



GARDENING
AGAINST
THE ODDS

GARDENER: Doreen King
LOCATION: Winchmore Hill, London N21
NOMINATED BY: Karen Gurrey

The Alleyway is some 50m long with metre wide beds on either side of path, connecting two roads. A few years ago Doreen took it upon herself to start cultivating the area and has worked tirelessly to transform it from disused waste land into an oasis of tranquillity.

By using cuttings, plants and bulbs that have been given to her over the years, she has been able to increase the planting creating a corridor of vibrant colour throughout the seasons.

In the early spring months daffodils, tulips, crocus awaken an otherwise dull dark walk through, followed by wisteria clambering over the fence creating a backdrop to native poppies, alliums aqualegia, margarites and iris. Through the summer months phlox, lavenders, geraniums, hollyhocks, Lilac, melloes, hibiscus and evening primrose are in glorious disarray!

This garden is a true delight that has only come about by Doreen's vision and commitment.



The judges applauded Doreen for making a once threatening area cared for and beautiful.

“Doreen King’s transformation of a squalid environment into a meadow walk is the embodiment of ‘guerrilla gardening,’” observed Craig Sams, “taking a space that offers nothing and turning it into a heart-lifting joy.”