



GODMANCHESTER IN BLOOM 2019



2019 - A Year of Reflections

Godmanchester in Bloom (GMCiB) had a very busy 2018. Once again there was the Scarecrow Competition, "**Characters of Roald Dahl**", during Gala Fortnight, Open Gardens and the annual Front Gardens Competition. We continued to maintain and improve the Critical Care Centre Garden at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The **Greener Streets, Better Lives in Godmanchester** initiative continues to add to the quality of life around the Town. Two further planters have been provided with a grant from Club 800: one at the junction of The Stiles and St. Ann's Lane, the second at the junction of Earning Street and Cambridge Road. All are being cared for by nearby families. Some damage was done to the bench in Silver Street, but this has been repaired.



There have been further litter picks and weeding around the Town, 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.

Some years ago 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. 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, in Devana Park, 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. More daffodils have also been planted, this time across from Cow Lane.



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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 earnest in the Spring of 2019 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 wait for them to arrive from Africa ! Farmers in the area of Silver Street agreed to use a direct track leading to the A1198 close to the new roundabouts to avoid using the centre of the Town with heavy farm vehicles.



We continue to work with the schools and nurseries planting bulbs and filling pots, 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 this year 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 14th September, again in the Church. Details are available at: www.godmanchestertownshow.uk.

Open Gardens and Scarecrows will be rested for this year, but will be back in 2020. But 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 to be planted and watered.



Thanks to everyone. Just contact us: John Thackray (Chair, Godmanchester in Bloom) - jcthackray@hotmail.com and look out for our web site: godmanchesterinbloom.co.uk

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