



Acocks Green is our Garden – Village in Bloom 2014

On a recent visit to France, we came across one small town displaying the slogan 'My town is a garden.'

Thanks to the work of local residents Acocks Green can now boast a similar claim!

Entering into the spirit of '**Village in Bloom**' we have a growing number of participating areas including Arden, Hazelwood, and Pemberley Roads, Woodcock Lane, Fox Hollies Environmental Centre, the Millennium Green, St. Mary's Church, the 260th Scouts unit and Acocks Green school, not mention the heart of our community – the village itself.

The Village in Bloom team have already chosen some key themes for this year.

Firstly, 2014 is the centenary of the outbreak of World War I so we shall be making special efforts to enhance the war memorial gardens in front of the library. We already have a lot of red flowering plants and shrubs in place and we are pleased to have the pupils of Acocks Green School joining us in sowing many red poppy seeds to echo the fields of Flanders.

Another important project for the team this year is planting-up at the corner of Woodcock Lane and Warwick Road. We believe this spot is important because it is the start of the village shopping centre that visitors first see when approaching from Olton. It plays a part in making Acocks Green an inviting place to shop and spend leisure time. The council has entrusted us with this piece of land and they are helping to beautify this special corner by repairing and painting the wall and allowing us to paint the cable box and the street sign!

The **Village in Bloom 2014 launch** is being held in the village on **Saturday 28th April**. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Britain in Bloom campaign so the theme is 'Going for Gold.' This involves planting of yellow flowering plants and shrubs and making a special effort to enhance the shopping area. We shall also be selling plants and vegetables and giving advice on gardening. Please come along and show your support.

We are also talking to the Regional Manager of both Acocks Green and Spring Road Stations to see if we can brighten up the stations with some greenery and flowers. We are planning to set up a 'Friends of Acocks Green Station' with this aim. Hopefully this will portray Acocks Green in a pleasant light when people are passing through by train.

We are always seeking more volunteers, so if you can spare a couple of hours a week, either Sundays or Wednesdays, and want to join the team who are set on enhancing Acocks Green then you would be very welcome. We have a hi-viz jacket waiting for you!

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