



EAST MIDLANDS

The Royal Horticultural Society
and East Midlands in Bloom are proud to present

Wollaton Village Dovecote Museum

With a 2025 It's Your Neighbourhood Award of
Level 4 - Thriving

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Keith Weed CBE
President, Royal Horticultural Society



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD 2025

Name of entry: **Wollaton Village Dovecote Museum**

Assessed on: 7th August 2025

Size of entry: 4-5

Assessors: Jane Bailey/Karen Dawson

Main contact: Sue Smith

Introduction The historic dovecote overlooks this little hidden garden which now has a lovely bench where visitors can sit and enjoy its delights.

Section A: Community Participation - Marks Awarded 33/40

A new and welcome addition to the garden this year is a beautifully crafted bench in memory of Maureen Jones 'the Dovecote Lady' who was the museum's curator until her retirement. It was unveiled by the 13th Lord Middleton, an ancestor of the Wollaton Hall estate, in a ceremony attended by around 100 people. Lord Middleton's grandfather was involved in the sale of the estate and an exhibition in the dovecote marks the 100th anniversary. The site continues to engage with local schools and Scout and Guide groups and hosts games on the lawn as part of the spring, summer and autumn festivals in collaboration with Wollaton Historical and Conservation Society and Wollaton Walled Garden.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility - Marks awarded 23/30

The site does not have its own water supply or means of collecting water and does not have a composter. It does however have bird boxes and two wonderful bug houses to attract wildlife. It also has a resident burrowing badger which is not so welcome! Plants such as buddleia attract bees and other insects and the garden has retained its Green Flag award for another year.

Section C: Gardening Achievement - Marks awarded 24/30

Despite challenges with the hot weather this year the garden looked healthy and well-kept, with edges around the stepping stone path across the lawn neatly clipped. A small ornamental wheelbarrow filled with begonias was placed near the museum entrance and provided a cheery welcome. By the bench were crocosmia and hypericum, and some of the screen of foliage behind had been removed with help from volunteers at Wollaton Walled Garden. At the front of the site, two dead holly bushes have been removed and there are plans to put other plants in this area. In the borders were an array of plants and shrubs including ferns, salvia, dahlias and a very striking shocking-pink buddleia. The group are planning to collect and plant hollyhock seeds against the dovecote wall to add colour and height to that border. Other tall plants such as verbena and delphiniums could also be grown from seed in this area. Perhaps a collaboration with the Walled Garden to reduce some of the height of the rest of the wall of foliage could be considered as well as a seed/cutting swap to boost stocks of colourful planting for all the borders.

Areas of exceptional achievement	The bench is a great asset to the garden, where visitors can sit and appreciate the beautiful setting.
Areas for development	There are plans for more planting at the front of the site. We also look forward to seeing the new planting by the dovecote wall which can only enhance the building and garden.

Total Marks Awarded 80 Level 4 Thriving



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