



# Wellesbourne in Bloom Entry Portfolio

## Bloom Awards 2010

*Small Town Category*

*Judges Visit – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010*



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# *1 Introduction*

- 1 Wellesbourne in Bloom was founded in 2004, it has grown from strength to strength and we now have a committee of eight who all have different talents that combine and complement each other. More importantly, we have fun, which is one of our main objectives. We are so well supported by our families and the community in all our efforts.
- 2 After our success last year in achieving Gold and our Chairman, gaining a personal award, our profile within the village and surrounding area has grown. We were nominated by Wellesbourne Parish Council for the “Queens Service Award for Volunteers” which was a great honour. Although unsuccessful this time it gave the whole committee a huge boost knowing how much our efforts mean to the community.
- 3 We continue to work in tandem with the Parish Council and other organisations and authorities to make Wellesbourne an attractive place to live in. We have worked this year to solve several issues within the village. Our profile outside of the village has also been lifted by our successful “Open Spaces” grant for the “St Peters Church Wildlife Project” which has taken 3 years to come to fruition.
- 4 Our Chairman was invited to do a “Power Point” presentation at the 2010 LBAP (Local biodiversity Action Plan) Conference at Bishops Itchington in front of members of local authorities, wildlife experts, ecologists and other like-minded groups as well as the Chief Executive of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The talk was very well received and stirred a lot of interest. This was a huge feather in our cap for our little group and Wellesbourne.
- 5 Our bank of helpers continues to grow. Our aim of getting all areas of the village involved in our campaign continues. We have completed projects all over Wellesbourne with the help of old and new working partners.
- 6 This year we have worked with all ages of the community including the “Orbit Heart of England Housing Association” on schemes for the elderly. In our bulb campaign this year, we planted over 22,000 bulbs with helpers ranging from little children to old aged pensioners. Our “St Peters Church Wildlife” project covers all ages. Our work with the school continues with our help for the “Gardening Club”
- 7 There are big changes in Wellesbourne with the redevelopment of the Library in the village that will include a new children’s centre. Wellesbourne in Bloom, due to our standing in the village and the input we had in the planting on the old site, we are pleased to say we are working closely with the County Council project leaders.
- 8 We are being consulted on the new landscaping plans and have been instrumental in sorting out several thorny issues that have arisen from the new build. We have an excellent relationship with “Bob the Builder”, the site manager, who is re-

positioning the planter temporarily and donating paving so that the highways can lay a path from Newbold Road One Stop shop to the on road-parking bay.

- 9 The Fire Station in Wellesbourne which we helped for the first time last year won an award of £75 in the Fire Service Best Kept Station judging. This year we have worked on the rose bed that needed a good prune and it has now produced an abundance of blooms to make a beautiful display. Bulbs were planted surrounding the Fire Station by the Probation Service. It is one of the main focal points within the village and is used as a community meeting room, so we are pleased to be involved with Di Stowe who looks after the gardens.
- 10 Our working partnership with “Orbit Heart of England Housing Association” continues to grow. Elliott Drive that was a difficult area for us a few years ago now has planters all around the area, extensive bulb planting and a new sense of ownership. The grass cutting issues have been sorted and the unsightly fence on the front of the area taken down. Farrington Court the sheltered accommodation on the Dove House has been planted with seasonal bedding and other areas cleared and trimmed. It has also had extensive bulb planting.
- 11 We attend all the Housing Association Open Days for residents with our displays of our work. This year we have worked with Orbit and the Parish Council in putting benches at key areas around the village and created a garden, which we designed at Hastings Road, which used to be an unsightly piece of waste ground.
- 12 A lot of time this year has been spent on the final push for the “St Peter’s Church Wildlife Project” this has been a lot of work for all involved. We have had regular meetings with our lottery facilitator, Alice from the parochial church council, and the girls from the Wildlife Trust and are now looking forward to getting on with the work and the launch which should be in July next year.
- 13 We continue to keep the village informed of all our work through the “Wellesbourne and Walton News”, which is distributed to every residence in Wellesbourne once a month. The Parish Council is kept updated every month and when appropriate articles are sent into the Stratford Herald.
- 14 We hold displays at the Annual Street Fair, Walton Fete, and the two Orbit Heart of England Housing Association Residents Day’s at Christmas and Easter. We decorate a Christmas tree for the annual Tree Festival at the Methodist Church. Most importantly, we attend functions to help our working partners such as the Lions.
- 15 This year has been very hectic, and a lot has been achieved, and even now, we are making new contacts within the village who are both sponsors and helpers. Next year our main aim will be to maintain our current projects but concentrate on our “Open Spaces” project, as there are extensive projects within the large project itself involving all ages and all dynamics within the community. With the re-development of the Library, the new children’s centre and our involvement in the project, it will be exiting working with all those involved. Now that the precinct is no longer going to be re-developed, the “Precinct Planter” will be totally refurbished next year.

- 16 Our liaison with local businesses continues and we have been lucky in finding several new sponsors who have been extremely generous to our cause. The Co-operative Supermarket continues to support us in their Manager Mr McGrath, who never moans when every autumn at least eight bags of daffodils are put by the back door for his gardener to plant. This year we have through their kind donation distributed 100's of seeds that are part of the "Co-operatives B Plan" to help save Bee's. Bee friendly flower seeds were given to several groups in the community and hundreds of residents were given seeds to plant at the Annual Street Fair in Wellesbourne. The Allotment Society have planted them all around the banks of the allotment.
- 17 To sum this year up we have had more community involvement than ever before and connected new groups with each other, involved more local businesses and community groups, made many new friends and most importantly had fun.
- 18 The fruition of all this work is as follows:
  - Been successful in gaining an "Open Spaces" lottery grant for £48,737.28p;
  - Planted over 22,000 bulbs throughout all areas of the village;
  - Planted wildflowers in the copse by the recreation ground and distributed 100's of packets of Bee friendly seeds donated by the Co-op Supermarket to be planted around the village including the allotments and school;
  - Working with the Parish Council and Orbit Heart of England Housing Association situating new benches in strategic areas in the village and creating new gardens at Hastings Road;
  - Helped Wellesbourne Primary School with their Gardening Club getting nearly a £1,000 of sponsorship for equipment etc, refurbishing the School Annex Garden and several beds at the Main School Site using donated shrubs from Michael Twite and removed plants from the library grounds.
- 19 With the help of the Parish Council, we solved some sensitive problem areas in the village centre.
- 20 Planted more sponsored trees in the village.
- 21 Continued to sort out with the Parish Council Highways committee problem areas of mowing within the village and worked closely with the Highway's Department on Warwickshire County Council installing new bollards around the village in problem parking areas such as the Co-op and Newbold Road.
- 22 Continued our links with the "Restoration Chedham's Yard" project. Our chairman judged their garden design competition with Michael Twite and another local landscape gardener and came up with final design ideas, from entries that were sent in. Presented with a picture of "Chedhams Yard" as a thank you
- 23 Introduced more perennial bedding into our planting and extended the two flowerbeds on the junction of Newbold Road.
- 24 Continued with our planting at the Police Station and Doctors Surgery. Supported planting at the Methodist Church, Fire Station and throughout the village.

- 25 We have worked extensively on improving the bio-diversity of Wellesbourne through our links with the LBAP and continue to represent the Parish Council. We have signed up for Wellesbourne to have a Phase 2 survey to be completed by Warwickshire Museum Services. Our “Power Point” presentation on our wildlife project went down really well and impressed many people.
- 26 Since the retirement of Ron and June Perkins from tending the churchyard we have worked with the church and the Probation Service on keeping the churchyard tidy. Michael Twite has provided bags to collect garden waste that he collects and takes to compost up at his yard, which is an enormous help. The Probation Service cut the hedges and did a fantastic job tidying for Remembrance Sunday and for the judging day.
- 27 We are now working with the “Parish Plan” group that has recently been set up and are helping wherever we can.
- 28 This year has been a good year for “Wellesbourne in Bloom” with the fruition of our grant application and progress with extensive projects around the village involving even more people and community groups. Linking people all over the village and outside the village to improve the environment of Wellesbourne for the wellbeing of the resident’s. We have more support now than at any time. Next year will be exciting with the new landscaping at the Library and the work at the churchyard and church centre.

## 2 *Review of Last Year*

### **July 2009**

- Meeting with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Alice from the Church and Jo Webb Lottery Facilitator of the Lottery “Community Spaces” grant to discuss grant and sort out paperwork.
- General maintenance and extensive watering with help from residents and our in car watering system devised by Parish Councillor Tony Copeland.

### **August 2009**

- Fire Station judging awarded £75 towards gardening funds for first time.
- Judging for “Chedham’s Yard Restoration Project” gardening design competition with Michael Twite and local landscape gardener.
- General maintenance of beds and co-ordination of bulb order and list of helpers to plant.
- Walton Village Summer Fete – display of all our work and details of our “St Peters Church Wildlife Project” on display for scrutiny;
- Tenders in for artwork from artists for Wildlife Project.
- Service of welcome for new Headmistress at Wellesbourne Primary School.
- General maintenance and weeding.
- Wildlife project meeting with Wildlife Trust and Lottery Facilitator.

### **September 2009**

- Final calls for bulb volunteers and finalisation of bulb order.
- “Heart of England in Bloom” Annual Presentation Awards.
- Apply for Development Grant for Wildlife Project.

### **October 2009**

- Pick up plants from nursery and start winter bedding planting.
- Snowdrop and bluebell delivery.
- Autumn “Heart of England in Bloom” seminar.
- Bulb planting by Rainbows, and Cubs (two giant trefoils) and other community groups.
- General maintenance of projects;
- Meeting with Martyn Dalman Probation Service, Tony Copeland Parish Councillor and Brian Nuttall church vergger about churchyard and footpath tidying.
- Attended Lions “Bollywood” night.

## November 2009

- Bulb planting around the village continues by community groups on our behalf.
- Site meeting at library regarding re-development with library officials.
- Probation Service clear the churchyard for Remembrance Service.
- Lions continue their planting of Stratford Road (Chocolate cake delivered).
- Contacted Avril Smolders County Landscape Architect regarding library.
- Containers outside the butchers done.
- Probation service plant the Fire Station and village centre with bulbs.
- Copse planted with foxgloves, Oxe Eye daisies, Bluebells and Snowdrops and wild flower seeds scattered.
- “St Peters Church Project” meeting with Wildlife Trust, Alice from the church and Lottery Facilitator.
- Meeting at Farrington Court with “Orbit Heart of England Housing Association”
- Wellesbourne in Bloom had a stall at “Orbit Heart of England Housing Association” residents open day.
- General maintenance carried out.

## December 2009

- Wellesbourne in Blooms Christmas Dinner.
- Participated in “Christmas Tree Festival” with our own decorated tree in the theme of “Blooming Gold”.
- Probation service clearing and Michael picking up bags for composting.
- New white flowering cherry tree planted for WI. Two other trees replaced.
- Tree survey carried out in Church Centre funded by Development Grant for Community Spaces for “St Peter’s Church Wildlife Project.
- Attended Lion’s Carol Concert.
- Development Grant awarded for “St Peters Church Wildlife Project” of £2,000.

## January 2010

- Visit by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire. Given a tour of the village and a presentation of our work for our nomination of the “Queens Service Award for Volunteers”.
- Working lunch with Wildlife Trust, Alice from the Church and Lottery Facilitator .
- Design for Hastings Road sent to “Orbit Heart of England Housing” for approval.

- Sub zero temperatures village frozen.

### **February 2010**

- Annual Village planting plan amended by Graham Sims and sent out to all relevant authorities.
- Sue finalising summer bedding planting.
- Meeting to discuss general Maintenance.
- Orbit Heart of England Housing agree plans for garden and agree to pave and leave islands as design for planting.
- Meeting at Parish Council offices with two of the Highways Committee and John Stedman Grass Cutting Contractor to sort out problem areas of cutting.
- Meeting at Castle Nurseries regarding summer bedding plan.
- First contact with Julie Williams Building Development Officer (Early Years) who is in charge at Library re-development.
- Summer bedding plan finalised and agreed.
- First visit to school to view Annex garden and find out what help was needed for their “Gardening Club”.
- Marking the areas where village benches are to go for contractor with Parish Councillor Tony Copeland.

### **March 2010**

- St Peter’s Wildlife Project lunch Meeting with Wildlife Trust, Alice from the church, Wildlife Trust and Lottery Facilitator.
- Orbit Heart of England Housing Association Easter Residents Day new displays for show all afternoon.
- Went up farm to choose tyres for school, tyres delivered, compost delivered soil sorted with neighbouring farmer.
- Collected all the freebies for school gardening club.
- Michael Twite delivers a giant trailer of shrubs to school for Annex Garden.
- Meeting at school about garden more freebies to collect.
- Application for Community Spaces grant goes in “fingers crossed”
- Heart of England in Bloom seminar.
- More tyre deliveries and compost for school from local farmers.
- General maintenance.
- Letters written to Expo Flora EFG and Citadel Polytunnels regarding sponsorship for school gardening club.
- Meeting at School for gardening club etc.

### **April 2010**

- Sponsorship from Citadel Poly tunnels gained large poly tunnel for School Gardening Club.

- Meeting with Andy Cox Operations Manager Expo Flora EFG site tour of operation and ongoing sponsorship achieved with hard landscaping materials etc for school.
- Attended Parish Plan meeting.
- Contacted Barteak Developments regarding a problem area of land for Parish Council.
- Planted Hastings Road with grasses and heucharas and then mulched with bark.
- Transported all plants and schools painted pots from Library Foyer to Parish Council Offices for safekeeping.
- Annex garden at school transformed and beds dug and weeded by volunteers from school and parents.
- General maintenance.
- Youths caught by PCO Michelle Sudaby. Letters of apology received and promise of help.
- Two youths helped weed and tidy all the centre of the as a recompense they were so much help and they enjoyed it, especially the Police Station garden!
- Allotment Society planted bulbs in green on footpath adjacent to allotments.

### May 2010

- Summer bedding planted, flowerbeds enlarged at Newbold Cross Roads.
- Bollards go in at the Co-op on a rogue parking area and at Newbold Road.
- Community Spaces Grant given for £48,737.28p Yippee. Three years hard work!
- Library beds completely stripped, shrubs distributed to needy areas of village.

### June 2010

- Annual Street Fair in Wellesbourne we had four tables with the Wildlife Trust. We gave out Bee friendly flower seeds, did a quiz for children and adults and had a lot of interest in our new project.
- Meeting with Malkit Thiara Youth and Community leader, youths weeding and tidying for us.
- More summer bedding planting and weeding.
- Supported Alice from the Parochial Church Council by attending her coffee morning.
- Horticultural Society Open Garden at Pitt House.
- Wellesbourne in Bloom attended 2010 Parish Bap Conference at Bishops Itchington. Chairman gave Power Point presentation on “St Peters Church Wildlife.

- Forms for grant signed at meeting with Wildlife Trust, ourselves and lottery facilitator.
- Arranged a meeting with Julie Williams regarding the library site with Parish Council and Lions.
- Precinct weeded and sprayed by approved contractor.

### **July 2010**

- Probation Service, Congregation and Wellesbourne in Bloom tidy church centre and church yard five gravel bags. Michael collecting for his composter.
- Mad dash for judging whole village involved.
- Parochial Church Council Meeting regarding Wildlife Project with WIB and Julie from Wildlife Trust.
- Chairman invited to attend “Thank you service” at Wellesbourne Primary School.
- Planter bench and bin moved, financed by County Council and done by “Bob the Builder”.
- Meeting with Malkit Thiara Youth and Community.
- Set up working partners co-operation and tables for judging day.
- Judging Day 21st July fingers crossed!
- Patch of Highways sprays village weeds, cleans lamp posts etc and does a huge kerb to prevent parking by chemists as requested.

### *3 Committee, Helpers & Supporters*

#### **COMMITTEE**

Val Griffin	Rebecca Coates	Sue Hodge	Diane Ives
Peggy Bealing	Kate Parton	Heather Sims	Evelyn Becket
Nadine Payton	Hilary Wilson		

#### **HELPERS & SUPPORTERS**

Alice Macdonald	Grantham Family
Allotment Society	Greg Street
Andrew Sheppard Photographer	Helen Kendrick (SWHA)
Avon Studios	Hinsons Coal Merchants
Barcelo Hotels	Home Supplies Hardware Store
Barclays Bank	Ian Bealing
Bob the Builder and contractors at library	Inspector Patrick Devereaux
Brian Nuttall Churchyard verger	Jackie Newton (Accountant)
Burns family	Janet Jennings Home Farm Kinton
Charlecote Garden Store	Jenny Down
Chestnut Square Residents	John and Alan residents Farrington Court
Chris and Joy Cole	John Dobson
Citadel Poly Tunnels(Rob)	John Grantham
Coles Garage	John Stanton - Home Supplies
Colin Griffin	John Stedman Gardening Contractor
Congregation of Methodists Church	Katherine's Parents
Congregation of St Peters Church	Keith Russell Butchers
Daffodil Squashers!	Kings Head
David Close	Kip Chapel gardener
Des Wells Lodge Farm Kinton	Lady Hamilton and Walton Estates
Dudley Taylor Chemists	Liz Walker – Rainbow Guides
Duncans Pet Store	Lottery grant - “Community Spaces”
EFG Expo Flora (Andy Cox Operations Director)	Lynda Scriven
Parish Plan committee	Macauley Family
Frankie Stewart	Malkit Thiara Youth and Community
Fresh and Fruity	Matthew Hutsby farmer Walton
Geoff Rose	Michael Jungle Clearer
Graham Chief Librarian	Michael Twite Landscapes
Mike and Wendy Holmes	Residents of Chestnut Square

## **HELPERS & SUPPORTERS**

Molly Corker

Moreton Morrell College Horticultural Div

Mr Tom Cox

Mr John Dobson (Top helper and mower man)

Mr McGrath Co-op Supermarket

Mr O'Malley

Mrs Hughes

Mrs Lynda Scriven

Mrs Rhodes

Mrs Stephens

Orbit Heart of England Housing Association

Pat Wright

Patch Byrne Highways

Penny Copeland

Tony Copeland (Parish Councillor, huge help)

Recycling Tip Men

Warwickshire Field Museum Services

Warwickshire Geological Survey Group

Warwickshire Museum Services

Warwickshire Probation Service

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Wellesbourne C of E Primary School

Wellesbourne Co-op Supermarket

Wellesbourne Cub Pack

Warwickshire County Council.

Geoff Deakin

Bob the Builder at the Library.

Avril Smolders County Landscape Architect

Julie Williams Building Services Officer (Younger years) Project Leader Library

Residents of Grange Gardens

Revd Kate Mier

Rob Parton

Roger Wright – Builder

Ron and June – ex Church Vergers

Scott Smith Fishmonger

Shahs Indian Restaurant

Sheila Argyle

Sheila Parry

St Peters Pre-School Group

Verdant (Litter Men)

Stowes – Bridge Garage

Stratford District Council

Sue Inglis

Penny Chambers

Village Hall Committee

Walton Estates and local farmers

Wellesbourne Doctors Surgery

Wellesbourne Fire Station

Wellesbourne Garage

Wellesbourne Library

Wellesbourne Lions

Wellesbourne Parish Council

Wellesbourne Police Station

Wellesbourne Recycling facility

Wellesbourne WI

Yvonne Busby Barbers

Sheldon Bosley (Walton Estate agents)

Lady Hamilton (Walton Estates)

## 4 *Aims of Wellesbourne in Bloom*

- 1 To link all the community groups in our projects for the good of Wellesbourne;
- 2 Continue working on our Bio-Diversity issues under the guidance of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust at the church, school and open areas of Wellesbourne;
- 3 To continue the momentum that we have achieved in the past year in forging new friendships and partnerships;
- 4 Build on our youth work with the Youth and Community Challenge Packs and the new “John Muir Award” which is included in our “St Peters Wildlife Project. To maintain our presence in the school and links with playschool and involve other youth groups in the village;
- 5 To involve all areas of Wellesbourne in our projects, this year. We have new groups and people joining our campaign from all areas of the village and all ages. We have even stretched further into the Parish with local landowners planting trees on the outskirts of the village and we wish to keep the momentum going;
- 6 Encourage more sponsorship so that we can build on our existing projects and finance future projects;
- 7 To continue our liaison with Jon Grigg on the environmental ramifications of the River Dene pollution. Things have progressed but the matter needs to be sorted permanently;
- 8 To build on our new web site so that we can publicise our events and give regular updates on our efforts in the village and provide links to other likeminded organizations;
- 9 Continue keeping the parish council up to date with all our plans by giving monthly reports that in turn are publicised in the Stratford Herald. By giving reports to the parish magazine, this also goes in the Stratford Herald;
- 10 To continue our liaison with the Parish Bap attending conferences and seminars with like minded groups in order to improve with the Parish Council, Wellesbourne’s bio-diversity status. To continue also liaising with Warwickshire Field Museum Services;
- 11 Continue to work with all necessary authorities to make sure Wellesbourne gets what it deserves;
- 12 To work in tandem with all the authorities such as the library, Walton estates and the Parish Council to enhance all areas of Wellesbourne;
- 13 The most important aim next year will be to have fun and enjoy meeting new people, who like us want Wellesbourne to be blooming beautiful.

## 5 Funding

### Cash Funding

Wellesbourne Parish Council	£2,000
Stowes Bridge Garage (planting sponsor)	£85
Scott Smith Fishmonger (annually)	£200
Community Spaces Project Lottery Grant	£48,737
Community Spaces Project Development Grant	£2,000
Wellesbourne WI Tree	£85
Raffle	£40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£52,147</b>

### Indirect Funding (“Benefits In Kind”) \*

Keith Russell Butchers (seasonal plant displays)  
Michael Twite Landscapes Ltd (plants and expertise)  
Fresh & Fruity (plants)  
Des Wells (Compost Tyres etc)  
Barcelo Hotels (spa treatment day) plus Guest passes for judging day visitors at £11.00 unknown number free  
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (expertise surveys)  
Avon Studios (free photo developing)  
Penny Chambers donation of grape hyacinths  
Jackie Newton (honorary auditor)  
John Dobson( maintenance and grass cutting)  
Duncans Pet Store items for school gardening club  
Citadel Polytunnels ( large polytunnel for school)  
Expo Efg hard landscaping materials and pots  
Charlecote Garden Store bird feeder.  
Matthew Hutsby local farmer (top soil for school garden)  
Councillor Tony Copeland ( Peas potatoes and pots for school)  
B and Q huge reduction on new hose for Farrington Court.

*\* These items were all donated free of charge by the company/individual .*

## 6 *The Five Year Plan*

### **Our objectives over the next five years:**

- 1 To help create a cleaner and more attractive village that looks welcoming and shows a sense of pride;
- 2 To communicate with local groups and encourage their involvement, eventually weaving “In Bloom” into village life;
- 3 To help protect, sustain, and regenerate the environment for the long-term future;
- 4 To have a long-term impact, providing sustainable planting of trees and shrubs, enhanced by floral displays;
- 5 To influence the village in helping to protect and preserve the rural element of both hard and soft landscaping in the village;
- 6 To raise sufficient income to sustain our activities, underpinned by sound financial management and controls;
- 7 To continue our work involving children and young adults educating them about the environment and helping contribute to their village;
- 8 Maintain our campaign to enhance our public buildings for the benefit of the community;
- 9 Continue working in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on our many wildlife and environmental projects;
- 10 Continue our successful partnership with the Parish Council for the benefit of the village and villagers.

# A *Horticultural Achievement*

- 1 This year we have had several major projects, which have now been completed.
- 2 We have enlarged the two village centre beds on the corner of Newbold Road using seasonal bedding, grasses and perennials.
- 3 We have done extensive work at the school, including:
  - The annex garden was just compounded soil left over from when the new extension was built. With the help of parents, teachers and committee members we designed and totally refurbished the garden. Donations came from local businesses of hard landscaping materials, a poly tunnel and bird feeders. Local farmers helped by providing large tractor tyres for raised beds (the school backs onto fields so it ties into the surroundings). The farmers also bought compost and topsoil for the school and their gardening club. Michael Twite provided a trailer load of shrubs and plants. Expo EFG also gave us weed matting to make it maintenance free;
  - Wellesbourne in Bloom bought an apple, pear tree and thornless blackberry for the “Gardening Club”. The “Gardening Club” is run as an after school club on Thursdays, there are so many that wish to be involved it has had to be split into two groups. The school are looking to extend the growing areas and they now have a beautiful poly tunnel donated by Citadel Polytunnels;
  - There are plans for extensive bulb planting in the spring on the banks and around the trees;
  - Julian, the caretaker, at the school is very supportive as is Lindsey Oscroft the new head teacher;
  - We have refurbished two beds at the main school site with plants from the library and planted 1,000s of daffodils “in the green” around the new extension at the front of the school;
  - This was a brilliant project that created so many community links.
- 4 We have continued to support Wellesbourne Fire Station. The rose bed had been left for many years. We pruned the roses and there was a fantastic display this year. Di Stowe continues to do her lovely displays in the containers that she has made. We had a meeting with the Fire Station and worked out a bulb display for the front of the station. The Probation Service planted thousands of daffodils and it made an impressive spectacle as you come along the bypass. The Fire Station won £75 for their efforts in the “Best Kept Fire Station” competition.
- 5 Our work with “Orbit Heart of England Housing Association” continues across the village. There was a serious shortage of benches in Wellesbourne

after liaising with the housing association and the Parish Council 2 sites were found on routes from sheltered housing accommodation. The housing association funded the benches.

- 6 The site at Hastings Road was an unkempt piece of land used as a dog toilet and full of weeds. Wellesbourne in Bloom were asked to come up with some ideas. The housing association agreed to fund the paving so we suggested that we place 6 islands for planting within the paved area. We chose several types of grasses for height and heucharas for colour. The plants have thrived and we have had so many positive comments. The area to the side, a small copse was also unkempt, but now is mown by the housing association. Residents nearby are known to take their books and read on the bench basking in the sun. The border alongside the bungalow and the copse are being planted with spring bulbs in the autumn. The other bench site sits on the front of a bank and will be surrounded by spring bulbs in the autumn. Elliott Drive continues to thrive two, new planters have been bought and put in the centre of the area. More bulbs have been planted and the whole area is transformed.
- 7 Our work at the Police Station continues with plants from the library site put in some of the gaps. The dry bed that was recently done is becoming established. The succulent hanging basket has survived the minus 11 degree temperatures of the winter. The entire flowerbed directly in front of the station has been planted with grape hyacinth bulbs donated by a local resident. Councillor Copeland has also planted a climbing rose on the front fence.
- 8 Doctors Surgery - As with other areas in the village we have added more perennials in our planting. This year we had a huge DR'S logo in daffodils on the lawn at the front of the surgery that caused a few smiles.
- 9 Dog Bed/Newbold Bed - We have enlarged both these beds and increased the planting with grasses, perennials such as coreopsis and salvia and seasonal bedding. They are under planted with mini spring bulbs and aliums.
- 10 Village centre trees - All the trees have been mulched with bark but are under planted with various spring bulbs such as cyclamen, snowdrops, dwarf daffodils and other small spring bulbs.
- 11 2010 Bulb Campaign - This was our biggest ever bulb campaign 22,000 bulbs were planted around the village. Thousands were used to create two giant trefoils to celebrate the Guides Centenary on the grass by the playing field. The Fire Station was planted for the first time as was Farrington Court Sheltered Housing and Shah's Indian Restaurant planted bulbs along the front of their wall as you enter the village. We planted daffodils, tulips, snowdrops, bluebells and snow drops. We had so many volunteers to plant we had very few to plant ourselves. The Lions are continuing their campaign to fill the whole of Stratford Road with daffodils. Residents of Grange Gardens and Chestnut Square set up a working party to plant bulbs under the chestnuts on the bank.
- 12 Church Yard and Church Centre - Since Ron and June have been unable to do the gardening at the church, Wellesbourne in Bloom have set up a system

where the Probation Service do the heavy work such as hedge cutting. Michael Twite (The Angel of Hunscombe) has provided Brian the church verger with gravel bags. These are filled and Michael empties them in his composter. The church could not deal with the volume of vegetation that is cleared. Wellesbourne in Bloom have helped clear the Church Centre beds and new shrubs donated by Michael will be put in to fill gaps in the autumn. The Pre-School continue with their container gardening and are looking forward to getting two large Broxap planters and the sensory planting planned within the new wildlife project.

- 13 Container planting - We have a colour theme of pink, yellow and blue this year and have also included some perennial planting such as coreopsis and salvia teamed with geraniums, begonias etc. Due to our success last year with our police station succulent basket, we have done a succulent basket for the Village Hall that is thriving.
- 14 Farrington Court - We have done a mass planting of spring bulbs at Farrington Court with small spring bulbs around the trees and light posts and in the flowerbeds. A huge circle of 2,000 large daffodils was planted to provide a stunning entrance.
- 15 Library - The library looked stunning in the spring planted with perennials and spring bulbs. Unfortunately, due to the re-development we had to completely clear the site. Shrubs went all over the village to the Church Centre, School, Chestnut Square bus stop, police station and the school gardening club benefited from one of three gooseberry bushes found at the library. No babies were found! We are in constant consultation with the Project Managers on the new landscaping at the library and new children's centre that is exciting.
- 16 Methodist Church - The garden at the Methodist Church has continued to blossom we continue to support Kip and provide him with plants and shrubs and spring bulbs. From a dowdy garden four years ago, it is now a lovely spectacle in the centre of the village. The church is creating a memorial garden at the rear of the church.
- 17 Parish Council Offices - Joy Cole the owner of the property creates a beautiful garden for each season with magnificent hanging baskets in the summer.
- 18 Dentists - The dentists surgery has been a problem but thanks to the Parish Councils help, it is now tidy and presentable, for which we are very grateful.
- 19 Mountford Copse - The copse at Mountford is developing nicely since it was cleared and trimmed by the Probation Service we have planted snowdrops, bluebells, oxeye daisies and foxgloves in the wooded areas that are all thriving. The grass areas are planted with daffodils including the two giant brownie trefoils and waves of bulbs along the roadside.
- 20 Shahs Indian restaurant - Shahs were approached to plant daffodils along the front of their wall, which is on one of the entrances to the village. They were

very kind and planted three bags to create a blaze of colour on the way into the village.

- 21 Dovehouse Hedging - The hedging continues to thrive and as has formed an ideal wildlife corridor, it is now cared for by the Parish Council.

## *Horticultural Achievement - Photographs*



Farrington Court Spring Bed



Hastings Road Project



Village Notice Board Planter



Rainbows and their Trefoil

## *B Environmental Responsibility*

- 1 We represent the Parish Council at the Parish BAP (Bio Diversity Action Plan) conferences and seminars.
- 2 We have acted on many BAP issues and a local wildlife expert has highlighted the areas where Wellesbourne's endangered species of birds, animals and trees such as the Black Poplar.
- 3 Due to our successful Community Spaces grant, we were invited to do a "Power Point" presentation at the annual 2010 Warwickshire Parish BAP Conference about our "St Peters Church Wildlife Project". It went very well and we were honoured to be asked. We were also able to help and advise other groups who attended.
- 4 We have involved the school, cubs, rainbows and Youth and Community in our projects especially the "St Peters Wildlife Project" where they will be able to participate in the "John Muir Award" which is an environmentally based award that in their words "Focus's on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun and adventure. It is non –competitive and encourages people of all backgrounds to connect, enjoy and care for the planet's wild places.
- 5 Now we have been successful with our grant application the churchyard and church centre can be transformed into a wildlife heaven with new wildlife habitats created, such as our eco seat that will not only be useful but also act as a "Hotel for little critters".
- 6 The hedging continues to thrive and is now looked after by the Parish Council.
- 7 The trees that were planted by Councillor Copeland, Stephen England and local farmers are doing well despite the harsh winter.
- 8 We have advised Chedhams Yard on their new garden and suggested that they have an eco seat similar to the one in our wildlife project.
- 9 We have set up a scheme for the churchyard where the Probation Service tidy and trim the churchyard and Michael Twite has provided gravel bags for the cuttings. The Probation Service fills them up and Michael takes them to his composter at his yard and drops the bags back. The church could not deal with the amount of trimmings they have.
- 10 At the annual street fair in the village, the "Warwickshire Wildlife Trust" was promoting their "Wildlife Friendly Garden" scheme where you provide habitats within your garden for wildlife. Our Chairman has been awarded a plaque for her garden and is helping to make people aware of the scheme.
- 11 The Mountford Copse is becoming an established wildlife habitat with sympathetic planting and now we have sown bee friendly wildflower seeds in the wooded areas. It is frequented by numerous species of birds including tits,

sparrows, chaffinches, thrush, blackbird and even the occasional field fare in the winter.

- 12 At the library when there were demolishing part of the building we noticed some nice paving slabs were being broken up. We spoke to “Bob the Builder” and he is now saving enough slabs for a new path in the village centre. The Parish Council have agreed for a local contractor to lay the path.
- 13 Wellesbourne has a comprehensive recycling facility, we have an excellent working relationship with John the Supervisor and it is used extensively. The shop is constantly busy with bargain hunters.
- 14 Verdant regularly litter pick.
- 15 We are very fortunate in Wellesbourne that we do not have a bad litter problem and dog fouling is minimal.
- 16 Wellesbourne C of E Primary School have an extensive recycling programme to encourage the children, such as recycling ink cartridges, cardboard etc.
- 17 We are still keeping in touch with Severn Trent Water concerning the pollution in the River Dene.

*Environmental Responsibility – Photographs*



Church Centre site of new wildlife project.



Village Centre in spring



Allotments site of extensive wild flower seed planting



Mountford Copse site of wildflower planting

## C *Community Participation*

- 1 Wellesbourne in Bloom are lucky to have an extensive list of helpers and community groups that have helped over the past year:
  - We have a close relationship with the church, working with the Revd Kate Mier the Parochial Church Council, the vergers and congregation through our “St Peters Church Wildlife Project”;
  - We also help with the general maintenance of the churchyard arranging meetings with the Probation Service who carry out the work on our behalf;
  - They trim the hedges within the churchyard and after a meeting earlier this year with us and Brian Nuttall the church verger Martyn Dalman of the Probation Service has said they are prepared to do other maintenance work within the churchyard;
  - This is particularly helpful as Ron and June who tended the churchyard 365 days of the year have had to retire from their duties due to ill health.
- 2 The Youth and Community service are very supportive and they use their work for Wellesbourne in Bloom to complete their “Challenge Packs” which is evidence of their community work:
  - They have planters at the Youth and Community Centre and take responsibility for their care;
  - It is to their credit that the planters are still in situ in a vulnerable area within the village;
  - Malkit has sent us a letter of support for our “St Peters Church Wildlife Project and the youngsters have taken part in a consultation meeting about the project drawing sketches of how they would like it to be. It is hoped that the youths will be able to participate in the “John Muir Award” scheme that I know Malkit is keen to do now that we have the grant.
- 3 The rainbows and cubs helped plant bulbs on the Mountford Copse in the autumn with two giant trefoils that were fantastic. The cubs have allocated two sites for the cub logo in bulbs next year.
  - Both groups have given us letters of support for the “St Peters Church Wildlife Project “and will be taking part in the “St Peters Church Wildlife Project”;
  - The cubs will be using the project for their environment award badges;
  - Wellesbourne Primary School continues to work with us, we have helped provide materials and a polytunnel for the annex garden and

vegetable garden. We designed the new annex garden and spent a morning with parents, teachers and pupils transforming it. Their wildlife garden is thriving at the main school site;

- They have also sent a fantastic letter of support for our wildlife project at the church;
  - This project formed so many links within the community and the links that have been formed are continuing. If the school want compost or soil, they ring the farmers and it is dropped over the back fence;
  - Expo Flora EFG Operations Director Andy Cox has said his donations of landscaping materials in an ongoing arrangement. Expo Flora design and build gardens at large events such as the Grand National and Wimbledon the weed matting and bark that they use can then be used by us. We were given a tour of the site and a very important link was made.
- 4 Wellesbourne Lions are a constant support for us financially and work wise:
- They plant bulbs for us every year;
  - In return at Christmas we help with the Lions Float, collecting money;
  - This year coming last for the second time instead of fishy brain food the girls won a large bottle of Babycham;
  - They too have written a letter of support for our big project;
  - This year we have planted a white flowering cherry near the Co-op for the WI and provided them with Bee seeds as they had a campaign within the WI about protecting Bees.
- 5 The Methodist Chapel is also one of most recent projects:
- Kip the gardener works tirelessly to keep the gardens looking lovely;
  - We supply bedding, permanent shrubs, perennials and bulbs;
  - The Chapel have a Christmas Tree Festival every year to which we are invited to enter and decorate a tree in an “In Bloom” theme.
- 6 We have a fantastic relationship with the Police and gained a mention in their annual report at the Annual Parish Council Meeting praising our work. We had some daffodils squashed for the first time. The Police found the culprits and we were sent letters of apology and offers of help from the offenders. The two youths helped us, worked like Trojans weeding, pruning, and digging in the village centre, even the police station garden! They even enjoyed it and it placated many angry residents knowing that they did some sort of pay back for their actions and they are still talking to us.
- 7 We have worked with the Probation Service for a while now:
- They have provided labour for the church and churchyard, planted bulbs and painted the precinct for us. I have regular meetings with Martyn Dalman Probation Officer through the year to find work for them as part of the “Community Payback” scheme. Martyn now

- coordinates with WIB and Brian the Church Verger to plan the churchyard maintenance;
- A letter of support was sent by Martyn, at the Probation Service for our wildlife project.
- 8 Greg Street, Head of Horticulture at Moreton Morrell College, has worked with us before planting hedging and bulbs:
- He has visited the Church met Julie and WIB and given ideas for the project and has promised to provide labour planting hedging and clearing the site;
  - The college runs “Green keeping Courses” as part of their curriculum they have to do a module on landscaping so our project ideal for them. Greg is on standby to help clear the church centre and help planting hedging for the “St Peter’s Wildlife Project in the autumn.
- 9 St Peters Pre-School have worked with us for a long time attending the consultation meetings of the Church project planting bulbs and planters around the church centre:
- They are eagerly awaiting the new planters, sensory planting and art work that will be arriving with the “St Peters Church Wildlife Project.
- 10 We have a good working relationship with Orbit Heart of England Housing Association working with them very successfully at Elliott Drive, Farrington Court and Hastings Road. They have sponsored two benches within the village and financed the paving at the new Hastings Road garden site. We attend all the “Residents Days” and show displays of our work.
- 11 We have worked very successfully this year with the Parish Council:
- After meeting with the Highways Dept, we have even more bollards in rogue parking area in the village centre such as the C-op verge and Newbold Road;
  - Although Wellesbourne in Bloom took the village centre grass cutting into their hands ably assisted by a Parish Councillor and John Dobson the Parish Council was very appreciative of our efforts and noted it in the “Highways Report” at the Parish Council Meeting;
  - It has now been agreed that local resident John Dobson will cut the village centre grass in between the contractors programmed cuts to keep it neat and tidy. We have had a meeting with the Parish Council and the Grass Cutting Contractor to sort out the problem areas of grass this spring that was very productive;
  - Citadel Poly Tunnels generously donated a poly tunnel for the gardening club.
- 12 Many residents within the village help us:
- John Dobson who voluntarily cuts the village centre grass;

- Tony Copeland a Parish Councillor helps on all our projects and has devised a watering system for Sue's car using a caravan pump;
- Andrew the proprietor of the Photographic Studio who prints all our photos for free;
- Geoff Rose who is always on hand to dig or plant bulbs and keeps us informed on all the bio-diversity issues within the village;
- Tom Cox who waters and is on hand if John cannot cut the grass;
- We have forged a good relationship with the Allotment Society who have planted bulbs on the banks of the allotments and along the bordering path. They have put a tub of flowers at the entrance to the allotments and planted bee friendly seeds around the borders. They have a beehive on site;
- Michael Twite who has his own landscaping business should be christened the "Angel of Hunscombe" the amount of money he has saved us due to providing plants and expertise is immeasurable. His support for the "St Peter's Church Wildlife Project" as our "Lead Expert" and in helping with the clearing and composting at the church is much appreciated. The school are also thrilled with the trailer loads of shrubs he has given them;

There are so many people within the village who help it is impossible to mention them all but without them our work would not be possible.

## Community Participation – Photographs



Walton Fete – WIB Exhibition



School Annex garden makeover



Orbit Heart of England Easter Residents Open Day



Trefoil planting turmoil



Part of the EFG Expo Flora delivery



“We’ve got it” grant celebration photo

## *D Conclusion and Future Developments*

- 1 This year has proved to be a turning point for Wellesbourne in Bloom.
  - We now have a team of eight wonderful women all talented in their own way and all good supportive friends who combine to make a productive and diverse group. Some of our ladies are resting members due to family commitments etc. Our wonderful Nadine is still with us but she has won a scholarship to teach football in the USA so won't be back until September, but her commitment to WIB is still there;
  - Everyone has his or her special talents and all these combine to make us what we are;
  - We are held with great respect within the village after our award last year and our nomination for the "Queens Service Award for Volunteers".
- 2 We have this year through our various projects really made a mark on Wellesbourne:
  - At the events we attend such as the annual Street Fair, we get a lot of positive feedback on how Wellesbourne has changed for the better;
  - We have been asked to give our thoughts on the future for Wellesbourne by the newly formed Parish Plan Committee;
  - The corridors of daffodils on Stratford Road are complete and the bypass is now colourful with spring daffodils surrounding the Fire Station.
- 3 The centre of the village has changed dramatically:
  - With our newly extended flowerbeds;
  - Yet more newly installed bollards;
  - "Pete's Patch" the shrubbery by the pelican crossing maturing nicely and surprising everyone with its show of bulbs in the spring;
  - Bike racks which are used on a regular basis;
  - Refurbished precinct planter last year but to be completely gutted next year and replanted due to the redevelopment plans being shelved;
  - The library development is in full swing. For every tree that was taken out two are going to be put back in its place and we are being consulted on the landscaping issues;
  - Refurbished police garden continues to mature with added planting;
  - The surgery planter provides a talking point, the front borders have been planted with more perennials and we have the quirky "DR'S" sign in the spring in daffodils;

- John continues to mow the village centre grass and keeps it immaculate between scheduled cuts;
  - We have a good relationship with John Stedman the Grass Cutting Contractor who also sprayed and weeded the precinct for us;
  - Our large planters create a talking point and we have managed to get the County Council to allow, “Bob the Builder” to move not only our planter but also the Lion’s bench to another site temporarily whilst the building work at the library is going on. This is at their cost so it was quite a coup for us in what had become a tricky problem.
- 4 We get a huge sense of satisfaction from working with the residents of Farrington Court and the bulb display this year was amazing. John and Bill enhance their houses with their lovely pots and baskets. The rose bed now pruned and tidied has been lovely.
  - 5 We continue to work with Di at the Fire Station helping with bedding, pruning and are hoping to plant even more bulbs this year. The Fire Station has become one of the main meeting points in the village for community groups so it is important we support Di in her efforts.
  - 6 Consultation work on the new library and children’s centre will obviously also take up our time but will be very exciting.
  - 7 The Mountford Copse is turning into a little wildlife paradise throughout the seasons from the spring bulbs to the wild cow parsley, poppies and bluebells that arrive later in the year.
  - 8 Our main project next year will be the church project that will be hopefully be completed by this time next year;
    - This will be the planting of hedging and the clearing of the areas in the church centre;
    - This will be followed by the planting of wildflower plugs, installation of gates, trellis screening, creation of hurdles, an eco – bench made out of logs, paths being laid for the sensory walk and the art work created and put in place;
    - All this work will be done by the community and on community days under the supervision and guidance of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Wellesbourne in Bloom;
    - It cannot be overstated how much this project will make a difference to the community in involving youngsters in hands on bio diversity issues with experts on hand to gain awards in their differing groups;
    - It will bring all ages together in a common purpose and forge new found friendships between community groups;
    - Lottery grants are a lot of work and the Wildlife Trust the Parochial Church council, and ourselves have been working non-stop to achieve success in our grant application. We are looking forward to the launch event when the work is all done.

- 9 We shall continue maintaining and enhancing our present projects and bringing the community together in our various projects.
- 10 This year has been very daunting for us ladies as we are only a small group that seem to have done quite well. If we thought about what we did, we would we would be terrified by the enormity of it all. We can only do what we do thanks to the people within the village and outside of the village who support us in their different ways.
- 11 This year has been excellent with monetary sponsorship and sponsorship in kind in what is a hard financial time for many. Small businesses have donated many items, the local farming community have forged new bonds with the school, we have ongoing supplies of materials from Expo Flora EFG, Michael continues to empty his yard of plants in our direction and do anything he can to help.
- 12 The people of Wellesbourne continue to support us in our projects so we consider ourselves very lucky. We know the chocolate cakes and cream scones help, but it makes us feel good to know that the support is out there.

## *Future Developments – Photographs*



Greg Street Moreton Morrell College, Claire Pre-School and Julie discussing Wildlife Project



Wellesbourne Annual Street Fair 2010

# Wellesbourne In Bloom

Supported by  
**Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**

Has been Awarded

# £48,737.28

Through the Community Spaces programme which is a £50 million open grants programme that is managed by Groundwork UK as one of five award partners to the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative.



**CommunitySpaces**

**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## E Appendices



■Spring in their step. . . Members of Wellesbourne Rainbows, Brownies and Cubs braved the rain last Saturday morning to plant 3,500 bulbs. The planting was organised by Wellesbourne-in-Bloom committee chairman Heather Simms to celebrate 100 years of the Girl Guide movement. The children spent about an hour planting the bulbs in the shape of two trefoils, the Brownies' logo, on two sites on Ettington Road near the Mountford playing fields.

Photo by Geoff Smith

W09/15/2010

Wellesbourne C.E primary Sch.  
Mountford Close  
Wellesbourne  
CV35 9AG  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Mrs Sims

I am writing to invite you to our Thank you Assembly on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 10 o'clock. This is an occasion when we thank you for all your help and support during the year. Coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards.

I hope very much that you will be able to come.

yours sincerely  
Imogen Christian (H.B.)  
pp staff and children of  
Wellesbourne School

R.S.V.P by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

*Horticultural Achievement – Photographs  
(continued)*



Wellesbourne Police Station in the Spring



Brownies Trefoil in Bloom



New School Annex garden



Medical Centre Planter and bulbs



Newbold Road Bed



Library before the demolition in spring

# Churchyard wildlife project is awarded a £48,000 grant

A PROJECT to make a churchyard in Wellesbourne more wildlife-friendly will begin next month after the village's In Bloom committee received a grant of more than £48,000.

Three years ago the Wellesbourne in Bloom committee was approached by the Rev Kate Mire, of St Peter's Church, for advice on how to make the church square area and the churchyard more wildlife friendly.

Committee chair Heather Sims contacted the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and after three years of working with the trust, the church and other groups within the Wellesbourne community the

committee have been awarded a grant of £48,337 by the Community Spaces programme, which aims to help communities improve green, open spaces to enhance people's quality of life.

During the past three years surveys of the churchyard have been carried out and numerous consultations and exhibitions have been held so the community of Wellesbourne could give their input. The project will include a new

**Report by  
Rebekah Smith**  
rsmith@stratford-herald.com

path for children with sensory pots and a path for the disabled to reach the church centre. It will also include several art works including a large metal sculpture and a screen for the big shed on the theme of 'nature's stained glass window'. Wildlifeover plaques will be planted as well as native hedging. New gates will be put in

two areas of the churchyard and there will be a screen for the church boiler flue.

St Peter's Pre-School Tiddlers Group, who have worked with the In Bloom committee, will get new cut law planters for growing vegetables and flowers and a sensory planted area.

Several wildlife habitats will be created and an eco-bench will be constructed within the churchyard.

The first job will start this autumn when Marston Mansel College horticultural students will help begin clearing the site. A launch event will be held next

autumn when the project is due to be completed. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust plan to organise workshops involving the community groups who have pledged their support.

Mrs Sims said: "So many people have been involved in this project which will be an exciting addition to Wellesbourne for all ages to enjoy. It took a long time but it's worth it."

The project will form part of Wellesbourne in Bloom's campaign for the Heart of England in Bloom competition, to be judged on Wednesday 21st July.

# Village to plant 22,000 bulbs to celebrate Guides' centenary

WELLESBOURNE in Bloom volunteers will plant 22,000 bulbs to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Girlguiding movement.

Brownies and Girl Guides will be planting the bulbs in the shapes of trefoils, their logo, on Saturday 24th October.

Wellesbourne Youth and Community will spend two evenings during the following half-term week planting more bulbs and clearing up around the village.

Heather Sims, chair of the 'in-Bloom' committee, said she would be delivering bulbs, brought using donations and grants from Stratford District Council and Wellesbourne Parish Council, all around the village.

At its meeting on Tuesday night, the parish council praised the work of the 'in-Bloom' committee in preparation for the Queen's Award for the Queen of England competition.

Council leader Cllr David Johnson said: "There was a lot of work to do and I think we should thank everybody." Cllr

John Grantham added: "I think the people of Wellesbourne did very well there. It wasn't an easy form of application."

Wellesbourne received a gold award, the highest standard, in the small town category of this

year's competition. Following this, the council nominated the 'in-Bloom' committee for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest recognition for voluntary groups who have done outstanding work in their community.

Mrs Sims, who won the chairman's award in this year's Heart of England in Bloom

competition, said she was shocked to find out they had been nominated. "It's fantastic," she said. "It's nice to be nominated even if we don't get the award. It shows all the work we do is

appreciated.

"Everybody seems to have taken a sense of ownership. We don't get much litter; the whole village has banded together."

It was also announced at the parish meeting that Sara Start, a children's centre offering advice and support to families of young children, was hoping to open a centre in Wellesbourne library, and would be looking for parents and members of the local community to join an advisory board.

The council voted to pay a yearly sum of £55 to access Ordnance Survey maps that could be used to see where boundaries are and who is responsible for what, for example in the case of an overgrown hedge.

## Wellesbourne in Bloom

July was a very hectic month for Wellesbourne in Bloom with our judging day for the "Heart of England in Bloom" on the 23rd July.

True to form our helpers came to the fore, the Lions tidied the precinct on the previous Sunday, the Youth and Community Service weeded and pruned for us, Mr. Geoff Rose did a sterling job around the library, the pre-school mums and children tidied the church centre and made fantastic banners for the day, Councillor Copeland prepared Chestnut Square for the big day, Nadine our super helper worked in the pouring rain at the Police Station all of this was topped off with a call from the kind gentleman from the "Highways Dept" who assured me he would paint the lamp posts so they looked smart and would sort out the paths. Special mention must also go to Di who was kind enough to offer help for Farrington Court and found herself on her hands and knees weeding in the centre of the village in the run up to the judging.

John Dobson, who I am sure all the village appreciates for his fantastic grass cutting in the centre of the village, was out strimming and cutting and the judges said the area had been transformed. So many people helped us in the run up to the judging it is impossible to thank everyone but you know who you are. All this help it must be mentioned is voluntary and we could not survive without it.

At our "Judges Tea" we had the plans for our "St Peters Church Wildlife Project" for which we hope to get a £50,000 Community Spaces lottery grant. We have passed stage

one and have just submitted the plans and bid for stage two. This is a huge project for us and it is being project managed for us if successful by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Once again we have received so much help from the Revd Kate Mier, Alice MacDonald, Julie and Amanda from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Greg Street Moreton Morrell College, Councillor Copeland, Michael Twite Landscapes, Jo Webb lottery facilitator, Ron, June and Brian. We should hear later in the year if we are successful and have had letters of support from groups within the village to help us carry out the project. If anyone is interested in helping with this project please let us know.



The "Judges Tea" great success with highest attendance enjoying the catering and the displays of our work at the Church Centre. The judges were met by Parish

Council Chairman and County Councillor David Johnston and were taken on a tour of the village by Chairman of WIB Heather Sims. The results of the judging will be made on the 3rd September at Pershore Abbey.

Finally we would like to wish Di Stowe all the best for the "Best Kept Fire Station" competition which is being judged very soon. Di has made all the large wooden planters herself and has worked single handed to make the Fire Station a blaze of colour a huge effort which I am sure is appreciated by residents on the Dovehouse on their way home. I know there are a lot of thank you's but when you have the level of support we at WIB do it is important that appreciation is shown because we would not be here without it.

**Heather Sims**

Chair Wellesbourne in Bloom

WELLESBOURNE AND WALTON NEWS

## NEWS ROUND

### Wellesbourne & District Lions

June is here and lots of us are starting to look forward to our summer holidays. I certainly am and desperately hoping that the ash clouds will be kind in the airspace between the UK and Spain. June is a busy month for us lions. We will be taking part in this years'

Wellesbourne Street Fayre which is due to take place on Saturday 5th June. I think we are owed a dry sunny day for this years event!

Our big event is of course the raft race which takes place on Sunday 20th June. Between 50 and 100 Rafts set off in the morning from Wasperston and make their way down the river Avon to Stratford via two challenging weirs. Vessels range from expertly crafted formula one rafts to a few planks of wood strapped together over an array of plastic drums! Our charity this year is the Air Ambulance, a very worthy cause.

On 25th and 26th June we are heading over to Tesco in Leamington Town Centre, where we will be holding a bucket collection raising funds for local charities. We are extremely grateful to the Tesco management for giving us the opportunity.

I would like to remind you all that the club have a number of wheelchairs to loan out to people in need of some help. We have both manual and electric wheelchairs in stock at the moment.

Lion **Andy Stokes**



Once a year the National Federation of Women's Institutes sends a Resolution to HM Government on behalf of its members. The main business of the May meeting in Wellesbourne was to discuss the proposed resolution which was - "This meeting urges HM Government to introduce a clear and mandatory country of origin labelling on all meat, poultry and fish products sold in this country."

Current labelling can be confusing since a product can be called "British" if it has only been cooked or packed here. It was felt that many people are concerned by the different standards of animal welfare and wish to know the real origins of food. A vote was taken and the motion to send the proposed resolution was carried unanimously.

With the serious part of the evening's activities over, members were given a culinary treat and invited to "taste the pudding". Five members had each produced a delicious dessert and these were tasted and enjoyed by everyone. The talented cooks were thanked for their efforts - and asked for their recipes

### Wellesbourne in Bloom

We have been very busy completing the School Annex garden. With the help of the generous donations we received it is now looking fantastic. The gardening club have been very busy sowing and planting their vegetable seeds. Their new poly tunnel has arrived provided by Cladet Poly tunnels.

We are doing a huge plant transfer from the library to the school and elsewhere in the village due to the new building works. We have also completed our project at Hastings Road in conjunction with the Parish Council and Orbit Heart of England Housing Association. It is now a lovely area with a bench and flower beds planted with grasses and heuchera's.

Once again Scott the Fishmonger has given us a generous donation for which we are very grateful and we have received our annual grant from the Parish Council who are extremely supportive with our campaign and we appreciate all the help they give us.

Finally some people were aware of daffodils being damaged on the Kineton Road. The persons responsible were found by PCSO Michelle. I received letters of apology and an offer to help Wellesbourne in Bloom.

Help they did, weeding extensively in the village centre and doing much more work than we would have been able to do. We hope we have some more helpers now as they enjoyed their gardening experience and were a brilliant help to us.

Mr McGrath the manager at the Co-op gave us lots of flower seeds for bees. The Co-op is joining the campaign to try and help save the bee with its "Plan Bee" campaign. The seeds were distributed around the village to the School, Pre-school, Brownies, the WI and the Allotment Society. The Allotment Society keeps bees on the allotments so they were very happy to plant some.

Thank you to everyone who has commented on the bulbs this year, although Wellesbourne in Bloom provide and plan where the bulbs should go it is the people of the community groups and individual members of the community who plant them. We had very few to plant ourselves. So it is a very big thank you to those who planted them in the Autumn you deserve some praise too.

**Heather Sims**

Chairman Wellesbourne in Bloom.

H/Sablier - these circulated to all in GrG

Daffodil Planting - Grange Gardens - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 am



The Weather Forecasters have indicated that this Sunday might be good for daffodil planting!

The Forester has been and marked one new tree site.

Please bring a spade or fork or bulb planter or any favourite tool **plus** a bucket or basket for the bulbs.

Children will be most welcome accompanied by an adult. Remember that the bank we are to plant is between two roads so safety is paramount - bright or "high viz" top clothing should be worn.

We aim to work to about 1.00 pm and anything left over will be finished on Monday - providing the weather holds!

Geoff Rose (No.22 Grange Gardens), tel. 840672

Friday, 23/10/09

#### Daffodil Planting

Why not join in planting some 1,000 bulbs in the bank at the front of Grange Gardens sometime over the half term holiday? Young people will be very welcome. Make our spring time a little more colourful.

So far, the ground has been rather hard however with a little more of the forecast rain planting should not be too difficult. You may have noticed that some of the diseased trees have been removed by WCC Forestry Dept. and these may be replaced soon so we have to leave spaces without bulbs planted. Hopefully a forester will come in the next few days to mark where he will put the new young trees.

Your ideas on the design of the bulb planting would be welcome. Our brief from Wellesbourne in Bloom is planting in patches or islands. interpretation of this up to us. We depend on your effort and to bring your own spade or bulb planter.

"D" day will be probably on this coming weekend, depending on the weather and Mr forester marking the proposed position of the new trees.

Geoff Rose (No.22 Grange Gardens), tel. 840672

Tuesday, 20/10/09

*Community Participation – Photographs  
(continued)*



School Gardening Club- Planting in the pouring rain



Library clearing – refreshments needed mammoth job



Two Blooming Fairies by the Bloomingold Tree



Keith the Butcher and his spring planter