



Overall Winners 2008

2010 Chairman's Report

We have had another very successful year, achieving the Town's 8th Gold Award & 6th Category Winner in the Large Village Category. We were also awarded the Woodland Trust's Biodiversity Award, and have been nominated for the RHS Britain in Bloom 2011 – one of two nominations out of 47 entries in the Heart of England in Bloom 2010.

Our achievements this year:

The Better Welcome package. A sign has been added to the Wildflower Walk around the Recycling Area and also an information board. The area took a bit of a battering this year, with trees being felled; paint to indicate services & a hole being dug by the Environment Agency. The judges saw the area at its worst, but still appreciated the concept and it went towards the Biodiversity Award.

We took part in the BBC's Breathing Places 'Tree o'clock' event in December. This was a national attempt to plant the most trees within one hour and break the world record. We decided to plant 6 local varieties of fruit trees, including the Worcester Black Pear. The record wasn't broken, but the country benefited by having over 230,000 trees planted. The trees also counted towards the Biodiversity Award.

The raised beds at the Primary School provided crops of tomatoes and vegetables for the children. It was a bit sad to be told that some of them hadn't known where the various crops came from, having only seen them in packets in supermarkets. The Hanley Castle High School lunch time litter pickers have again been busy during the year.

Malcolm Grogan deserves special mention as he registered with the Duckworth Trust as a volunteer litter picker, and can be seen on Sunday mornings keeping Tunnel Hill and the roads around Stocks Yatt Meadow clear of litter.

The judges made special mention of our 'ongoing, energetic and innovative fundraising events held throughout the year', and I'm sure you will all agree we do hold a wide variety - and thank you to everyone who has supported the events, and also the Festival committees who let us fundraise at their events..

Thank you to:

Our Local Authorities, UTC & MHDC.

Brian Williams, for all his help and support, and his parents who grow the flowers. Geoff Stocker who very kindly engraves the 'Local in Bloom' trophies for us.

To everyone who has helped, in whatever way – we couldn't have done it without you!

We are losing two of our founder members. Peter & Diane Bellamy are moving to pastures new. Peter has been our Treasurer & Diane our Secretary since the beginning. Peter later became Chairman and in 2007 we were due to be judged in our first entry in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition – and then came the floods. Three days before judging we replanted many of our displays with the help of lots of volunteers. We won a Silver Gilt Award and, because of the special circumstances, were nominated for Britain in Bloom 2008. In 2008 we had one of our best year's results when we became the Heart of England in Bloom Overall Winners and won a Silver Gilt Award in Britain in Bloom. I would like to thank Peter & Diane for all their hard work and support to the Committee over the years. They will be missed!

2011 promises to be a difficult year. The riverside displays could be disrupted during construction works – we experienced this when the road collapsed alongside the Swan and the barrier baskets couldn't be put on the fencing there.

We have been advertising for more people to join us in making our town a better place to live. The response has unfortunately been rather low, but several people have said they would like to help us. We have discussed ending Upton in Bloom. Several members said they would like to continue maintaining some or all of the displays. However, we have been nominated for Britain in Bloom 2011 and I think it would be a shame for the town if we didn't continue for at least another year.

I think that with the help of the Local Authorities and volunteers, and perhaps other organisations in the town who are involved with attracting tourists, we can go forward to 2011 and another successful year for Upton in Bloom. Mr Cameron's 'Big Society' has been alive and kicking in Upton upon Severn for many years, and long may it continue!