

LEAMINGTON IN BLOOM update – September 2021

Progress since 14th June 2021:

Floral Trains

Floral Trains were planted up by members of the group on 28th June and the Trains were put in situ at The Glasshouse in Jephson Gardens and at the Railway Station on 30th June. Official launch with the Mayor and Chiltern Rail was held outside The Glasshouse on 2nd July.

Trains will remain in place until mid-September when they will be removed by idverde and returned to the WDC depot for storage.

Magazine

Articles and photographs were collected for the Magazine but having lost the usual volunteer who designs and lays out the publication to ill health, the group could not find a cost-effective design option for it. Quotes were sought from WDC Print Room and an independent local designer but both came in at far above the LiB budget. It was decided to postpone the Magazine until later in the year.

The volunteer who usually designed the Magazine has now offered to continue to do so but at a much slower pace to allow for her condition. Hopefully, a 2021/22 edition will be published in February 2022.

Portfolio

Leamington in Bloom has entered the Heart of England in Bloom competition 2021 via the sole entry of a portfolio. This features three categories – Horticulture, Environment and Community – and was completed and submitted by 30th July.

The Portfolio is now with one of the usual Leamington judges, Joe Heydon, and a result is expected soon.

Green Grants

The group decided to increase the number of Green Grants on offer to six of £200 each. These have been advertised to schools, youth centres, community centres and children's centres. They were launched on 14th June with a closing date of 24th September. Grants to support new or ongoing green projects which promote sustainability and include/involve the community as much as possible.

Events

Stalls were manned for LiB at Art in the Park (7th/8th August) and at Ecofest (4th September). These were aimed at promoting the group, raising its profile, possibly recruiting new members and networking with other groups. Activities included a game with a prize, seed planting and distributing the Magazine.

Both events were well-attended - Art in the Park had poor weather but numbers were still high. Engagement was positive and members gave away LiB leaflets. The Town Council gazebo unfortunately succumbed to the very windy weather on the night of 6th August and has had to be disposed of. It will be necessary to source and purchase a new one (another was found and used at short notice).

Photographic Competition

Theme this year was Seasons in Leamington, there were three prizes of £50, £35 and £20 and the deadline was extended to 27th August. Advertised via local press and social media. There were 42 entries and the winners have been selected by the group. The quality of the entries was improved and the shots for the 2022 Calendar have also been selected. Cheques to be presented to the winners in October at the Town Hall.

Shops, Pubs and Restaurants Competition

This was judged by members in their respective designated areas during July and has resulted in 7 Golds, 4 Silvers, 9 Bronzes and 7 Highly Commendeds. Certificates to be given out at a short reception at the Town Hall in October. Premises were judged on overall impact on shopfront/side, impact on streetscene, planting and colour combinations, cultivation and maintenance and sustainability.