



East Midlands in Bloom Spring 2021

Welcome to Spring 2021

We know how much hard work you have put in throughout these challenging times and we know how much joy the campaign brings to people; it has never been more obvious how important community volunteering and a clean and well maintained open space is.

So many people have been taking advantage of the outdoors in unprecedented numbers, which has put a lot of pressure on groups and organisations who maintain and lovingly look after our green outdoor spaces, what better way to celebrate your success by taking part in East Midland in Bloom, we're looking forward to seeing you all this summer, and to September when we hope to get together for the first time in 19 months.

Happy Gardening, sunny days to come and take care.

Sharon Sutton

EMiB Chairman

Introduction to 2021 judging

We hope to run the competition as closely to normal as possible, whilst maintaining social distance throughout, we realise that the government are hopeful of all restrictions being lifted by 21st June, and it may be that in July we all feel a little bit silly keeping our distance, however, we feel it is important to plan for a socially distanced in bloom so that if there are any delays in the restrictions being lifted, we can still hopefully go ahead as planned, rather than trying to move the goal posts at a later date, so I hope you can all appreciate that we are trying to do our very best to run the competition for the benefit of our bloom communities, whilst being respectful to individuals concerns, and I hope we have struck the right balance.

This is all subject to Government restrictions and of course any future lockdowns, but we will remain as optimistic as we can.

In Bloom Judging all Categories:

One Judge will visit; Meet One Representative; No Car Sharing

No Indoor Judging, Meeting or Greeting; No School Visits

Judging Dates: 5th July to 16th July

Bloom Groups:

Application Form will have been submitted by 30th April

Judge will set a judging date/time as normal

Get Ready for Judging:

Map of the tour and portfolio by Friday 25th June

Collate your additional photos and information ready for the day.

Judging Day: Safe toilets to use at the start and end; Use story boards on site; Drive carefully; Do not provide food/drinks to the judges; Keep yourself and others safe, work together to share the tour

Discretionary/Special Awards

THIS IS NOT BEING DONE IN THE NORMAL FORMAT

You must make an application and submit photographs to the secretary by Friday 2nd July, please look on the website for the form or email the secretary

There will not be a visit in person, it will be done by a desk top assessment.

Certificates and Trophies will still be awarded

How Judging will Work:

New Marking Criteria Used; Awarded Gold/Silver/Bronze; Report with feedback

There will be no category winners, as no marks will be released in 2021

Portfolio & Map

Portfolio: No larger than 20 sides of A4; Say it in photos; All Year around

Map of the Tour

- Clearly show address and postcode of the start and each stopping point
- Maybe use numbers and list the stops on another page.
- Think about safe parking and toilets at the locations

Email to Secretary@emib.org.uk in pdf format by 25th June.

Story Boards

- To show the judges community participation
- Don't duplicate the portfolio
- Could be placed in an open sided gazebo/bandstand/large parasol

We will accept IYN entries from Bloom entries who don't feel ready for the competition this year

SCUNTHORPE – new entry

I just wanted to share below with you that we have just finished this week in the Town of Scunthorpe. In our commitment to a “blooming” Scunthorpe and doing our bit to halt the reducing wildflower meadow population and increase habitats for pollinators we have created what is the equivalent of 20km of square metre meadow planting. We have used a native English mix for provenance which equates to over 100KG of seed.

We have designed a 5 year development plan to ensure it improves year on year. The most pleasing aspect is we were supported by 20 community volunteers. Roll on germination!

Carl Beacock

**Green Spaces Manager
(Neighbourhoods)**





'Trusthorpe Clangers' Bell Ringing Team

The team has worked hard during Lock-down, developing 2 of its community gardens, making them Covid-safe and pleasant areas for residents to relax.

Main Bridge Garden was developed from a waste area and described by previous year's 'In Bloom' judges as *"the nicest of places to wait for a bus"*! It is used by children and families to picnic and recent work by the Team has developed more socially-distanced sitting areas, safer for wheelchair-users, walkers and cyclists.

A newly created tribute garden to St. Fiacre was opened on 1st October with picnic areas for residents to enjoy.

Diana Povah



Thorpe Acre Loughborough

Sally the Covid Snake!

This was originally intended as a lockdown activity for children, it seems to have manifested itself into a lasting memorial to those who sadly died during the pandemic.

Mike Jones

Loughborough



Sally the Covid-19 Snake

Some time in April 2020, soon after the Covid-19 Lock-down, some painted stones with a note saying, "My name is Sally the Covid-19 Snake. Please don't remove me", appeared on Thorpe Acre's Village Green. By June 2020, the snake had grown with new signs as pictured below.



July 2020, the painted stones were becoming a hazard, it was suggested that the vandalized millennium Thorpe Acre Trail Mosaic could be renovated to display the painted stones.

The amount of painted stones continued to grow after the renovation, so this year February 2021, the base has been expanded to mount the extra stones collected.

Below, is the finished display, with top views of the extra painted stones.



Shire Horse working again on Hunsbury Hill

The Friends of West Hunsbury Parks, with the assistance of Northampton Borough Council and idverde (and the weather), arranged for William, a working Shire horse, to chain harrow our Wildflower Meadow last September (2020), assisted by his owner, Robert Clarke of Hartwell Shires. Until then, Shire horses had probably been absent from Hunsbury Hill for about 100 years.

The results are now becoming apparent. These cowslips were taken on 26th April 2021. They were planted by the Friends, along with a large number of other wild flowers, about 6-7 years ago, so we are hoping that after William's efforts, we will be getting a good show throughout the summer.

We are hoping to get William back again this coming September to do more harrowing of the meadow, but if you want to read more about William and see video of him in action, please visit our website article : <https://friendsofwesthunsburyparks.org.uk/2020/09/01/a-harrowing-experience/>

David Stone

Friends of West Hunsbury Parks





Long Eaton Town Hall Re-landscaping

Over the winter months the Green Space Team at Erewash Borough Council have been busy re-landscaping the grounds of Long Eaton Town Hall, Nottinghamshire. The Hall is Grade II* listed and was built in 1778 by the eminent Derby architect Joseph Pickford.

A traditionally-themed scheme of topiary, white roses and seasonal bedding now fronts the older part of the house, extending round to more contemporary planting of ornamental grasses and hardy perennials in front of the building's modern glass extension. Lawned areas which front the main road through the town are to be mass-planted with spring bulbs later in the year.

Caroline Pollard

Green Space and Street Scene Officer





Name That Wagon competition

A new fleet of refuse and recycling vehicles in Charnwood have been officially named. Charnwood Borough Council revealed the winning names of its Name That Wagon competition earlier this year and all the names have now been added to the lorries and sweepers.

There were over 150 competition entries from youngsters across the borough but only 24 could make it onto the list of final names.

The Council sent winners a certificate and a goody bag to say congratulations and has been sharing photos of the winners on its social media channels.

Matt Bradford, head of cleansing and open spaces at the Council said: *"We really enjoyed running this competition for the children in Charnwood. We revealed the winners earlier this year and we're pleased the names have now been added to the vehicles. The winners will start to see their lorries collecting recycling, refuse or garden waste and the road sweepers cleaning the streets in the borough. It was great to see the kids with their certificates and to hear how thrilled they were to find out their name suggestion had won. I would like to thank everyone who got involved in the competition. All the suggestions made us smile and we hope it has also brought some joy to our residents."*

The current fleet of bin lorries collects all refuse and recycling from the borough's 75,000 homes as well as serving more than 30,000 customers of the Council's garden waste service. The vehicles empty household bins around five million times a year.



The full list of the newly named refuse vehicles are:

Lorries

- Binderella;
- Bindiana Jones
- Binny
- Chitty Chitty Bin Bin
- Crusington
- Florence
- Garbage Goblin
- Gary Bineker
- Grass Gobbler
- Greta Garbage
- Hope
- Ken Carson - Loughborough Royal British Legion
- Mick Wright
- Mr Bull's Bin Lorry
- Rainbow Runner
- Rosie Recycler
- Rubbish Buster
- The Chomper
- Trash Bandicoot
- Trash Gordon
- Truckosaurus

Road Sweepers

- Clean Machine
- Dusty
- Lightning McClean
- Sooty, Sweep and Sue

Sarah Ritchie, Charnwood Borough Council



Our Sponsors:



Amberol: the nation's leading provider of Self-watering planters. Our vision is to transform communities: with stunning floral displays that beautify and attract; with bins that help keep Britain tidy and the environment safe; and with seating to encourage people to pause and enjoy



FCC Environment is one of the UK's leading waste and resource management companies. Our approach is to minimise the amount of waste that ends up in landfill by transforming it into valuable resources wherever possible.



geViews: Planters and street furniture that save you time and money. Every part of our range is designed for easy planting, maintenance and upkeep, with self-watering reservoirs, durable materials and clever design touches. Take advantage of our 150 years of UK manufacturing experience.



Taylors Bulbs are a fourth generation family business, growing and supplying flower bulbs and associated products since 1919. Daffodils are grown on our farm in Holbeach, Lincolnshire where we also design and pack a large range of products for the UK and Irish markets. We pride ourselves on the award-winning service we offer our customers.



DART was founded in 1999 to meet a growing demand for work-based training and development. Since then, we have expanded geographically and offer Apprenticeships, Study Programmes, Traineeships, Schools programmes and short courses in Derbyshire., Notts., the West Mids. Leics., Staffs. and South Yorks. We also provide high quality training within Agriculture, Animal Care, Horticulture, Trees and Timber, Street Scene and Veterinary Nursing .



The Art Department: We opened our doors in 1986. Since that time, we have developed into one of the nation's leading large format graphics providers.



West Marsh Allotment Association in Grimsby

A new IYN entry, West March Allotment Association have been developing a wildlife area on site. An orchard was planted at least 15 years ago and was left unloved for most of this time. Last year during lock down, lead by the committee and with the majority of the work being undertaken by our local community pay back team, the area is being transformed into a wild life haven. All overgrown bramble was cut back, this then revealed the fruit trees, which were in desperate need of a prune. A constant cutting of the ground cover and the removal of the bramble stubs has made the area more accessible. Bark paths have been installed and 2 donated pond liners have been installed, one has a bog garden built next to it. More work is needed but this is an ongoing project for the next year at least.

Wayne Smith

West Marsh Allotment Association Chair person



Thanks for reading

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, any future suggestions / contributions are very welcome, please email ideas to:
secretary@emib.org.uk

Please find “East Midlands in Bloom” on Facebook and post comments and pictures of your wonderful flora, fauna and people!