

## Success at Groundwork Merseyside 21 Awards 2007



**Groundwork Merseyside 21 Awards** are an annual celebration of the diverse environmental work being undertaken on Merseyside by local groups. The community awards were held on 8 February 2007 & four projects supported through Operation EDEN's Development Fund were up for an award. Excitingly all of them scooped either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in their category! **The splendid projects were:**



### **Norris Green Fingers – “Winner - Healthy Lives Award”** (St Christopher's Church, Norris Green).

This project, created on land owned by the Church, next to the Boot estate in Norris Green, promotes community health by bringing together hundreds of school children with older more experienced gardeners. Emphasis is placed on growing friendships as well as vegetables and flowers and the project offers a real sign of hope and change amidst the problems of anti-social behaviour and housing decay. (This was the first project supported by Operation EDEN)

### **Harlow Allotments – “Runner Up - Lord Winstanley Changing Places Award”** (SHINE, St Helens)

In an area with a lack of facilities, the allotments in St Helens bring together young and old and provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to become engaged in mainstream, outdoor activities as well as providing an area for families to enjoy together. The excellent multi use of the allotment site promotes health, exercise, community values and social inclusion and provides young offenders, working with the Probation Service, with an opportunity to 'put something back' into their local community.



### **EDEN Allotments/Asylum Link Merseyside – “Winner - Pauline Mousdell Changing Lives Award”** (St Anne's Roman Catholic Church + volunteers of various world faiths)

The allotment project has captured people's imagination, shown asylum seekers & refugees in a positive light, dispelled a few myths and given many people something to aim for. The benefits have reached far beyond the shed and patch of soil worked on throughout the year. The project provides food for hungry and destitute people and also feeds souls through friendship and understanding about the needs of refugees, a group at the extreme margins of our society.



### **Stories of Steps – “Runner Up - Creative Environment Award”** (Toxteth Tab & St Philemon's).

The Herculaneum Steps provided access to Liverpool's docks, the International Garden Festival Site and the Mersey Waterfront but had become a focus for anti-social behaviour and litter. 'Stories of Steps' harnessed local people's creativity by collecting stories and images from the Steps. An artist worked with the community to raise awareness and use of the steps, reduce litter and encourage local celebrations of the stories. A booklet of stories was produced.

