

Activities of the Gainsborough Residents Association.

We officially formed the Gainsborough Residents Association on August 23rd 2013. The Chairperson is Mrs Paula Isaac of 41 Gainsborough Road, and the Vice-Chair is Mr David Eggleton of 48 Gainsborough Road.

There are currently 12 members enrolled on the committee.

We started the Gainsborough Residents Association as myself and David were trying to carry out projects to promote community involvement and finding it quite difficult to find the time to commit to it on our own. We decided to hold a public meeting to gauge public interest in a residents association and our ideas for projects, and we had a lovely response. From this meeting a residents association was formed. Below are listed the various projects we have carried out in the last 7-8 months on the estate.

We have carried out various projects on the estate to encourage residents to care for their local environment, and to improve the overall appearance of the estate.

We have:

- Planted flower beds on the entrance to the estate.
- Planted cherry trees on the estate.
- Held estate tidy days. In conjunction with Henley In Bloom and SOHA Housing we have held 3 days on which skips have been delivered to the estate and residents have had an opportunity to clear rubbish and household items for free, and we have encouraged residents to get involved and pick up litter, tidy paths, clean and weed kerbs and roads and generally tidy the estate. We have another estate tidy planned for Saturday 5th April (am) in conjunction with Henley's H.I.T. LITTER campaign.

We have worked within the local and extended town community to:

- Improve community relations.
- Improve community involvement.
- Promote ownership for the area we live in by encouraging residents to take pride in the estate and keep it clean and tidy.
- Offered residents help to clear and tidy their gardens if they are unable to do so.
- Held public meetings for residents to promote community interest in the residents association and projects.
- Held a charity Auction of Promises, which raised a total of £2,786-00 for 5 local charities.
- We have helped another local community in The Close to get projects underway, and they are now working as a community on their own projects as well as being involved in ours
- We have involved local schools in projects to promote youth involvement in the area and to encourage young people to take pride in their area and community.
- We have supported the Henley Skate Park Initiative and included the in our projects to help them to promote and raise money for their new skatepark.
- We have opened a forum on Facebook for residents to use to ask advice about community issues and how to find local tradesmen.
- We have set up a website for Gainsborough Estate which we intend to use to promote our work, advertise future events and post links to community advice and local tradesmen.

- We are also campaigning in the background to have a community hall built on our estate for the community to use to interact and socialise, to hold events to raise money for community projects and hold community events for residents.
- This year we have entered Gainsborough Estate in the national RHS It's Your Neighbourhood competition, and we hope to WIN!!!!!!.

We have lots of projects planned for the coming year some of which are:

- More planting projects to promote conservation of wildlife. We plan to plant trees, and wild flowers in conjunction with Henley in Bloom.
- Planting a special poppy arrangement to mark the 100 year anniversary of the 1st World War, in conjunction with The Royal British Legion.
- More estate tidy days, as these are proving to be very successful with residents.
- Community events to further improve community involvement.
- Preparations on the estate for the judging of It's Your Neighbourhood.
- And much more.

As well as promoting community involvement in our area, we also try to promote community involvement within Henley Town as a whole. We have worked in conjunction with lots of other organisations in the last 7-8 months, and would like to thank them all for their continued support.

They are:

- Henley Town Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Henley in Bloom
- Henley in Transition
- SOHA Housing
- Henley Herald
- The Henley Standard
- The Royal British Legion
- Higgs + Co
- Henley Skatepark Initiative

If anybody is interested in getting involved in our community work, or would like to donate any money or assistance with projects they can contact:

Paula Isaac.

Tel: 07983518412 or Email: pollyisaac@hotmail.com

David Eggleton.

Tel: 07836202508.