



From the Chairman...

Welcome to our spring newsletter – to update you all on what is taking place in the 2014 EMiB campaign, who is involved, who the judges are and any other recent information and changes that I can think of!

First off, congratulations on taking part! This year we have ten new participants – Barrow upon Humber, Draycott in Bloom, Earl Shilton in Bloom, Habrough in Bloom, Hamilton in Bloom, Little Eaton in Bloom, Nottingham Retail Business Improvement District, Waltham Parish Council, Wessington Together and Winterton in Bloom. Returning after a short break are Asfordby Village, Ibstock and Sleaford in Bloom; and after a significant gap, we also are very pleased to welcome back past category winner Buxton. So we have 59 participants – another record level of engagement in the campaign.

In addition, It's Your Neighbourhood continues to grow; entries are still coming in at the time of writing, but a number approaching 150 seems likely for 2014, (134 in 2013).

A very warm welcome to all new 'Bloomers' and we hope that you will enjoy your first experience in Bloom, and that this will be the beginning of a long and happy time with us. Our many long-standing entrants – and more recent converts – find the Bloom to be a rewarding experience, and many, in the course of time, may go on to represent our Region in the national RHS Britain in Bloom campaign.

On page 2 are listed all the 2014 'main bloom' entrants in their categories, together with the expected judging teams, all of whom are looking forward to visiting your communities between 7th and 18th July. By the time you read this newsletter you may well have been contacted to agree a suitable judging date.

There are far too many IYN groups to list individually here, but I have indicated the numbers so far that have registered from the main cities and towns/districts in the region. Assessments of these groups and their activities – examples of grass-roots community action at its best – will take place throughout the whole of July.

At this stage we are still receiving entries for special awards and for the Best School Garden. As usual, 'specials' are judged during 'Bloom' judging – but please ensure that Irene has been made aware that you are entering special awards to allow the judges time to get round your community without need for a rush. Schools are judged separately, and Rupert Atkinson and his team will contact each school individually to

arrange that. Don't forget, though, that a school is also a very valuable addition to the main bloom judging, showing as it does good engagement with children.

At the time of writing, we have been enjoying a gorgeous spring (though the late, sharp frost has had an effect on my potatoes and on a number of ornamentals in gardens around!); let's hope that this will be followed by another summer like last year, where the judging period coincided with largely pleasant weather and lots of lovely days for you all to show off your work to the judges and assessors.

Our National RHS Britain in Bloom entrants will, we hope, have a great year; your EMiB judges will give you some immediate feedback (though not the result!) after your EMiB judging, which you can use to 'tweak' your route or presentation and so get the most from your day with the RHS judges in late July or August.

We have added to the judging team with another new designate judge this year, so please make Peter Fields most welcome if he visits you, with our co-Vice Chairman Sharon Sutton. Peter brings many years of experience in horticulture to the judging team, having been a Head Gardener at private estates in Derbyshire and Norfolk.

Our partners and sponsors are essential to our ability to run East Midlands in Bloom, and the Sponsorship sub-committee, ably led by Peter Benham, have worked tremendously hard to retain supporters to our cause. So, continued thanks to Silver Sponsors Amberol, and Bronze supporters Moles Seeds, Western Power Distribution and Taylors Bulbs. Barcham Trees, DART Training, The Art Department and Naylor's Flower Bulbs who continue to provide invaluable support.

Jeff Bates,

Chairman,
East Midlands in Bloom

EMiB entrants 2014 – by category and with expected judging teams

Small Village: Barton in Fabis, Elmtun, Little Cawthorpe in Bloom, Ranby BKV, St Crispin Village, Wessington Together – judges: Richard Adams & Martin Hardy

Village: Lark Hill Village, Habrough in Bloom, Middleton (-by-Wirksworth) in Bloom – judges: Doug Stacey & Robin Allan

Large Village: Asfordby Village, Barrow upon Humber, Cais-tor in Bloom, Little Eaton in Bloom, (Market) Bosworth in Bloom – judges: Jo Tarrant & Peter Benham

Small Town: Alford Town, Bakewell in Bloom, Blidworth Parish Council, Bracebridge Heath Parish Plan, Crowland in Bloom, Darley Dale, Draycott in Bloom, Holbeach in Bloom, Ibstock, Long Sutton in Bloom, Messingham Parish, Uppingham in Bloom, Winterton in Bloom – judges: Jeff Bates, Jo Hull, Richard Stephen & Ian Beaney

Town: Bourne in Bloom, Immingham in Bloom, Southwell in Bloom, Syston in Bloom, Waltham Parish Council – judges: Sharon Sutton & Peter Fields

Large Town: Belper, Boston, Buxton in Bloom, Earl Shilton in Bloom, Gainsborough in Bloom, Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Louth in Bloom, Market Harborough in Bloom (Volunteers), Melton (Mowbray) in Bloom, Newark in Bloom, Sleaford in Bloom, Spalding in Bloom – judges: Diane Moore & Ian Cooke

Small City: Chesterfield, Grimsby, Loughborough in Bloom, Oadby & Wigston – judges: Chris Beal & John Simpson

City: Mansfield, Northampton – judges: Simon Lucas & Richard Stephen

Large City: Nottingham – judges: Simon Lucas & Richard Stephen

Urban Community: Evington in Bloom, Hamilton in Bloom, Littleover in Bloom, The Meadows – judges: Richard Adams & Dave Bramwell

Coastal: Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe – judges: Andy Chambers & Doug Stacey

New BID Category: Nottingham Business Improvement District – judges: Andy Chambers & Doug Stacey

Number of IYN main areas at time of writing: Leicester - 30; Loughborough - 38; Nottingham - 43; Derbyshire - 8; Northamptonshire - 7; Newark - 5; Others - 12.

EMiB Diary Dates 2014

Fri 6th June Closing date for EMiB Best School Garden Special Award, Children's Art Competition and Digital Photography Competition Entries.

The themes are: "All Seasons in Bloom" (Children's Art Competition), and "Nature and Encouraging Wildlife in all Seasons" or "My School Garden" (Children's Digital Photography competition). Rules and forms to both competitions can be found on our website.

Mon 7th – Fri 18th July EMiB Judging Period
Tuesday 1st – Thursday 31st July -
EMiB/RHS It's Your Neighbourhood assessment period

Wed 17th Sept EMiB Awards Presentation
Lark Hill Village, Nr. Clifton, Nottingham, NG11 8GF

Sad news...

In the past few weeks EMiB has lost three notable figures intrinsically linked with the Campaign. Many of our established entrants will have met Tim Sharp, who was one of our judges for a number of years, and who has very recently died at the age of only 51.

In February we lost Frank Constable, AHRHS, OBE, our President (and for more than ten years a Britain in Bloom judge). At a personal level, Frank also was one of the examiners when I took my Master of Horticulture at the RHS, and was invariably a source of sound guidance for the over 40 years of our acquaintance. Only 13 days earlier, his wife Mary, who had helped us with the administration and judging of the Childrens Painting Competition for many years, had also passed away. Our deepest sympathies go to his family (and on behalf of EMiB, Irene attended the joint funeral), who have kindly continued to support the Frank Constable Trophy for the Best Front Garden in East Midlands in Bloom for 2014.

Ending on a more cheerful note, we are pleased to welcome a new Treasurer, Peter Woodward. He has also recruited his wife Merle to manage the trophies (preparation and arranging for their engraving), thus taking on the job from Anne Spate who has carried out that task for many years with her husband, former Vice Chairman, Geoff Spate.

Taking over coordination of the EMiB RHS Its Your Neighbourhood campaign are Lee Beckett and Elaine Atkinson, from North East Lincolnshire. Both have years of experience with IYN in our Region.

We also welcome a new President of EMiB, Doug Stacey, stepping up from his previous roles as Vice President and Chairman, and a new co-Vice Chairman, Dave Bramwell (sharing the role with Sharon Sutton).

Jeff

Blooming Bunting

We already have many wonderful pennant creations from our dedicated Bloom and IYN entrants, but we still need more, so we have extended the deadline to Friday 20th June to give a chance for more entrants, past and present to send in a single pennant to be added to our growing bunting, which will be displayed at our Awards Presentation on 17th September to celebrate 50 years of the Britain in Bloom Competition. Please see page 3 for further details.

Britain in Bloom Key Dates 2014-15

7th July Finalists' portfolios due
28th July-8th August BIB judging fortnight
16th October Britain in Bloom Awards (Bristol)
17th October Judges Surgeries (Bristol)
29th January 2015 Finalists' Seminar

Notable themes for 2014

- Golden Jubilee Anniversary of first Britain in Bloom campaign
- Growing for Gold for Pollinators

17.5 cm

Blooming Bunting

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the first Britain in Bloom Competition we invite you to join in the special festivities this year by adding your pennant to our growing "East Midlands in Bloom" bunting.

To be included, all "in Bloom" and "IYN" entrants are invited to send us ONE pennant that will be added to all the others on the bunting which will then be used to decorate the EMiB Awards Presentation venue at Lark Hill Village on 17th September.

If you would like to join in, please send us your pennant, triangular in size to match this template which is 25cm x 25cm x 17.5cm. We would prefer it on lightweight material such as cotton or a polyester cotton mix and please double it up with the same or another colour/design (which can include your Bloom/IYN name) on the back.

You can use a flowery or plain colour or even applique or anything else that takes your imagination, as long as it is not too heavy.

Past and future entrants can join in too and there will be a small prize for the most imaginative pennant that conforms to the guidelines above.

Please send in your pennants by Friday, June 20th 2014 to:

Irene Bates
EMiB Pennants
64 Chaddesden Park Road
Derby
DE21 6HD

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Awards Presentation at Lark Hill Village on September 17th!