



## GODMANCHESTER IN BLOOM



We had a very busy 2018. There was the annual Front Gardens Competition, and the bi-annual Scarecrow Competition, this year "**Characters of Roald Dahl**", during Gala Fortnight, and Open Gardens. There were 38 scarecrows, and the very successful Open Gardens weekend with 17 gardens open, which funded a further three picnic benches, two on the Recreation Ground and one on Judith's Field. Two further planters have been provided with a grant from Club 800: one at the junction of The Stiles and St. Ann's Lane, and the second at the junction of Earning Street and Cambridge Road, both cared for by nearby families. Thanks to everyone who takes part !



We continue to maintain and enhance the Critical Care Garden at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, improved using the grant from TESCO Bags of Help. The **Greener Streets, Better Lives in Godmanchester** initiative continues to add to the quality of life around the Town, particularly in areas with little or no front gardens. The pots outside the West Street cottages, part of the **Greener Streets** programme, have been filled with perennial and summer plants and continue to prosper, and trees continue to be donated and planted around the Town. There have been litter picks and weedings around the Town, with an increasing concentration on collecting and recycling plastic.



Some years ago Godmanchester in Bloom (GMCiB) volunteers and a dozen or so young ladies from the College of Animal Welfare planted a hedgerow on the upper stretch of Silver Street. It is flourishing, but it will be some years yet before we see the full value of the project. The bench, provided courtesy of a grant from the Looker Energy Foundation, continues to provide a resting place for walkers in Silver Street. Similarly, the Town's second orchard, Michelle's Orchard planted on Wigmore Meadow, continues to thrive but it will again be some

years before we can enjoy the fruit; the first, in Devana Park, is already providing a good supply.



Our latest outing saw the planting of many thousands of bluebells and snowdrops provided by the Town Council on the recreation ground river bank, with the help of a good number of young members of the town's uniformed organisations. Daffodils continue to be planted at strategic locations around the Town, principally on main thoroughfares to be enjoyed both by Townspeople and those simply passing through. In addition, streets are starting to introduce group planting to enhance the overall ambiance of their area. One such is Almond Close.



The Front Gardens competition again showed the quality of gardens across the Town, with the winner an outstanding choice. The hanging baskets, containers and pots were of a similar excellent quality, as were the commercial premises. The Country Park is progressing slowly. It will be some years before public access is possible, but preparations continue, with the addition of thousands of tons of top soil being added to the area.

Although some had already been imported, work started in the Spring to position it. Agreement has also been made with the site owners to provide and site Sand Martin boxes close to one of the lakes. Sand Martins were present when the gravel pits were originally in use. We then just wait for them to arrive from Africa !



We continue to work with the schools and nurseries in the Town, planting bulbs and filling pots around the schools, and getting both children and parents involved. And the War Memorial roster continues to provide fresh flowers every week from Easter to Armistice Day.

A recent innovation was a presentation in the Church, when over 100 people joined us and other groups as a joint display of everything that is **Green for Godmanchester** as we look to the future. In addition to many new projects, others continue as normal, including the Garden Club, which meets on the second Monday of each month in the Church Hall in Chadley Lane. September saw the latest annual Town Show in St. Mary's Church, with over 600 entries. The quality of entries was as high as ever, especially the Children's Section. This year the Show will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September, again in the Church. Details are available at: [www.godmanchestertownshow.uk](http://www.godmanchestertownshow.uk).

Scarecrows and Open Gardens will be rested for this year, but will be back next year, with the Scarecrow Competition will taking place in the period leading up to Gala Fortnight; the exact dates and subject will be announced nearer the time. Open Gardens will take place over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020. There will be new organisers who are contacting those who have taken part in the past, but would also like to hear from anyone who would like to be considered for inclusion in 2020. If you think you may be interested please contact Stephanie Brown at [stileway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stileway@hotmail.co.uk).

There are always things to do around the Town, and we welcome anyone who wants to help. Each year we plant several thousand bulbs, and there are always trees and plants to be planted and watered.

Thanks to everyone. Just contact us: John Thackray (Chair, Godmanchester in Bloom) [jcthackray@hotmail.com](mailto:jcthackray@hotmail.com) and look out for our web site [Godmanchesterinbloom.co.uk](http://Godmanchesterinbloom.co.uk)