courts and a suitable building, with a licence issued yearly.

By the 1870s homes could operate as pubs. The Quarry Street area was densely populated with tiny houses, some with two rooms only and no sanitation. Without facilities, these pubs, with cellars as tap rooms and urinals outside, were subject to full licensing laws regarding hours, keeping order and the police. One such was the Horse And Jockey, another the Skinners Arms, and, at the top of Quarry Street, Biddy Berks.

Breweries owning Woolton pubs in the 1860s-70s included Greenall Whitley, Walkers, and Higson's. The breweries installed professionals, who sometimes moved around the pubs. The 1861 Census shows licensees had other trades, such as the watchmaker who ran the Duke's Vaults. Some pubs owed their names to the beerhouse keeper or a local incident. For instance the Gardener's Arms was run by a gardener, and the Blazing Tub, rebuilt from 2 houses in the 1840s, was so named because one of the houses burnt down. This, a very noisy pub, lost its licence in 1847.

Complaints there were too many pubs in lower Quarry Street and Allerton Road, and of the ensuing noise and drunkenness, aroused the opposition of the police, Church, employers and other local notables, who pressured Parliament into the 1869 Wine And Beer House Act. Only two, the Victoria and the County Court, were granted full new licenses. Improvements were imposed by the 1902 Licensing Act, but these were inadequate. There was still one pub for every 180 people. Pastor William Redman complained to local magistrates of poor hours keeping, drink on trust, back-door trading, unfit premises, licensees having other trades and transferring licensees to others unchecked. Under the 1903 Licensing Act, premises were closed if they were redundant to needs or in an unsuitable condition, with compensation paid to owners and licensees.

By 1912, only twelve pubs were left. The Old Fellows Arms closed in 1921. Four beerhouses remained: the Grapes, the White Horse, the Cobden and the Gardeners Arms. The history of Woolton's famous Elephant is disputed. A notice incorrectly states it was renamed the Elephant in 1934. Its name had changed from the New Inn in 1837 to the Woolton Hotel in the 1850s. In the 1860s its entrance portico had a full elephant statue and it was renamed the Elephant in 1875. A Woolton Times 1910 photograph shows the Woolton Hotel signage, though 'The Elephant' is painted on the portico.

A fascinating, well illustrated talk which whet our appetite for Stuart's guided walks, wet or dry. (*Details on his website, oldinnsofwoolton.com*).

CLEGG'S FACTORY SITE/ BREWERY GARDENS

As residents of Sandfield Road will be well aware, building work has resumed on the site of the former felt factory off Gateacre Brow. The skyline has been drastically altered as a three-storey apartment block has risen up. This is the final phase of the Brewery Gardens project, which was originally granted planning permission in 2006 and, with slight amendments to the footprint, 2016. We objected to the height of this newbuild component on both occasions, as did numerous local residents. However, our objections were overruled (as reported in our November 2016 Newsletter). The City Council's planning officers felt that an 'industrial scale' building would be more appropriate than the mews-style housing that we were suggesting.



MICHAEL TAYLOR GARAGE SITE

In our January 2015 Newsletter we reported on a planning application to build a pair of semi-detached houses in South Station Road, on part of the Grange Lane Service Station site. No change was proposed to the existing garage/workshop buildings, apart from the demolition of one end of the main building to make way for the new development. Planning permission was granted in May 2015, but this permission has now expired. The plans have been re-submitted (as application 18F/3256) and we have once again objected. Our belief is that the granting of planning permission on just part of the site will limit the options for redeveloping the remainder – which, having been used as a petrol filling station, will require a great deal of money to be spent on decontamination. The whole site lies within the Gateacre Village Conservation Area, and we have always understood that the aim of this was to encourage 'enhancement' of the site, as the years went on, rather than preservation of the existing utilitarian buildings.



GRANGE MANOR/CRYING TREE

In April 2017 the City Council granted planning permission (ref.16F/1122) and listed building consent (ref.16L/1123) for the conversion and redevelopment of the former Gorse Cop site in Grange Lane. The main building – which dates from circa 1870 and is Listed – is to be retained, and refurbished as 8 self-contained flats. The former 'Celebrations' functions suite alongside it (built in the 1980s) is to be demolished, and replaced by 3 newbuild units, while the former coach-house/barn alongside 25 Grange Lane is to be restored as 2 further dwellings. On the other side of the original house, a pair of semi-detached houses will be built on the former car park.

That is the plan – but in practice very little has happened on the site for many months now. We recently asked the architects for the scheme when we could expect to see progress. They told us that they are "no longer actively involved in the project ... My understanding is that the project is simply on hold and that the intention is to proceed at some time. We would hope to be involved if and when it does proceed, however that is of course a decision for the owner [Mr Lee Goldsmith]".

