



## Award is a Golden moment for Stonehouse in Bloom

Green-fingered volunteers in Stonehouse are celebrating a Gold Award in this year's Heart of England in Bloom competition.

At a presentation evening in the Great Hall of Warwick Castle last Thursday evening (September 14), four members of the Stonehouse in Bloom team were presented with the award by Heart of England in Bloom president Les Goodman.

The Judges, Mark Wiltshire and Lesley Pritchard, visited Stonehouse on July 25 to make their assessment and the volunteers had to wait seven weeks to find out the result.

"It's been a long wait but it was worth it," says Gary Powell, Chair of Stonehouse in Bloom. "Everyone has worked so hard and we are absolutely delighted to have been awarded a Gold this year. The town has looked magnificent this summer and we are really proud that this was recognised by the judges. A big thank you must go to Stonehouse Town Council ground staff, Ray Kay and Barry Croose. They really went the extra mile for us and we are very grateful."

The Stonehouse in Bloom team are adamant that this is a reward for the whole of Stonehouse as so many people from all over the town have been involved.

"It has been a real community effort," says Gary. "As well as local residents donating plants, watering and regularly attending our table top sales and Bloomers Café fundraising days, we have also been supported by a number of community groups including Stonehouse Lunch Club, 4th Stonehouse Brownies and 1st Stonehouse Cubs. Maidenhill School, Park Junior School and The Shrubberies School have also taken part along with All Pulling Together, Stonehouse Community Partnership, Stonehouse Gardening Club, Stonehouse Community Centre and Stonehouse Allotment Association.

"And we have received tremendous support from local businesses, individuals and organisations: Stonehouse Town Council, Julie Harley, Wycliffe College, Highfield Garden World, Sarah Jane Kitchens, Wyevale Garden Centres, Norville Opticians, Sartorius, John Kerry & Sons, Kellaway Building Supplies, Tax Assist Accountants, VW & Audi Garage, The Light, Independent Financial Planning, Bowbridge Veterinary Group, LS Beautique, J Broomhall, Great Western Railway, Eurolink Communications, Barn Nurseries, Naylor Powell Estate Agents, The Barber's Shop, Bailey Opticians and Sweet Delights."

The team are eager to build on their success and anyone wanting to get involved in next year's entry is very welcome.  
Please contact Stonehouse Town Council on 01453 822070 or email [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com).