

VILLAGE

Electoral population 301-1,000 (Judging time 1hr 15 minutes)

General Comments

Lead by a small but dedicated team this entry is well supported by a large proportion of the village, and it shows, making good use of all resources available to Rosliston in Bloom

Judges – Geoff Spate and Simon Lucas

Rosliston Gold Award and category winner –174 points

Judged 12th July

* Judges Award:

The large number of young children involved in environmental activities in the village

* Best retail / commercial premises, sponsored by the Art Department:

Chapman's Nurseries of Rosliston

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Glorious planting around the village hall by volunteers. 90 bed and poppy theme to promote the Royal British Legion. Entrance beds to Chapmans Nurseries

SECTION B

School Bee project. Forestry Centre 'Herbie' bed. Calvary in church yard refurbished by local builder

SECTION C

Full community involvement from all sectors showing a good relationship between the in-bloom group, businesses and education establishments. Good use of various communication methods. Provision of allotment plots by the Bloom group to meet the demand.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Develop plans to refurbish the permanent planting bed at the village hall. Help and encourage the school to develop the raised beds and hopefully the larger green space.

SECTION B

Consider maintenance regime, eg 'cut and collect' to verge on the road to the Rec to encourage more wildflowers. Encourage the vacant pub to remove dead plants from planters

SECTION C

Consider creating your own web site to give greater independence from the district authority. Provide more information on volunteer hours and funds raised, grants received etc. What involvement is there with the Co-op as the largest store in the village?

A=88 B=41 C=45 TOTAL 174

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General Comments

Milford is a first time entrant into East Midlands in Bloom but shows a lot of promise to become a strong candidate in the future. The whole visit was well organised and informative from the presentation to the tour.

Judges – Geoff Spate and Simon Lucas

Milford Silver Award –142 points

Judged 11th July

* Judges Award:

The Hopping Mill development, its design, layout and inclusion of heritage features and the well maintained front gardens

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Sponsored planters through Belper Town Council and displays by the war memorial. Hopping Hill gardens and allotments. New Hopping Mill meadows and pro active approach to adopt and develop this area and the work to 'pull' the invasive balsalm. High level of community involvement especially school children with bulb planting.

SECTION B

Planting of wildflower plugs in Milford park. Support from Amber Valley Borough Council. Community herb garden.

SECTION C

Good communication with residents by notices in shops and 'Well Done' handouts to front garden entrants. Blog on the herb garden encouraging use of the herbs by residents. Involvement with the local school.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Continue research to find owners and work with them to tidy up the private car park opposite the village shop. Consider adding an appropriate sized sign, near the bus stop?, to inform people of your work on the allotments next to the church. Is it possible to add wildlife friendly planting in the Milford Park?

SECTION B

Encourage more improvements to the allotments. Are there opportunities to collect rainwater? We hope the plans to adopt the phone box can be fulfilled. Proceed with plans to add information to the herb gardens. Is it possible to include school children on the tour? If not at their allotment perhaps by displays and examples of produce in the school?

SECTION C

Continue to work with Belper Town Council to replant the Triangle. Use the presentation to show more evidence of the sponsorship. Add a calendar to the portfolio highlighting the year round work; look at other examples at the awards ceremony for more ideas. There is no need to tell judges about vandalism unless you can use it to demonstrate a positive outcome. Judges are prepared to meet with you to offer further advice.

A=74 B=33 C=35 TOTAL 142

VILLAGE

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General Comments

Middleton is still a relatively new entry into the Bloom campaign but already showing many of the strengths of more experienced entries. We are confident they can continue to develop and their good works helping to improve the village for the benefit of all.

Judges – Geoff Spate and Simon Lucas

Middleton by Wirksworth Silver Award –136 points

Judged 11th July

* Judges Award:

The Eco Centre for the well designed facility and active programme to train and educate adults in traditional country skills such as dry stone walling

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Street floral displays by volunteers, improved larger (heart shaped) seasonal bed on the green, and limited front gardens add to the pleasant nature of the main road. The school's Reflective Garden is well established and maintained, the hens seemed well settled and not deterred being amongst the pupils at play time. The plans to continue the replanting of beds in the Millennium Garden and appropriate use of geotextile to aid weed control.

SECTION B

Ongoing wildflower management at Redhill Quarry and use of users of the Parkwood Day Centre to erect a fence which will allow the introduction of highland cattle. Grass grid to sympathetically provide an overflow carpark for Mill Top visitors

SECTION C

Integration of local community with all aspects of the bloom, Eco centre using local facilities rather than competing.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Consider adding more trailing plants to the planters especially the tower unit on the green to give a greater impact. Recognising the impact of the altitude could plants be earlier maturing or brought on in a sheltered location? Could the tour include a visit to the schools allotment?

SECTION B

Consider careful use of herbicide to control small weeds in kerbs and amongst block paving at Duke Field. Consider the provision of verge planters using local stone, eg by the 'cairn' to create a focal point by the name sign and to reflect the quarrying heritage.

SECTION C

Make better use of the allocated time to explain about the year round work and future plans, perhaps create a scrapbook of press clippings, leaflets etc. The portfolio can be larger and include a calendar of year round activities. If possible print double sided. Develop the plans for a plant/seed swap etc identified in your portfolio

A=60 B=41 C=35 TOTAL 136

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General Comments

A new and enthusiastic entrant, Lark Hill is a purpose built village for 'retired' folk who all seem want to regain their youth by being so fabulously involved and active in everything they do. Lark Hill residents are well provided for but this means nothing without the keenness and community spirit clearly in evidence, they shows great promise in the bloom competition.

Judges – Geoff Spate and Simon Lucas

Lark Hill Village Silver Award –135 points

Judged 12th July

* Judges Award:

Award for enthusiasm of all residents and particularly the two Gardening Gnomes ~ the suesnamil!

* East Midlands in Bloom Best New Landscape, sponsored by Barcham Trees

Lark Hill Village

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Enthusiasm shown by everyone. Taking possession and ownership of the site, well supported by the management, to develop new areas. Green house and vegetable area. Woodworking club. Use of gnome hats to be easily recognisable and approachable.

SECTION B

The wildlife pond which after a new liner has been fitted is starting to develop. Artwork and features included around the site with new designs and water feature. Compost bins. Introduction of water butts

SECTION C

Castle College volunteers laying paths, we hope they can return. Plant sales to raise funds. The high quality benches from the wood workers. Green Flag Award. Communications with all residents

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Work with the management to ensure failed trees and shrubs are replaced. Consider the involvement of businesses beyond the immediate village

SECTION B

Add an interpretation board by the pond and encourage greater involvement, could a local school be invited for pond dipping? Encourage more water butts. Is there a site for a larger communal water collection? Can the plans for a wildlife maintenance regime on the bank be included into the contractor's agreement to ensure sustainability?

SECTION C

Consider involving school children/younger age group in site activities. Keep a scrapbook of photos and press cuttings.

A=63 B=34 C=38 TOTAL 135