

LARGE VILLAGE

Electoral population 1,001-2,500 (Judging time 1 hr 30 minutes)

General Comments

Asfordby Village is situated in the stunning Wreake Valley. The tour of the Village started at the impressive Bradgate Flats, before going on to take in a wildflower meadow, and new planters provided by the bloom committee along Loughborough Road. The committed bloom group are determined to make a positive difference to the lives of the people of Asfordby.

Judges – John Simpson and Martin Hardy

Asfordby Silver Award –127 points

Judged 12th July

* Judges Award:

The tireless work of Peter Thornton in maintaining the Grounds of Bradgate Flats for the elderly occupants.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Bradgate flats were a credit to the passion and dedication of Peter Thornton. Stunning seasonal planting was complimented with vegetable plots, baskets, pots, bird houses, feeders and insect homes. The judges were shown a variety of well planted and maintained residential gardens. The judges were particularly impressed with no 29 Charnwood Avenue, and 31 Loughborough Road. The planters, built and provided by the Bloom group enhance the village with a spectacle of colour. The Allotments were well maintained,

SECTION B

The excellent wild flower meadow continues to go from strength to strength. The new seating and interpretation boards is a great addition. The 200 newly planted native trees will provide a barrier between the allotments and the meadow, plus provide an additional habitat for wildlife. Despite the judging taking place on the bin collection day the village was virtually absent of any litter.

SECTION C

The main Bloomers, Peter Thornton, Daphne Bullimore, and Peter Cates are a credit to their community with their tireless efforts to enhance the village through Bloom. The judges were impressed with the successful applications to secure funding for new seating, trees, Interpretation Boards, and even a chain saw.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Try to encourage the Local Authority to address the problem of street weeds prior to the Judging Period. The weeds were evident throughout the tour. The rear of the Co-Op was also particularly bad. Try to encourage the local businesses to participate in the competition. There was an evident lack of interest from the local business community. Road Side verges particularly along Loughborough road required cutting.

SECTION B

Consider possible ways of minimising demand on natural resources. Look at the possibility of rainwater harvesting.

SECTION C

Try to encourage more people to join the Bloom committee. Consider ways to engage with the local schools, and encourage their participation in the Bloom Campaign. Consider greater use of the internet and press releases to promote the work of the Bloom Team.

A=61 B=34 C=32 TOTAL 127

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General Comments

We were met outside the newly opened refurbished town hall by Cllr Pat Frankish. We then went on a driving tour of the village. We were shown the refurbished beds around the war memorial, and introduced to some of the pupils at the primary school, whose new garden we were shown. The tour ended at the town hall where refreshments were served and a tour of the hall given.

Judges – Martin Hardy and John Simpson

Kirton in Lindsey Silver Award –132 points

Judged 13th July

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

This year's road verge bedding looked colourful. New planting and renovation work around the war memorial was pleasing to see. We were impressed by the enthusiasm of the primary school children about their ongoing school gardens. Front gardens looked good and baskets at the beauticians shop were colourful.

SECTION B

The recycling area seems to work well, with compost available to the residents. Street furniture looked clean and in good order.

SECTION C

Primary school children were very involved and interested in both their gardens. Good support from the local RAF Station is very helpful.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

More hanging baskets in the town square, particularly from pubs and businesses would add more colour. The new town hall garden could be further developed by permanent planting and tubs. The open space on Barder Way would benefit from a replanting scheme, possibly tough shrubs such as Buddleia as the soil does not seem to encourage tree growth.

SECTION B

We were told of a wet land area which is being developed by a local person, encouragement through the bloom group and involvement in it would be good.

SECTION C

Try to get more local businesses involved in the bloom e.g. sponsor a planting bed or hanging basket.

A=66 B=33 C=33 TOTAL 132

LARGE VILLAGE

Electoral population 1,001-2,500 (Judging time 1 hr 30 minutes)

General Comments

The pride in Tansley group although small in number have achieved much to be proud of. The judges were particularly impressed with the grounds of the Tansley Primary School and the walk through Tansley Wood, along with the many well maintained residential gardens.

Judges – John Simpson and Martin Hardy

Tansley Silver Award –148 points

Judged 15th July

* Judges Award:

The Tansley Primary School, Staff and Pupils for the continued effort and hard work to develop the School Grounds.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The judges were shown many well maintained residential gardens. The grounds of the Holy Trinity Church were very neat and tidy. The colourful hanging baskets were some of the best seen throughout the whole tour of the Large Village category. The Tansley Primary School was the high point of the visit for the judges. The school grounds include willow structures, food growing areas, and wildlife areas,

SECTION B

Tansley Wood is a fantastic natural area which enhances the tour of the village. The use of compost from recycled waste is to be commended. The signage designed by the School Children to encourage people not to drop litter was a fantastic idea.

SECTION C

The judges were impressed by the different methods being used to spread the Bloom message. The ongoing projects at the Tansley Primary School are impressive.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Attention to the judging criteria may lead to a more balanced tour. The Judges felt that there was too much of an emphasis on the many residential gardens. The judges only had a brief glimpse of the church and it would have been nice to see more of the tourist areas and business areas. A number of key areas including bus stops were suffering from weed growth. Try to encourage the Gate Public House to participate in the bloom effort. The use of plastic topiary balls did not add anything to the quality of the entry.

SECTION B

Tansley Wood is a splendid natural area which enhances the tour of the village. The use of compost from recycled waste is to be commended. The signage designed by the School Children to encourage people not to drop litter was a fantastic idea.

SECTION C

Consider ways of attracting new members to join the Pride in Tansley campaign. Try to show more evidence of year round projects.

A=79 B=38 C=31 TOTAL 148

LARGE VILLAGE

Electoral population 1,001-2,500 (Judging time 1 hr 30 minutes)

General Comments

The village of Sapcote was the first to be visited on this years tour of the Large Village category, and it certainly set a very high standard for the rest to aim at. There were many highlights on the tour however the Judges must make special mention of the All Saints School. The grounds of the school and the enthusiasm of the children left a lasting impression.

Judges – John Simpson and Ken Richardson

Sapcote Silver Gilt Award –156 points

Judged 5th July 2011

* Judges Award:

The dedication and tireless work of the whole Bloom Committee

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

There were many fine planting examples to mention, the stunning display below the village sign, the planting that complimented the gorgeous stone work of the Alms Houses, and the grounds of the Methodist Church were notable highlights. The judges were shown numerous well maintained residential gardens. Of particular note were Park Road Gardens and Dovecote Close. The support from the business community added to the overall quality of the entry. The floral displays at the Red Lion were worthy of particular mention and the frontage of Debright was colourful. The stunning school grounds and the enthusiasm of the school coordinator Janet, and the children was a real highlight. The tour of the school grounds was led by Luke, Lucy, and Jessica who were full of pride and extremely knowledgeable. The quality of the plants was outstanding.

SECTION B

The judges were particularly impressed by the virtual absence of any litter, graffiti, or dog fouling. The use of manure in planters and troughs throughout the village has reduced the need for large amounts of compost, and has promoted extremely healthy plants.

SECTION C

The dedication and commitment of the bloom committee was clear to see. The judges were also impressed to hear how the group are being supported by 2 students, Ben and Charles who are helping with watering as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. The efforts to raise funds by holding a host of events ranging from Apple Fests, Plant Stalls, and Tea and Cake afternoons is tremendous. The bloom message is now being shared with the local community through the use of a web site, twitter, and local press articles.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Consider the use of Barrier Baskets on the metal railings outside the Co-Op. You have a magnificent listed building next door to the boarded windows of the supermarket, and the stark metal railings outside. Consider the balance of seasonal and permanent planting. The possible use of perennial planting would reduce the cost of planting and the maintenance of these areas would be reduced. Some street weed was evident along the route; this detracted from the overall experience of touring this wonderful village.

SECTION B

Consider including the war memorial and the All Saints Church within the tour. Consider the possibility of harvesting rainwater.

SECTION C

Continue to attract support for the Bloom Committee. Consider giving information about future projects within the portfolio.

A=79 B=36 C=41 TOTAL 156

LARGE VILLAGE

Electoral population 1,001-2,500 (Judging time 1 hr 30 minutes)

General Comments

The presentation of the bloom group was given at the multi use centre, and was very helpful in giving us an overall picture of the group's work and aims. The tour started on foot in the market square and continued by limousine and horse and carriage to finish at the White Hart pub with refreshments supplied by two local companies, with many members of the bloom group we had met joining in.

Judges – Martin Hardy and John Simpson

Caistor Gold Award –172 points

Judged 13th July

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The planting schemes around the town were very impressive, the colour theme of blue and white being followed if possible. New planting on the crocosmia bank in the car park looked impressive for its first year, as did the roses above the Co-Op wall. Business premises were very good and tidy, and open spaces and church yards clean and regularly mown.

SECTION B

Very clean village. Street furniture and home made boxes were excellent. Signage was clear and easily understood. Wildlife at the Westbrook Grove pond is being encouraged as is the new wild flower bank in the church yard.

SECTION C

A really good community spirit exists and most people seem to be involved in some sort of bloom group activity. Schools are encouraged well to get involved, and the fund raising and support from local businesses is phenomenal. The village can be very proud of their achievements within the community in such a short time.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Some boxes on the market square looked a little dry. Possibly a mulch of recycled materials on the newly planted trees in the church yard would help establishment.

SECTION B

Although much has been done to improve the few derelict buildings, some may still need tidying up.

SECTION C

Keep the ongoing projects going. I am sure that with the drive and enthusiasm of the whole village you will get better each year.

A=87 B=40 C=45 TOTAL 172

LARGE VILLAGE

Electoral population 1,001-2,500 (Judging time 1 hr 30 minutes)

General Comments

Once again the visit to the picturesque village of Donington on the Western Fringe of the Fens was a delight. On arrival into the village the judges were greeted by stunning floral displays placed in prominent positions. There were many more highlights along the way but the work to create an allotment area from an overgrown piece of land was worth special mention.

Judges – John Simpson and Martin Hardy

Donington Gold Award –176 points

Judged 12th July

* Judges Award:

The high levels of Rainwater Harvesting around the whole Village

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

There were many fine examples of floral containers along the route however the ones in the Market Place, Bates Environmental, and the Public Toilets were worth special mention. The quality of the plants and their care was of the highest order. The Judges were impressed with the levels of support and involvement from the Local Businesses. Nearly all of the village shops had entered into the spirit of the Bloom and created a spectacle of colour. The work to create a number of Allotments from an overgrown piece of land was a stroke of genius. The total absence of any street weeds through the hard work of the Bloom Group to physically remove them by hand.

SECTION B

The use of Rainwater harvesting was a fine example of what can be achieved with a little endeavour and commitment. The total absence of any litter, graffiti, or dog fouling. The local connection with Mathew Flinders , including a fine statue and information boards was fascinating, and the use of these areas and enhancing them with floral displays was excellent.

SECTION C

The levels of fundraising and support in kind from local businesses was excellent. The work of the young people of Donington, particularly Amy and Leah at the Flinders Teen Park was superb. They are central to all decisions that are made on the park, they hold regular themed events, and have successfully raised in excess of three thousand pounds in the past year towards ongoing development. The levels of participation from with the local community were very good.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Look at continuing to develop the newly created Herb Garden. Consider ways to allow access for wheelchairs, and possibly the use of more scented herbs around the seating area. Look at ways of creating more diversity within the Church grounds. The Judges felt that some areas of the Matthew Flinders Garden, which were not currently being maintained by the Bloom Team were letting the park down.

SECTION B

Try to look at ways of minimising the impact of derelict areas. Notably the former Red Lion Hotel.

SECTION C

Try to show more involvement from the local Schools. Possibly consider visiting a school as part of the tour.

A=91 B=40 C=45 TOTAL 176

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General Comments

Bosworth Hall Hotel was the venue for our introduction to this lovely market town on a sunny summer's day. The bloom group chairman gave us an overall picture of their work and the history of the local area. The bloom group's press coverage was shown and their thread of gold project for the year explained. The tour then began on foot around the village. Meeting up with two park rangers we were shown around the open spaces. The lay out of the new cemetery was shown to us, with the tour ending in the colourful market square.

Judges – Martin Hardy and John Simpson

Market Bosworth Gold Award –182 points

Judged 14th July

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Planting schemes were well thought out and very colourful, many on a theme. They were well maintained and looked very fresh. Most business premises are involved with tubs and baskets. The fire station being particularly well looked after.

SECTION B

Butterfly garden, woodland and wild flower areas were very good. The eco toilet block working very well. Dog fouling and litter were non existent and all street furniture was clean and in good order.

SECTION C

All very good, school involvement was interesting with the snow leopard theme in their planting. Support from local people is excellent and shows how much the bloom group's efforts are appreciated.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Possibly more permanent planting areas in some of the village. The use of water retention gels may reduce the need for watering which is a big commitment.

SECTION B

More could be made of composting, possibly a communal composting heap? Compost could then be added to the many planting beds during replanting preparations. Replanting of the sensory garden should be encouraged, and the idea of bulb planting on all the village entrance roads followed through.

SECTION C

We can only say that Market Bosworth seemed to have a gift for fund raising and hope it will continue.

A=94 B=43 C=45 TOTAL 182