

STOCKFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

The quarterly Newsletter from Stockfield Community Association



Stockfield
Community
Association

Summer 2024



Summer of Fun!

We look back of our Summer Activities in
this picture special

Stockfield Gardens

Acocks Green Village in Bloom



@AGVillageinBloom



@Fraininbloom

Hasnain Mawji

This garden has definitely developed when considering their first entry last year. Spring flowering shrubs have been added including Rhododendron and Camellia in addition to Pieris which has a striking red blossom. There are now many rose bushes which give a good backdrop to the healthy lawn and wooden fence. One of them has large deep red blooms. Forethought has been given to drought conditions with irrigation piping all along the beds.

Perhaps some plants and shrubs for Spring and Winter flowering interest could be added which would develop the garden even more.



Recognition | Hasnain Mawji

Sheila Stevens

This garden was full of colourful impact and well thought out to cope with the hot summers over the last few years. Our eyes were drawn to the many plants in the front garden which compliment each other and were planted to give year-round interest. The evergreen Geranium macrorrhizum which hardly needs watering, features near the front door and together with a beautiful red rose, there is cistus and a pieris as well as thyme and the yellow flowers of coreopsis. The tall Verbena bonariensis and the flower spires of mallow and sweet William compliment the white valerian. Then as we enter the front door with the geranium flanking it, we see an ivy hedge and the well-presented conical shaped hanging baskets. Going through the house, the patio doors appear to form a frame for the beautiful art, comprising of planting to be viewed from the sitting room.

An abundance of healthy plants are well presented. We immediately see a rhododendron and all types of hydrangeas both blue and pink and one really attractive lace cap variety. For form, there is Fatsia japonica with its spread out finger-like leaves. There is box for the evergreen aspect as well and magnolia for spring interest. We also peeked into the potting shed where Sheila explained that she grows many plants from seed. Alongside the shed is a water butt using the guttering and downpipes.

The beds are wavy shaped and soften the backdrop with their colourful planting. We viewed a water feature with a heron sculpture. We also see a bird feeder. Nearby there is a pot with a beautiful flowering dahlia.

A seating area provides a place to just look at this wonderful garden and the wildlife it attracts.

Picture perfect!



Best Overall Garden ~ First Place | Sheila Stevens



Best Overall Garden ~ Second Place | Susan Islam

Susan Islam

Walking towards the house, your eye is drawn to a hydrangea flanked by other shrubs in the front garden. Moving into the rear garden, we are always amazed how Susan manages to grow such beautiful, well-nourished plants in pots. The large blooms of the rose Princess Alexandra hit you immediately and then all around the fencing, there is an array of colourful plants mainly roses, the colours contrasting with the fence. There are healthy begonias spilling over from the hanging baskets there.

Other plants growing happily in pots comprise of variegated hebe, a yellow daisy and a photinia. She informs me that she adds chicken manure fertiliser to the pot soil and it obviously performs its magic on these plants. On the rear wall of the house there is a well thought out beautiful arrangement of plants and shrubs comprising of the expressive Fatsia japonica, hydrangeas and hostas.

Amongst the floral displays Susan showed me her memorial to her dead cats, well-constructed with cute images of cats. This shows that Susan is a caring person but not just of her planting. It is a beautiful garden nurtured with love and lots of hard work.



Best Vegetable Garden | Velida Dautovic

Velida Dautovic

It is so good to see the passion Velida has for growing vegetables. Her dedication to nurturing a real mixed bag is quite exciting!

An archway is evident as you enter the garden with a pathway going through it leading you further into this garden bursting with huge green leaves on both sides with these vegetables, some with flowers showing, on the courgettes for instance, soon to be followed with the fruit.

The soft fruits grow in abundance including plump strawberries, a plum tree, grapes both black and white, a peach tree along with currants and blackberries. Velida grows tomatoes, melons and peppers including the unusual white pepper. Pumpkins are used to make pumpkin cake!

There is always an abundance of onions, both red and white. She grows most from seed including carrots.

It is all laid out very well, interspersed with flowers – good for attracting the aphids away.

I asked her the secret of her success and she pointed towards her large compost bin from which she produces the black gold to apply to her beds.

This garden must be time consuming for such perfection but at least Velida must save time by not having to shop for her food!

Wonderful produce – what an inspiration!

Jeanette Beevor-Reid

Walking up to the house, the front garden is an illustration of what is to feature in this garden.

In the centre is a stone water feature with hedging greening up the outer wall and plants including hebe. There is a beautiful hanging basket by the front door and many of the vivid pink *Lychnis coronaria* add colour and interest to the front.

Walking around the side of the house, this is very attractive with many pots including one where rhubarb is growing! Variegated holly brings life to the wooden fence as you walk to the rear garden where immediately there is a seating area with a mirror mounted on the fence to reflect the picture perfect garden. We see another seating area on the rear patio with wine glasses and a central floral display on the table. How inviting!

As you look across the lawn, it has a winding path formed with flag stones leading to the rear of this well manicured garden. There is a pond which Jeannette constructed herself flanked by the expressive *Fatsia japonica* and the blue hardy geranium. Nearby is a yet another seating area with comfortable sofas. Roses feature around the garden along with a large pink mallow with pots of strawberries and an apple tree. Every year, there are additions to this garden – this year is the addition of more produce.

An inviting garden, with its seating areas, encourages people to sit and enjoy the good life!

Elizabeth Leach

Each year, this garden is a pleasure to see. Some tall teasel has now appeared by the front wall. Walking around the middle bed, the aroma of the mature rosemary adds to the mixed herbs and creates a backdrop to a beautiful yellow flowering rose.



Going into the rear garden, Liz has left a couple of patches to grow wild. She does wonders with the sweet peas, which are looking very pretty. Pots of fuchsias and pelargoniums draw our interest. An addition this year to the back wall of the house, are metal outlines of birds in flight with butterflies on the rear fence. Nature has really been brought into this garden. There is mimulus and the purple clematis and for late spring interest, there is a tree peony and the spreading yellow loosestrife looks good with the red penstemon.

This is a really pretty well presented, well thought out garden which you can see is the product of a creative plantswoman and is always a pleasure to see.

Good for the bees and for its residents.

Fran Lee
Co-ordinator – Acocks Green Village in Bloom





Play in Parks

FUN DAY



Prizes
Youth Awards
Crafts
Games

Animals
Sports
Ice Cream
Massages



Dance
Face Painting
Plants



Stockfield
Community
Association

We hope you enjoyed our look back over our fun summer activities

Stockfield Community Association offers lots of events throughout the year including:

Christmas Cracker
Summer Family Fun Day
Tea Dances
Dessert and Dances
Arts Cafes (in association with Arts In The Yard)
Youth Dance Groups
Youth Group
Sports in Stockfield Park
Summer Play in Parks Scheme (in association with Birmingham Playcare Network)
...and much more!

If you are interested in learning more about what we do and how to be involved, contact Daphne Francis (details below) for a casual coffee and chat.

Contact Daphne Francis via email at
daphne@daphnefrancis.com
or call her at
07847 788647

Look out for our annual
Christmas Cracker Family Event

Follow us on Facebook at
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Stockfield Community Association **ALL WELCOME!** **Stockfield Community Association**

Christmas Cracker Family Event

FREE Family Fun

Arts & Crafts Dance Plants & Flowers Refreshments
Youth Activities Meet Santa Music ...and LOTS more!

December 2024
Arthur Moore Hall - Alexander Road