



EAST MIDLANDS

East Midlands in Bloom

Winter 2023

Welcome Bloomers to the Winter newsletter, we had a mixed bag of weather this year: wet in July and heat wave in September meant poor crops for me, no apples or pears, but it could be I'm a poor gardener blaming the weather!

The presentation was a great success thanks to our wonderful hosts, Springfields Event Centre, Spalding. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we had some excellent feedback.

As always, we would also like you to try and get your entry form in early so we can start to allocate judges and get organised early, you will be able to find the entry form and everything else you need on our website at www.emib.org.uk.

Judges and Assessors – as you know the In Bloom campaign is run entirely by volunteers, whether you're an entrant, assessor, judge or all three! We're asking entrants if they know of anyone who would like to become a judge or an assessor for us, this is a rewarding volunteering experience which can help you meet new people, broaden your knowledge, looks good on your C.V, and it's fun. We pay your expenses and provide training, we expect you to attend the training day in the Spring, and be available for at least 3 days within the judging period (or more if you can spare the time),. So if you think you'd like to try it please contact us, [we can't do it without you](#).

And on a final note, this will be my last newsletter, sadly I'm stepping down at the AGM in February after 6 years in the hot seat, nominations for a new Chair are being received by Elaine our Secretary at secretary@emib.org.uk.

Happy gardening and we wish you a prosperous New Year

Sharon Sutton, EMiB Chair

Greening The Marshes

A new initiative in Grimsby

GROW A Tree in '23' is the theme for this year's National Tree Week, and local people and school children will be able to play their part at a special event at West Marsh Community Centre.

On Wednesday, November 29, staff, and volunteers hosted a community tree planting afternoon, from 1.30pm which will link up with the Greening the Marshes project. The incentive is the first time West Marsh Community Centre (WMCC) has teamed up with East Marsh United and Grimsby in Bloom, with the three groups committed to adding tree life to the eastern areas of North East Lincolnshire, particularly as these are the areas with the least tree coverage.

Alan Burley, WMCC's Community Development Worker, said: The groups all have so much in common, and the physical barrier of the railway line between the East and West Marsh doesn't exist when it comes to working together.

"We are looking forward to welcoming familiar and new faces, and hopefully bringing attention to what we are trying to do across the marshes."

by Alan Burley



Dig In

On October 28th, Dig In Community Allotment, Stapleford held their annual autumn event. Although the weather was cold and grey, visitors warmed themselves up with hot pumpkin soup and apple pancakes cooked by the Pulp Friction CIC, who also brought along their ice-cream churning bicycle for everyone to try out.

There was a craft stall stocked with items crocheted and knitted by two of our talented volunteers, and the children were kept busy hunting for tiny pumpkins and having a go at the beanbag toss.

Dig In's resident scarecrows were holed-up in their spooky hideout ready to take photos with anyone brave enough to enter. The Mayor of Stapleford and the Deputy Mayor of Broxtowe came along to help draw the raffle and the winner of the Gnome the Gnome game, and most importantly, to judge the pumpkin carving competition.

It was a successful day despite the weather and a great celebration to end the growing season.

By Alex Martindale,

Secretary for Dig In Community Allotment



**Photos by Chris Davis, local
photographer and long
time Dig In friend**

Seminar/AGM 2024

The seminar in 2024 will be held at Hasland Hall, Chesterfield on **Wednesday 28th February from 2pm**, the AGM will precede this and will last about 15 minutes.

We have the following people coming to talk to us:

John Ramsey Chesterfield - "Being a RHS Britain in Bloom Entrant"

Pak Ling Wan from the RHS discussing the "RHS 60th Anniversary: Friendship and how to get involved"

A representative from Amberol informing us about their "30th year in Business"

By Secretary Elaine Atkinson





Photos taken at the seminar in Newark 2023

Celebrating Northampton's blooming floral success

Northampton town centre and surrounding areas have been adorned with beautiful floral displays between April and October this year, thanks to the Northampton in Bloom planting project funded by Northampton Town Council.

Over 500 colourful hanging baskets and planters were placed on businesses and streets in the town centre and across the town council wards, as part of Northampton in Bloom, which also included community-led and sustainable planting initiatives.

Volunteers from the council's [Climate Change Forum](#) created sustainable planters containing peat-free compost and perennial plants such as Fleabane and English Bluebell, especially chosen for their biodiversity value to attract bees and other insects.

Meanwhile in May, as part of the King's Coronation celebrations, the town council partnered with Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District to deliver an award-winning volunteer-supported planting project in St Katherine's Gardens, with students from Northampton College and the University of Northampton, plus staff from Northampton Hope Centre and Travis Perkins Timber all giving their time to transform the space.

Cllr Andrew Stevens, Chair of the Environmental Services Committee at Northampton Town Council, said: "We've received so many positive comments about the planters and baskets and how they have brightened up the town this year, adding a welcome burst of colour to the urban environment."



Northampton
TOWN COUNCIL

It is also wonderful to see the baskets which have been planted by some of our neighbouring parish councils in Northampton and all the superb floral displays in West Northamptonshire Council's public parks.

"The town council is keen to champion the many green initiatives established by local resident groups and is exploring how our planting can be more environmentally friendly in future, along with planning to participate in the 2025 East Midlands in Bloom competition."

By Sara Kennedy



IYNs Loughborough

With this year on track to be the hottest on record, at a time of high food and fuel prices, a new growing group collaborated with an environmentally - sustainable allotment to find solutions.

Incredible Edible Loughborough held an open meeting in the early part of the year to discuss cultivating fruit and vegetables on disused public land people can help themselves to for free and Transition Allotment, a biodiverse plot offered to lend a helping hand.

Part of the Transition Towns' movement, the allotment works to find answers to the environmental and energy crises as well as issues with food production and waste.



By Susan Newcombe

Supported by the expertise of the seasoned growers, volunteers signed up to cultivate ground around the town and provide organic produce to the public to fill the gap created by soaring food inflation and supply chain problems from extreme weather.

Last year there were only two founders of Incredible Edible but since the meeting several formed two groups to nurture seeds and young plants from a greenhouse, erected this year, to sites that by the year - end numbered six.

The partnership has facilitated growing methods such as no – dig, pioneered by Charles Dowding, to maximise the sustainable benefits of home – produced compost, leaf mould and mulch to develop organic, fresh food supplies to supplement hard – pressed family budgets.

One of Incredible Edible's sites is on a social housing estate and another next to a food bank.

Julian Rees, one of the founders said they aim to connect people by cultivating fruit and vegetables by local people on local land with minimal CO2 emissions and no damage to wildlife or soil.

“People can walk amongst where the food is grown, they can reach out and touch it and know where it comes from and how it's grown,” said Julian.

Food accounts for 37 per cent of emissions globally making it one of the biggest drivers of climate change and the allotment happily passes seedlings and cuttings from its nursery beds to Incredible Edible to put into one of their public spaces.

It's been described as a green revolution and both groups scored highly in East Midlands in Bloom community initiative It's Your Neighbourhood with full marks awarded to Incredible Edible in only its second year – a considerable endorsement of its aims.

“It's teamwork at its best,” said group volunteer Marie Wan.

Market Bosworth: Royal Recognition

Bosworth in Bloom has had a lot to celebrate recently and 2023 is turning out to be quite an historic year for our village.

Not only did we win Gold in this year's Regional competition but came top of our Large Village in the East Midlands category. Achieving this level of excellence is not easy and is a tribute to the hard work, not just of the Bosworth in Bloom group but the volunteers, supporters and donors that make it happen. Nowadays, the competition is about a lot more than floral displays, much as we enjoy the planting out and so many people enjoy the end result. Community involvement also counts for a lot and we were able to show the judges how we collaborate with the schools and youth groups while in return being supported by the Rotary, WI and others.

On top of that success we recently learned that Bosworth in Bloom has been honoured with the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) which is the personal recognition by the Sovereign of the contribution of voluntary groups in the UK. Instituted by the late Queen in 2003 as QUAVS, we are among the first to receive such an award from His Majesty the King and will officially be presented to us, here in Market Bosworth, by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire.

It is an award that must go through the most stringent of examinations. Initially the nomination is checked to ensure that it meets the criteria required to be nominated. This is followed by a meeting between representatives of the Lord Lieutenant and members of the nominated group. It covers every aspect of the work of the group including the financial accounts, constitution, does the group reflect the demographic of the community and examples of how the work impacts on the community and environment. The outcome of the meeting is then discussed with the Lord Lieutenant and the decision is made on its suitability for submission to the KAVS National Assessment Committee. The final stage for the shortlisted nominations is for the Central Committee to consider the applications and which ones will be recommended to the King for his award for voluntary service. As can be seen, to make the shortlist is an achievement in its own right but to actually receive the award is at another level.

It could be said "many are nominated but few are chosen ".

Winners must have "provided a specific and direct benefit to their local community" and we want to thank all those who have helped us do just that over the years. Not least among those long serving supporters were Dick Symonds and John Rawson who not only gave so much of their time to Bosworth in Bloom and to the wider community, but also to East Midlands in Bloom itself. In many ways, the KAVS award is a collective 'win' for all those volunteers and groups that have made and continue to make Bosworth a place people are proud to call home.

By Chris Hooker



Leicestershire Lieutenancy Office
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Dear Mr Hooker,

I was delighted to hear of the honour which was conferred upon Bosworth In Bloom as a 2023 winner of the King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest accolade that can be bestowed upon a voluntary group in the UK, and is in recognition of your dedication, commitment, and care for those in the community around you. This is the inaugural year of the King's Awards for Voluntary Service, and I am delighted that you will be among the first voluntary groups in Leicestershire to receive this wonderful award.

I am sure that you will be receiving many messages of congratulations following the public announcement today, to which I would like to add my own personal message of congratulation for you to pass on to all your colleagues.

It is the duty of the Lord-Lieutenant to present King's Awards for Voluntary Service on behalf of HM The King, and I look forward to being able to do this soon. In due course, my office will be in touch to make the appropriate arrangements.

Until then, many congratulations once again and best wishes for your continued success.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Mike Kapur, OBE

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire

EMiB Grant Scheme 2024

Following agreement at the last full committee meeting, we are pleased to let you know that the EMiB Grant Scheme will be open again in 2024.

We are looking for well thought out and sustainable projects, as with all things bloom sustainable doesn't just mean being environmentally sound but also how the project can be maintained into the future.

The total amount of grant available to support bloom groups is up to £3,000. The maximum any group can apply for is £1,000. With any bid of more than £500 EMiB will be looking for matched financial funding.

Applications will open on 1st January each year with a closing date of 31st March when all applications will be considered. Applications are preferred electronically (please do not waste paper!)

All details are on our website

<https://emib.org.uk/competition/grant/>



Article by **Simon Lucas**

Photos: Oadby & Wigston's carved bench and Grimsby's Hotbin, both funded by the grant in 2023.

WEST MARSH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

GRIMSBY

It all started five years ago, when the allotment committee decided to try and make improvements to the riverbank along the edge of the allotment site. This section of the river Freshney that forms the boundary of the allotments was overgrown, 8 feet high, with brambles in some places that were very dense. It was by no means a small one-off project, this needed commitment, a lot of sweat, and backbreaking work. Armed with strimmers, loppers, and some help from community payback service users, the project started to develop.

We now have a lush green lawn with lots of planted areas. Pampas grasses grown from seed by a local lady, cherry trees, and evergreens (donated by local residents) line the full length of the boundary. All are growing at various stages; most are now 5 feet in height and thriving. Wildflowers and native flowering bulbs are scattered all around the area.

Residents have complimented the project by shouting across the river to the volunteers, commenting on how different and nice it looks. This has had a massive impact on the residents who look out to the riverbank, and this view is only going to improve as we plant more, and the plants mature.

The committee has won two gold awards from Its Your Neighbourhood, part of Britain in Bloom for the work already carried out.

Wayne Smith Chair of the Association



We really appreciate everyone's input to our fabulous, flourishing region, whether that is the green-fingered community members, or those who prefer to capture the flowers and hard work on camera and promote everything we all do on social media.

Website

QR code which links to our page:



We also put news about EMiB and our groups on the Facebook page. If you have an article about your group, an individual or school then please send your article to secretary@emib.org.uk

If photographs have been sent, please make sure you have permission from the people for them to be published, especially if children are involved.

Search for our Facebook page: [East Midlands in Bloom](#)



EAST MIDLANDS



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Daffodils are grown on our farm in Holbeach, Lincolnshire where we also design and pack a large range of products for UK and Irish markets. We pride ourselves on the award-winning service we offer our customers.

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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



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.



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.