



Gateacre in Bloom 2009

Our Village:

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, before Liverpool itself existed. Although there are buildings dating from the 17th century in the village, in the late nineteenth century a change in architectural fashion led to Gateacre village being associated with the 'black-and-white' or 'mock Tudor' style which makes it such a distinctive place today. Gateacre became part of the City of Liverpool in 1913. The village was designated as one of Liverpool's first Conservation Areas.



Who We Are:

Our group is called "Friends of Gateacre". Our aim is to improve the village environment for all residents and to encourage and promote a pride in our village. This year we have continued our association with The Gateacre Society, our local Comprehensive School, who have worked with us on many of our projects and developed many of their own. We have also collaborated with other local groups, especially, in Liverpool's Year of The Environment, to improve the environment with planting and clean-up days.

Our group meets every month and although we organise specific 'clean-up days', with wider involvement, many of our members are active around the village every day, selecting a specific area to target - a fence that needs painting, a 'grot-spot' that needs clearing, weeding that needs to be done or litter-picking while walking the dog! Our efforts are appreciated by the residents of the village - and many support us with donations and appreciative comments - and by adding their own planting and hanging baskets!

The Friends of Gateacre

Neighbourhoods:

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

- ☆ Dale Mews
- ☆ Grange Mews
- ☆ Turners Court

Some residents from these neighbourhoods are also active members of the Friends.



Patrons:

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

Committee:

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

What's Been Happening?

Timetable for 2009:



Month	Date and Time	Planned Events
January 2009	21/01/09 19:15 31/01/09 14:00	Committee Meeting Tub tidy-up!
February 2009	17/02/09 19:15 22/02/09 14:00	Committee Meeting 2009 Planning Walk
March 2009	07/03/09 09:00 07/03/09 13/03/09 19:30 18/03/09 19:15	Spring Clean! Planting in Cricket Field Quiz Night Committee Meeting
April 2009	21/04/09 19:15 25/04/09 10:00	Committee Meeting Clean-Up Day 6 Monthly Newsletter
May 2009	27/05/09 19:15 End of May	AGM Planting Days
June 2009	04/06/09 10:00 June 09 13/06/09 09:00 14/06/09 09:00 15/06/09 10:00 17/06/09 23/06/09 19:15	Rangers Talk Bird/Bat Boxes - in school Village Tidy Up Planting Day Planting Day School Planting Committee Meeting
July 2009	13/7/09 - 17/07/09 15/07/09 19:15 18/7/09 10:00 23/7/09	Respect Week Committee Meeting Clean Up Day Northwest in Bloom Judging
August 2009	18/08/09 19:15	Committee Meeting
September 2009	16/09/09 19:15 tbc	Committee Meeting Quiz Night
October 2009	20/10/09 19:15	Committee Meeting 6 Monthly Newsletter
November 2009	18/11/09 19:15	Committee Meeting
December 2009	tbc	Christmas Event

Goodbye to Tudorlambanana

Last year we all enjoyed our association with the Superlambananas, which were part of Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations. Tudorlambanana was a collaboration between Friends of Gateacre and Gateacre Comprehensive School and was a great success and loved by villagers and visitors alike.

At the end of the summer, the Superlambananas were auctioned to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Charity, with Tudor raising £4,288 - FOG members who attended the auction had a wonderful evening!

Before the auction, Tudorlambanana featured in an art exhibition at the school - and was once again the star of the show!



Year of the Environment - 2009

2009 is Liverpool's Year of the Environment and throughout the year the aim is to take Liverpool a step closer to becoming green and sustainable. The theme is 'Our city, Our planet'.

The Friends of Gateacre have always tried to get involved and make a difference to their small part of the planet and this year we have been involved in the 'Save our Bees' campaign. We are concerned that billions of bees are dying from unknown causes, with one in three honey bee colonies in the UK lost last winter. The UK's bumble bees are also suffering because there aren't enough wildflowers for them. We decided to plant more wildflowers in the cricket field, with bee-friendly planting in our tubs and baskets in the village and to encourage residents to be bee-friendly in their gardens.

We also decided that we would provide information on our notice-board to let people know what wildflowers were planted - and how they helped bees and the environment - this information has proved to be really popular.

Our other environmental work has been to get involved in 'The Big Tidy Up', working with Liverpool Cycle Club, Sustrans, LCVS and members of the public. We have several of these throughout the year and on one of these days, we managed to tidy several 'grot spots', collecting over 40 bags of litter - we also got rid of about 4 tons of brick rubble, pieces of broken wall, glass, rusty bikes, lawn mowers and other miscellaneous debris from various areas of Gateacre - thanks to a skip provided by the City Council. After a busy morning's work, we all enjoyed coffee and cakes at Morrisons, courtesy of Sustrans!



Linking School and Community

This year the Learning Zone team at Gateacre Community Comprehensive School have continued with their allotment with great success and now include, their newest members to the school, chickens. The chickens have been looked after by staff and students, with their eggs being sold with the allotment vegetables to fund further planting and feed for the chickens.

The ASDAN group, as part of their course have to identify a challenge and then work to overcome it. They realised they all had a passion for gardening and with the help of the Gateacre Garden centre they were able to create two new planters for the reception area which have been very well looked after by the group. Working with Friends of Gateacre, the students have also filled two large planters in the village centre with donations from the garden centre.

Since the donation of lavender from the Friends of Gateacre last year, ASDAN have also overhauled the front garden bed in the main car park, adding more lavender and colourful planting.

Friends of Gateacre had asked the school if they would like to help build bird and bat boxes for the village, which led to a highlight of the year for the students - a visit from the Rangers Service, to talk to students and members of FOG about bird/bat boxes and the local wildlife. This was fascinating, with many students and staff commenting on how informative and interesting it was. A result of this talk was the Learning Zone students making the bird/bat boxes which are now located on the village green.





Two pupils from Year 10 at Gateacre Comprehensive School, Ashlea Walton and Thomas Heyes, were invited by the Friends of Gateacre to design and plant the two large black tubs by the crossroads in the centre of Gateacre.

As it is the Year of the Environment, they decided to choose bee-friendly plants. Thomas helps out at Gateacre Garden Centre on day-release every Monday and is very knowledgeable. He knows all the Latin names of plants and told us that the planters contained French Marigolds, lavender, bacopa, million bells, helichrysum, gazania, dianthus and other plants, all of which were generously donated by Gateacre Garden Centre, because they were so impressed with him. Ashlea and Thomas were ably assisted by Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Hassall from Gateacre Comprehensive School.

The Friends of Gateacre are very grateful for the help and would also like to thank Bannons and Gateacre Conservative Club who provided the water to help the plants settle in.

A real community effort!

School and Community - Working Together



Our Village Green

Gateacre Village Green is at the heart of our village - in the springtime, the village green is alive with spring flowers - crocus and daffodils, but over the last 12 months, there have been some additions, which have added to the character - and emphasised the 'local roots' of the green, which was presented by Sir Andrew Barclay Walker to the Little Woolton Local Board in 1887.

The first addition was provided by The Gateacre Society - a heritage information board or Lectern, which aims to make as many people as possible aware of Gateacre's history and its wealth of interesting buildings and monuments. The Gateacre Society aims to improve local amenities, protect the environment and conserve the architectural heritage of the Gateacre district of Liverpool.

The Friends of Gateacre - who were responsible for installing two black cast iron benches, which complement the lectern and were appreciated by many older residents of the village as they replaced benches that were on the Green many years ago.



Members of The Gateacre Society,
displaying their new Lectern





The Lecture on the
Village Green -
courtesy of The
Gateacre Society



Turners Court - Friends of Gateacre and Neighbourhood Group



As 2009 is the Year of the Environment in Liverpool, we decided to focus mainly on ways in which we could make our garden at our retirement complex more environmentally friendly.

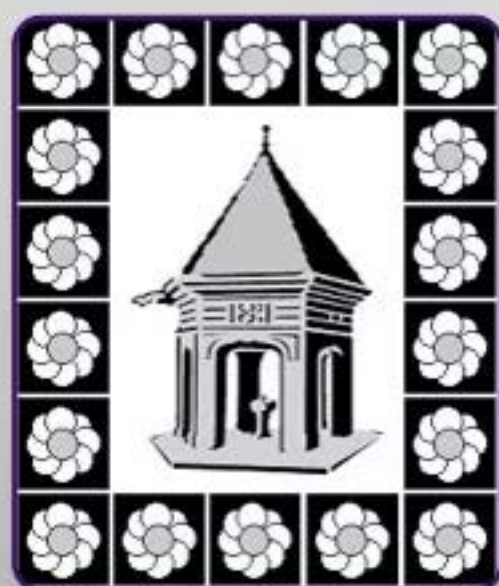
Firstly we successfully applied for a grant for three water butts, which were fitted by one of our action team and our House Manager's husband. This has greatly reduced the amount of main's water used this year. We have also used peat free compost for all our planters and hanging baskets and have now built our own compost frame, so next year we will be able to use our own compost for planting. We have recently purchased and sited two more bird boxes.

We have regularly litter picked around the immediate neighbourhood and have had permission to repaint a nearby telephone substation box which was covered with graffiti and also removed graffiti from the perimeter walls of the adjoining apartment block.

Having a residents' garden has given us a real sense of community, as we have had quizzes, raffles, bingo evenings and suppers to raise money for plants and compost. We have also had meetings with residents to get their ideas, so although most may not be fit enough to do gardening, they feel that they have had an input into the project.

As the theme this year is 'Roots' we asked some residents to think back to their favourite childhood flowers. They came up with daffodils, pansies, roses, forget-me-nots, geraniums and sweet williams, so we have included these in our Spring and Summer plantings. Residents have also been part of the project by bringing us hot drinks on cold days, cool, refreshing drinks in Summer and by chatting to us while we were gardening. We feel that taking part in this competition has given us a real sense of community and brought enjoyment to all at Turner's Court.

All four members of our action team are regular and active members of The Friends of Gateacre and have supported all the community activities.



Friends of Gateacre 2009