

# Godmanchester in Bloom 2018



Reserve the weekend - Open Gardens returns! It will take place over the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30 to - 5.30 each day. A wide variety of gardens, the community nursery and the allotments will be open. There will be plant and book sales, and delicious teas and cakes. Tickets will be £4 in advance from Thelma's, Gatehouse and Pinnies, and £5 on the day from any garden or outside the Town Hall. Bargain!

The Scarecrow competition also returns this year for an eighth season, and will run from 18<sup>th</sup> June to Gala Day, with judging during the week leading up to Gala Day, when the results will be announced. This year's theme is "**Characters from Roald Dahl**", so get thinking! The Town show will be held in St Mary's Church on 15th September. The 2017 Town Show, with over 700 exhibits, will be a hard act to follow.

It has long been proven that trees not only make our streets more attractive but also increase the value of properties. Trees help reduce pollution, increase biodiversity, reduce flooding and improve mental health among other important benefits. With that in mind Godmanchester in Bloom has helped to organise and plant five donated trees, and planted many more street trees. Both orchards continue to thrive.

We have tried very hard, but so far unsuccessfully, to convince Cambridgeshire County Council to let us plant trees in Almond Close despite the support of the Town Council. Most of the trees planted at Judith's Field in 2017 have survived, although there has been some vandalism. Our latest project was to plant three Himalayan Birches on the corner of Crow Hill to replace the old ash which was felled last year. We are hoping to make Godmanchester a greener and healthier place to live and a beautiful Town to hand on to the next generation.



During the past few months we have been working with the local schools, planning to add some colour to improve the street scene, principally to their entrances and to set up garden clubs. This will in time be a wonderful sight for the whole community to enjoy. All three schools in Godmanchester have been really positive, and there have been several very keen parents who have kindly come forward to volunteer. The children have also been getting involved, and we have plans to involve them even more - planting bulbs, seedlings and bedding plants. Clarence House Pre-school have also started a garden and are keen to participate. We are providing around ten baskets and the compost, and they will provide the flowers of their choice. There is even the possibility of pots close to the entrance to the church, so keep an eye out for colour popping up as you enter the church gates!

The Spring Offensive was the planting of some 5,500 Snowdrops and Bluebells, provided by the Town Council, on the Recreation Ground close to the banks of the river. This was accomplished with the great help of at least fifty members of the various uniformed organisations in the Town and other young (some very young!) people and their parents. Volunteers from across the Town also continue to support us with the provision of the flowers for the War Memorial.

A highlight for Godmanchester in Bloom was the awarding of the highest amount from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. This was to improve the Critical Care Centre Garden at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. This was a great success, albeit an on-going programme - we intend to add to the plantings with summer and autumn bulb and flowers, and to ensure it remains in good order, mainly with the help of volunteers at the Hospital. It is very much appreciated by both staff, and patients and their families.



Many of you support Godmanchester 800 and your contribution to In Bloom has allowed us to buy another street planter, this time to be found at The Stiles. It is being maintained by a local family. We very much hope you will also continue to enjoy the flowers in the other street planters. These and the snowdrops and bluebells you see on the Recreation ground, Judith's Field and elsewhere make up those small areas of bright colours which do so much to "lift us" in the grey days of winter.

The Neolithic Country Park (you will remember it as the landfill site!) has now been planted with several hundred saplings, and plans are advancing for bird-watching areas. The instigation of the 'Mill Steps project' was hopefully, a good step forward to the general improvement of the town. This is an area much in need of a 'make over' both structurally and aesthetically.

This year we have again taken on, with the help of you - the people - and the Town Council, the **Greener Streets in Godmanchester** project as we ask even more people to "put out your flower pots" and at the same time take an active part in keeping our streets clear of weeds and litter.

Thanks to everyone.

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