

Congratulations to everyone entering the 2010 East Midlands in Bloom Competition!

East Midlands in Bloom is the regional competition of 'Britain in Bloom' and has been running for approximately 35 years. The campaign focuses on the three RHS core pillars of horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. EMiB have a dedicated team of committee members and judges who give up their time voluntarily to assist with 'In Bloom' events. All are highly experienced in horticulture and are available for a free advisory visit which can be arranged by contacting us.

East Midlands in Bloom will have a Seminar on 16th February 2011 which will be held at the Strutts Centre, Belper Derbyshire to which everyone is welcome to attend. More details will be available on our website: www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk and through our annual mailshot which will be sent out later in the year. Please get in touch if you wish to be added to our mailing list.

The Committee and Judges thank you for making superb efforts to the 'In Bloom' Campaign this year and wish you all the best in 2011.

CRITERIA

SECTION A Horticultural Achievement 50% of total marks

SECTION B Environmental Responsibility 25% of total marks

SECTION C Community Participation 25% of total marks

CATEGORY AWARDS

There are five grades of award:-

1. Gold – marks 85% & above (170- 200 points) Outstanding

This is awarded to exceptional achievers who have demonstrated a consistently high standard in all areas of the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom

2. Silver Gilt - 75-84% (150-169 points) Very Good

This is awarded to an entrant who has met the judging criteria and objectives with a very high standard throughout, and has in one or more areas been exceptionally thorough. This award has the potential to achieve a Gold Award in the future.

3. Silver – 60-74% (120-149 points) Good

This award is for an above average entry, and has met most of the judging criteria and objectives for Britain in Bloom and has displayed the potential to progress to Silver Gilt Award

4. Bronze – 50-59% (100 – 119 points) Average

This is a commendable entry meeting the sustainable standards required, and has the potential to progress to Silver Award.

5. Certificate of Achievement – 0-49% (0-99 points) Fair

This is a fair entry aiming to meet the sustainable standards required, and has the potential to progress to Bronze Award.

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SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000

General Comments

This category covers a range of localities; some with more of a village feel to them others more like a market town; but what they all have in common is an enthusiasm for their town and the 'bloom' competition. Many groups are also relatively new, have reorganised or are learning to stand alone away from the local council. All showed a great potential which can easily lead to greater things in the 'bloom' competition, which we hope equally means greater things for their town.

Judges – Jo Tarrant, Dave Bramwell, Simon Lucas and Martin Hardy

LONG SUTTON Silver Gilt and Category Winner - 152 points

Judged on 7th July; Judges Dave Bramwell and Martin Hardy

*** Judges Award: For the community spirit and well maintained communal area at Cowper's Gate**

We were met by the Bloom Group at the Butterfly and Wildlife Park and were inspired by their enthusiasm and dedication to improving the community for residents and visitors alike. The tour took in all the sites of this small town and preparations were underway for the National entry. The highlight of the tour was seeing all the areas that had been transformed by the team, into well maintained, communal spaces.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The redevelopment of all the previously derelict spaces, including London Road, Annie's Patch and Seagate Terrace
- The communal area of Cowper's Gate maintained by local residents
- The quantity, quality and co-ordinated floral displays around the town
- The inspiring work by Jack Tyrell in creating the new school gardens at Silverwood Garden Centre

SECTION B

- The new eco site at Unity Gardens and the developing allotments
- The use of art to disguise the derelict buildings
- The re-use of all products to minimise the impact on the environment at Seagate Terrace
- The development works and interpretation panel at Common Pit

SECTION C

- The work of the "in Bloom" group in providing the displays, promoting the Bloom campaign and encouraging the local community to take pride in the area
- The funding and facilities developed by the "In Bloom" group
- The use of hand painted signs on all the areas maintained and developed by the group
- The use of local businesses to promote the Bloom campaign and thanking all involved
- The use of the local media to promote the work of the group and the delivery of the local "Long Sutton in Bloom" magazine to all residents

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consider reducing the number of sites visited on the tour and show the best examples i.e. the few but gems approach
- Ensure that all areas are well maintained and weed free
- Consider developing additional permanent planting / floral displays within the parks, open spaces and cemetery grounds

SECTION B

- Work closely with the local authority to ensure coordination of effort, particular attention to verge maintenance and street sweeping
- Continue to develop Common Pit, improve accessibility and consider a longer term management plan

- Develop initiatives with local groups to further enhance street furniture

SECTION C

- Further develop the involvement of young people in designing the new schemes as there seems to be a real desire to be involved
- Consider inviting the young people of the town onto the tour, to allow them to tell the stories of how they are involved and how they would like to see the town develop
- Consider use of the residents of the Eco-site when promoting ideas with regard to environmental protection and management, particularly with the Schools or at local events

A=81 B=34 C=37 TOTAL 152

BAKEWELL Silver Award - 141 points

Judged on 16th July; Judges Dave Bramwell and Simon Lucas

♥ GreenSpace East Midlands Award for Horticultural Excellence within Gardens – Bath Gardens, Bakewell

*** Judges Award: – Meaden Bridge reserve for a 12 year project to provide and maintain a wildlife haven within the town**

The town council have encouraged and are supporting the formation of Bakewell in Bloom, the entry is therefore in some ways new but none the less we were taken on a comprehensive tour with many highlights, especially the school children's enthusiastic welcome the moment we started judging. We wish this new group well and are sure they will grow in all ways over the coming years.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The glorious displays on many pubs and shops in the town.
- The range and quality of floral displays at Bath Gardens.
- Improvements to the Riverside Sensory garden by the U3A group plus the information notices.
- The transformation of a hillside into thriving allotments with shared plots.

SECTION B

- Fruition of Meaden Bridge Reserve.
- The work to achieve adoption and opening up of the Sheep Wash.
- Use of local sustainable materials on the Scot's Garden all weather path created by volunteers.

SECTION C

- Involvement of children from Bakewell Infant School in creating a design for the Growing Display
- Coordinating and involving several Local Authorities, Haddon Estate and Park Authority all of who have an interest and say in actions that can take place.
- Range and enthusiasm of the various groups involved with Bakewell in Bloom

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Add additional planting eg bulbs to the Recreation Ground and consider differential mowing regime to create wildflower areas.
- Consider adding low stone planter floral displays to the old 'lantern' on the main road into town.
- Introduce a front garden or best container competition, with categories for children.

SECTION B

- Try and find ways to gain greater, but controlled, public access to and information about the Meaden Bridge reserve.

SECTION C

- Consider more informative and less negative information boards on riverside birds and their feeding, or not!

- Use the judging guidelines (available on EmiB web site) to help plan the judge's visit, a diary or scrapbook and copy of the itinerary all help to evidence your achievements.

A=75 B=33 C=33 TOTAL 141

IBSTOCK: Silver Award - 140 points

Judged on 6th July; Judges Dave Bramwell and Simon Lucas

***Judges Award: For the inspirational work of Battram Community Group in developing pride in the local area**

Following on from their success last year, Ibstock did not disappoint. The Town was full of vibrant colours and the enthusiasm of the group was plain to see. We were shown round a variety of sites with some of the highlights being the well maintained grounds at Ibstock Cemetery and seeing the new developments initiated by the Battram Community Group

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The well maintained allotment plots around the town
- The well presented grounds of Ibstock Cemetery
- The quality and quantity of annual bedding schemes and hanging baskets in key areas of the Town
- The newly developed permanent planting around the Town
- Ivor and Jean Gimsons residential gardens

SECTION B

- The creation of the wild flower meadow at Spring Road
- The excellent interpretation of the local heritage at the start of the visit
- The street scene was well presented around the Town

SECTION C

- The poster campaign developed with the local children
- The use of the media in promoting the Bloom campaign
- The funding provided by local sponsors and the Parish Council to provide the wonderful bedding displays around the town

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Continue development of sustainable planting and consider use of mixed planting schemes on verges
- Develop further links with local schools and encourage local children to design a floral feature within the town
- Continue to work with local businesses and expand sponsorship scheme to develop displays
- Encourage nearest neighbours to maintain floral displays around the town

SECTION B

- Continue to develop the wild flower meadow at Spring Road and undertake regular ecology surveys
- Develop interpretation signs for Spring Road with the local schools
- Consider developing a Friends Group to help maintain Battram Turn North Nature Reserve
- Consider the inclusion of the Sence Valley on the tour

SECTION C

- Encourage the "In Bloom" group to work with the Parish Council when designing ongoing bedding schemes or developing new sites
- Further develop the Garden Competition and create new categories such as: "Most unusual planter"
- Continue to develop / support community groups such as Battram Community Group
- Develop an "In Bloom" Website to promote all the local bloom initiatives

A=74 B=35 C=31 TOTAL 140

DEEPING ST JAMES VILLAGE: Silver Medal Award – 139 points

Judged on 8th July; Judges Simon Lucas & Jo Tarrant

*** Judges Award: For the quality and originality of the 91 entries into Deeping St James' unusual container competition**

A well constructed entry from first time Bloomers, Deeping St James, a geographically difficult, rural "Town". The Bloom committee have promoted the Bloom throughout the town and already had regional and national media interest for their innovative projects.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The number, quality and diversity of businesses in the unusual container competition.
- Manor Court re-landscaping with the help of the Catholic Church maintenance team.
- United Charities Riverside Park, new landscaping and canoe planting.
- Sensory garden at the Allotment site.

SECTION B

- Deeping St James, school garden, nature pond and story chair were good examples of school gardening.
- Deepings Lake nature reserve managed by the Wildlife trust is an exceptional local asset, good to meet reserve warden.
- The good working partnership with Mr Prentice at the Recycling centre, and his innovative sofa display!
- Photographic clubs window display at the newsagents.

SECTION C

- The level of funding through the Town Council, United Charities, and sponsorship.
- Publicity of the DSJ in Bloom in local and national press, TV and local events and talks and the photo book portfolio.
- The impact DSJ in Bloom has had on the residents of the town in a short space of time.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Where possible and appropriate try to encourage additional planting of seasonal and perennial flower beds across the town.
- More horse tough planters as funds allow. Consider hay basket planters to add extra impact.
- Decide if appropriate to add floral displays to the Village Cross.
- Identify any land that could be used as a public open space and community gardens.

SECTION B

- Bark mulch shrub beds at Manor Court. Consider doing winter bulb planting on the site with local volunteers and school children.
- Consider the judging route and entrances to premises; follow the judging criteria to ensure the judges see examples of each marking section.
- Locate water collection points e.g. off church hall roof that can be used for watering communal planting areas.

SECTION C

- Consider a 5 year DSJ in Bloom sustainable development plan for the Town, building on the successes so far.
- Continue to undertake the riverbank bulb planting this winter with volunteer helpers.
- Consider doing a multimedia presentation to highlight TV and Radio coverage of DSJ in Bloom.

A=67 B=34 C=38 TOTAL 139

GROBY: Silver Award - 136 points

Judged on 6th July; Judges Dave Bramwell, Simon Lucas and Jo Tarrant

*** Judges Award: For Chapel Hill Walk and the residents' efforts in maintaining this very attractive perennial border**

Groby in Bloom is a lovely example of where, without "The Bloom" the Town would lack floral displays and be a much less colourful place. The Bloom group draws together many community groups with the common aims of environmentally improving the town for the benefit of all.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The judges were very impressed by the number of Bloom volunteers who took direct responsibility for their own roadside plantings, which were all designed, planted and maintained throughout the year by the volunteers. Each display was colourful and well maintained.
- The "Welcome to Groby" sign/bed and the colourful flower display including good use of perennials and shrubs at the rear was very welcoming.
- The judges particularly liked the long mixed border along Chapel Hill walk, and compliment the residents on their coordinated approach in maintaining this area.
- The residential gardens throughout Groby were colourful and well kept.

SECTION B

- Martin Shaw School in their innovative bottle recycling scheme creating a practical and useful school green house, it would have been nice to see more of the grounds including their wildlife areas.
- The judges loved the "carbon footprints" produced by the children of Mes Enfants and how they were used in the in the planters. It was good to see details of the forthcoming heritage interpretation board.
- "Pop" bottle irrigation systems by the Guides in the Church beds

SECTION C

- The Bloom group are very good in getting sponsorship from local businesses; try to develop this with other fundraising activities.
- Open gardens scheme in the town which raised funds for the church wall repairs.
- The Groby in Bloom pottery display on Sacheverell Roundabout.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- The Judges request they are shown more parks and any perennial planting within the parks.
- It is suggested that to cut down on cost of plants, summer watering and to increase the impact of the beds, a backdrop of perennial plants be used to give height and additional year round colour and interest.
- Consider working with the schools, to design schemes for the bedding displays.

SECTION B

- It is suggested that closer links with the local authority are developed to help keep the litter, weeds and graffiti to a minimum.
- The judges thought it would be useful to have an interpretation panel to explain the Time Team excavations and a general history of the village.
- Work on a programme of refurbishment of street furniture and bins.

SECTION C

- Whilst good evidence was provided in the portfolio of the flower beds and how they were planted in the winter, more evidence is needed of other year round activities such as bulb/ tree planting and litter picks, maybe by providing a diary of events.
- Approach the County Council regarding maintenance of Sacheverell Roundabout, either offer to do the full maintenance in return for yearly financial support or ensure they carry out regular maintenance.
- Work more closely with the Gardening group to broaden the Bloom group's activities and awareness within Groby.

A=68 B=30 C=34 TOTAL 132

CRESWELL: Silver Award – 126 points

Judged on 9th July; Dave Bramwell and Jo Tarrant

★ **Judges Award: For the sourcing and securing of external funding to enable the development of the town**

This former pit village has been invigorated through the dedication of a very small Bloom group; colourful baskets and planting displays brighten up most of the towns focal points. In addition there has been recent impressive investment in sports pitch provision throughout the town.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The impressive quality of the allotments, in particular the quality of “Jims” extensive plots.
- The landmark school for the good work with adults with learning difficulties.
- Green Flag for the Model village open space.

SECTION B

- Hazelmere Farm for its successes in nature conservation.
- The community task force in the future construction of wild life pond at the primary school.
- The Creswell Crag site and the visitor centre.

SECTION C

- The funding and development of the towns sports pitches and development of sports clubs

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- More attention needs to be paid to the quality of maintenance of the seasonal bedding to control annual weeds.
- Consider finding funding for the re-landscaping of the war memorial and enlist the help of volunteers/ community payback team to plant up and maintain the site.
- Try to expand the categories and the number of entrants in the garden competition.

SECTION B

- Encourage student visits to Hazelmere Farm.
- Try to avoid grot spots on the judging tour and pay particular attention to graffiti.
- Add some interpretation to the new town monument, to explain its meaning to visitors to Creswell

SECTION C

- The funding and development of the towns sports pitches and development of sports clubs

A=65 B=32 C=29 TOTAL 126

MARKET DEEPING: Silver Award - 120 points

Judged on 6th July; Judges Simon Lucas and Jo Tarrant

★ **Judges Award: For the volunteer gardeners at the Community Centre**

This is a historic market town with beautiful buildings and an enchanting river running through the heart of this community. The town council provide some lovely basket and container displays in the old market place and are working hard to raise the profile of Bloom and engage with volunteer helpers.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The baskets and tubs provided by the Town Council are large, colourful and well maintained.
- Seafare Fish and Chip shop for their extensive floral displays.
- The perennial planting and maintenance of the Granary.
- The quality of maintenance at the community garden.

SECTION B

- The bat surveys and conservation at the Community garden.

- The wildflower verges alongside the BMX course on Glebe field retain and manage sensitively with conservation in mind.
- The town information signs along the river were informative and visually appealing.

SECTION C

- The Towns schools for their efforts in conservation education, vegetable gardening and outdoor learning.
- For the support by Swinesmeadow Nursery in the maintenance and funding of the Market place roundabout.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consider undertaking perennial planting/ soft landscaping works to the Riverside gardens.
- Prioritise the sourcing of available allotment land for the residents of Market Deeping.
- Consider the use of tubs on Market place roundabout to alleviate the problems of poor soil and drought

SECTION B

- Consider differential mowing regimes under the trees on the open spaces to promote wildlife diversity
- Undertake consultation over opening up views/access to the riverside in the Welland Gardens, consider if current maintenance regime is achieving its conservation goals.
- Continue to maintain the clearance works undertaken by St Guthlac's school in Rectory Paddock and plant appropriate wildflower species. Undertake feasibility study for Green Burials.

SECTION C

- Document in the portfolio more examples of year round community projects and press coverage.
- Look for areas of extra funding or in kind donations to carry out improvement works to John Eve Field and other open spaces following the production of site management plans..
- Consider moving the Bloom group out from the Town Council "umbrella" if this would encourage greater local involvement in the group.

A=63 B=32 C=25 TOTAL 120

UPPINGHAM Silver Award - 120 points

Judged on 14th July; Judges Jo Tarrant, Dave Bramwell

*** Judges Award: The floral displays of splashes of hot red geraniums across the town.**

This picturesque Market Town built around the famous Uppingham School, has a natural beauty. The floral displays were splashes of hot red geraniums across this diverse walking tour of the town.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The residential and business gardens across the town.
- The vegetable garden, orchard and outdoor classroom at Leighfields School Garden
- The quality and design of the planters and plants outside many of the shops in the town eg Goldmark Gallery and Gilberts.

SECTION B

- The clean and tidy roads and pavements across most of the town.
- The Hippo Trail outside Goldmarks Gallery.
- The diversity of the grass sward within the cemetery.

SECTION C

- The close working relationship and enthusiasm of the Bloom and Uppingham school Partnership.
- The number of volunteers and working party dates across the year.
- The fundraising activities undertaken by the Bloom volunteers.

- The scouts taking on the bed outside the fire station.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- The baskets and seasonal planting areas of Uppingham School and some of the shop areas required extensive weeding.
- Bloom baskets - consider larger units for greater impact across the town.
- Consider tendering for Bloom basket plant material to get best value, taking into account plant costs verses impact; e.g. Geraniums are very expensive per plant compared to other species.
- Consider undertaking a management plan for Todds Piece and applying for funding for hard and soft landscaping works and new street furniture.

SECTION B

- Consider planting wildlife corridors on open spaces such as Todds Piece and Uppingham school cricket outfield.
- A management plan is suggested for Uppingham arboretum. Consider what is an appropriate and realistic frequency of grass cutting on the site, undertake wildflower and appropriate native bulb plantings with the school children and undertake risk assessments to allow school children to help with future tree plantings. Create a tree trail leaflet.
- Uppingham "Nature area" create a partnership with BTCV, Groundwork trust or Wildlife trust to undertake conservation work on the site. Allow public access and install interpretation panels at entrance.
- Consider undertaking Bloom working parties to spruce up street furniture across the town.

SECTION C

- Consider having a Bloom strategy for the next five years, working with the "Outdoor" committee to achieve common goals.
- Take into the judging criteria on the judging route and consider using transport to maximise the number of Bloom projects the judges can see on the tour and arrange to meet Bloom volunteers along the route.
- Expand the Uppingham in Bloom garden competition; include new categories such as children garden, unusual container and business frontages.

A=60 B=29 C=31 TOTAL 120

BLIDWORTH: Bronze Award – 111 points

Judged on 9th July; Judges Dave Bramwell and Jo Tarrant

★ Judges Award: For the colourful displays and excellent maintenance of the war memorial, by one 90 year old volunteer

Blidworth in Bloom has been embraced by the new Chair of the Parish council, whose vision for future projects and town improvements can only take Blidworth from strength to strength. The volunteers and town council staff work hard to provide colour and interest from the floral displays and the new shield banners will enhance and promote the Bloom throughout the year.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The new flower towers have good impact and were planted well.
- The beds and displays at the front of the Community Leisure centre.
- The planting and maintenance at the war memorial and well site

SECTION B

- The rocking cradle was a good example of art in the landscape and local heritage combined with floral displays.
- The 12 new shields depict village life and show a pride in Blidworth and Bloom campaign.

SECTION C

- The firemen for fundraising and planting and maintaining the baskets and beds at the front of the Fire Station.

- The plans to create an inclusive new allotment site, for use by disabled gardens, schools and single parents.
- The floral displays and community feel at the sheltered scheme in Marklew Close.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consider increasing the volume of bedding around the Rocking Cradle.
- Find funding for the supply of the hanging baskets on empty basket columns ensuring security is taken into account.
- Expand on the Blidworth in Bloom Garden competition; try to get businesses to sponsor category winners.

SECTION B

- Consider the judging route in more detail, following the judging categories and snag route to avoid grot spots.
- Try to get volunteers to undertake regular litter picks especially prior to judging.
- Include a wildlife or conservation site on the tour and try to arrange volunteers or professional to meet the judges on the tour.

SECTION C

- Talk to the businesses in the village about match funding or sponsoring projects, e.g. Tesco funding the planting up of the shrub bed by their car park.
- Try to engage the school children in planting projects around the year, e.g. working with the fire station staff to build positive relations.
- Try to run a community project with the Welfare Centre to tidy up the roadside frontage.
- Find out what's happening at the local schools and where appropriate add them to judging route.
- Undertake consultation with the local children before spending Section 106 money on play equipment.

A=57 B=27 C=27 TOTAL 111

CROWLAND: Bronze Medal Award - 109 points

Judged on 15th July; Judges Jo Tarrant and Simon Lucas

*** Judges Award: Crowland Wildlife Group for their work on the wildlife pond and their support of South View Primary School Gardening club**

The tour took in the historic Abbey, Trinity Bridge and town centre plus the allotments and the Wildlife pond. Passing by a variety of floral displays we also met with the gardening club of South View Primary School, who once they had showed off their work got fed up with the judges so went weeding instead! At all stops we were met by enthusiastic volunteers who clearly take a great pride in the town.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The council's scheme provided good value hanging baskets to town centre shops and houses which were well taken up.
- The hanging baskets and border at the Old Copper Kettle
- The mixed border at the Abbey and the Millennium Garden is an effective and appropriate use of otherwise derelict land.

SECTION B

- Wild life pond created from on old swimming pool maintained by the Crowland Wildlife group, which, together with the fishing lake, creates an attractive area for residents to visit.
- The allotments were largely well maintained and dividing large plots creates more manageable areas and has reduced the waiting list.
- The programme of repainting finger posts and refurbishing seats

SECTION C

- The judges appreciated the opportunity to meet so many people involved in the campaign.
- The many planters supplied and maintained by the Bloom volunteers.

- There was evidence of good publicity including a large poster in empty shop windows, well supported by Classic Printers.
- The enthusiastic Garden Club at South View Primary School. We hope that if the car park is extended the two raised beds that are lost can be replaced by even more in the area already identified.
- Good support by many businesses.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consider a management plan for Snowden Field, this could lead to a Green Flag Award and have aims for greater development of the area such as increased wildflower areas, differential mowing, bulb planting etc.
- Encourage the Health Centre to become involved with increased planting of shrub or herbaceous beds, especially as this is also the car park to Snowden Field
- Look into purchasing slightly larger hanging baskets with a built in water reservoir for the basket columns to allow a greater range of planting whilst reducing the watering requirements.

SECTION B

- Consider water collection from the Council storage shed roofs for use on the allotments.
- Add painting of baskets columns and artwork by the library to the refurbishment list.
- Try and gain better greater support from the district council to address the problem of weeds growing in kerb edges especially in areas away from the main town centre.

SECTION C

- Try and gain greater involvement with groups such as the Guides/Scouts in activities such as bulb planting, perhaps in Snowden Field near their Headquarters?
- Make better use of an otherwise excellent portfolio by adding a diary page showing year round activities and create a scrapbook to better show off the publicity gained.
- Continue with plans for willow planting alongside West Bank.

A=44 B=31 C=34 TOTAL 109

SUTTON BRIDGE: Bronze Medal Award– 108 points

Judged on 7th July; Judges Dave Bramwell and Martin Hardy

★ Judges Award: The inspirational work of the “Big Bloomers” in developing pride in the local area

Sutton Bridge was a new entry into the competition this year and the “Big Bloomers” welcomed us to the town. We were shown around the key points of the town ending with the opening of the swing bridge. The group had lots of great ideas and their enthusiasm was contagious.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The newly developed bed in memory of Pat
- The well maintained grass verges were the best we had seen
- The well maintained grounds of Westmere CP School
- The planting schemes around the gateway signs and memorial areas of the town

SECTION B

- The RAF memorial and the Jubilee Plinth had been revamped and replanted
- The use of art to disguise empty shops, a particular highlight was the last panel created by all the children at Westmere School
- The local authority and Big Bloomers had worked well together to ensure a well presented street scene

SECTION C

- The inspirational work of the Big Bloomers is a credit to all involved
- The Gardening Club at Westmere CP School and the development / education work with the young people of the town

- The funding / sponsorship gained by the group in a short period of time and the free use of compost from Scott's Miracle Grow
- Use of the media to promote the Bloom campaign
- **Areas suggested for future development:**

SECTION A

- Encourage local businesses to either sponsor or supply bedding displays around the town, particularly hanging baskets and planters
- Liaise with the local authority with regard to developing the planted areas along the road calming scheme
- Develop the Memorial Park with additional permanent planting and bedding displays
- Develop an inspirational plan for the creation of new planting schemes on the main roundabout in to the town

SECTION B

- Consider interpretation panels at Tom's Wood and the East Bank
- Work with local community to develop a graffiti policy, develop links with local authority to gain "free" Graffiti Kits
- Encourage nearest neighbours to maintain street furniture, or promote adopt a bin or street sign campaigns

SECTION C

- Continue to develop the community spirit, more of the same, would be the message to the group
- Increase events in the local area and raise the groups profile
- Encourage sponsorship or external funding to provide growing facilities for the group, for either allotments, poly tunnels or sponsored glass house space

A=52 B=28 C=28

TOTAL 108

TOWN

Electoral population 6,001-12,000

General Comments

Four diverse entries were judged this year and they were spread right across our East Midlands region. Immingham was in the competition for first time and has really hit the ground running! Bourne showed a marked improvement over previous years with other entries consolidating their positions. Very well done to all entrants for their excellent contributions which have no doubt enhanced sustainability and improved community life.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Martin Latimer

BOURNE Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner - 162 points

Judged on 13th July

***Judges Award: Robert Manning College Gardening Club for the attractive and innovative planting of the floral boat**

Bourne is an attractive market town in South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. Yet again our tour was well organised by Nelly, Ivan and other members of the 'in Bloom' group. We visited the historic town centre, prize winning cemetery, tidy and well maintained allotments, local housing areas and Bourne Woods.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- Floral displays in Memorial Gardens, baskets, floral towers, troughs, tubs & the planted boat were very good.
- Landscaping in the Roman Bank Industrial Estate was also very good.
- The residential gardens located in Elsea Park were extremely well designed and planted.
- Very good landscaping and composting scheme in Bourne Cemetery.

SECTION B

- Management at Bourne Woods & the supporting 'Friends' Group were very impressive.
- Black & Gold Street furniture was very good and complimented the already attractive street scene.
- The general street scene was impeccable and a credit to the town.
- Very good recycling 'Stats'.

SECTION C

- Excellent Portfolio
- Persistent 'Press' coverage promoting competition & Bourne in Bloom.
- Good schools and community involvement evidenced throughout the tour.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Encourage more retailers / businesses (main street) to contribute florally to your entry.
- Try to include a visit to St Peter's & St Paul's church grounds in the tour.
- Good allotments at South Fed Road but would benefit from improved signage at the entrance.

SECTION B

- Areas for Improvement:
- Consider interpretation boards at Elsea Meadows and other relevant locations.
- Develop Bourne's Heritage more – e.g. Raymond Mayes & the ERA history.

SECTION C

- Pursue more sponsorship / business involvement, particularly their floral contribution.
- Develop the identified future projects that were discussed during the tour.

A=82 B=39 C=41

TOTAL 162

MATLOCK Silver Award - 145 points

Judged on 16th July

***Judges Award: Kiln Park Community Orchard for the innovative and productive project in association with Transition Matlock**

Matlock is a pleasant Spa town located deep in the Derbyshire Dales. The keen 'Bloom' Committee welcomed the judges on the day at the Town Council Offices. After studying the portfolio the tour started with a walk around the town centre and Hall Leys Park and culminating at Kiln Park Community Orchard facilitated by Transition Matlock. Despite the town centre improvement works that were in progress, good efforts were being made to beautify the town.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- Hall Leys Park & Sunken Garden displays were excellent.
- Good range of baskets & tubs around the town were on display.
- Sainsbury permanent landscaping and the nearby roundabout very good.
- Good planting at Town Gateways gave a good impression.

SECTION B

- Transition Matlock / Kiln Park Community Orchard is an exciting initiative.
- Street scene, generally free of litter & weeds.
- Following Town Centre redevelopment, street furniture is of a high standard.

SECTION C

- Good information on voluntary contributions to the 'in bloom' entry.
- The 'bloom' group working well with community and local businesses.
- Good to see projects planned for the future.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Try to include church grounds / school during a future tour.
- Show judges more residential gardens.
- Continue to engage with retail shops / businesses to provide floral support eg. Golf course frontage, The Boathouse pub, outside the Station entrance.

SECTION B

- Complete Town Centre Improvement scheme + plantings etc.
- Continue good work on recycling + future campaign evidence and statistics.
- Try to include a wildflower area on a future tour.

SECTION C

- Get greater support from press or take your own photos of judge's visit to send to press.
- To increase promotion 'publicity', display In Bloom banner outside Imperial Rooms.
- Judges should have the opportunity to meet more volunteers / business support, community during the tour.
- Try to improve Portfolio by interspersing text with pictures.

A=81 B=34 C=30 TOTAL 145

IMMINGHAM Silver Award - 140 points

Judged on 13th July

*** Judges Award: The residents of Mullway for the beautifully maintained street scene and individual gardens**

Immingham has great prospects for improvement through the 'In Bloom' campaign. Formerly a heavy industrial area forged around a great community spirit. This is Immingham's first venture into the 'Bloom' competition and has made a very positive start through good partnership working and commitment of its residents.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- Colourful Civic Centre and splendid Pelham Rd floral displays.
- Excellent community participation by all local residents at Mullway.
- Police garden located on Pelham Rd was very good.
- The innovative Sun Flower seeds initiative was personalised to the Immingham campaign.

SECTION B

- Good educational and community work at Homestead Park.
- Street scene / furniture good.
- Decorative Art work and youth painted mural were very good.
- Recycling programmes / promotion very good.
- Hard landscaping and planting at War Memorial / Trinity Church good.

SECTION C

- Good Sponsorship and a good adopt a bed scheme in operation.
- Judges made welcome, presentations, DVD / In Bloom banner and portfolio very good.
- Excellent press cover during the tour from Grimsby Telegraph along with the on-line news report the following day.
- Various gardens developed by the children at Coombe Brigg School were very good.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Try to encourage more involvement from retailers / businesses along Pelham Rd e.g. The Winners Chip Shop.
- Support the new Town Gateways signs with floral displays.
- Consider more verge side & open space tree planting. e.g. Mullway
- Try to include an Allotment site during the tour.

SECTION B

- Develop more on Immingham's Heritage. e.g. Pilgrim Fathers & Docklands
- Consider introducing a range of Interpretation Boards e.g. Heritage, Wildlife at various sites.

SECTION C

- Consider introducing Interpretation Boards for the gardens at Coombe Brigg School.
- Provide more evidence of all year round events and ideas of future projects.
- Provide more evidence of 'Press' support within the portfolio.
- Important to keep the tour within the allocated time slot

A=74 B=34 C=32 TOTAL 140

KEYWORTH VILLAGE Silver Award - 121 points

Judged on 8th July

*** Judges Award: Keyworth Primary School for the Dragon Wildlife Garden utilising rain water harvesting**

Keyworth is a pleasant commuter village located in countryside to the south east of Nottingham. The judges met David Roos and other bloom colleagues at the Parish Offices where David gave an overview of the Town's entry. The tour included a pleasant visit to the British Geological Society's grounds (Keyworth's main employer) providing a good area for wildlife and recreational opportunities.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- Very high maintenance standards achieved at the Keyworth Bowling Club.
- Attractive Village centre Barrier and Hanging Baskets.
- Grass verges well maintained and tidy.

SECTION B

- Keyworth Primary School's excellent Wildflower Dragon and water harvesting scheme for pond.

- High level of recycling - 51%.
- Clean Street scene and attractive Street Furniture.
- The Allotment's Composting Toilet was an interesting and successful initiative

SECTION C

- Very good Village Interpretation Boards initiative including the one about to be erected.
- Good school and community involvement.
- Innovative 'Abundance' Project to distribute excess produce within the village.
- Novel use of portfolio created by I-work.com also good use of Rushcliffe Council web-site.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Try to include the Town's main church grounds on a future tour.
- Encourage more pubs and retail shops to participate.
- Try to include and promote residential areas as part of the tour.
- Birch tree appears to be 'dying back' outside the Nat West Bank would benefit with replacing.

SECTION B

- Encourage Town centre church to promote wildflower area within their grounds to possibly include in a future tour.
- Try to develop more of the Heritage side of the Keyworth entry.
- The Allotments would benefit from a name board that would promote them.

SECTION C

- Try to gain involvement of the Press / media.
- Increase evidence of promoting the 'In Bloom' competition / campaign.
- Instigate planned future projects i.e. The 2 Lakes and the new sitting area.

A=56 B=30 C=35

TOTAL 121

LARGE TOWN

Electoral population 12,001-35,000

General Comments

This year the judges saw ten large towns across the East Midlands. The tour started in glorious sunshine in Gainsborough and finished in a showery Ilkeston. They saw a mix of new experienced entrants and were able to see how over time the Bloom Objectives benefit our towns.

The Judges were impressed with all the entries and the work that their town's communities are putting in to achieve these results. Despite the hot weather conditions all the towns were looking colourful and they were particularly impressed by their cleanliness.

It was good to have Staveley entering for the first time and we look forward to visiting again in the future. Staveley had the most unusual mode of transport in the category - a 57 year old army jeep!

Judges – Chris Beal and Richard Tomlinson

BELPER: Gold Award and category winner – 175 points

Judged on 7th July

*** Judges Award: For the Belper Scout Group working to improve the environment for the Bloom objectives**

The judges met the Belper in Bloom committee at St John's Chapel, the oldest building in the town. They proceeded to the Market Place where their presence was announced by the traditional town crier. Belper has some notable attractive areas, including the wildflower meadow so close to the town centre. The colourful array of hanging baskets and beds planted with the patriotic colours of red, white and blue along with the recently restored Belper River Gardens were a treat to see

Well done, Belper!

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The excellent quality and design of the colourful floral displays throughout the town.
- The judges were impressed by the "hands on" gardening expertise by the elderly residents of Meadow Court.
- It was pleasing to see the number and variety of commercial premises that had attractive floral displays.

SECTION B

- The wildflower meadow at the Deer park being freely accessible with footpaths meandering through it was a lovely experience so close to the town centre.
- The judges were very impressed by the cleanliness of the streets and noted the involvement of the Scouts doing a litter pick prior to judging.

SECTION C

- The judges were impressed by the way the Bloom continues to evolve in Belper. You now have an established Bloom Committee that must bode well for the future.
- It was clear that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the Bloom covering a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals.
- Your communication with all households and businesses clearly reaped rewards.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consideration should be given to widening the boundaries of the "town centre" to include a greater number of streets within the Bloom initiative.

SECTION B

- We suggest a small interpretation panel be provided in the wildlife border in The Coppice car park.

- Belper has much to commend it for its heritage with elements already incorporated within the Town's image. We suggest you could build further on your historical reputation as a theme for a future year.

SECTION C

- If the boundaries of the "Town Centre" can be widened sponsorship should increase enabling you to further enhance the attractiveness of the town.

A=89 B=44 C=42 TOTAL 175

MARKET HARBOROUGH Silver Gilt Award - 167points

Judged on 9th July

*** Judges Award: For the District Council's recycling schemes and results**

The judging tour started with a viewing of the floral baskets and topiary swans at the Three Swans Hotel. Along the judging route there were some delightful floral displays, the church yard at St Nicholas Church Little Bowden was particularly impressive. Welland Park with its newly refurbished rose garden and colourful displays was a joy to see.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- Judges were impressed with the maintenance of St Nicholas church Little Bowden, with the partnership working of the Borough Council and congregation.
- The quality of public open space throughout the town is commendable.

SECTION B

- Judges were very impressed with Harboroughs recycling achievements particularly the new kerbside collection of food waste.
- The habitat created along the riverside at the new apartments opposite the railway station is a fine example of developers and the town working together.
- We note that interpretation boards recommended by last years judging are now in place throughout the town.

SECTION C

- The work throughout the town on the Bloom Campaign by the volunteers is commendable.
- Publicity of the Bloom Campaign is excellent with promotional literature being delivered to all properties on the route. Judges were particularly impressed with the interview with the local radio station and its broadcast during the judge's lunchtime.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Try to improve the area in front of Protheroes Paint and Body Depot at the side of the railway station as it detracts from the floral bed below.

SECTION B

SECTION C

- Try to increase sponsorship to help make the Bloom campaign more sustainable for the future.
- Try to show more evidence of year round projects
- Use the portfolio to show evidence of schools involvement in the Bloom Campaign

A=88 B=43 C=36 TOTAL 167

SPALDING: Silver Gilt Award – 158 points

Judged on 12th July

*** Judges Award: - For the students from Monkshouse Primary School and their excellent presentation and work on refurbishing their wildlife garden**

Once The judges' tour started at Ayscoughfee Hall with an excellent presentation by 3 students from Monkshouse Primary School on their achievements in recreating a wildlife garden there. They then proceeded in the rain(!) into the beautiful Hall gardens where they noted the magnificent knot garden. A walk around the town followed where many attractive baskets and planters were displayed. Their tour concluded with a guided tour of Springfields Shopping Centre and the fabulous Festival gardens.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The efforts being made to increase the number of floral displays within the town.
- Ayscoughfee Hall grounds are a delight to visit, as is the Springfields shopping centre and Festival Gardens. These areas are an asset to the town.
- We liked the permanent planting to the rear of "The Hole in the Wall"

SECTION B

- The recycling initiatives of South Holland District Council are to be applauded.
- The "love where you live" initiative.

SECTION C

- We noted the enthusiasm and commitment of numerous people in developing Spalding in Bloom initiatives.
- Judges observed a definite expansion of interest in Spalding in Bloom, this is commendable. A good example of this is the voluntary work carried out by Mr & Mrs White at the bus station.
- The successful efforts of the Royce Road Residents in providing the new skateboard park.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Whilst we recognise the desirability of incorporating sustainable planting in beds at strategic locations we do feel that there is a need to make a "bold statement" in these locations by incorporating bold and vibrant colours.
- We suggest that you identify a number of residential front gardens that could be shown to the judges. We believe that the Bloom should encourage householders to create attractive front gardens to enhance residential areas.
- We noticed some side streets leading off the judging route needed weed control.
- We suggest that in future years a theme is used for the annual bedding.

SECTION B

- It was good to see the tulip sculpture by the High Bridge, we suggest that Spalding has sufficient local heritage to justify more examples in the town centre.
- Whilst we recognise the difficulties that vacant premises pose we suggest you try and demonstrate in a practical manner ways to lessen this problem, for example, clear sites of weeds and litter, erect temporary decorative panels and/or planters as partial screening.

SECTION C

- We noted a growth in community participation and trust this will continue in future years.

A=81 B=36 C=41

TOTAL 158

SLEAFORD Silver Gilt Award - 154 points

Judged on 12th July

*** Judges Award: Rauceby Banks - For the improvement, interpretation and public awareness works carried out at the Rauceby Banks Project**

The tour commenced with a visit to attractive Sleaford Cemetery where we saw the wildflower meadow is maturing well. Around the town saw we some colourful baskets and planters and quite unusually in a town centre planters with runner beans as trailers. At Rauceby Bank we saw the start of a brilliant local heritage project encompassing street art, carving, sculpture and even a local production of a play specially written for the event depicting the industrial history of the town and its people. We saw the new raised vegetable beds at Bonner House Residential Home and our tour ended at the colourful Carre Arms Hotel.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- It was pleasing to see the efforts being made by the 3 churches to brighten up their premises in the town.
- The new raised vegetable and fruit beds at Bonner House Residential Home were a credit to the staff and residents.
- The many floral displays provided by Sleaford in Bloom, the Town Council and others.

SECTION B

- We were highly impressed by the Rauceby Banks project.
- We applaud the recycling initiatives within the town and the 80% recycling rate at the recycling centre.
- It was encouraging to see evidence of the parish church using sustainable energy sources (solar panels); try and encourage other commercial businesses to follow suit!
- Your waste recycling scheme.

SECTION C

- Your communications with the public on your Bloom initiatives are commended.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- We suggest that you identify a number of residential front gardens that could be shown to the judges on the route. We believe that the Bloom should foster the interest of householders to create attractive front gardens to enhance residential areas.
- Whilst we applaud the effort being made by Sleaford in Bloom to grow and maintain the floral displays in the town, even allowing for the weather conditions this year we were a little disappointed in the fullness of the baskets this year.

SECTION B

- We suggest you try and liaise with the District Council to increase street cleansing around the town, the weed growth and detritus on the walkway from the Council Offices to the Canal side and on New Street was particularly noted.

SECTION C

- We suggest efforts are made to increase the number of businesses and commercial undertakings that subscribe to the Bloom initiatives either financially or in kind.
- We suggest efforts are made to extend the practical involvement of a greater number of organisations and individuals in Sleaford in Bloom in order to strengthen the organisation.
- Seek to extend the involvement of local schools and young peoples' organisations in Sleaford in Bloom initiatives throughout the year.

A=69 B=44 C=41

TOTAL 154

MELTON MOWBRAY Silver Gilt Award - 153 points

Judged on 9th July

*** Judges Award: For the work carried out to the wonderful borders around the church by the Eco-team and congregation at St Marys' Church**

Introduction The tour started at St Marys Primary school where every class in the school has its own raised bed. The tour around the town centre saw many floral and local heritage displays by the Town Estate and local community with some impressive areas of new planting.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The vast quantity of replacement permanent planting last autumn is remarkable.
- The Memorial Gardens and the adjacent Egerton Lodge are particularly impressive.

SECTION B

- The displaying of local artwork in vacant shops is an excellent use of these premises
- The publicity given to the Bloom by the volunteers and Borough Council is commendable.

SECTION C

- The work carried out by the eco-team and congregation in the grounds of St Marys Church has brightened up all entrances into the church.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Continue to develop the towns parks with new permanent plantings.
- It was pleasing to see that the town has re-introduced the best gardens competition.

SECTION B

- Include more specific information on recycling initiatives within the town.
- Continue to develop the Melton Country Park, look at improving the access to the railway bridge at the Queens Bed.

SECTION C

- Try to increase sponsorship of floral displays by the commercial sector of the town.

A=75 B=34 C=44 TOTAL 153

LONG EATON: Silver Award – 148 points

Judged on 15th July

*** Judges Award: For the work of the Long Eaton Horticultural Society in supporting the Bloom initiatives**

The tour commenced in the rain at the Town Hall where the judges saw the usually high standard of traditional carpet bedding in the grounds and on the adjacent highway. The tour then proceeded into the town centre to see the renovation and refurbishment works taking place in the Market Place. Visits to the library garden and The Long Eaton School showed varied aspects of the bloom initiative. The tour carried on to West Park where the judges had an informative talk on peat free growing and biological pest control by the Nursery Manager. The tour concluded with a visit to the new cemetery showing a mix of traditional and woodland burial plots.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The library gardens are a delight offering an oasis of colour and tranquillity in the town centre.
- The judges noted the improvements being made at West Park and note your intentions to improve the pathways to provide a more pleasing appearance and concurrently eliminate the grass damage by vehicles.
- The vibrant colours in this year's bedding schemes make an eye-catching statement in your town centre.

- The renovation of the Market Place is an exciting project for the town.

SECTION B

- The judges were impressed with the cleanliness of the town as a whole.
- The town's recycling initiatives appear to be working well.
- The environmental initiatives at West Park nursery of peat free growing with biological pest control are commendable.

SECTION C

- The judges were impressed with the work carried out for the town by the Long Eaton Horticultural Society.
- Year round activities were well documented for the judges to see and press coverage of these activities was excellent.
- Your commitment to environmental education generally and especially in association with the schools is commendable.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Continue to encourage the owners of town centre businesses to increase their involvement in Long Eaton in Bloom. To have floral displays on the shops etc around the "new" Market Place will create add significantly to the attractiveness and vibrancy of this important part of the town.

SECTION B

- Consider adding more about local heritage into your bloom entry.
- Try to work with owners of vacant premises in the town centre to proactively manage these sites.

SECTION C

- The judges suggest that a steering group is formed that could assume responsibility for Long Eaton in Bloom thus enabling the Borough Council to take a supporting role.
- Try and get the press to attend on judging day.

A=75 B=34 C=39 TOTAL 148

ILKESTON: Silver Medal Award – 146 points

Judged on 15th July

*** Judges Award: For the work of the Friends of Stanton Road Cemetery to preserve the heritage of the site for future generations**

The Bulls Head public house was the start of this year's tour with some impressive red, white and blue themed hanging baskets. The visit to the Hallam Fields Junior School coincided with a heavy rain shower which resulted in the judges taking shelter in the willow igloo, they leak!! At Stanton Road cemetery the judging was watched over by the impressive wood carving of the local giant at over 7feet in height. Victoria Park concluded the tour with a view of its new planting and a summary of the entrant's exciting future plans for the park.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The re-development of Victoria Park is commendable with its new planting in the herbaceous border and surrounding area already looking established.
- The judges were impressed with the efforts of the Friends of Stanton Road Cemetery in securing funding for the on-going project work.
- The White Lion Square traffic roundabout is an attractive focal point on entering the town.

SECTION B

- Your efforts to lessen the impact of empty shops by providing art depicting local heritage and history are good.
- The judges were impressed with the cleanliness of the town as a whole.
- The judges noted that the interpretation board for Straws Bridge Nature area is now in place.

- The wood carving of the giant in Stanton Road Cemetery is impressive as are the proposals to develop the Cemetery as a haven for wild life.

SECTION C

- The many local organisations and others who contribute to the Bloom through your "Pride" initiative is commendable.
- Your publicity of your achievements and events is also commendable.
- The work carried out on environmental education in the schools is helping your Bloom entry.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Develop a greater interest in the Bloom initiative from the occupiers of residential and commercial premises; the judges would have liked to have seen more of these premises.
- Be wary of using whole beds of sun responsive bedding plants, e.g. Gazania. It is suggested either a border around the bed of more reliable plants or interplanting with another species should be considered.
- Explore further your idea of planters on the by-pass leading off White Lion Square.

SECTION B

- Continue with your interesting "Food on the go" initiative to encourage fast food retailers to assist with keeping the town litter free.
- Try and include more examples of local heritage within the judging tour.

SECTION C

- The judges suggest that a steering group is formed that could assume responsibility for "Ilkeston in Bloom". This would enable the Borough Council to take a supporting role.
- Continue with your plans to form the Friends group for Victoria Park.

A=73 B=36 C=37 TOTAL 146

NEWARK: Bronze Award – 118 points

Judged on 5th July

***Judges Award: For the sensitive restoration and interpretation of the Queens Sconce**

The judges met the committee in the newly opened visitor facility at the recently refurbished Queens Sconce Recreational Area. They were shown several impressive features of Newark on the tour including the new bridge allowing access to the Sconce, the new adjoining wildlife area, the impressive allotments and the beautifully maintained cemetery.

Keep moving forward!

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The planters and hanging baskets at St Marks Place shopping precinct were well coordinated presented and maintained.
- The quantity and quality of planting around St Mary Magdalene church
- The judges were impressed by the enthusiasm of the headteacher and volunteer parents at Holy Trinity School with the creation of the school garden as a valuable positive teaching opportunity involving all classes in the school.

SECTION B

- The initial works carried out at Hawton Holt Wildlife Area are the basis for a very worthwhile nature area once fully established.
- The improvements to Sconce Park are commendable as is use of the logo to reflect the history of the site.
- The provision of a bridge to access the Sconce is a bold but pleasing themed addition.

SECTION C

- The enthusiasm of the people the judges met throughout the tour. The judges suggest the group should look to expand to include these people and others such as local residents, people representing schools and local organisations, shopkeepers and other business people, and representatives from the local authorities.

- The Eton Avenue Growers Association for its work with the less able bodied residents.
- The number of Friends of Groups throughout the town.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Look at the finer details of the grounds maintenance. Some areas are let down by the finishing touches such as neatly edging off grass edges.
- Consider providing additional baskets and tiered planters in strategic positions in the town centre.
- Show evidence of the Newark in Bloom Best Kept Garden Competition.

SECTION B

- Some vacant sites were noted that are detrimental to the image of the town, although difficult to achieve some effort should be given to lessen their impact.
- The street furniture throughout the town varies in condition. The judges suggest you look at a refurbishment programme.

SECTION C

- By extending the Newark in Bloom group its status would be enhanced and should attract more funding from the Commercial sector.
- Try to develop further links with the schools for inclusion in work such as designing a group logo, advertising banners and actual outdoor project work.

A=63 B=29 C=26 TOTAL 118

GAINSBOROUGH: Certificate of Achievement – 74 points

Judged on 5th July

***Judges Award: For the quality and design of the landscaping at Marshalls Yard Retail Park**

Gainsborough was the first large town on the judging agenda this year. The judges were met on a warm sunny day by your enthusiastic Activities Officer who gave them an informative tour of the town. The new Marshalls Yard Retail Park was a joy to visit with some of the most impressive hanging baskets we have seen this year. The entry is continuing to develop and is well on its way to further success in future years.

Keep up the good work!

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The well designed presented hanging baskets and permanent landscaping in Marshalls Yard Retail Park.
- The judges were impressed with the number of allotment sites the Town Council operates. They visited the Showfields site and were impressed with the presentation of the plots.

SECTION B

- The development of the town centre is noted and judges look forward to the completion of the Market Place restoration scheme.
- The judges saw no evidence of dog fouling and litter was minimal.

SECTION C

- The Friends of Richmond Park Group, producing plants and selling them to raise funds for the park.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- It is noted that there is a proposed change of Grounds Maintenance Contractor for Richmond Park at the end of the year. The judges suggest you take the opportunity to review the planting / maintenance regimes to provide more intensive displays in both seasonal and permanently planted areas. The judges believe this will improve what is structurally a beautiful park.

- Consideration should be given to obtaining sponsorship of the hanging baskets by businesses.

SECTION B

- The judges suggest you liaise with the District Council with a view to improving the sweeping of streets.
- There is scope for utilising parts of the cemetery and Richmond Park as wildlife areas to improve visitor attraction.
- The judges suggest you see if vacant development sites could be given attention to lessen their detrimental impact upon the local environment. However they acknowledge that these sites are inevitable as change for good takes place within the town.

SECTION C

- The judges strongly recommend that you consider forming a Town Bloom Group. They believe there are numerous individuals and organisations that could contribute significantly to preparing an overall strategy for enhancing the beauty of the town and thereafter carrying out works on specific projects.
- EMiB would be happy to provide an advisor / mentor to assist you in planning the way forward. Information is freely available from the EMiB Secretary.
- Produce a portfolio showing year round activities and devise a judging route around the town.

A=47 B=19 C=8 TOTAL 74

STAVELEY Certificate of Achievement - 72 points

Judged on 7th July

*** Judges Award: For the landscaping and the environmentally sustainable building at the new Staveley Centre**

Staveley is a first time entrant into the competition. The town has the potential to achieve success in future years. The judges saw how the town is being regenerated with various new projects, such as the Staveley Centre & Healthy Living Centre. The "Bloom Initiative" will be a significant addition to this process.

Keep up the good work!

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The judges noted the progress being made with the provision of hanging baskets within the town including the number that are currently sponsored.
- Their visit to Ringwood Hall was a delight; the floral features were impressive and the grounds generally are a credit to the hotel.

SECTION B

- It was great to see the Poolsbrook Friends Group running the café and visitor centre to raise funds to improve the park.
- The tree planting scheme at Pools Brook Country Park involving Netherthorpe School is commendable.
- The developing Norbriggs Flash Local Nature Reserve will become a very big attraction in a few years time.
- Judges were impressed by the number of examples of sustainable energy conservation projects.

SECTION C

- The judges believe you have the organisations and the desire to generate wide interest and participation in, and the implementation of the objectives of East Midlands in Bloom.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Continue to encourage more sponsorship of baskets and planters from local businesses.

- Try to encourage Friends Groups and local organisations to get involved practically in the provision of the floral displays
- Show more examples of residential properties on the tour.

SECTION B

- Areas for Improvement:
- Continue to develop the two wildlife areas and provide interpretation panels and other relevant information.
- The formation of the Friends Group at Norbriggs will add to its success.
- The judges suggest you liaise with the Borough Council over the quality of street furniture in the town.

SECTION C

- The judges suggest that you try to provide information for residents on the Bloom so that more people can contribute in a supportive way.
- In preparation of your entry next year we suggest that you address the key factors described in the advice for entrants. EMI B will provide a mentor to assist you in moving forward. For information contact the Secretary.

A=34 B=24 C=14 TOTAL 72