



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to our December 2023 Newsletter, the end of another busy, but fun year for Liphook in Bloom.

A message from Liphook in Bloom President, Terry Burns

Due to the extremes of weather it has been a tough summer for the Liphook in Bloom team and our helpers. However, we have battled through and it is due to the enthusiasm of everyone that we are still able to produce grand displays for parishioners and visitors to enjoy. It is also due to the generosity of our sponsors that we are able to fulfil our plans. A really big thank you to everyone who contributes in whatever way and, not forgetting, The Lazy Lizard, who generously provide refreshments for all the workers on our monthly work days. The Team have also been busy erecting Christmas lights in Station Road, putting up the village Christmas tree, sponsored by Chris Jackson and in co-operation with Steadman Blower, and hanging festive lights in other village trees. It has been another very busy and successful year. Thank you everyone.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Let's keep Liphook Blooming.



Liphook in Bloom's 'Christmas Elves'

After the Carnival is over the team swing into action on planting bulbs in the beds, but as soon as that is completed we turn our efforts skywards, for 'bulbs in the skies' Since the beginning of LIB in 1997 we have been responsible for the Christmas Illuminations in the village. Until two or three years ago we used to provide the 'Traditional style' lights that were mounted on the lamp columns throughout the village. The Parish Council have lifted that responsibility off of our shoulders and they now rent a more modern style of lights, which are wonderful. However, the team are not resting on their laurels! We still put Christmas trees and twinkling lights on all of the shops in Station Road, erect the 'Big Tree' in the Square and put other lights up wherever we can!

I want to send a big thank you to the team members and other helpers who turned out over three days and made what looks like a daunting task, easy. Now that task is done we can all start getting ready for our own Christmases.

Paul Johnson
Acting Chairman



Sustainable Planting

As you know from September's newsletter, we have been consulting with Dr Suzanne Moss, from the RHS about increasing the permanent planting in the village. This will reduce the amount of water we need to put on the beds and we won't be disturbing the ground and releasing carbon. This will make us more sustainable and help us look after this wonderful planet we inhabit.

Having seen examples of colourful displays that a mixture of perennial flowers, gasses and shrubs can create we have decided to make a start by completely replanting the two beds at the Millennium Centre with permanent planting.

Suzanne has been kind enough to walk around the village and make suggestions on a combination of plants we can use that will give year-round colour, suit the conditions for each bed and make a suitable habitat for insects and wildlife. We will gradually introduce the plants over the next year.



Millennium Bed Spring 2023 & Sorting Office Summer 2023

Carnival

A group of Bloomers entered the Carnival procession again this October. They called their float which was created to look like a pub, "The Gardener's Rest". They wanted to highlight that some of the original members of Liphook and Bloom were now looking to retire and would love some "new blood" to come forward. Although it was a very wet evening, everyone had fun and they are thrilled to have received 1st Prize in the Adult Category and the Carnival Committee's Tim Wheatley Memorial Cup.



Watering Team

A huge thank you to Roger Miller who has been leading the watering team, organising the rosters and making sure everything is going to plan since 2016. Piers Plumridge has kindly volunteered to take over from Roger next year. He would love to hear from you if you would like to help with the watering.

The watering season is generally June to September and currently there are seven two-person teams, which means each team completes 4 watering trips a year. The watering tour takes between 2 and 4 hours.

If you are able to help on this community project, please email Paul Johnson paul@tethersend.uk and he will discuss with you what is involved. His phone numbers are: 01428 724813 or 07854 074276.

Volunteering

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to join our team please get in touch. Please email Paul Johnson - his email address and phone numbers are just above in the Watering Team section. You are very welcome to join our team of helpers who come out each month on a Sunday morning, when we tidy the village flower beds, plant them, or clear them ready for the next season's bulbs and flowers. If you can't make Sunday mornings then we do ad hoc sessions during the week, especially in the warmer months - just let us know your availability. You don't have to make a commitment to volunteer every month - just join us whenever you are free.

If working on the flower beds isn't your "thing" then we always welcome help behind the scenes - we have all sorts of tasks that can be fulfilled indoors!

It isn't all hard work - we have a few social events during the year and if you're new to the village you will make new friends and find out all about the history of Liphook which is fascinating.

Liphook in Bloom is a great community project suitable for all ages (although children must be accompanied by an adult). Taking the time to be outside in nature is good for both physical and mental health. It also keeps Liphook looking well cared for and colourful and a lovely place to live, work and play.

We really look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime have a fabulous festive holidays.

If you'd prefer not to receive any newsletters in the future please email us on:
liphookinbloom@gmail.com