

LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM update – Oct 2022

Progress since 7th September 2022:

- **Trees in Jephson Gardens leaflet**

Final draft of leaflet was signed off by Jon Holmes and Dave Anderson at WDC Green Spaces on 11th August. A couple of requested amendments and additions were made to the text then the leaflet was sent to print (1000 copies, A3 fold up).

Leaflets delivered to the Town Hall and distributed to the TIC in the Pump Rooms and The Glasshouse in Jephson Gardens. Copies also available from the Town Hall and downloadable on the Town Council website.

- **Heart of England in Bloom judging day – 13th July 2022**

Visit went well – weather was excellent, no significant hold ups on the route, good participation from range of people at each location, finished almost on time. Locations included St Mary's Allotments, The Holt, Eagle Recreation Ground, Shrubland St Primary School, Brunswick Hub and Jephson Gardens. Photos taken outside the hot house in Jephson Gardens by LiB member. Complimentary lunch at the Glasshouse restaurant courtesy of Steven Holland of Inspire Catering was excellent and the judges seemed happy when they left. They had copies of the portfolio and the magazine plus route itineraries and buttonholes.

Results to be announced on 15th September at presentation in Sutton Coldfield.

This was postponed until 22nd September due to the mourning period for the Queen. Due to illness, no attendance was possible from Leamington. We received notice from Heart of England in Bloom that Leamington in Bloom had received a Gold Award in the small city category (sixth consecutive time).

- **Art in the Park 13th & 14th August**

This popular event was pushed back by a week in the calendar due to the Commonwealth Games. This had the unfortunate effect of the group losing a number of our usual volunteers to holidays. We did struggle to fill all the 2 hour shifts but did manage to do so using four new people. The extremely hot weather also meant we had a volunteer drop out during the weekend. The DSO was also unavailable on the Sunday due to pre-booked holiday which meant the Town Clerk ably filled in the last shift with a helper and then dismantled the stall.

Turnout for the event remained high though happily, the stall was well-attended, and the activities were well used. All the Magazines and leaflets were given out. This event was the first outing for the new Town Council branded gazebo, and it was very effective in terms of both its sturdiness and visibility.

The event should return to its usual slot of the first weekend in August in 2023 which will help considerably. The four new volunteers have all said they would help out again if requested to.

- Ecofest 3rd September

Event was well-attended on Saturday 3rd September. Stall had sufficient volunteers to staff the requisite shifts. Town Council gazebo attracted queries not to do with Leamington in Bloom – LiB banner would be useful to put across the front to help avoid this in future.

Magazines and new Trees of Jephson Gardens leaflets given out and lots of engagement with local and some new residents. Event finished at 5pm and the stall was removed from the Pump Room Gardens by 5:30pm.

- Commercial & Retail Competition 2022

LiB members judged their given areas of the town based on agreed criteria and scoring method throughout July. Thirty businesses across town have been recognized for their floral efforts in 2022 and will be receiving Highly Commended, Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

Recipients will receive framed certificates and be invited to the presentation reception. This to be held in the Mayor's Parlour on Wednesday 5th October at 6pm – **now rescheduled to Wednesday 19th October.**

- Photographic Competition 2022

Deadline passed for entries on 26th August. Forty-two entries were received under the theme of "Landmarks of Leamington". LiB members will judge the entries and choose three winners and eleven more runners-up which will all feature in next year's LiB calendar. The first, second and third winners will receive cheques for £50, £35 and £20 respectively at the presentation reception on 19th October.

Three winners and eleven runners-up were selected by the group on 7th September. All fourteen will feature in the Calendar.

- Jubilee Tree - update

It was reported to the DSO on 19th July that sadly the Jubilee Tree on Newbold Comyn had been attacked by vandals and now only has two branches left at the top. Jon Holmes has advised leaving it in place as it will bush out eventually but never recover fully. He has kindly offered a like for like replacement to be planted at the edge of the same field which LiB has accepted.