



Sedgley's Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

2006

Sedgley in Bloom by Debbie Moodie

Just over six years ago, whilst driving through Sedgley, it occurred to me just how many railings there were in Sedgley and how dull they looked. Having driven through Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth and admired the many boxes of flowers they both had, I saw what a difference they made.

At the same time my two children were attending Queen Victoria Primary School and in the summer months they would both bring home a small bedding plant which they had grown at school. I thought that if all 650 children at school did the same thing, but instead of taking them home, planted them as a display, what a fabulous effect this would create! After numerous calls and armed with information and advice, I applied for a grant from the North Dudley Area Committee for £6,500 to pay for the planters and a grant from B & Q to get us started. I received donations locally from residents and businesses who were keen to support us.

And so the work began. The children learned how to sow seed, pot up 'plugs', water and care for their plants. They watched them grow and finally planted them out, making a wonderful, colourful display.

The project was a success and in the first year I entered the 'Heart of England's Neighbourhood Award' as part of the 'Britain In Bloom' campaign. We were delighted to be awarded a 'Merit'. We went on to receive the same accolade in 2007 and 2008. Six years on and with much help from friends, parents, Queen Victoria School, Dudley Council, Sedgley's local businesses and community groups including 1st Sedgley Scouts, we are able to continue.

The project has been successful in so many ways. It has taught the children some valuable new skills and a realisation that they can make a positive difference to their own community. It has brought many local people together and hopefully cheered up our community.



Debbie Moodie at the Queen Victoria Primary School, in Sedgley, with pupils Charlotte Moodie, left, Eleanor Evanson, and Laura Millington, all aged eight

**Debbie and Queen Victoria children
with their award in 2006.**



Planters in the Bull Ring.



Front to back, Charlotte Moodie, aged eight, with Joe Moodie, 12, Councillor Michael Evans and Debbie Moodie, 43, taking a look at the new Sedgley signs

**'Welcome to Sedgley' signs with
integral flower boxes.**

The project relies entirely on donations from local residents and businesses which we are always very grateful to receive in order to keep Sedgley 'Blooming'. Anyone wishing to donate, can do so at Queen Victoria School, Bilston Street, Sedgley. THANK YOU.