

Ready to
welcome the
RHS judges
on the
15th July



Stonehouse in Bloom 2025

Our activities
throughout the year



Our Stonehouse in Bloom journey reached its pinnacle, when we very proudly won the Best Small Town in the UK category at the Britain in Bloom Finals 2024. This hasn't stopped us continuing our commitment to Stonehouse, developing and building upon our journey so far.



SIB have been working with Building Circles, a small Gloucestershire Charity that enables adults with learning disabilities to live more active lives, with greater choice and opportunity, since 2023, following the creation of the Community Garden at Stonehouse Station.

The garden is now very well established and has gone from strength to strength since, with weekly gardening sessions with six participants every Wednesday. They are growing a wide variety of produce, fruit and flowers and very much enjoy using the community space.



COMMUNITY GARDEN



WOW! What a year of effort and achievement. Stonehouse in Bloom were absolutely thrilled to receive one of the highest RHS Community Garden accolades in October 2024. The 10 years of hard work and commitment by a group of Stonehouse residents, community and partner organisations, businesses and Stonehouse Town Council paid off.



COMMUNITY GALLERY

INSECT THEMED GALLERY

To celebrate the RHS theme of 'Insects' we invited residents of Moreton Hill Care Centre Art Group, Hopelands Preparatory School and the Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester Mothers in Mind groups to paint pictures of insects - these are on display in the town's High Street Car Park and along the fencing on Platform 2 of our 'Adopted Station'. It has been a real community team effort!

"Our children loved taking part in this and are very excited to go and see all the amazing artwork from all the groups. Thank you Stonehouse in Bloom for inviting us to take part."

Hopelands Preparatory School

- Winning 'Best Small Town' at the Britain in Bloom Finals 2024
- New canalside 'Ship Inn Community Space' created
- XK+ daily post reach & XK content interactions on Facebook

Activities Key



Horticulture
A1, A2, A3, A4



Local Identity & Pride of Place
B1



Natural Environment
B2



Environmental Management
B3



Year-round Activity & Future Commitment
C1



Communication, Education & Awareness
C2



Support & Funding
C3

We have been working with community partners: Ship Inn Community Enterprise; Cotswold Canals Trust; Stonehouse Town Council; Cotswold Canals Connected and the Stroud Valleys Canal Company to realise the full community potential of the restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation.

The canal is a key wildlife corridor, and we alongside our partners want to maximise health and wellbeing, see Stonehouse becoming a canal town again, which will economically boost the area (see impact already on pg 21) bringing visitors to Stonehouse. The key sites in Stonehouse are the Ship Inn site, Stonehouse Court, St Cyr's Church and Wyatt's Field. The Stonehouse Canal Festival was a roaring success this year, and lots of new Ship Inn 'SUNDAYS' activities are happening throughout the summer.



NEW COMMUNITY SPACE

STROUDWATER CANAL

Overview



AUGUST 2024



SEPTEMBER 2024



OCTOBER 2024



NOVEMBER 2024



DECEMBER 2024

"Stonehouse always looks amazing, can't wait to see what flowers you've used this year. Thanks"

"The daffodil displays around the town look beautiful. Thank you."



JANUARY 2025



FEBRUARY 2025



MARCH 2025



APRIL 2025



MAY 2025



JUNE 2025



JULY 2025

"Excellent! Keep up the good work! So rewarding to make where you live a better place to be! Horticulture | Environment | community Team Heart of England"



Horticulture
A1, A2, A3, A4

Horticulture



The Station planters were still looking resplendent in September!



Head-torches were the order of the day, as we carried out our last evening working party of the year.



We planted up the 20 Pizza Planet planters with bulbs and winter planting using our own compost.



We didn't let success go to our 'In Bloom' heads, cracking on up at our adopted station, removing the summer bedding and replanting the bulbs we took out in May, plus planting Pansies and Bellis.



Our fleet of boats had a spruce-up - tidied, weeded and winter bedding planted. We enjoyed chatting to a number of passers-by who stopped to pass on their appreciation.

We cut back and planted bulbs in the large planters outside The Fig Tree.



We planted up the Horsetrough with winter bedding and bulbs, tidied, weeded, added compost and planted in the Elm Road bed. It was great to garden in the calm sunshine!



We finished planting up the station planters with bulbs and winter bedding up at our adopted station. Another group busied themselves in The Old Chapel Garden, weeding, tidying and planting bulbs in the raised bed.



The team weeded and tidied the Memorial Green in readiness for the Service of Remembrance in the town on Sunday 10th November. As well as weeding, planting and tidying in Elm Road.



Despite our SIB team officially only working on Monday's throughout the winter months, most of the team do work ad-hoc throughout the week when they can. Here are SIB members working on the Apothecary Garden.



Weeding the trees in Meadow Road Park and weeding and tidying in Elm Road and The Old Chapel Garden.

"Well done all the amazing Volunteers. They made our home town really beautiful"



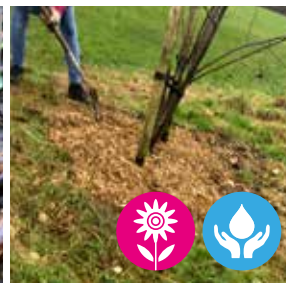
Back at the Station Steps Garden for infilling with late Tete-a-Tete Daffodils, planting donated plants (thank you!) and weeding up the steps. Along with lots of work weeding and cutting back in The Old Chapel Garden and High Street, we used mulch from the cut back Willow tree around the young trees in Meadow Road Park. The spring bulbs and flowers are now out in full swing. We even managed to catch a photo of one of our resident frogs in the Station Steps Garden (and some of our resident SIB-ers).



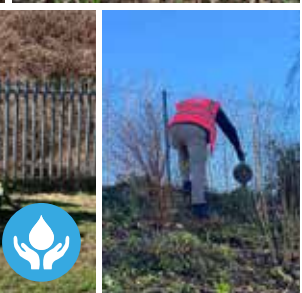
We started in earnest weeding, tidying and digging in the Station Steps Garden up at the Queens Road entrance to the train station. The Snowdrops and Tete-a-Tete Daffodils were on their way!



The Pizza Planet pole planters were dead-headed and topped up with extra plants and compost.



Removing the palm tree that was trying to remove itself from the Fig Tree planter! Pruning the Rose and Tracleospermum in the station planters, pruning Salvias, tidying, weeding and planting throughout the town's planters and tidying up the beds and borders around The Globe and Willow Tree Green.



We planted Primroses on the bank of the Station Steps Garden. Mulched the trees in Meadow Road Park. Cutting back, weeding and tidying the Willow Tree Green borders and beds. It was lovely to have blue skies and sunshine joining us!



A bit chillier, we were wrapped up, and we soon warmed up from our activities. Bagging up all the remaining manure, weeding and bagging up the compost. Dead-heading The Old Chapel Garden planters plus its entrance planters. Dead-headed the Violas from the planters outside Pizza Planet.



The team clearing, weeding and tidying the Station Steps Garden, the High Street planters, station planters and The Old Chapel Garden. Followed by some heartily welcomed teas and coffees at The Woolpack Inn, who kindly provided our refreshments at the end of our activities.



Herculian planting effort (128 baskets and planters!) We definitely burnt off those Easter treats! Our, from empty to fully planted up process gets slicker every year. The team had an incredibly efficient system, with planter fillers, planter carriers, plant selectors and finally planter planters! Gerald at Pound Farm Shop grew some wonderfully healthy plants for us. Our baskets look after, until they were ready to be put in place at the end of May, beginning of June. Big thanks to Gerald and his team.



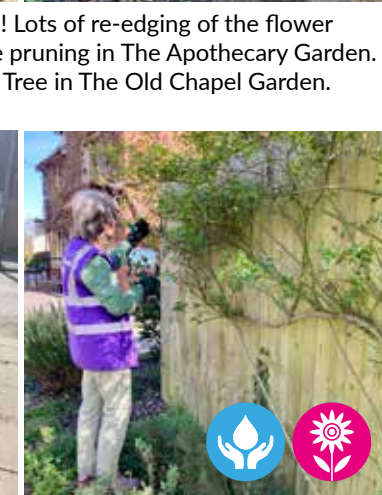
We saw lots of bees, which was great to see as we weeded and tidied the Station Steps Garden, as well as the Elm Road bed and we cut back along the fence.



Tidying and weeding the flower beds and pruning back of the Rose in Elm Road. Tidying and weeding in The Old Chapel Garden . Planted 3 new native British Trees (Populus Nigra, a Populus Tremula and a Sorbus) in Laburnum Park, as part of the Stonehouse Arboretum as well as planted an Amelanchier tree in Meadow Road Park. The plan for Laburnum Park, is for it to become a celebration of native British trees.



We enjoyed more of the setting sun... Lots of watering of the High Street planters and in The Old Chapel Garden. Weeding and tidying The Memorial Green flowerbeds. Weeding, tidying and cutting back in The Old Chapel Garden



The blossom was looking and smelling lovely in Cotswold Green and Meadow Park. The pollinators were happy!

"Thank you so much for making Stonehouse look wonderful all year round. Well done"



Weeding the Elm Road bed. Tackling the roses in Elm Road. Cutting back the lime tree shoots and rehoming any ladybird larvae we found.

The focus of Team SIB was our adopted station... Weeding, tidying and planting up.



Weeding and watering our edible garden planter between MDHP and Redkite. Dead-heading and training The Apothecary Garden Rose. Weeding the side bed of The Apothecary Garden. Dead-heading and weeding the Station planters.



More supports were put into The Apothecary Garden. Station Planters were fed with liquid seaweed. Planting up the Horsetrough. Cutting back, weeding and watering in The Old Chapel Garden.

We also enjoyed a much needed refreshment post SIB-ing. When one doesn't have a seat, a wheelbarrow will suffice!



Busy in the High Street... Planting up the Redkite Solicitors, MDHP and Wholehearted planters and preparing the planter outside Tasty's.



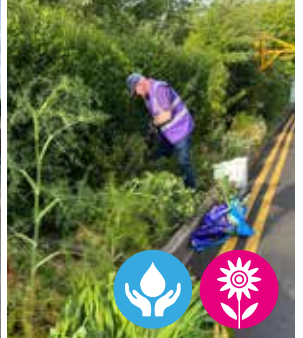
It was time to install all 128 of our beautiful planted up hanging baskets and planters along the High Street. Always a team effort!



Grafting in The Old Chapel Garden and planting up one of our boat planters.



Putting up the planted up pole planters and weeding and tidying The Apothecary Garden, watering in The Old Chapel Garden.



Preparing all the High Street Planters. Planting up a new planter at the back of The Willow Tree Practice, which they'll be looking after. Thank you! Weeding and tidying the Memorial Green beds.



Lin working hard along the High Street and at home planting up even more planters for the High Street!

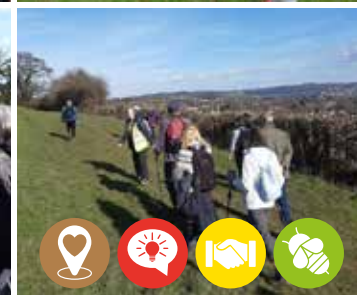


Planting up our colourful bikes.

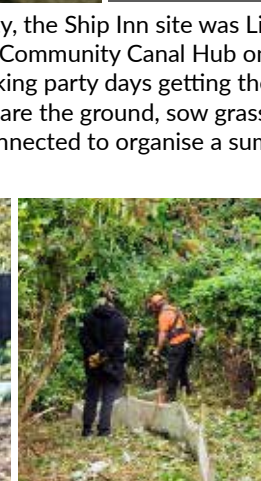
Stonehouse Walking Festival in September 2024 was the biggest yet, with 33 walks over 7 days! A dedicated team of volunteers guided people around Stonehouse, featuring very informative walks and talks from a launch at Woodchester Vineyard based in Stonehouse, 'Stroudwater Canal Then and Now', 'Stonehouse History' etc. John Parker CEO of the Arboricultural Association guided multiple 'Trees of Stonehouse' walks in and around the town.

Walk Schedule

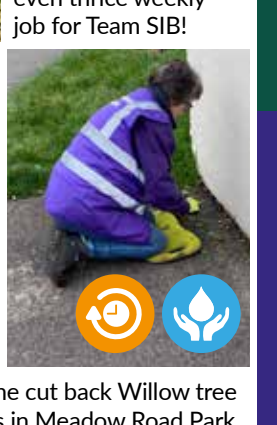
Day	Time	Walk Name	Guide
Monday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Monday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Tuesday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Tuesday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Wednesday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Wednesday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Thursday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Thursday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Friday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Friday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Saturday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Saturday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker
Sunday	10:00	Stonehouse History	John Parker
Sunday	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now	John Parker



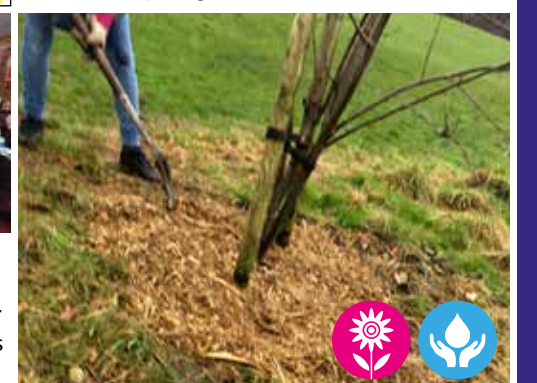
Great news for the Community! After many years of uncertainty, the Ship Inn site was Licensed to the Town Council for Ship Inn Community Enterprise (SpICE) to create a Community Canal Hub on the site. Following which throughout the Autumn/Winter there were several working party days getting the local community involved to help repair reptile fencing, clear undergrowth, prepare the ground, sow grass seed etc. And, in February they partnered with the team at Cotswold Canals Connected to organise a summer full of activities at the Ship Inn site.



Cotswold Voluntary Wardens improved the footpaths in Verney Fields, adding steps and gravel and handrails.

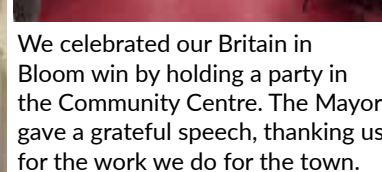
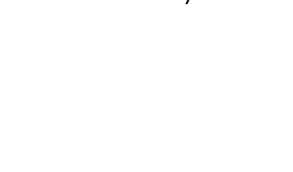


We emptied all of the planters and baskets, keeping plants aside that we could reuse next season.



We celebrated our Britain in Bloom win by holding a party in the Community Centre. The Mayor gave a grateful speech, thanking us for the work we do for the town.

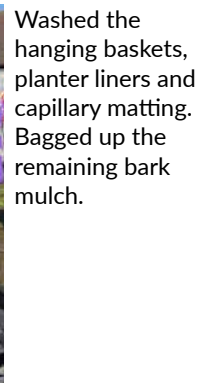
Stonehouse Town Council very kindly paid for us to have some banners printed and located around the town to promote our win to the wider community.



We have 11 water butts located around the town, to maximise water collection and distribution, as well as our water tanks up at the Oldends Compound.



Washed the hanging baskets, planter liners and capillary matting. Bagged up the remaining bark mulch.



Out in all weathers - SIB member Sheila out in force and regular town-wide community litter picks, including one by The Apperley Centre students help keep Stonehouse free of litter.



Bagged up all the remaining manure and also weeded and bagged up the compost and. Jet and hand washed all of the pole planters.



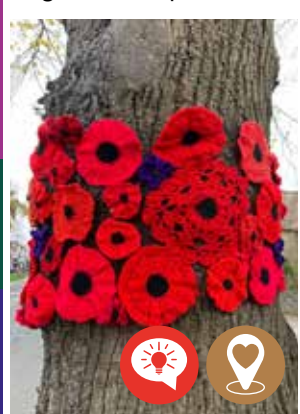
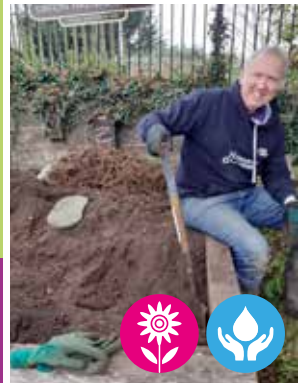
Paint refresh of the Elm Road wall before we took a well earned mini-break through August. It certainly brightened up the planted area in front.



We tidied the Memorial Green in readiness for the annual Remembrance Services. Local Stonehouse group 'Knit and Natter' created beautiful knitted and crocheted poppy displays, that were positioned around the Memorial Green, in front of The Globe pub and on top of the postbox outside the Town Hall.



We dug out all of the rogue tree roots from the Station Master's Garden, ready for replanting. This task is undertaken every couple of years, as the trees use up all of the water and nutrients that are needed to grow our crops.



We emptied the wooden planter opposite the top of Elm Road and the wooden planter outside The Fig Tree, so that our SIB member Bill could put reservoirs in them to aid water management.



Local Identity & Pride of Place
B1



Natural Environment
B2



Environmental Management
B3

Environment

"Well done to you all. Stonehouse is a pleasure to drive through, so full of colour. Thank you for all your hard work"



NEW PROJECT

The Chapel Gate - This wrought iron gate was originally used at the rear entrance to the graveyard of the Congregational Chapel built in 1827. After the Chapel's demolition the gate was lost until 2005. Since then, it has been carefully stored and is now repainted and returned to its original setting in the now Old Chapel Garden.



The wildflower verge at the Horsetrough entrance to town, that we created last year with the help of STC Groundstaff, looked magnificent in June..



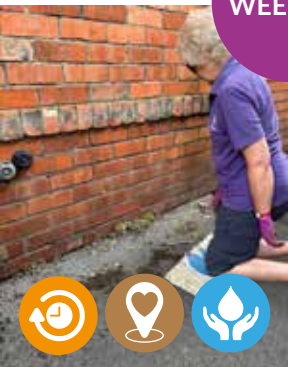
Planter liners were emptied and cleaned. Compost and manure were bagged up for distribution in our planters.



Our beautiful beds, planters, baskets, lamp post and barrier planters don't look good by chance. We have a brilliant partnership of plants being supplied by Pound Farm, they are planted up by SIB and then watered by Stonehouse Town Council.



WEEDING



Weeding, weeding, weeding and more weeding! Our weeding guru Simon can often be found around the town, as well as the rest of team SIB who are weeding continuously on their Working Party Days, come rain or shine!



More handmade willow plant supports were put into The Apothecary Garden.



Thanks STC Groundstaff for collecting our garden waste.



Massive thanks to Wycliffe College pupils, who enthusiastically joined us as part of their 'Make a Difference Day'. The event encourages their pupils to think globally and act locally by supporting the community Wycliffe is very much a part of.



Sorting and finding homes for an amazing amount of plants, very kindly donated by a couple in Ryelands Road, that were used for a family wedding. Thank you!



New posters brightening up stations across the region, including Stonehouse, celebrating the charm and creativity of Stroud District. Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership, support this campaign with GWR and Stroud District Council, promoting access to nature, culture, and opportunity, through inclusive, car-free travel.



CANAL RESTORATION



Connecting the canal from Stonehouse to Saul Junction where it will join the existing Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and so link to the wider canal network. Cotswold Canals Trust have visitor centres, guided walks, boat trips and an extensive number of dedicated volunteers. Wildlife is thriving, and the positive effects, for all, of the ongoing canal restoration are evident.



We were delighted to see the new Stonehouse History Group heritage information board installed in The Old Chapel Garden. The board is extremely informative, giving a history of the Stroudwater Canal at Stonehouse and includes a map to show visitors the different walking routes from the Garden to the Canal and St Cyr's Church. Jointly funded by Stonehouse in Bloom and The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund.

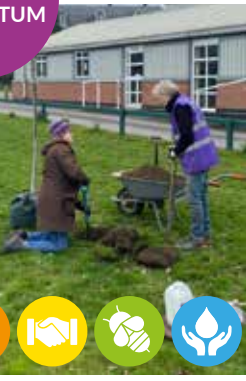


We are loving our new RHS Britain in Bloom 'Best Small Town in the UK 2024' signs, which have been accompanied by brand new 'Welcome to Stonehouse' signs at all main entrance routes into the town, courtesy of Stonehouse Town Council. The only exception being the Standish entrance, due to having our lovely peacock metalwork underneath the 'Welcome' sign. A much needed refresh!



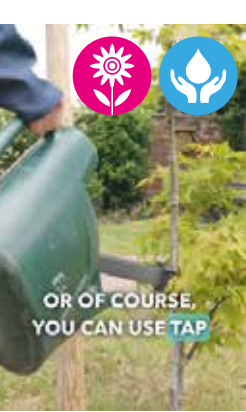
"Excellent news. How many people living in Stonehouse have never been to or along the canal? It's one of Stonehouse's greatest assets. Almost all the restoration work is done by volunteers."

We have lots of continuous litter picking support throughout the year from SIB member Sheila, STC run bi-monthly litter picks, STC Ground staff, The Shrubberies School and from SN&J's Best Volunteer of the Year 2023 litter picking legend Eric Torrington.



STONEHOUSE ARBORETUM

As part of the fantastic Stonehouse Community Arboretum work being done, John Parker CEO of the Arboricultural Association (based on the edge of Stonehouse) and SIB members planted 3 new native British trees (Populus Nigra, a Populus Tremula and a Sorbus) in Laburnum Park, as well as planting an Amelanchier tree in Meadow Road Park. The plan for Laburnum Park, is for it to become a celebration of native British trees.



Newly planted trees need 50 litres of water per week during the summer months, for the first three years after planting. Research shows that 30% of newly planted street trees die within their first years, often due to lack of proper aftercare. The Arboricultural Association with the The Woodland Trust are raising awareness. You can watch and share resources, order FREE watering tags and recycle your grey water.



Year-round
Activity & Future
Commitment
C1



Communication,
Education &
Awareness
C2



Support
& Funding
C3



We received a lovely seasonal thank you card from a member of public. We are always humbled and encouraged by people's recognition of our efforts.



Community



A beautiful late summer's afternoon for our fundraiser in The Old Chapel Garden. Tea, cake, live music and sunshine. A brilliant £323 was raised for Stonehouse in Bloom. Thank you!



New year's recruitment drive on social media.



Two fabulous new square card sets for sale. More images of Stonehouse in Bloom tended garden's, borders and flowers, taken by SIB member Sarah. All proceeds in aid of Stonehouse in Bloom. Available to buy in the town or at our events.



Best Small Town in the UK 2024! We were extremely proud, emotional and grateful to absolutely everyone who has travelled with us on our Stonehouse in Bloom journey over the years. So much hard work by everyone involved. A massive thank you to everyone involved. We received both awards from horticulturist, author, and television presenter Frances Tophill. We were also awarded a GOLD and Winner of Best Small Town Category in the RHS Heart of England in Bloom 2024 Awards.



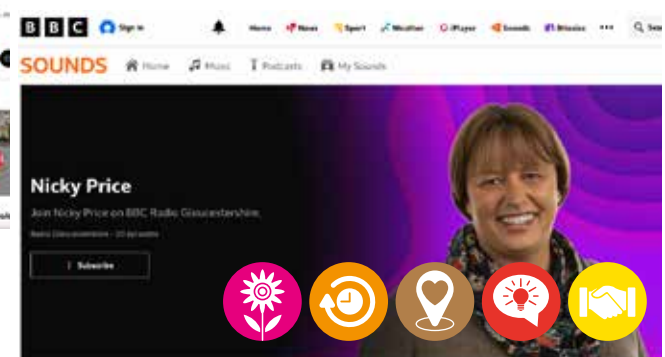
Not only did we win the National Finals, but we were also awarded a 'Best Small Town' category win and 'Gold' in the RHS Heart of England in Bloom regional competition. We warmly welcomed the judges, and very much enjoyed showing them our town in bloom.



Hopelands Preparatory School were delighted to welcome members of Stonehouse in Bloom for a celebratory tea. The pupils pictured met the RHS Community Gardening judges in July 2024, and showed them their paintings on Friendship.



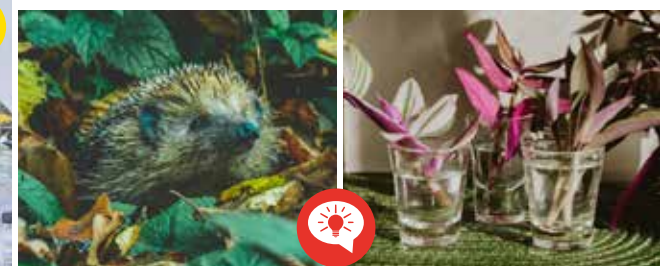
We had some great coverage from Stroud news & journal and the Stroud Times. BBC Gloucestershire also interviewed us for the BBC Radio Gloucestershire 'Daytimes with Nicky Price' Show today. It was great to share our achievement with everyone, and the rain stopped just in time!



"We are absolutely thrilled with this result not only for the Stonehouse in Bloom team, but for all the other groups in the community who have worked with us. We started with just a small group and now we work with the Town Council, Cotswold Canals Trust, GCRP, Hopelands and Park Federation Schools, Moreton Hill Care Centre, Stonehouse Court Hotel, GWR, Network Rail, Arboricultural Association to name a few, High Street businesses, and many more organisations. There is a real sense of pride in our town and huge support across the local community and wider Stroud District".

Pam Swain - Chair, Stonehouse in Bloom

Stonehouse Gardening Club Autumn Events - A talk on Hedgehogs by Annie Parfitt from Brimscombe Hedgehog Hospital. Propagation: A hands-on workshop.

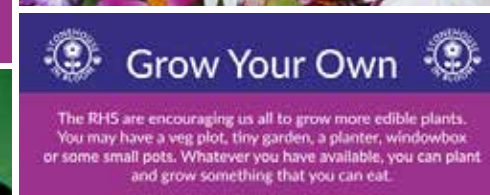


As official Stonehouse Station Adopters we were very excited to be part of Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership's Twinning with Cooperatie Stationspark Deurne in the Netherlands. Our members feature on the initial Twinning promotion posters currently at Gloucester Station.



Voted unanimously to support a funding boost of £1.5million to the Cotswold Canals Connected project, subject to council approval and to the award of a further National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £6.5million. This new funding would enable the project team to progress a new section of canal under the M5 and two new locks. This would enable investment into a mooring basin, café and car park, for which planning permission has been awarded.

Stroud District Council co-leads the Cotswold Canals Connected project with The Cotswold Canals Trust and, together with other partners, has restored five miles of canal from Thrupp to Eastington. Major new wetland bird and water vole habitats have been created, along with new walking and cycling opportunities. The restoration in Stroud and Stonehouse has brought inward investment and housing worth more than £100m, and the Inland Waterways Association and Canal & River Trust value the social benefit for our communities at £2.7m per mile of restored canal. This project relies heavily on fantastic community support, with more than 500 committed volunteers devoting their time and skills.



Lots of handmade items that SIB members have made to sell at our events, to raise funds.



Cotswold Boatmobility celebrates its 20 year anniversary, provides fabulous boat trips as part of the Stonehouse Canal Festival and receives 6 brand new Katanus, thanks to Omaze.

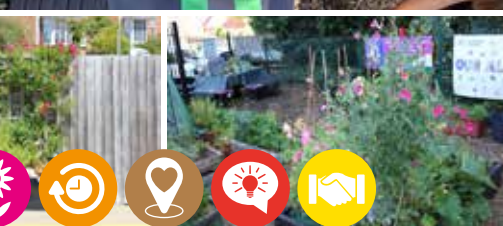


A fantastic £257.50 was raised for Stonehouse in Bloom! It was a lovely afternoon. Thanks to Stonehouse Library for use of their space.

"Sat for a while in the Old Chapel Garden listening to the lovely relaxing background music of Rory. The garden is beautiful. And so many thanks to all the wonderful workers for Stonehouse in Bloom. They really do such a marvellous job. THANK YOU ALL"



The RHS are encouraging us all to grow more edible plants. We wanted to encourage people to 'Grow Your Own', whether you have a veg plot, tiny garden, a planter, windowbox or some small pots. Whatever you have available, you can plant and grow something that you can eat. We created a poster to give people an idea of what they could also grow themselves.



We love being station adopters, through our partners Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership. We look after the station planters all year-round, that bring cheer to those using the station and those who pass through it. The Station Steps Garden has really brightened up one of the entrances to the station and our Station Community Garden is successfully being used by Building Circles as an allotment. Over the years we have purchased planters, installed reservoirs and new signage as well as planting trees. Stonehouse History Group installed very informative info boards, that tell readers about the history of the station. There is also an edible 'help yourself' Stationmaster's Garden. The station has also hosted public art exhibition collaborations between Creative Sustainability and GWR.



The Building Circles' Station Community Garden users have again been eagerly getting stuck into their allotment at our Station Community Garden. We have been impressed by their efforts and team work. They have planted lots of different vegetables and flowers again this year. They enjoyed their own-grown strawberries with homemade scones in June.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Ship Inn Community Space took shape over the Spring and Summer, with lots more Working Group action, creating accessible areas, with bench seating, a new information board and a variety of brilliant events over the summer in partnership with Cotswold Canals Connected.



NEW COMMUNITY SPACE



"What a wonderful way to spend a rainy Saturday afternoon. Amazing cakes, the best tea and lovely people to meet and chat to. Looking forward to the next tea and cake afternoon!"



"Thank you so much for including us and giving mums at our Mothers in Mind groups a very worthwhile reason to get creative"

Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester



We celebrated our fantastic new 'Insect Gallery' at the back of the Stonehouse High Street Car Park and along the fencing on Platform 2 of our 'Adopted Station'. The artwork looks amazing!!! BIG THANKS to Moreton Hill Care Home Art Group, Hopelands Preparatory School and Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester Art Group for participating and creating these wonderful paintings and drawings. They are already receiving much deserved praise and positive comments from passers-by. A real community team effort!



STATION ADOPTERS

As part of Railway 200, Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership is celebrating the rich railway heritage of Gloucestershire, from Black History walks, to discovering the rich nature spaces in our county, to twinning projects and community exhibitions. Some of these projects include, Our Black History Map, Beyond the Platform, Exploring Gloucestershire maps: Wellbeing Walks (Food/Drink Trail/Car free travel & by bike), Train Tripper (reduce your carbon footprint) and Immersive Audio Experiences.



Another year of highlighting different causes in the WI High Street planter, that they maintain. Bringing more all-year cheer and awareness to the people of Stonehouse. Marking VE Day, Women's International Day and promoting, Sunflowers Suicide Support charity and Paint the Town Pink.



"Just want to say the way you look after the town is beautiful. A few weeks ago I took a pic of the blossom trees outside Park School. I decided to have a go in soft pastels, because the colours were so beautiful, so well kept"

Lynzi Hill



Local resident Lynzi was inspired by our efforts and created two pastel artworks. One of our Rose Arch in The Old Chapel Garden and the other, the blossom trees in Elm Road. Copies of which are now in frames on the wall as you enter The Old Chapel Garden.



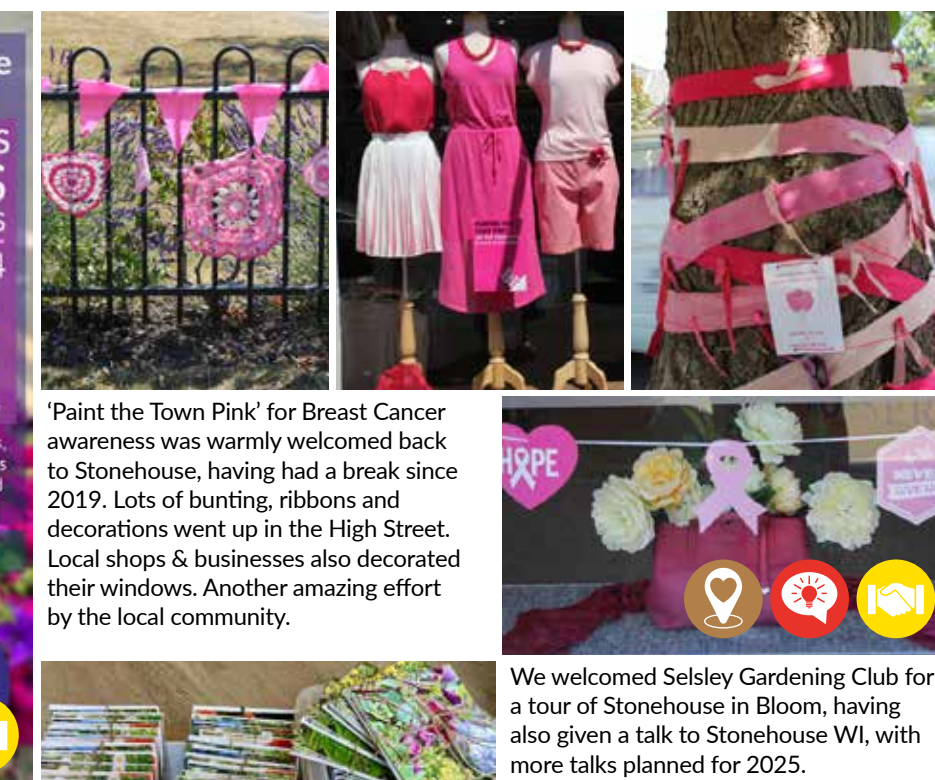
£173 Raised!



WOW! What a fabulous community event Stonehouse Canal Festival was, and what a fabulous amount was raised for Stonehouse in Bloom.... £173! A massive thank you to everyone who came and supported our stall and Stonehouse Canal Festival for organising such an inclusive and popular event. We are already counting down to next year's festival!

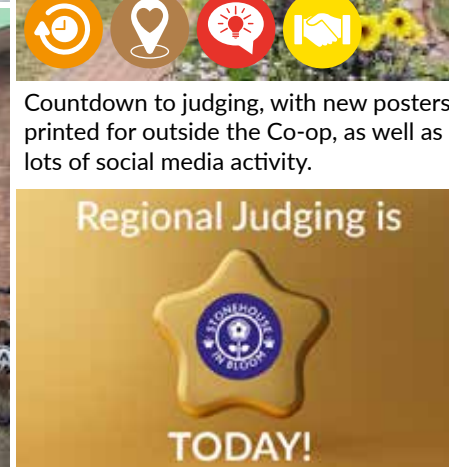


Our SIB cards are proving to be so popular, that we had to get another big batch printed in June. We've got a new Spring set and taken the favourites from previous designs to create a Summer set.



'Paint the Town Pink' for Breast Cancer awareness was warmly welcomed back to Stonehouse, having had a break since 2019. Lots of bunting, ribbons and decorations went up in the High Street. Local shops & businesses also decorated their windows. Another amazing effort by the local community.

We welcomed Selsley Gardening Club for a tour of Stonehouse in Bloom, having also given a talk to Stonehouse WI, with more talks planned for 2025.



Countdown to judging, with new posters printed for outside the Co-op, as well as lots of social media activity.

Regional Judging is TODAY!



7 x Gold Award - Heart of England in Bloom • Best Small Town 2018/19/22/23/24 • Britain in Bloom Winner 2024

Social Media Activity



ORGANISATIONS WHO FOLLOW US

- | | |
|---|--|
| RHS Community Gardening | Tree Plantation |
| Building Circles | TrainTripper |
| Stroud Town Council | Barbican Wildlife Group |
| Froglife | The Climate Party |
| Food Forest Project | Paws On Plastic |
| The Cotswold Canal Trust | Trinity Rooms Community Hub |
| Stroud Valleys Project | Cotswold Life |
| Cotswold Canals Connected | Excellence in Agronomy |
| Stonehouse Town Council | SE Manchester Community Rail Partnership |
| Stroud Youth Voice | APRS (Scotland's Countryside Charity) |
| Stonehouse Climate Action | Friends of Prestatyn Coronation Gardens |
| Ship Inn Community Enterprise | Street Trees for Living |
| Heart of England in Bloom | Rural Policy Centre |
| + 16 other 'In Bloom' groups nationally | Stroud District Council |
| Cotswold Boatmobility | The Eco Therapy Garden C.I.C |
| Newtown Green Community Group | Sevenoaks Council |
| The Bentham Line | Tesco Stroud Community |
| The Dirt Horticulture News | Stonehouse Canal Festival |
| Arboricultural Association | Warren Farm Nature Reserve |
| Trees for Streets | & many more |

COMMENTS

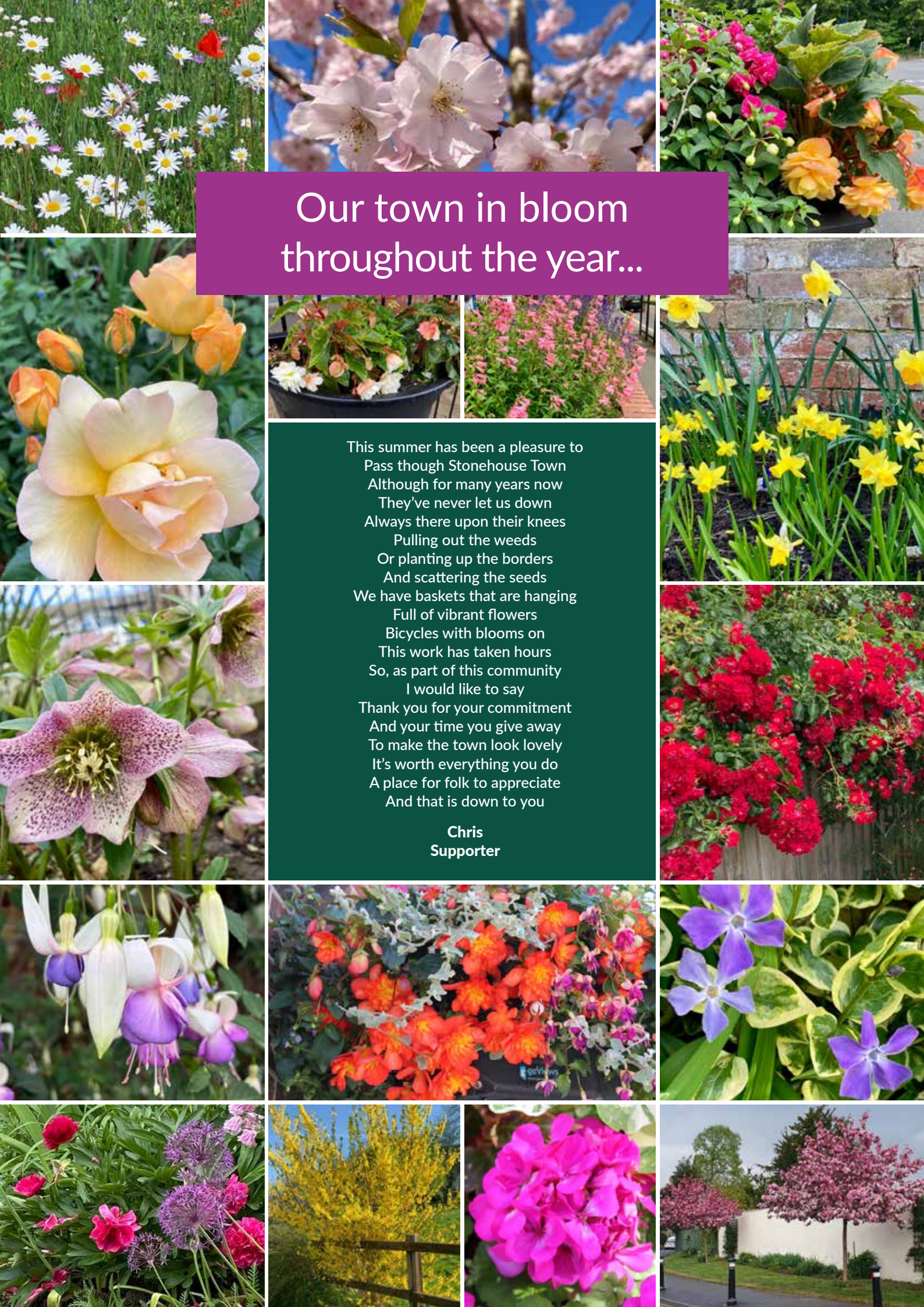
- Absolutely brilliant and a massive congratulations from us. We appreciate all the hard work by all and you make our small town so lovely all year round and I look forward to beoming part of the team when I retire in 3 years time.
- Congratulations! Well done to everyone involved. So well deserved - the town has looked amazing this year.
- Looking fantastic! We're hugely appreciative of the whole team!
- Stonehouse always looks amazing, can't wait to see what flowers you've used this year. Thanks
- Wonderful work as always by our amazing volunteers.
- Great cream tea, lovely cards. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.
- All through the year I've thought how marvellous our town looks. Some of the old character & charm being brought back to life. So very grateful to all the people involved.

Engagement across all three channels is growing all the time. More and more high profile organisations and influential members of the public are following us, as well as local groups, businesses and people.

Our town in bloom throughout the year...

This summer has been a pleasure to
Pass though Stonehouse Town
Although for many years now
They've never let us down
Always there upon their knees
Pulling out the weeds
Or planting up the borders
And scattering the seeds
We have baskets that are hanging
Full of vibrant flowers
Bicycles with blooms on
This work has taken hours
So, as part of this community
I would like to say
Thank you for your commitment
And your time you give away
To make the town look lovely
It's worth everything you do
A place for folk to appreciate
And that is down to you

Chris
Supporter





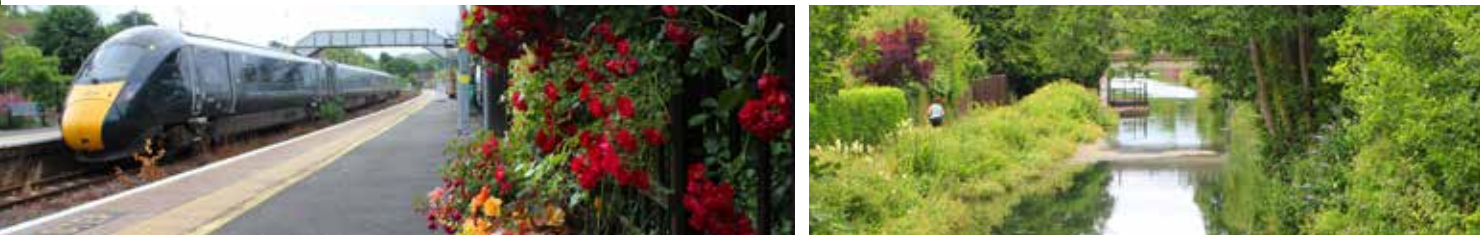
Our Future Plans

It's been an exciting year with lots of developments along the Stroudwater Canal. We want to continue and build upon the existing partnerships we have, and primarily encourage further use of the new canalside Ship Inn Community Space. Our Building Circles partner will be using the space to host their picnic in September and partner Cotswold Canals Connected have jointly organised a range of activities for all ages throughout the summer of 2025.

We hope to further protect and enhance wildlife, promote the canal's wellbeing and health benefits as well as promote Stonehouse as a tourism destination.



Our Partnerships



We'd like to give thanks to:

In alphabetical order

Stonehouse in Bloom Members:

Chair: Pam Swain; Treasurer: Debbie Curtis; Vice-Chair Working Parties: Lin Powell; Theresa Watt; Minutes Secretary: Sheila Brown; Members: Alastair Farwell; Caroline Hensley; Chris Gallagher; Clare Sheridan; Denise Gason; Denise Stoner; Gary Powell; Janet Chambers; Jim Jamieson; Karan Mayo; Kate Laker; Lynne Brett; Mattie Ross; Melissa Brigg; Paddie Norman; Pete Watt; Rosanne Jamieson; Rowena Horton; Sara Lawlor; Sarah Farwell; Sarah Jackson; Sarah Laming; Simon Lewis; Su Chard; Sue Burnham

Individuals Support:

Jo Byrne (Graphic Design/Publicity/Portfolio); Bill Chambers (Metalwork Design & Build/ Handmade Items to sell); Lucy Curtis (Afternoon/Cream Tea Posters); Sarah & Tim Jackson (Hosepipe and Water for station watering)

Business Sponsors:

AC's Hair Salon; All Pets; Central Co-op Funeral; Cotronix; Cotswold Prime Meats; Daniel's TV; Delta Nine IT; Dream Doors; Everybody's Beautiful; Family Shopper; Feel Good Factor; Fuzion Hair & Beauty Zone; Hunts Grove Barbers; JW Architectural Studio; La Campagna; Leeper Prosser; Naylor Powell; Norville Opticians; MDHP; MDL Kelex Ltd; Mercy in Action; MRG Systems; Premier Stores; Redkite; SJR Carpets and Flooring; Tasty's; TG Sales and Lettings; The Barber Shop; The Globe; The Woolpack Inn; Wholehearted; World Guitars; Your Coop Food; Zaika

Business Support:

Golden Paws Grooming Ltd (Tasha Anderson); Golden Sheep Coffee; Great Western Railway; Network Rail; Pound Farm; Stonehouse Court Hotel (especially Maz Jurko);

Organisation Support:

Arboricultural Association; APT; Building Circles; Community Rail; Cotswold Canals Connected; Cotswold Canals Trust; Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership; Fig Tree; High Street Medical Centre; Home Farm Trust; Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester; Hopelands Preparatory School; Midcounties Co-op; Moreton Hill Care Centre; Share & Repair; Ship Inn Community Enterprise; Stonehouse Gardening Club; Stonehouse History Group; Stonehouse Park Federation Schools; Stonehouse Rotary; Stonehouse Town Council - especially grounds staff Paul and Tony, who go above and beyond to help us; Stonehouse WI; Stroud Valleys Canal Company; Wycliffe College (especially Kester Birch & Jean)

All of our community volunteers and donators of plants, time and funds.



Stonehouse in Bloom will continue to keep the community informed of activities, wider developments and local events of benefit to the town. We look forward to what the next 12 months brings!

We will continue our 'In Bloom' efforts to enhance the town's horticulture, environment and community, and continue to work in partnership with the many varied not-for-profit organisations and companies to bring about positive change throughout Stonehouse.

Upcoming Events 2025

Flower Sculpture Trail

11th - 25th July

Heart of England in Bloom Judging

15th July

SIB Afternoon Tea

19th July

Doverow Woods Celebration

9th August

APT Family Fun Day

16th August

Stonehouse Walking Festival

5th - 14th September

Stonehouse Food Festival

6th September

SIB Afternoon Tea

14th September

Community Litter Pick

21st September

Launch of Poppy Appeal

25th October

Remembrance Service

9th November

Armistice Service

11th November

Stonehouse Goodwill Fest

6th December

APR



- Weeding the flower beds in Elm Road, The Old Chapel Garden and Apothecary Garden plus pruning Roses and Salvia around the town
- Removing the palm tree in the Fig Tree planter
- Tidying up the beds and borders around The Globe and Willow Tree Green
- Pressure and hand-washing the pole planters
- Stonehouse Arboretum - Planted new native British Trees in Laburnum & Meadow Road Parks

MAR



FEB



- Clearing, weeding, cutting back and tidying the Station Steps Garden, the High Street and planters, Station planters and in The Old Chapel Garden
- Infilling with late Tete-a-Tete Daffodils, planting donated plants
- Mulched young trees in Meadow Road Park
- SIB Cream Tea fundraising event

**WE WELCOME
THE HEART OF ENGLAND IN
BLOOM REGIONAL JUDGES**
15TH JULY 2025

JUL



JUN



- Supports added in The Apothecary Garden
- Station Planters were fed with liquid seaweed
- Planting up the Horsetrough
- Cutting back, weeding and watering in The Old Chapel Garden
- Planting up one of our boat planters
- Watering and installing our pole planters
- Sorting and finding homes for an amazing amount of donated plants

MAY



- Planting up the Redkite Solicitors, MDHP and Wholehearted planters and preparing the planter outside Tasty's
- Weeding, tidying and watering the High Street planters and in The Old Chapel Garden
- Tidying the High Street Car Park entrance border
- Ship Inn canalside community space opens
- SIB Cream Tea fundraising event

SEPT



- Planted up the 20 Pizza Planet planters with bulbs and winter planting using our own compost
- Emptied the barrier planters, keeping the Begonias and Fuchsias for reuse
- Bagged up more compost ready for use
- Stonehouse Canal Festival

AUG



**THE SIB TEAM TOOK A WELL EARNED
OFFICIAL BREAK!**

However, It didn't stop members keeping an eye out for that weed, watering that plant or even white-washing the Elm Road wall though. Always on the job!

JUL



- Stonehouse Flower Sculptures Trail
 - Cutting back & planting in the Station Steps Garden
 - SIB Afternoon Tea fundraising event
 - Weeding the Station planters & around the town
- WELCOMING THE RHS
HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM
AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM JUDGES**

NOV



- Weeding and tidying the Memorial Green in readiness for the Remembrance Service
- Weeding, planting bulbs and winter bedding in Elm Road, The Old Chapel Garden, the Horsetrough and in our Station planters and fleet of boat planters
- Dug out the rogue tree roots from the Station Master's Garden, ready for replanting
- Working in the Apothecary Garden

OCT



**BEST SMALL TOWN
IN THE UK 2024**
CATEGORY WINNERS
BRITAIN IN BLOOM FINALS

GOLD

DEC/JAN



- SIB members carry on taking care of their respective areas around the town...
- Cutting back and planting bulbs in the large planters outside The Fig Tree
 - Weeding and tidying throughout the town

Our journey in 2024-2025...

OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO STONEHOUSE



"A sense of purpose
shared with like-
minded friends"

Lin
Stonehouse in Bloom

"It's a privilege
to receive so
many positive
comments from
local residents
who now express
a sense of pride
in their town"

Pam
Stonehouse in Bloom

"Gardening with friends
to enhance our little town,
and to have so many
appreciative comments,
is very fulfilling"

Sarah
Stonehouse in Bloom

"Always feel welcomed and
wanted having been through
very difficult circumstances.
SIB's where I love to be
when I can"

Susan
Stonehouse in Bloom