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IN BLOOM®
with the RHS

EAST MIDLANDS

East Midlands in Bloom Summer News 2023

Welcome to Summer 2023

Welcome Bloomers to our latest newsletter, we hope that the summer brings fair weather, not too hot like last year. Following a mild winter the spring displays are looking lovely, and just about everything is early, we had blackbirds with young in late January so who knows what to expect!

Community spirit is at the heart of all you do and keeps our places of work, rest and play in tip top condition, what better way to celebrate your achievements than being involved with the In Bloom campaign, we're looking forward to this year's judging to meet all our lovely volunteers, and not forgetting the tasty treats on offer as well.

Judging takes place as usual in the first two weeks of July starting on Monday 3rd and concluding on Friday 14th. It's Your Neighbourhood is assessed throughout July and August.

We know that as spring bulbs go over they look untidy and yellow, but please don't be tempted to cut them back too early, they need this time to recharge the bulb, otherwise they may not flower next year.

Happy Blooming for 2023

Sharon Sutton,

EMiB Chairman

Meet the East Midlands in Bloom Team



I've been working in the landscape industry for over 25 years mainly in Local Authority in Parks departments, but also as a Projects Manager on large scale renovations of specialist landscapes. I have been involved in EMiB as an entrant and Judge since 2003, I became Chairman in 2018.

Sharon Sutton

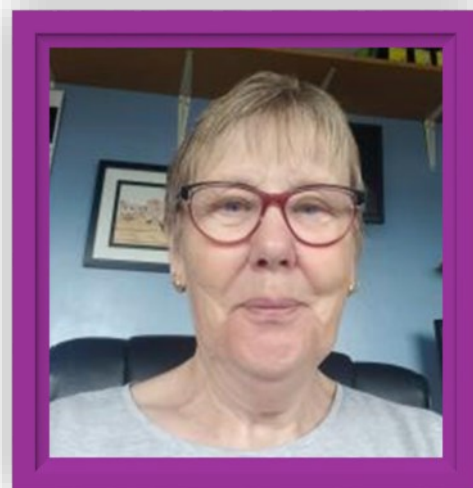
After taking early retirement, and always having been an enthusiastic gardener, I undertook a couple of RHS courses. After this I joined the Master Gardeners in Leicestershire with a view of helping communities to grow food. It was whilst I was doing this that I found out about School judging for the East Midlands in Bloom. I so enjoyed doing this that I expanded my judging to include all judging including the IYN for which I am joint lead within the current management team.

Judith Warner



I am the secretary of EMiB and have been for the 5 years, I am also the chair of Grimsby in Bloom who enter the small city category. My background is horticulture and I taught at the Grimsby Institute for 14 years (mainly students with special educational needs). I have always loved being out in the garden and can remember as child being in the one at home with my dad. I would like to think that I have passed some of my passion for gardening and the environment onto others during my career.

Elaine Atkinson



I am an enthusiastic amateur gardener and have been judging In Bloom since 2017. Having worked in the NHS for 36 years I am keen on promoting the proven health benefits of gardening and growing. I have been part of the management team for 2 years.

Liz Alun-Jones



First half of working life in family business:
Farming, Landscaping and Garden Centre.
Worked for private landscape company for several years before joining local council for 10 years, then was made redundant so became self-employed gardener. Now fully retired with bus pass to prove it!

When at the council, I formed 'Pride of the Borough (Oadby & Wigston)' in 2003 entering

EMiB & BiB. EMiB judge from 2009, and have been on the Management Committee since 2010. I became Treasurer in 2018. As well as keeping the books, I also look after EMiB website and Zoom.

Simon Lucas Bloom



I have been involved with 'In Bloom' campaigns as an entrant or as a judge since 1986 including Wales in Bloom, Northumberland in Bloom, London in Bloom and more recently East Midlands in Bloom since 2004. Trained in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Forestry, over the years my career has been closely linked to caring for and improving the environment where ever possible.

Richard Stephen

Peter Benham

I have been involved with the Bloom since mid-1980's. This is as an entrant of a Large City entry and a couple of Urban Communities, with success in Regional and National Competitions. Since my retirement in 2010 I have also had the privilege to judge a variety of categories and assess IYN entries across our region.

I can empathise with all entrants. Having sat in the "Hot Seat" organising Bloom campaigns and encouraging wide community participation. I have also encountered difficulties, including on judging day and fully appreciate all efforts made to maintain all the areas we visit.

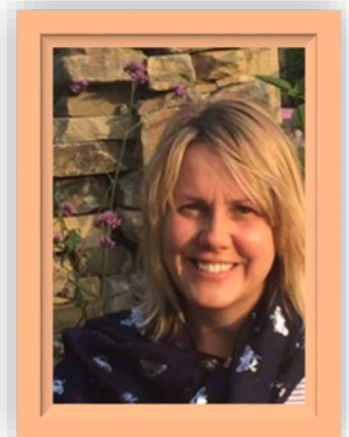
My committee role is to maintain regular contact with our Bloom sponsors who provide us with financial support and goods in kind. This is vital to help maintain the regional competition as apart from entry fees we receive no other support. Despite the economic conditions we are fortunate to have loyal sponsors in our region, which help us to ensure the competition continues each year.



Emma Schofield

I am vice chair and schools co-ordinator for EMiB.

I am passionate about the impact gardening and the wider outdoors can have on the wellbeing and education of children, and how this can ignite a passion for becoming green-fingered gardeners of the future! My background is education, learning outside the classroom, wildlife, gardening, gardening history and environmental work.



It's Your Neighbourhood



EAST MIDLANDS

This is a national scheme run by the RHS but overseen by each of the regions and nations.

It follows the ethos that the RHS set to recognise what groups are doing in their community through engagement, gardening and looking after the environment.

It is not a competition, so they are not competing with any other IYN groups. but are rewarded on what they have achieved during that year.

An assessor visits during July/August on a mutual convenient day and visits the project and takes notes and photos on everything that has been achieved. A report is then written, according to the work that has been done within the community maximum points 40/100, gardening achievement 30/100 points, and what has been accomplished within the environment 30/100 points. These are then added to give a level of achievement

Level 1 Establishing 0 – 35, Level 2 Improving 36 – 52,
Level Advancing 53 – 68

Level 4 Thriving 69 – 85, Level 5 Outstanding 86 – 100

You then receive a certificate and the possibility of attending a presentation.

So do you know of a small group that will benefit from being part of the IYN scheme? If so, email iyn@emib.org.uk or look on our website <https://emib.org.uk/its-your-neighbourhood/> where you can find more information.

Elaine Atkinson

Britain in Bloom: Nominees

Our nominees to represent in the National competition:

Oadby and Wigston in the small city category and **Market Harborough** in the large town category. Both groups have consistently reached the gold standard & are very experienced groups who will do extremely well in the nationals.

Newton Solney in the village category is a relative new group and entered for the first time in 2022. The standard they reached in their first year was very impressive, just 1 point away from gold. We have a good feeling that in 2023 they will reach the gold standard in the East Midlands in Bloom competition, and they will do the region proud in whatever level they reach in the nationals.

Good luck to our 3 nominees.

Elaine Atkinson, Secretary

EMiB Future Dates for the Diary

Summer Committee Meeting Wednesday June 7th via Zoom at 10am

EMiB Awards Wednesday 20th September 2pm at Springfields Event Centre, Spalding

Autumn Committee meeting Wednesday 15 November via Zoom at 10am

Grants

This year we have only had two applications, both of which have been approved totalling £640. Yet again we were pleased that both applications included funds from the group and other fundraising activities. The applications inform us:

Rabbit Sculpture - Pride of the Borough (Oadby and Wigston)

“The aim of the project is to install a carved wooden bench (with a design of two rabbits) on the Brocks Hill Country Park. The bench will be made out of oak; and will be produced and installed by a local wood sculptor who has carved two previous sculptures for the park.” Evidence was provided of young and old using the existing benches.

Compost Hot Bin – Grimsby in Bloom

“At the pavilion we do not have an area where we can build a composting area. 2 years ago we had a hot bin donated to us and have realised how efficient they are. In 1 year we have had 10, ½ full compost bags of recycled compost which is of excellent quality.” The grant will allow the purchase of a Mega Hotbin. We have heard of these before at an EMIb meeting, so are looking forward to being able to report back to committee on how successful the larger bin has been.

Update regarding RHS and their support for schools

The RHS recently shared an update with EMiB about their work with schools, below you will find some useful information; across the East Midlands we are lucky to have many green fingered young gardeners and many are involved in the RHS School Campaign.

Alongside this all Bloom groups know about the EMiB Schools competition we hold each year (details on the EMiB website) as another way to celebrate the work of schools in their locality. Do you have schools linked to your Bloom work they may be doing more with gardening than you know? The table below shows the engagement percentage signed up to the Campaign for School Gardening:

Percentage of schools registered in each region	EM	EOE	L	NE	NI	NW	S	SE	SW	Wales	WM	YH	Total
Schools	48%	62%	28%	38%	24%	56%	46%	60%	63%	37%	40%	55%	49%
Primary	43%	53%	33%	34%	25%	56%	41%	58%	56%	35%	37%	49%	46%
Secondary	36%	53%	26%	28%	23%	53%	54%	67%	61%	36%	34%	39%	45%
Other including PRU and SEND	27%	38%	12%	23%	17%	32%	40%	33%	35%	32%	21%	35%	27%

The RHS try to ensure that their resources are curriculum relevant to cater for shifting curricular across the UK, and are considering this even more as they develop their new offer to schools.

Each year they run A School Gardener of the Year competition more details can be found on their website. The RHS School Gardeners of the Year competition recognises stand-out teams of school gardeners and those adults who champion gardening and growing in schools. The competition is open to UK schools registered to the [RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#). There are some great prizes up for grabs, including patio glasshouses worth £1,500, National Garden Gift Vouchers and a school visit from a VIP. Nominating is easy: all the information, including the nomination forms, are available on the [School Gardeners of the Year webpage](#). Nominations are welcome from appointed representatives of schools for example teachers, support staff, governors and parent helpers. You can also follow **@RHS Schools** for the latest social media.

What is changing?

- * The DfE programme is just coming on line now and will go live proper in September 2023. This is for England schools and they are keeping in touch with each region to keep us up to date as it develops. They are testing approaches between now and July.
- * They are rebuilding their teacher training offer as post COVID they are considering both an online and face to face training. They have developed a wellbeing and Planet Friendly Gardening course this year too.
- * They are evolving the School Gardening Awards process later this year to simplify the rewards and system.

So things are certainly evolving and we at EMIB will keep you informed as we hear more!



West Marsh Allotments getting buzzy

West Marsh Allotment Association (IYN group) in Grimsby have recently secured funding to install a bee hive on the site to enable all plot holders to benefit from them.

One of the members of the association Sue Green has undergone a registered bee keeping course and is fully qualified to look after them.

The bees were moved into their new home on 10th May and have settled in extremely well.

The aim of the hive is to increase the pollination of all crops grown, to educate younger people (and some older ones) about the benefit of having them on site.

One young girl, Harriet, who is 6, has already shown a deep interest in the bees and has had an early birthday present of a bee suit. She has had her first visit into them and was not fazed at all.

Wayne Smith – Chairman West Marsh Allotments





Introducing The Orbea Range

Stylish and contemporary, the **geViews Orbea Range** can be configured just the way you want it.

With the option of a high impact tower planter, a large floor planter, a compact planter, and a hanging basket, the versatile Orbea Range has a solution for every space.

Not just a stylish design, the Orbea Range stays true to our core values of providing high quality, hard wearing, low maintenance planters, manufactured in the UK. Each unit has been innovatively designed with a range of features that will keep your displays looking fantastic for longer.



Orbea Tower Planter

Available as a Floor Planter or 2, 3, or 4 tiered tower. The contemporary Orbea Tower Planter is a striking centrepiece to your floral displays, available in 1,2,3 and 4 tiered options, you can design the Orbea Tower Planter to suit your space. The tiers are connected by robust steel supports making the tower incredibly durable. Each tier benefits from a generous self-watering reservoir to keep your displays looking fantastic with minimal upkeep.

The Orbea Tower Planter is configured by combining the Floor Planter, Compact, and Hanging Basket in the design of your choice.



The Benefits...

- **Versatile** – create continuity in your display with various assembly options.
- **Self-watering reservoir** – reduces the time, labour and cost of watering, and minimises water wastage.
- **Overflow point** – ensures displays won't be damaged due to overwatering.
- **Soft edges** – protect plants from damage in wet or windy conditions and in areas with a heavy footfall.
- **Drainage point** – water reservoirs can be drained for easier and safer transport.
- **Transportable** – built in pallet runs so that units can be moved easily and safely.
- **Hard-wearing** – designed and built with durability and longevity in mind.
- **100% recyclable** – better for the environment.
- **Cost-effective** – we've used our manufacturing expertise to keep costs to a minimum, so you get the best value for your budget.

Tiers	Height	Compost capacity	Water capacity
1 Orbea Floor Planter	750mm	156l	137l
2 Orbea 2 Tier Tower	1400mm	208l	181l
3 Orbea 3 Tier Tower	1902mm	222l	193l
4 Orbea 4 Tier Tower	2552mm	274l	237l



01332 856039 info@geviews.co.uk

The Orbea Range

Stylish, Versatile, Unique



The opportunities are almost endless with the Orbea Range. Each planter can be used independently, or they can be combined to make the striking Orbea Tower Planter.

The Orbea Range has softer lines adding a calming ambience as well as giving you more options for greenery.



8

Unlike any other planter on the market.



Floor Planter



Compact Planter



Hanging Basket

Our popular self-watering reservoir makes it low maintenance – these planters are designed to only need watering once a week, saving you time and money, and lessening water waste.

Our accreditations back up our confidence in our products, we've got 150 years of manufacturing experience, so you can trust us to deliver.

Orbea Floor Planter

The Orbea Floor Planter is the bedrock of this collection. Its 750mm x 1020mm size makes it an ideal building block for your floral displays. The soft edges and curved design give it eye-catching appeal, perfectly complementing any area.

Size (mm):	1020 x 1020 x 750 (LWH)	Capacity:	156l	137l
		Compost	Water	

Orbea Compact Planter

The Orbea Compact Planter is ideal for any area where space is at a premium. It can be used on its own as a smaller floor planter, or as part of a co-ordinated display alongside the rest of the range. If you are creating a tower display, the Orbea Compact Planter can be your base, mid, or top tier, depending on the size tower you want to create.

Size (mm):	735 x 735 x 455 (LWH)	Capacity:	52l	44l
		Compost	Water	

Orbea Hanging Basket

The Orbea Hanging Basket is a striking addition to any floral display. Its 20 inch diameter is the perfect size to add a burst of colour to any space. Includes high-durability chains to keep your floral arrangements safe and secure. If you are creating a tower planter the Orbea Basket can be used as a top tier.

Size (mm):	508 x 508 x 307 (LWH)	Capacity:	14l	12l
		Compost	Water	



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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.



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.

Thanks for reading

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

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

Des[🌸]igned by Helen Mitchem[🌸]