

Gatherums Renga (36 verses, a Kasan)

Composed on Saturday September 13th for the Gatherums and Springside Regeneration Group by Paul Sutherland, Christopher Wick, Melanie Joy, Georga, Robert Gwynne, Fran Treanor, Janet Hawson, McInnes family, a man with a blond Labrador Retriever, a mother with a boy in a pram, a girl on a purple bike, a young family man and other passers-by.

1.

From yesterday's rain
on ground once sacred to the poor
mown blades glittering

2.

everyone's green avenue
blue cryptic signs start a search

3.

under an iron disk
St Helen's spring deep-gurgles
from history's night

4.

Chris says ' me and my friends call it
the Springside cut-through'

5.

school youngsters invade
stroll through, chat and throw new taunts
in Monk's Dyke colours

6.

'at the back of everything'
Georga says, sun on her cheek

7.

'gentle slope for me
to cycle down', four years old
'letting pedals spin'

8.

'quaintness of it all' he says
'oh somewhere to return to'

9.

spiders lost in Louth
over a white and blue t-shirt
connecting people

10.

be still where springs spout spacious
and slow time-rich, real, ripe

11.

Ashwell, Druid site,
may St Helen's spring still hold
magic elements

12.

lately sunshine trickles through
elder, free, glances off roofs

13.

this cut through joining
parts of Louth, my small town's linked
to all world cities

14.

now smashed bottles are gone,
a bench to sit on and compose

15.

so much green, so much
unseen, have y' ever wondered
what you walk upon?

16.

a hidden place made public,
robin trills through buddleia

17.

place to escape to,
neighbour fences a shoreline:
let the mind explore

18.

into light of new gardens
with unlabelled flower smell

19.

grandmother picnicks
on the oval seat's centre
with our munching child

20.

I live here so close
I love here so much

21.

if Spring kiss was here
my last farewell, overhead
bombers packed the sky

22.

'The Park' we sweet-christen it
all the rubbish mounds removed

23.

from behind a wall
cedar scent, in the far view
a budded tower

24.

boys love rolling down the hill
then peek from a secret den

25.

ash by a lost well:
who knows - the builder's mural
may yet survive time

26.

'brilliant. I used to drink here
with my mates, now a thoroughfare'

27.

shifting directions
follow this way, that, red car
yellow, you'll arrive

28.

'people don't like change
... but we persevere'

29.

some winter sun-days
mild enough to sit, Springs once
warmer than the air

30.

McInnes family recalls
how four people came to Louth

31.

where the median
crosses the paved passage home
busy shoes chatter

32.

looking from an old folks' fence
briefly the Saint's water gleams

33.

rescued land – a place
that once served the dispossessed
must not be abused

34.

who needs to understand signs?
enough, white on blue exists

35.

far-behind's below,
our little moment connects
here to every time

36.

after after afterwards,
the way – beautiful again