

SMALL VILLAGE

Electoral population 300 and under

General Comments

Just 38 dwellings make up the village of Elmton which lies on the joint borders of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. The judges really enjoyed their comprehensive tour of this tiny but lovely village and being escorted around by residents Barry, Barbara and Brian.

Judges – Martin Latimer, Geoff Spate

Elmton Silver Award and category winner –135 points

Judged 5th July

* Judges Award:

For those responsible for protecting the rare and beautiful Bee Orchids on the Green

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Beautifully colourful hanging baskets on lamp posts throughout the village. The artistic creativity of the well dressings perfectly complement the attractive village scene. The historic Pinfold is beautifully maintained. The frontage to the Elmtree Inn public house looks attractive this year. A good selection of residential gardens were viewed

SECTION B

Interpretation of village history is excellent, particularly the plaque in the churchyard and the recent blue plaque recognising Jedidiah Buxton a local mathematician. A clean and tidy street scene provides a pleasing environment for the community. The Green provides potentially a valuable and distinct source of interesting flora

SECTION C

Good events programme including a Dog Show and Carol Service to fundraise for the Bloom. The Well Dressings are of very high quality and are a great asset to the life of the village

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

There is still an on-going issue regarding the management of grass cutting on the Green. Much improvement could be achieved by the mowing of "rides" through this area during the springtime followed by a complete mowing off during late summer period with removal of all arisings to impoverish the sward. The Village Green and other open spaces are ideal for further specimen tree planting

SECTION B

It would be helpful to provide more data on recycling at the judges' visit. A great benefit would be gained by improving the meadow maintenance on the Green. Consider addition seats and litter bins on the Green and other open spaces

SECTION C

The portfolio would be improved by the addition of text to annotate the photography. Try to involve the local press in the Bloom campaign and also in the judges visit. Consider using the internet and Parish to promote the campaign

A=76 B=32 C=27 TOTAL 135

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St Crispin's is located on high ground just outside Northampton and has commanding views of the lovely surrounding countryside. Beryl Harper's enthusiasm in running the Bloom is infectious and she works diligently to constantly improve the beautiful grounds making the whole complex a delightful place to live.

Judges – Martin Latimer, Geoff Spate

St Crispin Village Silver Award –133 points

Judged 14th July

*** Judges Award:**

For the excellent colourful terraced garden recently constructed within the heart of the retirement complex

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Beautiful grounds surrounding the buildings which include a formal garden area and a butterfly garden. Recently installed raised beds to facilitate gardening for the disabled residents in wheelchairs. There is an excellent greenhouse unit on-site providing a perfect propagating and convalescing facility for raising and maintaining good quality plants. A new terraced garden within the complex of buildings provides extra colour

SECTION B

Good to see comprehensive mulching of all the beds around the village so helpful for weed control and water conservation. Specialised butterfly garden well planted and attracting many different insects. The recent installation of composting bins within the site

SECTION C

We liked the thriving gardening club with Beryl officiating as Gardens Captain. Very good support and funding from the Easycare organisation. Wide involvement of residents in providing and maintaining floral features

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Continue to encourage other residents to assist you in your good work. Consider a programme of lowering some of the kerbs around the site to facilitate grass maintenance and provide greater safety for pedestrians. Continue seeking support from your Easycare head office to continue improvements

SECTION B

Think about introducing some bird and bat boxes around the site to complement the badgers already in residence. The automatic watering system along the northern side could be extended to other areas and perhaps some more water barrels for rain harvesting. Try to provide a picture of the Sedum roof as it was difficult to see!

SECTION C

As well as the photographs you should try to produce a portfolio showing all year round activities for the judges to take away and consider. If possible try to enlist further residents to participate in the Bloom

A=72 B=31 C=30 TOTAL 133

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General Comments

Barton in Fabis is an ancient and attractive rural village situated on the flood plain of the River Trent. As a previous winner of the best village competition, Sue and her team have made an excellent debut entry into EMiB. A relaxed walk around this picturesque village was punctuated by meetings with enthusiastic residents. The tour was much enhanced by a visit to the Old Forge where Alison Plowright enthralled both judges by the creation of her fabulous cottage garden

Judges – Martin Latimer, Geoff Spate

Barton in Fabis Silver Award –123 points

Judged 13th July

*** Judges Award:**

For Angela Plowright in creating her exquisite and magical cottage garden at the Old Forge

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The village arranges a great garden trail and flower festival each year. Many colourful floral features are maintained by the local residents. The Village Hall committee has staged a Flower and Vegetable show over many years with numerous classes and much support. The new indigenous tree planting in association with the recent flood alleviation scheme for the river Trent

SECTION B

Some road verges have been set aside as wildlife areas to encourage insects and butterflies. The judges were impressed by the clean and tidy street scene. A number of rural and historic buildings with great heritage value have been retained throughout the village. These include the ancient Dovecote and the Roman Villa

SECTION C

The judges were impressed by the community input from residents included events such as the Flower Festival and Village Hall Show

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Try to involve your village businesses with the Bloom campaign. Pursue your idea of placing planters constructed from tractor tyres near to the farm. Consider further tree planting on greens and verges across the village

SECTION B

Pursue your ideas of a wildlife zone in the corner of St Georges churchyard. Try to include more on recycling such as say providing the judges with data from Rushcliffe Borough Council. Consider providing interpretation using panels for the historic features in the village

SECTION C

For next year produce a portfolio for the judges which will indicate your Bloom activities in the village during other seasons of the year. Try to involve the local press and possibly local radio in the campaign

A=63 B=31 C=29 TOTAL 123

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General Comments

Ranby have had a long involvement with East Midlands in Bloom and have had considerable success over the years as borne out by their collection of certificates in the village hall. The judges were met at the colourful village centre near to the Chequers public house and escorted by Clive around this pretty village. All was clean and tidy and the judges enjoyed seeing the various projects both in the planning and at completion

Judges – Martin Latimer, Geoff Spate

Ranby Bronze Award –109 points

Judged 5th July

*** Judges Award:**

For the splendid new playing fields recently constructed adjacent to the village school

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Excellent new playing fields and footpath link now provided for the community. Attractive raised container displays and quality seating supported by the County Council. Colourful flower baskets mounted on the village bus shelters and maintained by the local residents

SECTION B

Attractive new landscaping and street furniture this year with financial support from Nottinghamshire County Council

SECTION C

You mentioned an innovative initiative to commemorate the forthcoming Olympic Games. We look forward to seeing this at fruition during 2012

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Consider using water retaining gel in your compost to help relieve excessive dryness of both beds and baskets. There is an opportunity for new tree planting along the verges of the Old Blythe Road. Watch out for weed infestations in some road channels

SECTION B

Consider providing more interpretation for the historic Chesterfield Canal that runs through the village. The judges would like to see more recycling data with the entry

SECTION C

You need to provide a portfolio to complement your entry. Try to arrange a visit to the local school and involve the children. Involving the press in the Bloom campaign is always beneficial

A=50 B=30 C=29 TOTAL 109