

Hazelwood Road



Hazelwood Road is well suited to being part of the Acocks Green Village in Bloom entry. It is a tree lined road approximately half mile long with grass verges and back borders.

The residences cover a period from the 1880s comprising of a row of cottages, followed by Victorian terraced houses. There are houses built between the wars and many flats and houses leading off the main road forming cul-de-sacs which were built from the 1960s onwards.

In fact there has been a road here since medieval times when it was known as Dogge Lane. One of the cul-de-sacs leading off the road has been named Dogge Lane Croft to reflect the area's history.

On the Ordnance Survey map of 1904, a large plant nursery had opened on the site which is now occupied by Aspen and Sorrell Drives. This was ultimately acquired by C.H. Herbert who came from Suffolk. He was a florist and nurseryman who specialised in border carnations. He developed Herbertii pinks after World War One, and these apparently became the basis of all pinks in the world grown at the time. Charles Herbert was personally congratulated on his pinks by the King and Queen at the RHS Show at Chelsea in 1927.



Hazelwood has a residents' association which was established in 1981 and has a committee which organises social events including quizzes, other evening events, days out and those marking special occasions including the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees. All events are publicised by a quarterly newsletter, a website and a notice board. A front garden is made available by one of the residents in which we hold our frequent Summer fetes.

Since the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the residents' association has raised over £10,000 for charity including £3,000 for the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull.

Hazelwood entered the Neighbourhood Awards of Britain in Bloom in 2007 after which it was given an Outstanding Award and Fran Lee was given special recognition by being given the Chevrolet Award for Community Achievement.

The residents work well with the council and its contractors to ensure that it brings any defects to their attention. Regular litter picks and gardening are carried out including floral displays being put in 20 planters, work on the back borders, some of which had to be dug out to prepare the beds for planting, in the main with herbaceous perennials.



All planting with the addition of some tree surrounds, gives the area all year round flowering commencing with snowdrops, daffodils and hellebores in the Spring lasting through to the sedums and phlox which only disappear after the first frosts. There are also evergreen shrubs which give pleasure throughout the year.

When volunteers are working in the road, people stop to say how much they enjoy walking along the road and what pleasure it brings to them even though they are not residents.

When the inhabitants decided to enhance their road, people commented that until this work commenced, they had not met some of their neighbours. The campaign has really brought people together.

Hazelwood definitely believes in community spirit!