

From the Chairman...

Welcome to East Midlands in Bloom autumn / winter newsletter 2010, where I can report on another excellent year and strong indications that 2011 will see continued growth and progress for the greatest community campaign in the region.

52 main Bloom entries, 169 IYN entries and over 30 school gardens – 2010 was remarkable! Nothing stands still, however, and we are planning for further growth in all areas, since, as I said at the start, 'the Bloom' is the greatest community campaign there is.

Not only were the numbers of participants excellent, but so was the quality, with higher standards of award in all categories. In part this may be because of the number of advisory visits that judges and assessors undertook, as well as the successful 'training' in Rosliston in February. If any current or prospective entrants want to avail themselves of similar advisory activity, please get in touch with Irene.

On 16th February 2011 there will be our biennial seminar in Belper – see details elsewhere in the newsletter – and I urge you to book in for what will be an excellent and beneficial event, as you will see from the speakers and topics booked.

Can I encourage you to get your local schools or other young person's groups involved in the painting and digital photography competition? We had a good year in 2010, but these are such excellent ways of getting the young involved in Bloom-related activities that even more would be better!

Our national representatives did splendidly in 2010, with four Silver awards and one Silver Gilt awarded at the superb Awards Ceremony in Birmingham in September. We fully expect that our nominees for 2011 (Cleethorpes, Oadby and Wigston, Oakham, Rosliston and Donington) will have at least as good an evening at the Awards next year, which take place in St Andrews, Fife, on 25th September.

To conclude, thanks to all our participants, judges, assessors and sponsors for their efforts in 2010 and wish you all another excellent year. As always I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in 2011. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Jeff Bates,

Chairman, East Midlands in Bloom



2011 EMIB DIARY DATES

Fri 4th Feb	Closing date for Seminar reply slips and AGM nominations
Wed 16th Feb	EMiB Seminar Strutts Centre, Belper
Wed 16th Feb	AGM Strutts Centre, Belper
Fri 29th April	Closing date for 'In Bloom', 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and EMiB Special Award entries
Fri 27th May	Closing date for EMiB Best School Garden Entries
Fri 17th June	Closing date for Children's (Young People's) Painting and Digital Photography Competition
Mon 4th – Fri 15th July	EMiB Judging Period
Wed 14th Sept	EMiB Awards Presentation, Oadby & Wigston

2011 SPRING SEMINAR

16th February, Strutts Centre, Derby Road, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1UU

This is open to existing entrants and anyone who is interested in the 'Bloom' or 'IYN' Campaign. We will have Jon Wheatley, Chairman of SW in Bloom, Vice-Chairman of Britain in Bloom Judges Panel and member of the BiB Development Steering Group, as keynote speaker. There will also be papers presented by renowned horticulturist Mary Payne on planting styles and combination; Marnie Rose from the King Henry's Walk 'garden classroom' in Islington and Jessica Brooks from 2010 National Bloom-winning Tameside – so a great day will be had by those able to attend.

There is no obligation to enter the campaign by attending this event which is an excellent way to interact with other delegates, meet judges and pick up tips from experienced entrants. Please note that places will be limited to 150 due to the capacity of the venue.

The cost is £10 per person, so to ensure your place/s, please return your completed reply slip (enclosed with this newsletter, or download a form from our website: www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk) by **Friday February 4th** to EMiB Secretary Irene Bates* (see address below),

AGM

This will start after completion of the Seminar at approximately 3.30 pm. Each Community that entered the EMiB Competition in 2010 is entitled to have *one* representative attend the AGM. Any nominations for the executive committee must be received by Martin Latimer not less than 14 days before (i.e. Wednesday 2nd February 2011) the AGM. Please write with your nomination/s to:

**Mr. Martin Latimer, EMiB Vice Chairman,
Woodside Cottage, 21 Woodside, Morley, Derbyshire DE7 6DG**

Please also inform Irene Bates, if attending, by Friday 4th February

***Irene Bates, East Midlands in Bloom Secretary
64 Chaddesden Park Road, Derby DE21 6HD**

Email: info@eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk

Tel: 01332 679598

www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk

Left: Where is this? See inside!

East Midlands in Bloom 2010

We maintained the Bloom entry numbers by a combination of new entrants across the whole of the region (St Crispin's, Immingham, Deeping St James, Sapcote, Bilborough and Strelley, Staveley, Skegness) and an improving retention of existing entrants.

Britain in Bloom

At national level our 2010 entrants did not achieve Golds this year at the splendid Birmingham National Awards Ceremony on 29th September, but certainly did not let the region down; we congratulate them and are proud to recognise their following achievements in 2010:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Market Bosworth | Silver Gilt |
| • Long Sutton | Silver |
| • Northampton | Silver |
| • Mablethorpe | Silver |
| • Spondon | Silver |
| • Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens - IYN Certificate of Distinction (East Midlands) | |

They were presented with their well deserved awards by Alys Fowler of BBC's 'Gardeners World'. In addition, Arkwright Meadows Community Garden was honoured with a Certificate of Distinction for their consistently high achievements in the East Midlands in Bloom Region 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards.

We are happy to nominate the following to represent East Midlands in Bloom in 2011:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Rosliston | Village |
| • Donington | Large Village |
| • Oakham | Town |
| • Oadby & Wigston | Small City |
| • Cleethorpes | Large Coastal |

They go forward with our hopes for a great 2011 and we will offer as much guidance and support as possible to them and to you all over the coming months.

All in all, another superb year for East Midlands in Bloom, and entirely due to the supreme efforts of yourselves, our dedicated entrants and supporters.

Jeff Bates

Britain in Bloom Dates 2011

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 27 January | Finalists' Seminar (TBC) / Finalists' Manual distributed |
| March | Britain in Bloom/It's Your Neighbourhood Launch Month |
| 26-27 March | UK Wide local In Bloom & It's Your Neighbourhood Press Launch |
| 1 July | Finalists' portfolios due |
| 1-12 August | BIB judging fortnight |
| 25 September | Britain in Bloom Awards (St Andrews, Scotland) |
| 26 September | Judges Surgeries (St Andrews, Scotland) |
| 17 November | UK in Bloom Forum |

Notable themes and dates for the near future:

2012 Olympics; The Queen's Diamond Jubilee
2014 Anniversary of first Britain in Bloom campaign

RHS Britain in Bloom link with the Woodland Trust

Look out for news this winter from the RHS, who, in a collaborative venture with the Woodland Trust, have agreed that 'packs' of native tree seedlings will be available, free, from the Woodland Trust for all registered Bloom groups. This would tie in well with the Bloom launch month of March as an ideal community activity where resources and site are available.

Goodbye and thank you!

We have had some significant changes in East Midlands in Bloom in 2010, with some notable supporters retiring or moving on during the year.

Dick Symonds has been Treasurer of the EMiB for all the period (15 years) since we left the care of the Tidy Britain Group and became independent. At all stages, he has managed our finances in a caring and sensible manner, enabling the campaign to grow and develop to the size it is today, and also providing wise counsel throughout the time. However, he has now decided that it is time to hand the role on, which I'm sure will allow him to spend even more time assisting in the progress of Market Bosworth in Bloom (if Blanche lets him...)

At the same time as Dick retires, our auditor, John Rawson – who has carried out that role concurrently with Dick and is also a stalwart of Market Bosworth in Bloom – is also stepping down. Both of them have carried out their roles without any financial recompense throughout, giving of endless hours to EMiB both in committee meetings but especially behind the scenes. Our tremendous, sincere and heartfelt thanks go to both of them, though we're sure that we'll see them in Market Bosworth for years to come.

The first four years of the Neighbourhoods Awards in the East Midlands were greatly assisted by the involvement of John Bunkle, who took on and developed the role of Neighbourhoods Coordinator. At the start of the year, as the numbers and changes to IYN became apparent, John decided to step down, having assisted greatly with the Rosliston New Entrants Workshop. We thank John for sterling work leading the Neighbourhoods team over the crucial early years and wish him well for the future.

We also say a big thank you to Mel Henley, who has moved to Tunbridge Wells after serving as a Judge and Committee Member (including Management Committee) since 2004. He is already involved with South-East in Bloom, and indeed, on our recommendation, has been accepted to join the Britain in Bloom judging panel for 2011. We all wish him the very best in his new roles.

Hello and welcome!

So, things move on. We are very pleased that Peter Cooke has taken on the arduous role of EMiB Treasurer from Dick Symonds, adding to the tasks he has before him. Earlier this year, when John Bunkle stepped down as IYN coordinator, Peter took on that task with enthusiasm and commitment. His many years of involvement with Allestree Garden Club in Derby, and with the Derbyshire Horticultural Society, give him an ideal background in community horticulture.

We have also gained a new co-Vice Chairman for EMiB; Sharon Thomas, having been involved as a Judge and on the Committee for 6 years, and more recently Management Committee member, is bringing her extensive experience and current involvement in Blooming to a more prominent role. Sharon is Landscape Development Manager at Amber Valley Borough Council, and so has significant links to Belper, winners of the Large Town category this year; in the past she has been involved with the Bloom campaign in both Mansfield and Chesterfield. We also put Sharon forward from EMiB as a nominee to judge Britain in Bloom, and we are delighted that she has been accepted as a probationary judge on the national team

Planning for Britain in Bloom

Like all good stories there must be a beginning a middle and an end. I suppose the beginning for us was in 2003 when we first dipped our toes into the realm of East Midlands in Bloom.

We had attended the February seminar so had a good idea of what to do to get started and Jeff and Doug were our judges that year, the abiding memory was one of the Busy B's group telling our esteemed RHS qualified judges how to make compost. And you know what they were enthralled.

Jeff told us not to worry about scores this year but that if we listened to the advice given and continued developing there was no reason why we could not go on to achieve great things.

That year the RHS were just taking over and the current system of awards was not fully in place; so our 3rd place (don't ask how many entrants there were!) was equivalent, just, to a bronze. The Busy B's were given the regional judges award for the inspirational work. We were buoyed by our success and we continued.

Over the years our awards increased to Silver and then Silver Gilt, on more than one occasion getting within 3 or 4 points of that elusive Gold.

In 2006 we were asked to represent the East Midlands in the national Britain in Bloom competition. It is like moving into the premiership! The judges are equally attentive and interested in all the work that goes on but you just know this is it! That year we achieved a Silver nationally which was a true reflection of our entry. The national judges give a feed back on the morning after the awards ceremony. It's not always nice being told where you had gone wrong but if you take the criticism constructively which is after all how it is meant then you learn a lot.

So we are in the nationals again in 2011. What does that mean? It means a lot more planning and preparation. Immediately everyone needs to be on board and supporting the entry. In our case we work closely with the local council and need their support, including financially, just at a time of government cut backs. We need to look for additional funding for the extra judges visit including attending the awards ceremony that is in St Andrews next year!

There is a seminar to attend in January, when we hear more about the 2011 competition. The portfolio and route have to be planned and published early, as the Britain in Bloom judges request a copy by mid June, so no printing on the morning of judging!

Then there is the East Midlands judging in July. Fortunately the criteria are the same for both and a change in cover for the portfolio is all that is required and it is a good time to 'practice' for the national judging in August.

Oh and there is still the bulb planting, weeding and planting, front garden competitions and all those other things that go on through the year to do.

Yes we have to be well organised, after all there is still that other element to achieve.... We must have fun and enjoy what we are doing!

And the end to the story? Well I suppose there is the awards presentation, but I'm not sure there is one it just keeps going on year after year, and long may it do so.

If I may add personally that in 2010 I was asked to be an EmiB judge. I could see in many of the entries how we were those 7 or 8 years ago; and can equally see no reason why they can't equally achieve great things for the towns and villages they represent.

Simon Lucas
Chairman, Pride of the Borough (Oadby & Wigston)



Top left: Oadby & Wigston volunteers
Top: Busy B's in action (Oadby's Breaking the Barriers team)
Left: Oadby's Many Faiths/Many Cultures community with judges!



Immingham In Bloom – Our first year

I've been working for North East Lincolnshire Council as the In Bloom Coordinator since 2008, supporting the successful committees of Cleethorpes and Grimsby. Late in 2009 I was asked to meet with Dave Jackson the Clerk for Immingham Town Council regarding a possible new committee being established in our region for Immingham. It was several weeks before I was invited back to a preliminary meeting on the 17th November. Gathered there were members of the Town Council, North East Lincolnshire Ward Councillors and invited advisors from Grimsby and Cleethorpes In Bloom. The mission was to convert our friends from Immingham to the In Bloom message. The agenda for the meeting included: what is In Bloom? what are the benefits? and how to get the ball rolling.

Numerous suggestions were put forward from the representatives from Grimsby and Cleethorpes with differing advice from both. This for me is one of the joys of working on the In Bloom campaign; there are as many successful ways of putting a campaign together as there are In Bloom groups and these differences reflect the village, town, city or individuals involved. A date was set for 2nd December 2009 for the inaugural Immingham In Bloom committee meeting and it's been a whirlwind journey ever since. The Immingham committee like all good In Bloom groups is made up of a large mix of the population including businesses, residents, community groups, Town Councillors and North East Lincolnshire Councillors and representatives. It's this diverse mix and the desire they all have to see Immingham improve through the Bloom, which has made their first entry in the competition such a successful one; gaining a Silver award in their first year.

So what did we do? My initial problem was to manage the enthusiasm of the committee and to make sure their ideas were focused and centred on the need to address all three of the core pillars of the campaign. It was agreed to hold an event on the RHS In Bloom campaign launch weekend in March. This was used to raise awareness of the new group and encourage community participation. It was decided to hold a tree planting activity in one of Immingham's many green spaces along with this. Planning to plant around 500 trees; the town's Mayor and I as the first to arrive started digging worried that the two of us might have a very long day ahead but gradually more and more of the visitors to the launch joined us and very quickly we laid down the roots of a flourishing campaign.

Other successful activities run by members of the committee included the tidying and planting of the local swimming pool frontage by the swimming club children and coaches, helped along by the fire station staff. The local Guiding groups worked on a memorial rose bed including their own Girlguiding UK Centenary rose. The local education academy students worked with the Town Council and British Legion to build a memorial bed with a planted design featuring the remembrance poppy shape.

The academy art students also completed a mural on one of the vacant buildings in Homestead Park, helping to remove the risk of graffiti but also improving an otherwise unsightly building.

Plans to improve the main thoroughfare through Immingham and the areas around the main public buildings and Civic Centre, with planters and lamppost brackets, were set in place. Sponsorship to pay for all of the 50 lamppost baskets was raised from the many local businesses and residents. The other drive to improve the horticulture within Immingham involved the setting up and judging of a local gardening competition. Again the residents of Immingham took up the challenge with gusto and entered in large numbers in all of the five categories. On what turned out to be a very long sunny judging day, the Town Mayor, Cllr. Mark Sandford again supported the Bloom and helped choose the best gardens and gardening winners, adding a special Mayor's award for his favourite garden. All of the winners have been presented at the very enjoyable local awards ceremony held recently.

A year has now gone by and the committee like all In Bloom groups are already working on plans for next year. Lessons have been learnt especially regarding the management of watering and maintenance but throughout the positive attitude of the group has been its biggest asset. That initial enthusiasm to have bloom everywhere, which I felt needed to be curbed and moderated, has now been replaced with a solid knowledge of the need to address sustainability and appropriateness of planting. Immingham In Bloom understand how vital it is to get the community involved and to give them ownership of the Bloom. This has led

*Below: Pupils at Coomb Brigg Primary School, Immingham
Bottom: Immingham in Bloom volunteers*



to them developing, what to me is the most important aspect of In Bloom, community participation. It is only with this that I believe any In Bloom group can maintain and improve their campaign and give it a chance to be sustainable for the long term.

Lee Beckett, 'In Bloom' Co-ordinator, N E Lincs.



*Above: *The answer to front page- The Winners Fish & Chip Shop, Margaret Street, Immingham (gold award in EMiB retail/commercial premises Special Award)*

Community effort lands 'Gold Award' for Belper

After 15 years of trying to win the top prize, finally Belper Town Council won a coveted gold Award in the large town category in this year's East Midlands in Bloom competition. The competition was fierce with ten entrants in the large town section, including top rival and previous section winner Market Harborough. The Town Council took on board the comments from the previous year's judges and tried to address all the suggested possible improvements.

An 'In Bloom' committee was created consisting of council staff, residents, local businesses and community groups. Planning for the 2010 campaign started immediately after the results of the 2009 competition. The old and tired out litter bins in the town centre were replaced with larger colour co-ordinated bins. In addition, all the seating, bike racks, direction signs and other street furniture were restored to fit in with the new colour scheme of traditional green with a decorative gold trim. These small improvements transformed the town centre and demonstrated how Belper cares not just about the competition but also about our local environment.

This year the committee decided to have a uniform look throughout the town during the summer months and a patriotic theme was chosen. In May the whole town was transformed with the colours of red, white and blue, the Union Jack designed flower bed at the bottom on the A6 the main thoroughfare through town was very striking and received fantastic comments from residents and visitors from all over the country.

Residents were notified and kept up to date about our campaign via our quarterly newsletter. Local businesses pulled together and generously sponsored a large proportion of the hanging baskets, flower beds and street furniture. The community helped by organising litter picks, transforming unsightly areas and holding 'Open Garden' days.

However not everything went to plan; the recently renovated Belper River Gardens was trashed by a large flock of Canadian Geese. All stops had to be pulled out at the last minute to find a selection of plants that the geese didn't like to eat.

We have had a tremendous dedicated team of staff and volunteers working together and that undoubtedly won us the gold award.

We have decided on a unique to Belper theme for next year and we will endeavour to try and keep it a secret until its unveiling in May 2011.

Rosalind Bullimore
Town Clerk, Belper

*Below, top to bottom: Belper Memorial Gardens
Belper Town Crier
Pupils of Milford School helping out*



It's Your Neighbourhood 2010

We are happy to report that East Midlands in Bloom had 169 entries this year which is a 60% increase on last year and the third highest number in the whole of the Britain in Bloom nations & regions. Many more community groups have joined us and news of this popular campaign has spread fast. This in turn gave us a dilemma – how do we present the awards to such a large number of entrants?

Nottingham, as always, pulled out all the stops and provided a wonderful venue for IYN entrants in their area at the beautiful Council House on 22nd September. Sadly there was not enough room for everyone to be invited so we then thought it would be a good idea to promote the campaign more and hold awards locally. So as a result, and with help of many of our Bloom supporters, we were able to organise awards presentations in Derby, Grimsby/Cleethorpes, Long Sutton, Oadby & Wigston, Loughborough and Leicester.

EMiB representatives were present at all the local events and it enabled many more local supporters to be present, together with mayors, councillors and of course the local press as it was less far for them to travel. Entrants that were not able to have their own local awards were invited to the awards at Northampton and we were pleased to award five groups there on 15th September. Our existing IYN Sponsor, Naylor's Bulbs of Spalding, was again generous enough to provide bulbs for all the smaller local awards and we are sure these will be greatly appreciated in their respective areas. We are very grateful to Sarah Bolton, Lee Beckett, Kay Jenkinson, Simon Lucas, Rob Cockburn, Richard Welburn and Penny Brown for helping us out at these local events.

DART Training sponsored 'It's Your Neighbourhood' for EMiB this year and created an exciting new trophy for the "Most Inspiring IYN Entrant". This year it was awarded to Seagate Community Gardens in Long Sutton and this is what the assessors had to say about it: "This is an example of how disadvantaged people can bond together to improve their environment with very little money and a lot of hard work... they are determined to make the area next to their homes into a children's play area ... this project will be completed by next year."

DART have also offered to provide 5 workshops on various topics next spring. The workshops will be in Nottingham (2 events), NE Lincolnshire, Loughborough and Northamptonshire. Your local representative* will let you know about dates and venues.

Thanks are also due to Peter Cooke our lead IYN assessor and collator of entries and our greatly enlarged team of assessors which include a number from Nottingham City Council, without whom it would have been very difficult to cover all the areas.

This campaign has also seen a steep rise in entrants from other regions and we anticipate that this will continue in the East Midlands in 2011. Please do spread the word and encourage any groups you know that are working on, or thinking of a project to improve their area, no matter how small, to join the campaign. Anything that helps to improve our surroundings and create a harmonious community atmosphere is very welcome in these stretched times. Coming from me, I would say "every little helps!"



Beginners Luck

Well that's not quite true it was down to hard work and good organisation.

We first thought about entering the "It's Your Neighbourhood" East Midlands in Bloom, in December 2009. We had 2 park's officers attend one of our meetings and suggested that we might consider entering and that we should go on a course to learn more. That course was at a packed room in Rosliston in February. There were many presentations but the one that stuck in my memory was from the gold winners from Oakham. They gave a very clear set of instructions for how to organise the judging (in our case assessing) and how to ensure that they only saw what you wanted them to see. They also suggested that the timings should be accurate and everyone be prepared for the visit. We met one of the local assessors and invited her to come and speak to our group at the next meeting.

Irene attended our March meeting and inspired our group to enter. I then received the entry pack which included all of the judging (assessing) criteria. This was very useful for me. I was a teacher and when someone gives me a mark scheme I ensure that we hit as many of the criteria as possible. I went through the scheme carefully and thought that we were fulfilling a great many already.

We are the Friends of Chaddesden Park, a small park within the city of Derby serving about 30,000 people. The friends group was established 9 years ago with a membership ranging from new born to 92. We are very active in encouraging the local schools to participate in planting and general care of the park. At the suggestion of the children we have established a nature pond area and also the woodland is now a designated nature area. All of this was possible with 2 successful applications for funding from Breathing Places and the Lottery

We have a lot of other community groups who work with us to improve the park; bowls club, café, age UK, library (in the park), British Legion, Allotments, Park's dept, pond wardens and 7 local schools. I prepared a rough outline of the proposed judging route and arranged for the different groups to be available at particular points of interest along the route. We then had a trial run through which gave us timings. These were added to the schedule and a map was prepared. Everyone in the group had the schedule and map so they knew the key points they had to deliver for each stop and how long they had.

Finally, we got the call with the date and everyone was ready. Fortunately the rain held off during the assessment. There were over 20 members to help on the day. We overran slightly at the pond but it was a star, with a rare plant already established after only a year. The assessor was writing a lot but kept quiet as to our mark.

There then followed what seemed a very long time before the award ceremony. We attended Derby Council House on the same night as the Allotment awards. We still didn't know our marks. Then the moment came and the citation was read out saying how well we had done, and there was little they could suggest for us to improve. BUT still no mark! Then at last it was announced, the room erupted with cheers and my mouth dropped, briefly speechless. We had the highest possible Outstanding Level 5 with 85%.

Will we do it again, maybe!

Dorothy Ireland
Secretary, Friends of Chaddesden Park

*IYN Workshop contacts:

NE Lincs- Lee Beckett- lee.beckett@nelincs.gov.uk Tel: 01472 325854

Loughborough- Rob.Cockburn@charnwood.gov.uk Tel: 01509 632533

Northampton- Richard Gold: r.gold@northampton.gov.uk Tel: 01604 837671

Nottingham- julie.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 9152745



Left: Captive audience at Northampton's historic Guildhall on 15th September

Northampton 2010

A superb Bloom campaign in the East Midlands concluded with the Awards Ceremony in the Civic Hall at Northampton, where around 250 guests enjoyed the dramatic interior of the building and the wonderful hospitality and enthusiasm of the host city. The involvement of so many Bloom partners in Northampton was inspirational for all, with the Mayor and councillors joined by officers of the council and Neighbourhood groups, making it a true community effort.

We were particularly pleased with the numbers of communities represented at the event, with very few unable to send at least one delegate to collect their award. We were also very pleased to have the support, as always, of the Derbyshire Building Society in the person of Emma Taylor, and presenting the certificates and trophies Darren Palmer of the Nationwide Building Society, parent company of the Derbyshire. Other guests with leading roles included Sophie Dawson and Jacky Chave from the RHS, and photographer/journalist Ashley Franklin.

After the Awards and an excellent buffet, many delegates were able to visit the stunning Charles Rennie Mackintosh house in Derngate, and view the unique perspective that the interior creates in what, externally, is an unremarkable building. Our grateful thanks go to Richard Gold and Northampton Borough Council for all their support.

As always, we must also thank our sponsors Amberol, Civic Pride and Plantscape for their support on the day and during the Bloom year, and our other supporters DART Training, Vital Earth, Derby College, Naylor's Flower Bulbs and Green-space East Midlands for their involvement in East Midlands in Bloom in 2010.

Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens

This is what Peter F Cooke, assessor of this "It's Your Neighbourhood" entry had to say about them in July:

"An exciting community project with projects and growing schemes decided in conjunction with the local community. Funding is on a long term basis from the lottery but recent successful grants have been obtained for solar panels and a tandori oven building."

Community groups including schools and local businesses use the gardens well and the garden staff assist other local groups. They have exciting plans for the future with a 'Grow, Cook & Eat, theme for next year.

Emphasis is placed on growing organically with lots of composting and recycling and even a composting toilet. Since many local people use the gardens there is no litter, graffiti, animal fouling or anti-social behaviour. The range of fruits and vegetables is vast and exciting from tomatoes to peaches to kiwi fruit through to potatoes, cabbages and marrows and squash from around the World.

Individual plots are hired out and school children have raised beds in recycled large tractor tyres.

Overall a truly exceptional entry and a shining example to other groups as to what could be achieved."

This entry was the first in our region to be invited to receive their RHS Certificate of Distinction at the National Awards Ceremony in Birmingham on September 29th.

Below: Friends of Chaddesden Park being assessed during a windy afternoon in July



ADVERTISEMENT

As Britain becomes more densely populated, urban landscapes will inevitably grow. Dull buildings all around us as we travel to and from work create a difficult world in which to be creative and happy. Now forty years old, a company in the East Midlands has been pioneering a way to enhance urban space in an affordable way.

Amberol the creator of a unique self watering system "aquafeed", used in all its self watering planters and hanging baskets has enabled councils and "in bloom" groups across the UK to reduce the cost of maintaining superb external floral displays by allowing them to water only twice weekly instead of daily.

The cost, labour and carbon foot print savings are enormous, which is why more and more local authorities are changing to this sustainable system. Offering a large range of planting solutions from lamp post baskets to barrier baskets to any number of hanging basket and floor standing solutions, floral colour can be anywhere you wish to create it. Spectacular displays have been created in communities large and small across the country benefitting individuals and businesses.

Statistics show that the improvement of the appearance of a locality attracts tourists. This benefits the local economy because as we all know "you only have one chance to create a good first impression." Research has shown that interior floral displays benefit employees because plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and replace it with oxygen, so why should the same not be true of plants in cities and towns where atmospheric pollution is rife?

Please contact
sales@amberol.co.uk
 or phone 01773 830930 for details.