



EAST MIDLANDS

East Midlands in Bloom

Winter 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Winter newsletter, hopefully you will find some useful and inspiring information in the next few pages, but before you take a look, the Management Team at EMiB would like to give you all a great big thank you, for your perseverance and dedication throughout what has been a most challenging couple of years.

The popularity of open spaces has stayed consistent even after the shops reopened! Many people have found green spaces, gardening and volunteering a lifeline, and have reaped the benefits for their wellbeing and that of their families, you have worked so very hard throughout, and what better way to celebrate your achievement than to receive recognition for all your efforts.

We are looking forward to the Seminar in February which will be held in person, please try and attend this event as it will give you lots of information and support for your In Bloom entry. We would also ask that you let your neighbours know about EMiB and encourage them to take part, we will be very happy to welcome new entrants and mentor them into the competition.

We are looking forward to welcoming 2022 with hopefully full judging in the summer with lots of participants.

Happy Gardening, chilly days to come and take care.

Sharon Sutton

EMiB Chair





The Trusthorpe Team

The Trusthorpe Team is made up of 3 doing the garden, 1 making the tea, a few older ladies from the Church and a couple of wood-workers who lend a hand. Our village is small but everyone joined in and were enthusiastic with our first 'In Bloom' entry.

Alan, has enjoyed being part of the Team, he took charge of the 'New permanent Landscape' as well as being our Sexton (looking after the churchyard). He recently lost his sister whom he lived with. It was a great shock and he asked if he could create a small garden area in her memory. This went on to other gardens, bird-watching areas etc. it gave him such a strong sense of purpose during lock-down and he appreciated and enjoyed the social side of being part of our garden team.





Lorraine, was our entry for Extraordinary Skills. She first started the embroidery of Church-kneelers in 2004. Since then she has completed almost 50 which are proudly displayed in St. Peter's Church, Trusthorpe. Her husband, Peter, became involved when people asked for unusual designs to be drawn. Every major event in the village now has a kneeler dedicated to it (including this year's 'In Bloom' competition)! The kneelers tell of Trusthorpe's history, its 70 years of pantomime, renovation of the Church tower, building of St. Peter's Annexe, weddings, christenings, confirmations and village hobbies such as bell-ringing; bird-watching and nature are all included in Lorraine's kneelers."

Diana Povah



Education Update

Despite reductions in actual time at school, our young green-fingered gardeners across the East Midlands have continued to keep busy. Across the country many schools have taken learning outside during the pandemic and continue to do so! We thought Bloom groups would enjoy sharing in the reassuring news that gardening or use of a growing space in any school continues to provide pupils and staff with a valuable place to unwind and find some peace as well as all the academic learning that can be linked in.

As EMIb Head Schools judge, I wrote to all schools across the region who had taken part in the school competition during the previous 2 years to acknowledge how much we recognised their hard work and in continued efforts in developing the children's love to get outdoors. We know how gardening and other work carried out in the school grounds brings enjoyment, encourages well-being, enrichment and practical life-long learning skills to the curriculum but with many restrictions and closures we recognised that things would be different this year.

Celebrating schools' wonderful gardening work through our annual judging programme, is something we were extremely keen to restart between 'nothing' in Summer 2020 and hopefully a return to 'full judging' commitments in Summer 2022. Therefore, we invited them to participate in a desktop judged celebration: 3 Schools were recognised for their work in Summer 2021: **"Best Use of the school grounds to enrich the curriculum"** was Holbeach Primary Academy , Lincolnshire; **"Best Wildlife Garden"** was Cambridge Park 6th Form campus Grimsby- North East Lincolnshire and **"Best Fruit and Vegetable Garden"** was Blidworth Oaks Primary School, Nottinghamshire.



**Holbeach Primary
Academy**



**Cambridge Park Sixth
Form Campus, Grimsby**





Blidworth Oaks Primary



So please as a group reintroduce yourself to your local school and get them to join in with your 2022 Bloom entry. Their community contribution to your campaign for July 2022 judging and possible individual entry to take part in the annual School's Competition, which is judged as a 'stand alone' competition in June 2022, always adds another dimension for the judges to enjoy!

Education Update Continued

The RHS have a Campaign for School Gardening, which recognises that gardening can support curriculum learning and boost the wellbeing of young people, regardless of plot size available. It was launched in 2007, the campaign now has 40,000 schools and groups registered. The RHS promotes a series of growing topics, which provide a “pick-and-mix” approach to fit with the Primary Curriculum. Their activities are linked to the seasons and are accessible to any teacher/ Ta or keen gardening group volunteer no matter of their own horticultural background and I am really pleased to say many East Midland schools are embracing the ideas provided or developing their own.

If nothing else last year, many of us developed an even greater affinity with gardens and green spaces so it’s been the perfect time to get the most out of school plots for the benefit of pupils, staff and the wider community. A legacy of Covid maybe that more young people “Get Out There” and enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors so that is Blooming Marvellous for the future of gardening!

RHS Campaign for School Gardening resources can be found at:
<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

Emma Schofield, EMiB Vice Chair

Bee-line for Lubenham

Lubenham in Bloom have created a B-line this year with two new pollinator borders these now link up the rest of the village planting, 105 sunflowers were grown from last years seeds, all our areas have bug balls, hedgehog houses, water for bees and butterflies and bird boxes.

Nine new 7day watering barrels and 2 new 7day watering hanging baskets are helping with watering. Wetland planting has also been done along the River Welland.

Margaret Richards, Lubenham in Bloom



EMiB Grant summary 2021

Whilst the grant scheme was approved by committee in 2019, with all the restrictions of Covid it wasn't until earlier this year that the subgroup was able to look in detail at the applications (even then it was via a socially distanced Zoom meeting!)

Grants were allocated and the projects took place during 2021, even then the groups have reported that the ongoing covid restrictions and awareness meant the projects took long than anticipated. However, they have now been successfully completed and we are pleased to report on these to you.

STAMFORD

Stamford were given a £500 grant towards a Mindscape Community Garden and in particular the raised planting beds and report:

“Covid has interfered enormously with progress. The health of our volunteers was protected at all times which prevented large working parties on site.

Stamford in Bloom, recognised for its practical work in the community have provided younger, strong volunteers throughout the project.

Weather has also hampered completion, particularly 'Beast from the East'. However, the delay allowed time for the group to modify plans for the better.

The grant from EMiB was vital to pay for soil and compost at a crucial stage, to fill the raised flower beds which frame an arena.

The Mind Space Wellbeing Garden is welcomed by the Community with much excitement. The partnership with other town organisations is much appreciated too.

Thank you for the part you have played to bring this idea to fruition”



EMiB Grant summary continued



TRUSTHORPE

Trusthorpe had a project in several elements and asked us to support a 'crittacabin' (we would probably better know these as 'Bug Hotels'). It was felt that having seen many examples of such homes for bugs built out of old materials while on judging tours we should support funding for materials and encourage the construction by the community. A grant of £200 was given for bug hotel materials.

This project has now been completed as shown in the photo. There has been a mixture of donated materials and items purchased from the grant all put together by volunteers which we feel vindicates our suggestion.

The subgroup felt that the two completed projects show what can be done by the community with our support and were happy to recommend to the full EMiB Committee meeting on 17th November 2021 to continue the scheme in 2022. This was unanimously agreed.

The application form for 2022 will be available on our web site by the end of the year so eligible bloom groups can apply for grants of up to £1,000 per group up to an overall maximum of £3,000 expenditure in 2022.

Simon Lucas, EMiB Treasurer

It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)

It was fantastic that we had 88 IYN entrants this year, thanks you to all of you that kept the momentum going and entered this. Hopefully, we will see you all, plus some of you that couldn't enter this year, back with us in 2022.

We held 3 presentations for Derbyshire/Nottingham, Lincolnshire, Oadby and Wigston with Evington, Loughborough and Penny Brown made sure that those of you in Leicester received your certificate and report. Any group that couldn't attend had the certificates, reports and voucher posted to them.

As an assessor I really enjoy going to see other projects, it is always great to see the different ideas that groups have incorporated into the environment to improve things for the human species but even better for the insects/animal world. Being outside in the garden or wider environment gives immense pleasure and is so beneficial for your health.

If you know of another group that isn't involved with East Midlands in Bloom as an IYN group, then put them in touch with me and we will advise them on getting started.

Have you thought about being an assessor, this role is very rewarding? However much time you can commit to is gratefully appreciated. All costs are reimbursed, and training will be given.

Please contact me at secreatary@emib.org.uk

Elaine Atkinson, EMiB Secretary









EAST MIDLANDS

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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 United Kingdom 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.



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.



We really appreciate everyone's input to our Blooming great region, whether that is the green-fingered members of communities, or those who prefer to capture the flowerbeds, landscapes and species flourishing on camera and promote all the hard-work taking place, on social media.

If you haven't visited our Facebook page (East Midlands in Bloom), many of the fabulous images in this newsletter are some of what you have missed so far!



Hot off the flower press:

We are offering a new Special Floral Award:

We would like to introduce a new category as a floral award in 2022:

Best Spring Bulb Display.

We propose that it would be a desk top application in July showing the display in Spring 2022, the spring bulb display could be part of a spring bedding display or exclusively a bulb planting scheme. Please try and choose an area with good impact for the public, it may be in a park you help maintain, or along a grass verge, or entranceway to your town or village. Choose a photo showing a good mixed display.



Dates for your diaries

AGM and Seminar Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at 10.00am: Creswell Events Centre, Elmtun Rd, Creswell, Worksop S80 4BH

Committee Meeting Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 10.00am - Zoom

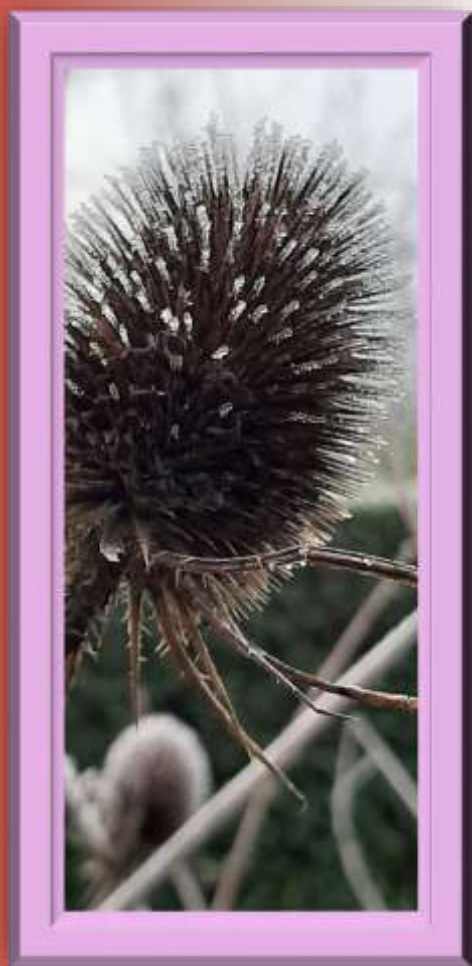
Schools Judging 2 week Period starting Monday 13th June 2022

In Bloom Judging 2 week period starting 4th July 2022

IYN Assessing starts on 4th July and concludes on 31st August 2022

Awards Presentation Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 2.00pm
venue to be confirmed

Committee Meeting Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 10.00am Zoom



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 visit our webpage (emib.org.uk) and find us on Facebook and post comments and pictures of your wonderful people, flora and fauna and please share our page with your friends to widen our reach and tell the world about all the great things you plant and do!

Des[🌸]igned by Helen M[🌸]itchem