
East Midlands in Bloom Winter Newsletter 2024



Message From Our Chairman John Constable

Both Britain in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood use Horticultural, Environmental and Community achievements to gauge progress. Whilst the basics of horticulture haven't changed - how it is practiced and used in our communities certainly has over the years. Something is certainly happening to our environment - whatever we believe might be the cause - change is happening in front of our eyes - if the change is part of a cycle or a one way struggle is something none of us will know for certain. However, the change in our communities is indisputable - whether it can always be labelled "progress" is debatable, but it is probably the hardest element to keep up with. The funds available to you all are continually being restricted making villages and towns increasingly challenging to maintain. Some local authorities have had to cease their direct support of Bloom groups, but others have found other ways of working alongside them for the benefit of their communities.

The concept of IYN emphasises the contribution of community above the environment and gardening - all strands remaining important but emphasising how much more can be achieved by cooperation within your own community. This concept will not be news to existing Bloom groups, but IYN allows much smaller groups to be formed when involving a whole town or village is not realistic.

At EMiB we want to support whatever suits your community best - it is currently done with our regional strands of Britain in Bloom, national IYN and our own school competition which we also help to run. Our judges and assessors each have their own areas of expertise and will be pleased to meet individuals or groups who are interested in taking part in any of them and would like some advice - please get in touch - we look forward to hearing from you.

Message From the Management Team

Our secretary Elaine is stepping down at the AGM in February, this is after 6 years of working with us.

The position of secretary will be vacant from this 26th February. Elaine will mentor/be available to guide the new person who takes on this role.

An honorarium is paid and all out of pocket expenses.

If this is something you think you can do, then please contact John our chairman on chairman@emib.org.uk or Simon on treasurer@emib.org.uk for more details.

Our E2 Urban Garden: From Derelict To Blooming



Our Urban Garden has come a long way. What was once a derelict piece of land is now a beautiful garden for our community to enjoy. We are also building a café in the garden, which will give people a relaxing place to spend time in an area that really needs it.

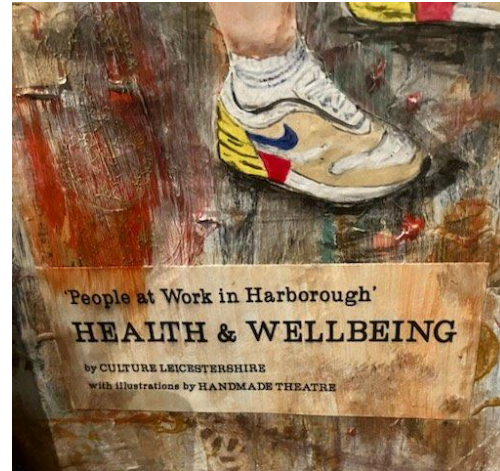
E2 is a charity dedicated to supporting young people and the wider community in Beaumont Leys, and the Urban Garden is one of the many projects we run to make a positive difference.

Thanks to funding from Severn Trent Water, we're excited to soon start creating a sensory garden. This space will be designed for everyone to enjoy, with calming and interactive features. We'd also like to thank J & S Joinery, who is working on our café, as well as The National Lottery Community Fund, Pepsico, Trelleborg, and Natural England for their incredible support. We also continue to receive valued help from East Midlands Railways.

We look forward to seeing our Urban Garden continue to grow and benefit Beaumont Leys.

By Sandra Mosnegutu, Community Engagement & Marketing Assistant

Market Harborough In Bloom Mural



An Arts Council funded project linked to the Loughborough based Ladybird Books series on work involved two artists creating a sectional painted mural bringing together the past and the present. It looked at the changing world of work. Market Harborough in Bloom volunteers were depicted in the rose garden representing unpaid work in the Health and Wellbeing section of the mural. Volunteers were invited to the unveiling of the mural which is in Harborough Museum until the new year.



GRANT SCHEME

Simon Lucas our treasurer has updated us on the 2024 Grants

In 2024 3 grants were awarded totaling £1,215.60

These projects have been successfully completed and appreciated by were to

- Broughton for a Community Compost Station match funded for £600.00
- Melton Mowbray Celebratory Plaques for 270.00
- Trusthorpe Planters for their Food and Friendship project £345.60

We understand these have been successful and appreciated by the local community.

We are delighted that the committee meeting on 13th November unanimously voted in favour of continuing the grant scheme for another year with the same criteria. The details are on our website and the applications period from 1 Jan to 30 March 25

Diana Povah from Trusthorpe tells us:

Our theme was 'Food and Friendship' and, in our top hanging baskets, we grew chilli's in one and cherry tomatoes in the other. In the main planters we had trailing plants, but they didn't come out for the judging - however, they looked lovely during August.



Trusthorpe pavilion opening with EMiB judges

Deb Hotson from Broughton tells us they have matched funded our grant and built 4 substantial compost bins for community use and judging by the photos already well used!



Diana Wood from Melton Mowbray

We were so pleased we were able to have the plaques made, and of course we will be looking to have another made up at some point for our 'Gold' award for 2024. The plaques will certainly draw more public attention to what we have achieved over the years, and hopefully bring yet more support to our campaign and to all the work carried out by East Midlands in Bloom. As above we will now be keen to add to our display of plaques with a gold and our committee agreed that we will put the remaining £18 so kindly given to us from the remaining monies towards this new plaque.



**Emma Schofield
School Co-ordinator**



Blooming Marvelous Schools!

Congratulations to all the schools that entered this year's schools 2024 competition! Some were new entrants to the schools competition this year, some had returned after a period of time away. Of those 8 I am pleased to announce 2 of them were awarded gold for their efforts, 3 silver and 2 bronze and 1 certificate of achievement - well done to them all!! All the schools who entered along with their certificate received a full report to celebrate their work and helpful guidance from the judges on ways to move forward. Thankyou to the Schools Judging Team for all their help in making the competition a success.

So, for 2024:

EMIB Best school garden for Wildlife : Bleasby Church of England Primary in Nottingham

EMIB Best school garden for fruit and vegetables: The Cambridge Park Academy Sixth Form, Grimsby

EMIB best ornamental school garden: Newton Solney Preschool , South Derbyshire

EMIB OVERALL Primary School winner: Bleasby Church of England Primary in Nottingham

EMIB OVERALL Senior School winner: The Cambridge Park sixth Form Academy in Grimsby

We hope all East Midlands in Bloom Groups will continue to encourage their local schools to get involved and put themselves forward for individual recognition and to participate in the EMIB Best School Garden competition in Summer 2025.

We know as seasoned gardeners this really is a good way to introduce young people to the great outdoors and to benefit personally from all it offers now and for their future. If we can plant the seeds of how magic gardening is and to encourage pride in their school outdoor environments, we hope it will promote a lifelong love of gardening. Remember these green fingered young gardeners are our future 'Bloomers'!!!!

**80 years on – Market
Bosworth Display Beds
sent by Chris Hooker**



2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and Bosworth in Bloom dedicated their display beds on Park Street in remembrance of the events of the 6th June that year.

At dawn, the largest seaborne invasion force in history set sail and of the 6939 vessels involved the UK contributed 892 warships and 3261 landing craft. One of those landing craft was LC85 a scaled down model of which we used as the centerpiece of one of the beds (photo. below) the other bed planted to show the flags of the main Allied forces.

The Judges remarked that “Both displays were stunning, particularly as they are located adjacent to a very busy main road.” Indeed, since they were installed in May we have had very many favourable comments from passers-by, residents and on social media.





Sutton on Sea – King Charles Tree Planting sent by Pamela

Sutton on Sea Gardening Group have had a busy summer. We planted a tree to commemorate King Charles coronation. The ceremony commenced with the Town Crier, David Summer, announcing it. Mayor Paul Russell also attended along with other local dignitaries and members of the Gardening Group. Our members spent time trying to source the right tree. The tree chosen is believed to be a favourite of King Charles and is the Sorbus Commixta Olympic Flame (also known as the Japanese Rowan and Mountain Ash), which is a deciduous tree.

We also entered the Coastal section of East Midlands in Bloom, for which we achieved Gold. This is the first year this committee has entered this, and was very much a learning curve, but we are pleased with the outcome and how much support we received from the residents and council members.

Now our winter planting has been done, and we are kicking back with a party night on 2nd November. Although this is part of our fundraising activities it is also very much a social event for us. We have been busy carving pumpkins and will be dressing up in Halloween costumes for the night. We are very proud of our achievements this year and of the commitment of so many people.



Kings Tree planting ceremony attended by Mayor and Town Cryer and Consort

Grimsby In Bloom Greening Up Programme



Grimsby in Bloom were asked by North East Lincolnshire Council to work with them on a project to Green up the main shopping street, 'Victoria Street' within the town centre. This has meant big changes for us as a group, from being 'volunteers' we have had to employ 2 part time people to undertake the work.

For the first year we have to fill, 5 very big ceramic pots, 9 lamppost baskets and 9 crows' nest lampposts (these are a designed from the fishing industry). Everything will be changed 3 times per year to ensure the area stays fresh and has the wow factor all year This will increase to moveable street planters outside the shops in the 2nd phase. A van was also needed to transport everything around, this was kindly leased to us by Great Coates Motors.

Watering equipment to reach the height of these baskets was a slight problem due their height. The solution was found by Tommy @ Pure Freedom who advised us on the best equipment for our needs and then proceeded to donate the full system to us free of charge. (there are good people around).

All the baskets for the lampposts have been purchased from one of East Midlands in Bloom's sponsors Amberol.

Thankfully, the funds for all of this has been from the Council's Greening Up Funds. As a group we were honoured to be asked to do this, but if we are honest found it a bit daunting at first having to manage such a big budget, but we have a great team and are coping with the pressure!!



RHS Britain In Bloom National Awards

It is always exciting when our nominees for the national competition accept the invitation to represent East Midlands in Bloom. This year we had 3 outstanding nominees Loughborough in the small city category who received Gold in the EMiB competition, Great Coates in the Large Village category also earning themselves a Gold, and Milford in the Village category again a Gold award. Going forward to the end of October and all 3 of our groups headed for Manchester to the awards ceremony along with 49 others from all over the country. I know how nervous it can be waiting for your results.

It is with great pride that I can tell you that all 3 groups received a Gold Award.

This is by no means an easy undertaking to achieve but they all came out smiling.

What an amazing, well-deserved accomplishment by each of the groups and the amazing volunteers that keep all the In Bloom groups going. Well done!



Great Coates in Bloom



Blooming Milford



Loughborough in Bloom

SPONSORSHIP
Peter Benham sponsorship
Co-ordinator



Sponsorship is very important to EMiB, only with the support of sponsors can we manage to run our regional competition. We are extremely fortunate that many of our sponsors who are based in the East Midlands have been loyal to us over many years, assisting us in both financial and physical ways. Each sponsor is linked to a Bloom award and many Bloom participants have probably met our sponsors at the Spring seminar and Annual Awards. Our sponsors are always happy to provide advice and assist entrants with their wealth of practical experience.

At the moment we have six sponsors ranging from suppliers of planters and containers in various designs, made from a variety of materials such as Amberol, geViews and a new sponsor joining us this year is Plantscape who also offer planted floral displays and maintenance.

We also have Taylors Bulbs offering a wide range of bulbs to enhance floral plantings and naturalised displays.

Support is also given by FCC Environmental who maintain the Parks and Green spaces in Harborough District Council. They also undertake cleansing services and refuse collection services for the Council.

The Art Department TAD have also provided us plaques which recognise the winners of many of our Discretionary and Floral Awards. The company is based in Nottingham offering a range of signage, with a design, print and installation service using different materials for both indoor and outdoor locations.

We are also very grateful to the Constable Family who provide a carriage clock for the Best Front Garden and former President Doug Stacey who supports the Young Persons Award.

We are always interested to hear from new potential sponsors and individuals, as our aim is to have each Bloom Category and Award sponsored. If you know of company or someone who may be interested, please do not hesitate to contact sponsorship@emib.org.uk so we can discuss our available sponsorship opportunities.

RHS Its Your Neighbourhood

Almost any outdoor space being looked after by the local community can qualify for RHS It's your Neighbourhood. Communities enter their projects regionally and, in our region, EMiB will arrange for an assessor to visit and give feedback. This could be a street of residents who keep their area tidy, community centres, friends of parks and many other groups. They all have their community involvement, the environment, and horticulture at the fore front of the activities they undertake.

There were 104 entries in East Midlands this year.

The IYN assessors who visit these groups award the groups a level starting at 1 and the highest is 5. If there is a group that the assessor feels has achieved a high standard for quite a few years, mainly level 5, then they can put them forward for a EMiB Most Inspiring Award. The assessors voted on the project most worthy. The Most Inspiring Award is presented with a certificate, report and plaque.

Most Inspiring Award 2024

This year this was awarded to:

THYME, Therapeutic Horticulture for You, Me and Everyone in Loughborough.

THYME have several, mostly adjoining allotment plots which they use as a hub. It is part of the John Storer Association. Their clients range from council referrals, victims of stroke and dementia, young adults with autism and learning difficulties and a group from the RNIB. There are areas on site for quiet times and relaxation, an orchard, and a wide variety of growing areas.





[friendsofeastmidlandsinbloom](#)

We have set up a new face book page to keep you up to date with all things bloom within East Midlands. If you have an article that is relevant to the In bloom campaigns, then please let us know so we can share with others within the region.

Our website link East Midlands in Bloom is below. Everything you will need to know about EMiB is on there.

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

If there any other information required, then please email the secretary at secretary@emib.org.uk

Dates For Your Diary



AGM/Seminar on Wednesday 26th February 2025 Venue TBC at 2pm

Zoom Committee Meeting Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 7pm

2nd June to 13th June

School judging period

30th June to 11th July

Bloom Judging Period

1st July to 30 Aug

IYN Assessing Period

Wednesday 24th September

Awards Presentation Venue TBC start at 2pm

Zoom Committee Meeting Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7pm