



Gateacre in Bloom 2007

A bit about Gateacre:

The village of Gateacre grew up where a track from Much Woolton and Little Woolton crossed an old pack horse trail which led from the River Mersey at Hale to West Derby at a time before Liverpool existed. Gateacre became part of the City of Liverpool in 1913. By this time the core of today's village had been established, largely owing to the influence of wealthy Victorians who established rural residences away from the industries of what was then South West Lancashire. Prime among these newcomers was Sir Andrew Barclay Walker, a Scottish-born brewer who settled in Gateacre Grange, succeeding his father as owner of Walkers Warrington Brewery. He was knighted in 1877 following his gift of the Walker Art Gallery to the City of Liverpool, and, in 1887, gave the Village Green to the people of Gateacre to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Having donated land for the Wilson Memorial, he was also responsible for giving the Black Bull pub its "Mock Tudor" look, an architectural style which was adopted for other Gateacre buildings, and remains a distinctive feature of the village to this day.

Sir Andrew was a benefactor to the village in other ways, as was his son, William Hall Walker, later Lord Wavertree, who built stables (now Grange Mews) for his polo ponies and 'model houses' for his grooms. The latter were named "Soarer Cottages", after his horse, which won the Grand National in 1895, and are of brick construction. The unique mixture of different constructional materials, including extensive use of locally quarried sandstone, and threats to the "old" village from the growth of housing estates in the 1960s, led to Gateacre Villages' designation as one of Liverpool's first Conservation Areas. This provided the foundation on which the Friends of Gateacre hope to build.



The Black Bull, the Village Green and the Victoria Monument



Grange Mews



Grange Mews -
from Grange Lane



Soarer Cottages

Who we Are:

Our group is called "Friends of Gateacre". Although the group was established some years ago, membership had fallen off over recent years, so in September 2006 leaflets were distributed around the village resulting in a new wave of membership - and a new desire to develop the community spaces and get Gateacre blooming again! Our aim is to improve the village environment for all residents and to encourage and promote a pride in our lovely village.



Patrons:

Gateacre Community Comprehensive
The Gateacre Society
Gateacre Unitarian Chapel
Gateacre Brow Medical Practice
The Gateacre Institute

Committee:

Chair	Chris Fitzpatrick
Treasurer	Jacqui Meadows
Secretary	Geraldine McAndrew
	Barbara Collinge
	Barbara Mace
	Joan Chidlow
	Pat Webb
	Joan Downey
	Alma Gorst
	Dave Holcroft
	Terri Holcroft
	Martin Mackarel
	Pauline Rose
	Beryl McLaren

As well as entering our village in "Northwest in Bloom", this year, we also have several "Neighbourhoods" who are planning to enter too. These are:

- ☆ Soarer Cottages
- ☆ Dale Mews
- ☆ Grange Mews
- ☆ Stone Cottages
- ☆ Turners Court
- ☆ York Cottages



Friends of Gateacre
Committee Meeting

Because of the reduced membership last year, the village was not entered in "Northwest in Bloom", but fund-raising activities continued, including a "Home Front Recall" and a Victorian Christmas Fayre, both of which were very successful and were enjoyed by all! The "Cricket Field" was also planted with bluebells and spring bulbs.

Because of our reduced numbers, the planting was not as extensive as in previous years, but it did continue - and the village still looked lovely!



"Home Front Recall" - activities for all - including a WW2 singalong!





The Victorian Christmas Fayre - lots of Christmas fun, with a local school choir and a band providing the musical entertainment.

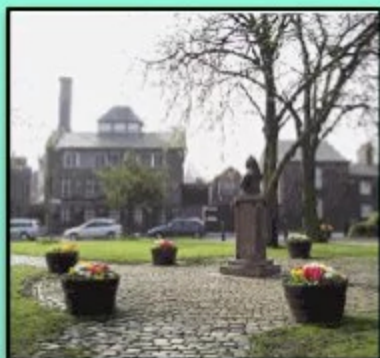




We have also been active on the Cricket Field, where there have been bulbs and bluebells planted around the tree-line, to give further spring colour - and the planting was a very popular activity too!



May 2007 - the results are beginning to show!



Planting is not just a "Summer" event - the village looks lovely at other times of year too. In springtime there are daffodils, bright and cheerful spring bedding plants and blossom too! Spring is also a useful time for cleaning and painting the planters. Clearing work was also completed in the gardens around the Chapel Hall - with lots of help - resulting in the neat and tidy garden below!



The Chapel Hall Gardens - after the tidy-up

**Diary
2006/2007**

A depleted committee met on Tuesday 25th July 2006. The committee were keen to continue the work, but there was a strong feeling that the Friends of Gateacre could only make progress if more volunteers came forward. There was disappointment in the village because of the lack of planting this year, in contrast with the successes of 2005. It was agreed that the Friends of Gateacre should be relaunched at a public meeting on Monday 4th September. The publicity leaflet below was produced and distributed throughout the village.

Let's hope the response is good!!



Friends of Gateacre News July/August 2006

Gateacre Village Plans a Relaunch Friends of Gateacre need YOUR help



Everyone in Gateacre has been disappointed this year to see that preparations for Gateacre in Bloom have not gone ahead. We have all missed the impressive floral decorations and community events of the last two years and many people want to see them continue. If we are to carry on to better things next year, we need the help of everyone in the village and some volunteers who will make things happen.

You don't have to be a Gardener to take part. Do you have a willingness to help the community, a useful skill or just a few hours to spare? If so, you can help us to make a difference.

Gardening	Claretal Help	Crafts
Computers	A Public Meeting Gateacre Chapel Hall Monday 4th September 6.30 pm Please come along and help us to plan for the Winter and Next Year. Everyone is welcome and everyone can contribute	Cookery
General		
Waterbury		
Maintenance		
Advertising		Painting & Decorating
Marketing		

A Big Thank You!

All that we enjoyed in the last two years - the hanging baskets, tubs, treepit flowers, World War II celebrations, social evenings, improvements to the Chapel Hall and successful entries into North West in Bloom - were the work of just a handful of enthusiastic and incredibly hard working people.

For personal reasons, some of them have had to withdraw this year and Gateacre has not had the strength in depth of volunteers to continue at the same level.

Grateful thanks go to Barbara Bluntborne, Lynn Cheng, Jeanette McKee and Dorothy

O'Brian. With your help, we may be able to welcome them back to advise us in the future.

Neighbourhoods in Bloom

The North West in Bloom Neighbourhood Competition is for individual streets or groups of houses. Three of Gateacre's neighbourhoods - Soarer Cottages, Grange Mews and Dale Mews are carrying the flag for Gateacre in Bloom. They were inspected by the Judges on 24th July and obviously made a good impression.

We wish them every success.

Questions Answered:

What has happened to our planters and flowers?

They were removed for planning up by the City Council and annually FOG would arrange to fund their removal, plant up, in early Summer. When this was not possible, the Council offered some free planting, in the case for by FOG. Without the arrangements in case for the plants and in winter regularly, regularly this also had to be replaced.

Why are hanging baskets?

FOG can supply them but they have to be used for by the house and shop owners. We have all seen the evidence of dead baskets left hanging for months.

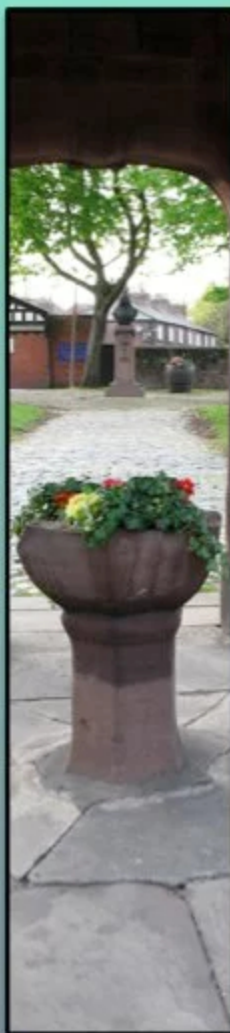
Why aren't the empty planters removed? Again, as arrangements. They belonged in FOG but the Council eventually agreed to have them removed as they were disarming.



Ring 722 6862

For more

If the relaunch encourages sufficient interest, this will enable plans for new projects in 2007 to begin.



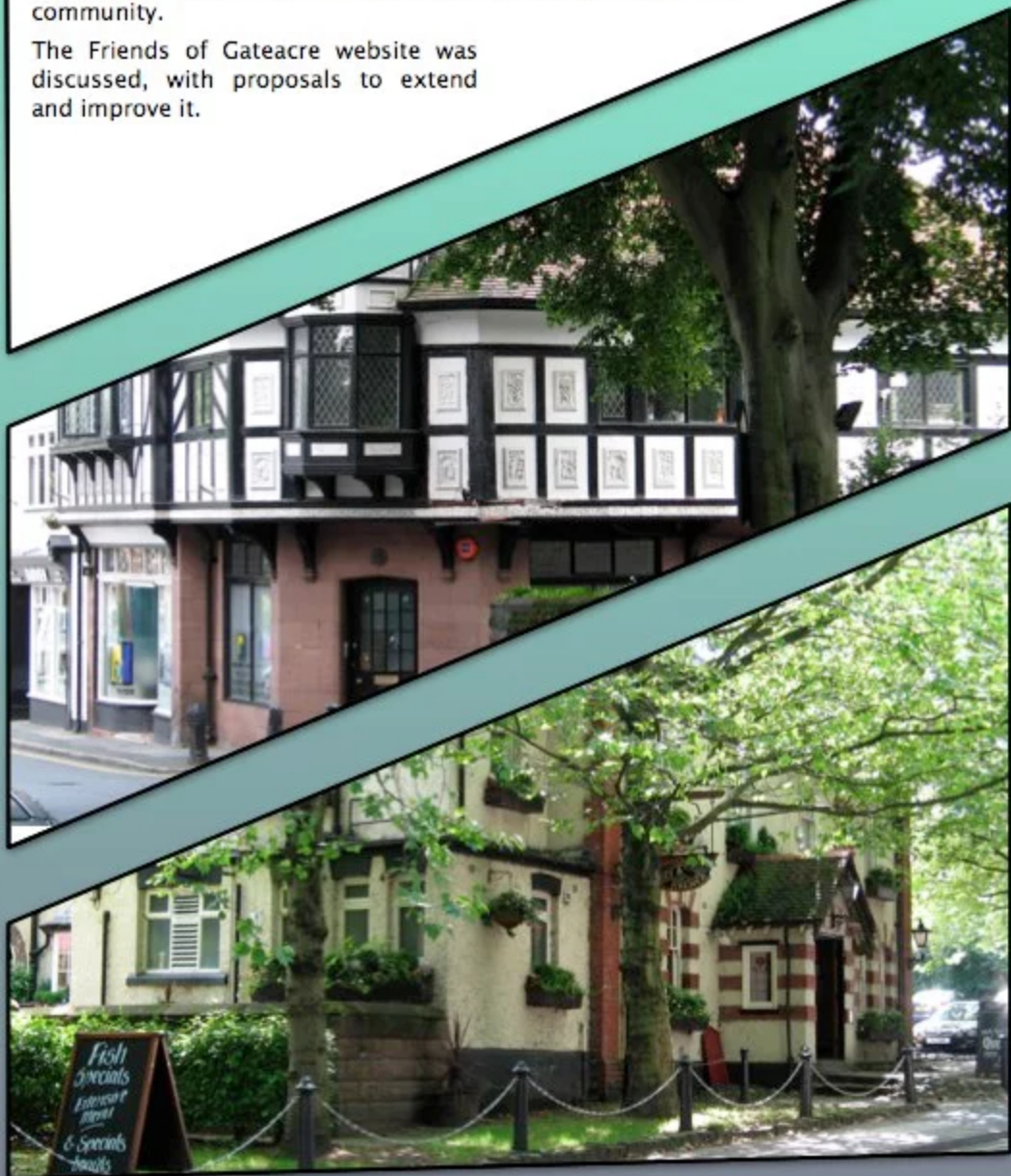
September 2006:

The Relaunch meeting took place on 4th September and it was good to see new faces, who were welcomed. It was hoped that this would mean that Gateacre could once again be entered into "Northwest in Bloom" .

At the meeting there were discussions about planting, the North West in Bloom entry for 2007, fundraising and the long-term aims for village improvements.

These included proposals for a permanent garden on part of the Cricket Field, which aimed to create a focal point for the community.

The Friends of Gateacre website was discussed, with proposals to extend and improve it.



October 2006:

It was agreed to approach the council to obtain planters for the village Green to be planted up as soon as possible to demonstrate that the Friends of Gateacre were still in business!

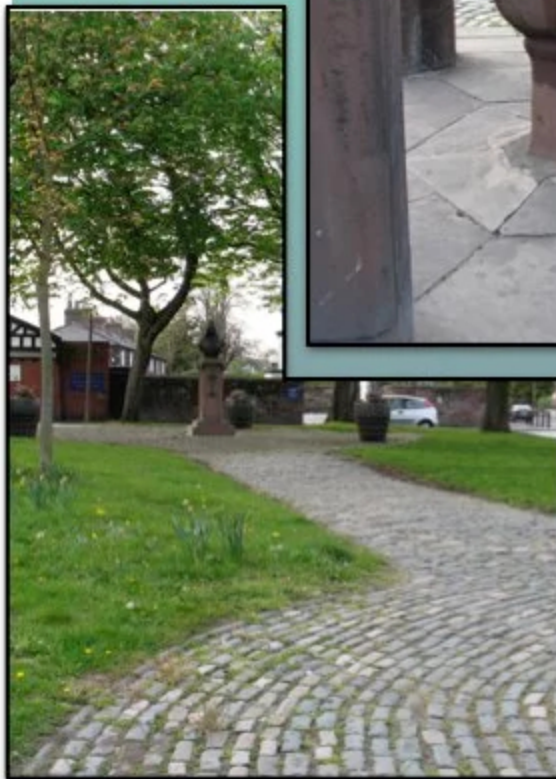
No progress yet about the Cricket Field - the plans had been affected by the reorganisation of Council Services.

The plans at present include paving, planting, fencing, four benches, 3 dog bins, a double sided information board, parterre with ornate arbour and edging stones. Plans to be brought to the meeting as soon as possible.

Disabled access to the new garden were discussed - we needed to agree what access could be achieved with our limited funding.

There was also a discussion about fund-raising and potential sources of funding. It was agreed that a leaflet be circulated advising people of forthcoming events, including a 'Winter Planting Day', once the planters had arrived.

Volunteers were sought for a table sale at Gateacre Chapel Fair in November. Details were to be included in the Forthcoming Events leaflet. Picnic Tables for the Cricket Field would be requested through the 'Community Chest'.



November 2006:

The Annual General Meeting was held before the Friends of Gateacre Meeting on 8th November. 3 Planters had been delivered - plants needed to be bought so that planting could begin on 15th November, which had been designated as 'Winter Planting Day'. There were also 18 'wraparounds' outside Gateacre Social Club, which would also be planted on this day - all were invited to help. There was discussion about how the containers would be watered during the summer months - but no conclusions yet.

Liverpool Park Rangers - Had approached the Committee with a view to attending occasional meetings and to discuss how they could help the Friends of Gateacre.

Events in November:

11th November:

Gateacre Chapel Fair - a good day had by all plenty of interest and £40.00 from sales on the day.

15th November:

Planting Day! - many volunteers on the day - and there were plenty of plants available to fill the additional planters that had been promised. These would be planted later.

26th November:

An All Faith Service is held in Gateacre Chapel, to remember the achievements of the past year in the village and celebrate the community spirit across all faiths and organisations in Gateacre. Members of the Friends of Gateacre were involved in this service and many attended and enjoyed the refreshments and chat in the hall after too.



Gateacre Chapel

December 2006:

Planting took place in November and although many of the plants would not need watering in the winter months, the planting in the fountain would need to be watered as it was sheltered from any rain by the Wilson Memorial. Members of the committee volunteered for this, but it raised the perennial problem of how watering would be managed in the summer months! A bowser was suggested, but storage and rotas would still need to be arranged.

The proposals for the Cricket Field were discussed and a grant from the Empowering Neighbourhoods Council Awards Scheme was confirmed. It was agreed that this would enhance the current plans by providing picnic tables, with rubbish bins located nearby to discourage litter and also dog-bins, as the field is used extensively by residents walking dogs.



Other fund-raising activities were discussed, including carol singing on the Village Green - but it was agreed that this would have to wait until next year, as it was too late to arrange it successfully.

A Quiz Night was arranged in the Village Club for January, with all members volunteering to contribute to the refreshments, raffle and bric-a-brac sale.

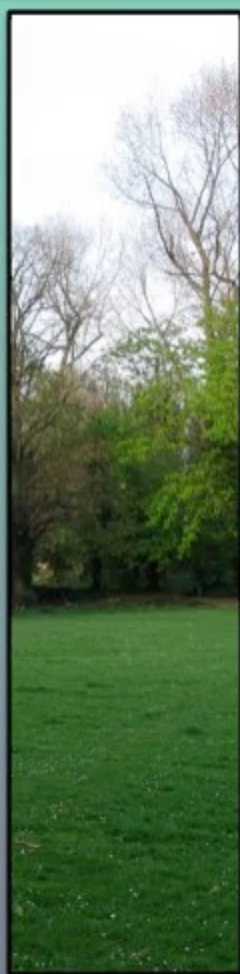
Other sources of funding were also discussed, including applications to the Woolton Educational and Recreational Trust and the Lottery "Green Machine", both of which were to be pursued.



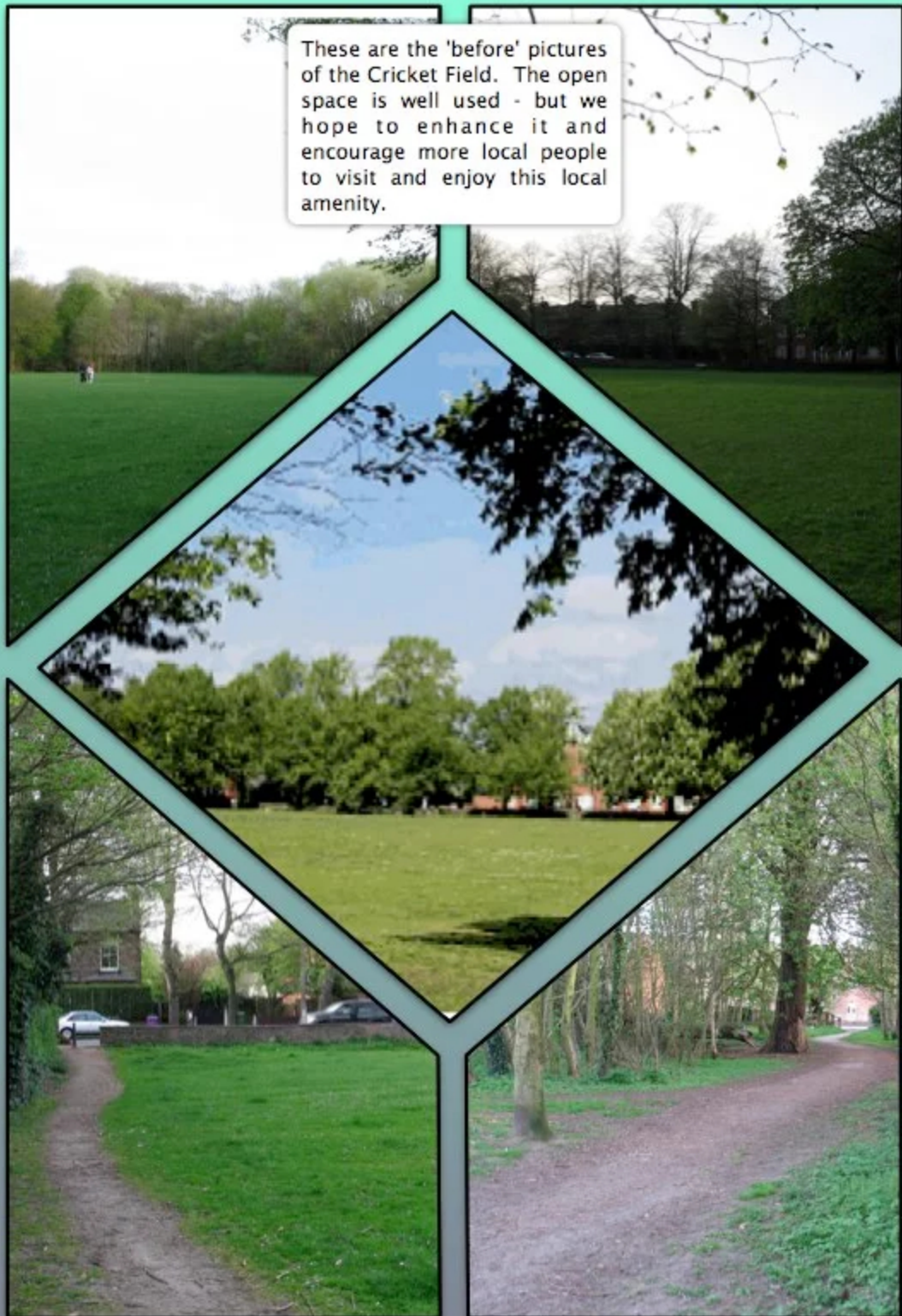
Friends of Gateacre Plans for the Cricket Field in 2007:

Our major project in 2007 is the "Cricket Field" - although cricket hasn't been played here for years! The open space is well used, by many local residents - but we hope to enhance it by adding a garden area, with seating and a local notice board. This has been funded through "Section 106 Funding", and has been discussed at many of the Friends of Gateacre Meetings. The funding was supposed to be spent by the end of March 2007 - but, because of the large amount of landscaping and gardening work throughout Liverpool, was delayed until the beginning of June.

Over the last few years, we have enhanced the Cricket Field by planting bulbs and bluebells under the trees and around the perimeter, but this year we wanted something that would provide a permanent structure and be visible for passers by - something that might make them want to come in and sit down.



These are the 'before' pictures of the Cricket Field. The open space is well used - but we hope to enhance it and encourage more local people to visit and enjoy this local amenity.



Gateacre
Recreation
Ground
PARTERRE

Decorative
Perimeter Rail
1.2 metre
Low Internal

Ornate Arch
/ Arbor
entrance

Tarmac path

Scale
40mm =

1000

Corner Bench /
Seat

1000m

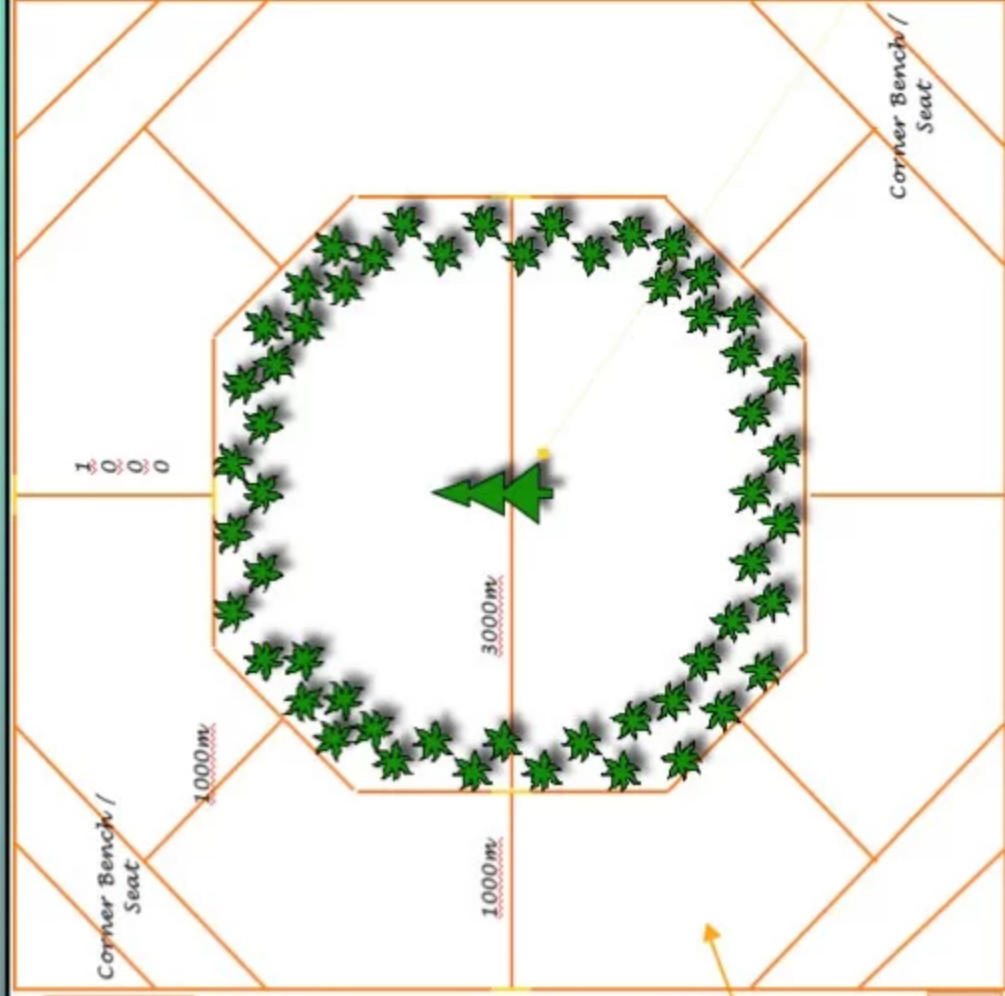
1000m

3000m

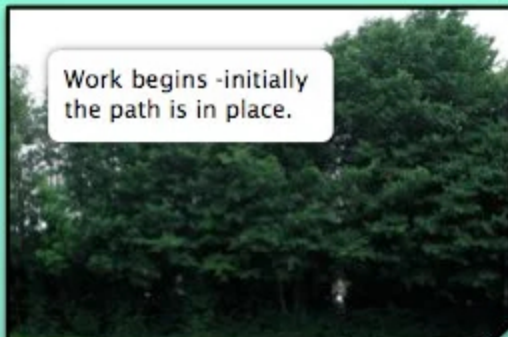
Ornate Arch
/ Arbor
entrance

Central
Planted
area with
Feature

Corner Bench /
Seat



Work begins -initially
the path is in place.



Building the ornate arbour



..and fixing the
structure in place



Painting under way - and
already there is local interest!



Picnic Tables and
bins in place



26th July 2007 - The Cricket Field Garden -
the structure finished, but not yet planted -
another casualty of this year's awful summer!



January 2007:

The village now has two new planters, which have been filled with wallflowers and the primulas in the tubs on the village green are looking lovely. The treepits were discussed, but it was thought that they were unsuitable for permanent planting unless the kerbs were built up - although some bulbs are still coming through!

The Quiz Night was a great success - and raised funds for our summer planting. The DVD of the Home Front Recall was also shown on the night, which led to several copies being purchased.

The Friends of Gateacre website is now linked to The Gateacre Society website, which is regularly maintained - a great help, as the Friends do not have the resources to manage this properly. It was felt that more publicity for the Friends of Gateacre was needed - the notice-board planned for the Cricket Field should help with this.



News from the Friends of Gateacre, Liverpool

Friends of Gateacre

need your

HELP!

A MEETING of the Friends of Gateacre
will be held on **Thursday 5th July 2007**
in the **WOOLTON SOCIAL CLUB**
(a.k.a. the **CONSERVATIVE CLUB**)
Grange Lane, Gateacre, Liverpool L25
starting at **7 p.m.**

And it is proposed that, from August onwards,
FUTURE MEETINGS
will be held in the same place
on the third Thursday of each month

ALL INTERESTED RESIDENTS
of Gateacre are invited to attend

The Friends of Gateacre are finalising their plans for Gateacre in Bloom 2007, and aim to put on a good show for the summer. The Cricket Field is also in the process of being improved, with a new landscape design, seats, picnic tables, etc.

To continue with this, the Friends need your support.
If you want to help, please contact:

GATEACRE SOCIETY - Home Page
GATEACRE CHAT
News

The Friends of Gateacre web-site,
managed by The Gateacre Society

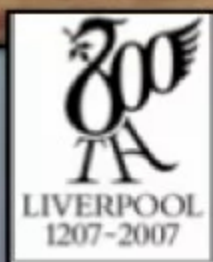
February 2007:

Despite some committee members watering the plants in the fountain as agreed at the last meeting, the watering has not been enough and the winter planting is looking very sad. Primulas will be planted and watering will need to be more extensive in the future.

The Cricket Field picnic tables have now been ordered from the Probation Service, who will make them and also deliver and fix them in place. The remaining funds are being used for bins and planters.

The work on the permanent gardens should be starting soon and is supposed to be finished by the end of March - but the weather has not been kind - and the Council are rearranging their services - both of which may cause further delays.

A summer event was discussed, but not agreed, with suggestions ranging from a Grand Opening Event for the Cricket Field Garden, a Summer Fete on the Village Green or a Commemoration of the Slave Trade, with links to the larger events that will be happening in Liverpool as part of the lead-up to the 2008 "Capital of Culture" and the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in Britain. It was acknowledged that this would need a substantial amount of work and commitment and the committee were unsure if there were the resources within the group to manage this successfully.



This month there were discussions about which other areas of Gateacre could be included in the planting. Thornside Walk was discussed, but as ownership of these flats is currently being transferred to Liverpool Mutual Homes, it was agreed to approach the new owners for the next planting - probably autumn.

Fund Raising:

A Social Evening is planned for May, including a live band, a disco, bingo and a

raffle. A car boot sale will be arranged later in the year.

A Beatles Flower Festival is being arranged by Woolton in Bloom and it was agreed that Friends of Gateacre would support this by arranging a display.

April 2007:



May 2007:

The evening of the fundraising Social Event was unfortunately extremely stormy and wet (as much of the summer has been!) and was poorly attended - so did not really help to raise any funds - but those who did brave the weather enjoyed themselves.

Because of the problems with watering, it has been decided that Knowsley 'START', a young people's training association, will be employed to water the planters and wraparounds twice a week. This will benefit the Friends of Gateacre and the village and will also support a local community resource.

The Flower Festival was discussed, with arrangements agreed for both the preparation and manning the 'Help!' exhibit during the festival weekend. Neighbourhood Groups were also discussed, with further possibilities being suggested for inclusion next year.



June 2007:

Concerns were raised about the delays with the Cricket Field Garden installation. Although the work was begun at the beginning of June, progress has been slow, with only the paths completed so far. The poor weather has caused some of these delays, but, although not yet installed, work has begun on the structure of the ornate arbour.

The draft portfolio was discussed - with suggestions from the committee for further items to be included.

A list of planting for both the Cricket Field and the village was discussed. The Cricket Field will be permanent planting, with some scented too. The village will be a mix of colours, but some of the perennials that had been planted will also be retained, especially in the barrel planters.

Summer Planting Day took place on 13th June, when village residents helped to tidy the village and fill the planters and baskets in the village.

The Flower Festival in Woolton was a great success - and the Friends of Gateacre display was greatly admired - with further possible members and helpers too.



Planting List for Gateacre Cricket Field Garden

Plant	Size	Quantity
Buxus Sempervirens	3L	310
Buxus Sempervirens	2L	30
Lavendula angustifolia Hidcote	2L	60
Yuca	5L	1
Thymus vulgaris	2L	60
Lanicea nitida 'Baggesens Gold'	3L	40
Salvia officinalis Icterina	2L	60



13th June - Planting Day



HELP!



Beatles Flower Festival
15TH TO 17TH JUNE 2007

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the historic first appearance of

John and Paul

on the stage of St. Peter's Church Hall
6th July 1957

Present in Woolton
in Woolton and
Beverly Rising
Station

RDAB
Raising the Roof
for the Disabled

Entrance
to Programmes
£2.50
on the door or in
advance

For information
Contact Wendy
0151 411 9831

*In the Church
Beatles Songs
Illustrated in Beatles
Flower Displays
In the Church Hall*

*Festival Open to View
Friday, 15th June
10 am to 5 pm
Saturday, 16th June
10 am to 4 pm*



The Beatles Flower Festival in Woolton, 15th - 17th June

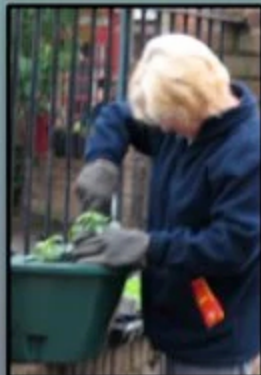


July 2007:

The planting is progressing, although the wet weather with little sunshine has not helped the plants to flourish. Watering by START has been a success, but some of the larger planters may need more than they are getting - despite the rain. This will be raised with START. Many of the shops and businesses in the village have agreed to put up hanging baskets, which will improve the look of the village. We had hoped that the council would be able to supply further large planters, but these had gone elsewhere, so it was agreed to purchase a further six ourselves. Plants for these are



to be purchased from Thingwall Hall, which is a local community support group that the committee would like to encourage. It was agreed that if this was successful, we could work more closely with this group throughout next year. The Cricket Field has still not been completed, but the structure is in place and it is hoped that the planting will be completed soon - weather permitting. Plans for community involvement and fund-raising events later in the year were discussed, such as a Christmas Tree on the Village Green. A date of 2nd December was set for the Christmas Fayre and Carol Singing.



Planning for 2007/2008:

In 2008, Liverpool will be the European Capital of Culture. There will be many events throughout the city and the Friends of Gateacre will be planning local celebrations to complement the city-wide events. To enable this, fund raising events are being planned during 2007, including a Car Boot Sale, a Christmas Fete, Carol Singing and a new print of the Friends of Gateacre "Gateacre in Bloom" calendar that was originally published in 2006. Other local community events will continue throughout the year and the Friends of Gateacre are keen to extend the scope of our planting and include areas of the village that have not been involved so far. Hopefully this will increase the Neighbourhoods to be included in Northwest in Bloom next year. We also hope to increase local environmental awareness, encouraging both litter management and a green agenda within the village. Friends of Gateacre will continue their involvement with other local community groups, including The Gateacre Society, START and Thingwall Hall and hope to encourage links with local schools and youth groups.

