

## **LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM 2020/21**

Events/activities achieved since 2nd November 2020:

- **Calendars** – TIC sold their 60 copies prior to the lockdown at the start of November. 8 copies sold through the LiB website/Facebook page up to 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was hoped to be able to sell the remaining copies (42) via the Town Hall and the TIC once lockdown lifted in December – unfortunately, Tier 3 restrictions meant we could not. The group therefore took the decision to collect a number per member from the Town Hall and distribute them to green groups/nurseries/recipients of great garden slips/town organisations/previous and regular volunteers free of charge. This will result in a loss on this project for the first time but the group felt that to distribute the calendars as described was the best way to raise the group's profile and act as a marketing tool in Leamington.
- **Gateway Planters** – Following further discussion, the group agreed the best way to ensure the planters are planted up and watered consistently and to a high standard was to ask WDC to continue to do so for an annual fee paid by the Town Council. They did not feel it appropriate now to ask nearby residents for their assistance and did not want to take on the responsibility themselves. Simon Richardson of WDC Green Spaces Team has responded that this is possible and recommends sustainable bedding. There would be the initial cost for the plants then a low maintenance cost of £6.50/square metre as opposed to £30.86/square metre for the traditional bedding.
- **Shops, Pubs and Restaurants Competition 2020 – Certificates and Photo Opportunity** - All certificates were delivered to recipients by mid-October – resulting in good social media coverage from Brunswick Hub and Vitsoe. A socially distanced photo opportunity was set up with the Mayor in front of the Town Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> October for winners of the photographic competition and recipients of the Shops etc competition certificates. First and second place photo winners were there (who also received their cheques) as well as representatives from The Spa, The Somerville Arms and The Townhouse. Good coverage was achieved in the Courier and the Observer as well as Facebook and Twitter. Three Special Mentions certificates were also sent out to Charnwood Guest House, Eversleigh Nursing Home and The Angel Hotel.
- **Green Grants 2020** - The Friends of the Railway Station, Paintings Plantation and the Friends of Christchurch Gardens have all received their cheques as agreed on 6<sup>th</sup> October (Friends of Christchurch Gardens had to alter their project to a replacement tree following further discussions with Jon Holmes of WDC – this was agreed by majority view via email). A later application from Crown Routes was discussed and agreed via email majority for their hyacinth bulb growing project in partnership with Foundry Wood. These have now been gifted to people in Lillington who need a pot of hope. Therefore, a total of £800 has now been spent on green grants in 2020.
- **Photographic Competition 2021** - It was agreed by members that the theme for next year's photographic competition will be "Seasons in Leamington Spa".
- **Plants for Floral Trains Project 2021** – Former supplier Baginton's Nursery has now closed so Simon Richardson was asked to obtain a quote for the purchase of the plants necessary for

next year's Trains displays. Quote came in at £312.00 (without compost). Last year's cost was £422.40 inc. compost so the quote seems comparable and acceptable.