



GODMANCHESTER IN BLOOM 2018



...together we're making a difference

2018 - A Full Year



Last year was relatively quiet. With no Open Gardens or Scarecrows, we spent the year on our more traditional activities. Grants from the Town Council, the *Looker Energy Environmental Fund*, the Community Association's *800 Club* and the TESCO **Bags of Help** Grant helped us with these activities. The **Greener Streets, Better Lives in Godmanchester** project, initiated by the Royal Horticultural Society, continues to prosper with ever more pots appearing in front of houses. It has been helped by litter picks and weeding around the Town, including at the Chinese Bridge. The planter at the junction of West Street and the Causeway, provided with a grant from the Community Association's Club 800, on the open space opposite One Stop continues to flourish, as do the pots outside the nearby row of cottages filled with perennial and summer plants. Trees have also been donated and planted around the Town.

Some years ago a number of people, including GMCiB volunteers and a dozen or so young ladies from the College of Animal Welfare planted a hedgerow part way along Silver Street. It is flourishing, but it will be some years yet before we see the full value of the project. Similarly, the Town's second orchard, planted on Wigmore Meadow, continues to thrive but it will again be some years before we can enjoy the fruit; the first already provides a good supply. The latest outing has been 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.

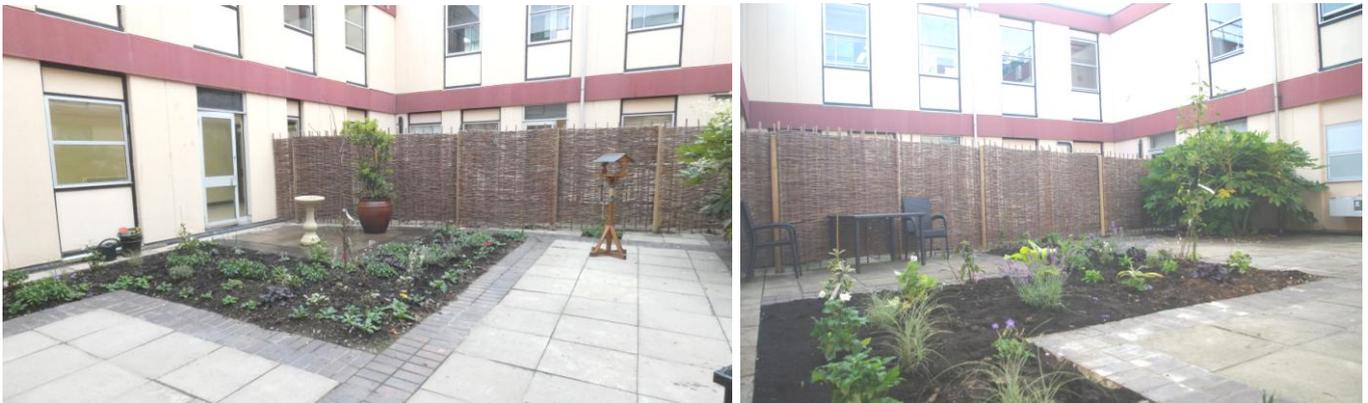
A second planter has now been provided by Club 800 and is to be found at The Stiles. This has been filled and is being looked after by a local family. The latest grant from the Town Council will allow us to plant many more trees, shrubs and bulbs around the Town. The grant from the **Looker Energy Environmental Fund** has resulted in a bench for the walkers who use Silver Street, allowing them to rest and enjoy the view across open countryside. This is another addition to Silver Street, an attractive route out of the Town popular with walkers and runners.





September saw the third, and again very successful, Town Show with over 700 entries, (a record number), with the quality of entries as high as ever, especially the Children's Section. The 2018 Town Show will take place on 15 September, as always in St. Mary's Church. All Godmanchester residents or members of Godmanchester-based organisations are most welcome to enter. The main show categories will be: Flowers & Plants, Vegetables, Floral Arrangements, Baking, Jams and Preserves, Photography, Children's Section, Handicrafts and Art. Details are available at: www.godmanchestertownshow.uk.

The Front Gardens competition again showed the quality of gardens across the Town, with the winner an outstanding choice. The hanging baskets and containers were of a similar excellent quality, as were the commercial premises. The Country Park to be sited on the old landfill site remains a task in progress, and it is hoped that there will be more visible signs of activity over the next twelve months.



Early in 2017 Hinchingsbrooke Hospital approached Godmanchester in Bloom to see if we could improve the very tired Critical Care Centre Garden. Realising this would be a costly exercise we looked for financial support and identified the Tesco **Bags of Help** scheme. Thanks to the generosity of so many people who donated their blue tokens to our cause, we were awarded the highest amount - and the garden has been transformed with flowers, plants, a bird bath and a bird table. This has been just a small way to show the Town's appreciation for the excellent work carried out at our local hospital.

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. We are working with St. Anne's and the Community School planting bulbs and filling pots around the schools, getting both children and parents involved. And the War Memorial roster continues to provide fresh flowers every week from Easter to Armistice Day.

So what is on the cards for 2018? Open Gardens will be over the weekend of 23rd - 24th June and the scarecrows will run from 17th June, with the result announced on 7th July, Gala Day. This year's theme is **"Characters of Roald Dahl"**, so plenty of time to get thinking!

There are always things to do around the Town, and we welcome anyone who wants to help. Each year we plant several hundred bulbs; there are always trees to be planted; and additional volunteers to place flowers on the War Memorial would be welcome. Just contact us as below.

Thanks to everyone.

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