

East Midlands in Bloom Newsletter Winter 2019

EAST MIDLANDS

Welcome Bloomers to this season's newsletter, we hope the winter isn't too bad.

We had a successful Presentation at the Winding Wheel; Chesterfield were wonderful hosts helping to prepare for the day and organising a good tour to the Round House in the afternoon, they also thank everyone for being so generous buying raffle tickets for the Mayor's Charity.

Sharon Sutton, Chair



Britain In Bloom

This year the awards were held in London on 25th October, we are proud to announce that Loughborough won Gold, Middleton by Wirksworth and Desford both won Silver Gilt.

Well done to our 2019 entrants.

Seminar and AGM

We'd like to remind you of our AGM at Northampton Town Hall, Thursday 20th February 2020 at 10am. This year a seminar will follow the AGM, this is a workshop to guide all entrants through the new marking sheets being introduced by the RHS. At the EMiB committee meeting held on 13th November 2019, it was agreed to adopt the RHS Britain in Bloom judging criteria and marking, bringing the EMiB region into line with the rest of the Federation. More details will be provided when finalised documents are received and the seminar will include presentations by Britain in Bloom judges. Entrants are advised 'not to panic' but to keep doing what you are now, experience from across the regions and nations shows there is little change to overall marks. The event is also a nice opportunity to meet other entrants and to gather information and support to help you and your community keep blooming into 2020.

We would also like you to try and get your entry form in early so we can start to allocate judges, you will be able to find the entry form on our new website at www.emib.org.uk and Elaine will send you a copy in an email. On the same day as the Seminar we hold our AGM, we would like to bring your attention to a vacancy we have, Helen Mitchem has been vice chair since election in 2019, but due to work commitments she is having to step down, anyone wishing to join the Management Group as vice chair is welcome to write to our chair Sharon Sutton or the Secretary Elaine Atkinson at least 10 days before the AGM. The role includes providing support to Sharon and attending the meetings.



Website

We would like to remind you of our new website www.emib.org.uk containing all the forms and guidance for you to download and share; also have a look through *your* fabulous gallery. We would also like you to give us feedback if you think anything is missing.

We have also introduced new email addresses:

Elaine Atkinson	secretary@emib.org.uk	Sharon Sutton	chairman@emib.org.uk
Simon Lucas	treasurer@emib.org.uk	Chris Beal	sponsorship@emib.org.uk
Schools co-ordinator	schools@emib.org.uk		

Grant Scheme

EMiB wants to support bloom groups to help them and their communities grow (and get better awards of course!). Recognising that funding can be a problem we are pleased to announce that the committee have agreed to a grant scheme. Bloom groups can apply for grants of up to £1,000 from EMiB. Applications open from 1st January 2020, full details can be found on our web site.

We would also remind you that as entrants into EMiB you are also associated with the RHS and may be eligible for grants from them. Check their website or follow the link on our website.



To apply for up to £1000 for your group please visit www.emib.org.uk for grant applications



Summer Judging

Judging takes place in late June this year starting on Monday 29th June and concluding on Friday 10th July; It's Your Neighbourhood is assessed throughout July and August.

It's Your Neighbourhood

"At the Loughborough It's Your Neighbourhood Presentation it was wonderful to see the excitement and pride every group takes in making their neighbourhood look amazing. Everyone was so supportive of each other and the added benefit of building friendships was a delight. It was wonderful to speak to many people and hear how much joy is derived through the medium of plants. Here's to another year of gardening and community." *Heather Taylor*



Suitable Venues?

Following the success of the November seminar which was attended by 36 representatives from a number of bloom groups, which gave a broader more in depth discussion on topics, Management Committee would like to look at using different venues across the region for these full committee meetings.

We are therefore asking if you know of a suitable venue, such as a village hall, near you? The venue would ideally be reasonably easy to access (we are a large region and some people would have to travel long distances) and have free car parking. The room/hall would be able to accommodate around 60 people with tables and chairs and have a 'kitchen' for tea/coffee making. We are obviously willing to pay for the room but the treasurer says "*the cheaper the better!*"



Awards Presentation

We've decided to try something new for 2020, the awards will be held at Grimsby but we're going to move the time to 2.00pm in the afternoon and serve tea and cake, this is to keep costs down as the morning awards with lunches was becoming unsustainable. Look out for the Spring Newsletter as we are hoping to offer something in the morning of the awards presentation such as a talk or demonstration.

Safeguarding

We have written a short document on safeguarding which we would like each group to have a look at on our website, it gives some general advice and useful links to further information, we advise all groups to give Safeguarding consideration to help protect yourselves and vulnerable people.



Dates for your Diary

Seminar and AGM 20th February 2020 at 10.30am at Northampton

Judges and IYN Assessors Meeting 6th May 2020 10.00am

Committee Meeting 6th May 2020 1.30pm

Judges Meeting 17th July 10.00am

Presentation of Awards 16th September 2020 at 2.00pm at Grimsby

IYN Presentations TBC (late October/early November 2020)

Committee Meeting 10.30 am 18th November 2020