

Stonehouse in Bloom 2015



In 2015 a group of volunteers set out to match earlier achievements in the Royal Horticultural Society's "Heart of England in Bloom" competition.

With the support of the Town Council, the team set about filling the town with flowers. Generous financial support from town centre businesses meant that colourful hanging baskets and lamppost planters could be seen along much of the main street.



Other floral displays were planted at the railway station, in the Rest Garden, around the War Memorial and on the town greens.



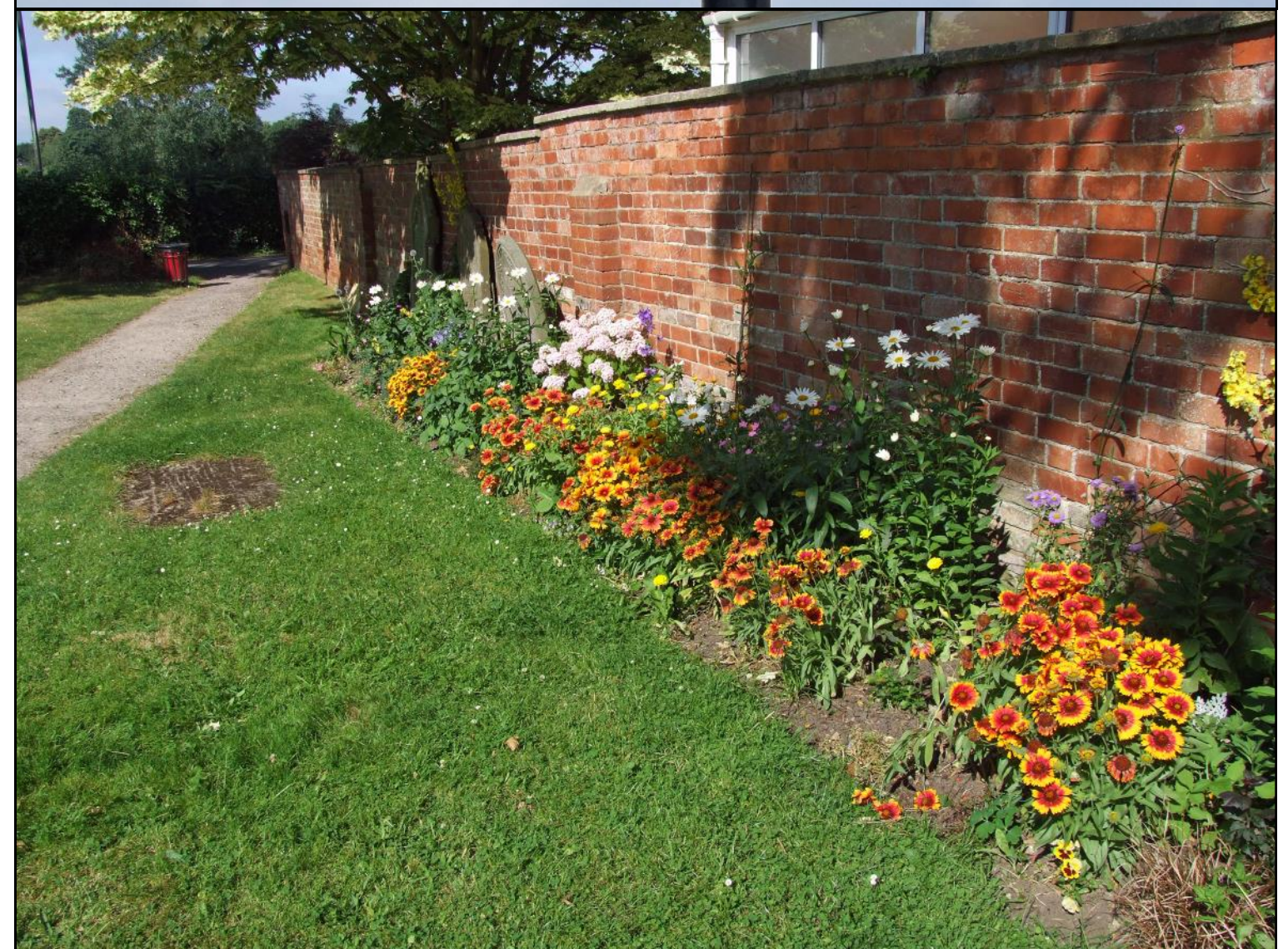
In July, the town received a **Silver Award**. The judges were especially impressed by the level of involvement and enthusiasm of a wide variety of community groups.



Stonehouse in Bloom 2016



In 2016, plans were made to add to the 2015 floral displays. The High Street baskets and lamppost planters extended from one end of town to the other, bulbs were planted in the Rest Garden and a new bed prepared and planted by the railway station.



The range and variety of produce in the Station Master's Garden increased, and the young people from Stonehouse Youth Club turned recycled washing machine drums into colourful planters.

Several schools and Stonehouse Guides took part in the Sunflower challenge, which helped to brighten part of the Rest Garden. The children and volunteers from APT Stonehouse created raised vegetable beds and a wildlife garden.



Regular litter picks and volunteer weeding days helped to make the town look its best for the judges, who rewarded everyone's efforts with a **Silver Gilt Award.**



In 2017 we are aiming for a **Gold Award.**