

# Liphook in Bloom

What a year! Liphook in Bloom has been flourishing since 1997 making Liphook a better place to live and to visit. What an achievement. It would not have been possible without each one of you, your commitment, enthusiasm and generosity. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have kept the village looking beautiful again this year, and to our fantastic sponsors for their support in cash and in kind. Your generosity makes all the difference.

A big thank you to JR Luff and Co. whose support and excellent plants from the inception of LIB, have made the difference. Thanks go to our newest sponsor, Siva of Ponomma Kitchen and Liphook Convenience Store on The Square, for sponsoring us as soon as the store opened.



A special welcome goes to all our new volunteers; it is great to have you on board, and we hope that you will love your time with us.

Big thank you also goes to Barbara Miller who has been a mainstay of the Committee for many years including writing articles for local media. Barbara is now taking a well-earned rest.

So, what did we do this year? We turned out to weed beds, plant bulbs, clean out all the hanging basket pots and rehang them. We had a good time on the Millennium Green with the community and gave away lots of sunflower seedlings. We dug beds over, trimmed and planted, watered, chatted and laughed. We enjoyed coffee and KitKats, and we made the village a much brighter and prettier place to live. We brought joy to people.

The Sunflower Competition was without doubt a real highlight again this year and several of the sunflower growers have become volunteers with LIB. Prizes were donated and awarded by Toby from Grayshott Pottery at a gathering outside the Number One café.



The tallest sunflower made a spectacular 360cm (that's 11 feet and 9 inches), and the plant with the most blooms had 65 flowers! Not everyone fared well with their seeds, but The Liphook Day Centre members were awarded a prize for effort when they entered

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themselves, and Caspar the dog – as sunflowers. Thank you to Miranda Rowe for organising this very successful event.

Grateful thanks also go to Nikki, Rob and the Team at Number One Café who have looked after us this year. We wish them every happiness in their next adventure as they move on from the café.

This year was terrific for fans of sunshine but was also a challenge for the Watering Team. In addition to the beds, we have 106 hanging baskets which need to be kept hydrated and the Team rose to the challenge. Piers Plumridge arranges the rota and would love to hear from anyone who might like to join. We always need someone with a tow bar on their car, even if they can only do one session a month. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact us via [allisonlibcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:allisonlibcommunications@gmail.com). Full training is given and there is no need to get involved with planting unless they would like to do so.



The bed outside the Sorting Office was very popular this year with a display of vegetables as well as cottage garden flowers. The scarecrow made a great addition and really gave the bed character. Well done to Miranda and Lesley who grew all those plants from seed.

We are thinking about how to develop the idea of growing produce in that bed in the coming year. The plan is to get the community involved with the planting, care and harvesting of the bed, with tuition given to those who have not gardened before but would like to know how. Keep an eye on emails in the early Spring for updates on that.

Our scarecrow had a final outing on the Carnival float. Most of the plants on the float were lifted from the beds or borrowed from volunteers' gardens – we don't waste much! Carnival evening was cold but clear

and everyone enjoyed being part of the procession.

I understand that our collection buckets were very heavy by the end of the evening, and a little impromptu initiative was required to enable people to use the QR code. Well done everyone.



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We joined forces with the Royal British Legion locally to place poppies on the lamp posts through the village and develop a lovely commemorative display in the Millennium Bed marking 80 years after the end of the Second World War.



Do you play golf? Several of our volunteers play and we held the annual golf day again this year. George House won the day and was presented with the trophy by our President and fellow golfer,



Terry Burns, but everyone had a good day out. If you play golf and would like to join in next year, do watch out for details in future emails.

The Christmas tree is now up in The Square, hosted by Stedman Blower outside of the Old Post Office. The tree was donated by a local family who live in the Square. Their children raised money for the tree by selling their old toys and running a homemade jam stall. Liphook Tree Surgeons kindly installed the tree, and our volunteers put the finishing touches in place. Our volunteers also put in place the lights along Station Road.

At the end of this year, we introduced a few changes to the beds outside the Millennium Hall. New, permanent planting makes those beds more sustainable, but we will also have a flash of additional



colour with the Spring bulbs. None of the old planting has been wasted. The Osmanthus will be relocated into the Anchor and Liphook Travel beds to augment the existing grasses at one end of the Liphook Travel bed, and that collection of grasses will be expanded. Any spare grasses will be planted in the dry garden in Fletchers Field so that as little as possible is wasted. A new Hydrangea Paniculata 'Vanilla Falaise' has been planted in the centre of each bed with black grasses, Erigeron, Pennisetum, red head grasses and with daffodils for the Spring and mixed alliums for the Summer to complete the scene.

Do you know that we have a website and that all the photos which Barbara Frost takes, thank you Barbara, are added to the gallery? Click here [Gallery – Liphook in Bloom...](#) to see the photos not just from this year, but from previous years.



We also have a Facebook page, and post on other local pages on Facebook including the Liphook Community Board. This year we have had lots of lovely comments and many more likes and hearts (loves). Here are just a few of the comments. Follow us on Facebook here [Facebook](#)

**Geoff Moss**

Well done everybody

**Penny Phillips**

Thank you to everyone involved, I love seeing the flowers when they come up you make the village look lovely

**Terri Potter**

Thank you for making Liphook pretty for the spring. Your hard work is noted and very much appreciated 😊

**Ellen Jenkinson**

Thanks to all of you !!

The village always looks lovely when you have done your work xx

**Liphook Day Centre**

You are all amazing - we really appreciate your efforts in keeping our village a beautiful place to live.

**Nicky Allington**

Thank you so much for all your hard work. It makes an incredible difference to the appearance of the village ❤️

**Sam Bias Kingshott**

Thank you all.

We finished off the year with a Christmas party at the Village Hall, and what a fabulous evening! A huge thank you to Lesley Hollands, our chairperson, for cooking such a lovely meal and to the volunteers who dressed the table, washed and cleaned up at the end.



It was great to see so many Bloomers having such a good time. It was lovely to have Mr and Mrs Luff with us, and some of our retired lifetime members. During the evening, we had a saxophone recital from Lesley's grandson, Archie, and our youngest member, Oscar, was awarded a special present and thanked for bringing so much enthusiasm and joy to everyone he works with.

Our President, Terry Burns, thanked everyone for so much hard work again this year and gave a special mention to the Watering Team, and Paul Johnson who coordinates so many of the projects.





Where to from here? Well, the dates for our working days will be on the website, and emails will be sent as usual but in case you want to plan, here are the dates so far. There may be amendments as we go, so do keep an eye open for emails.

<b>SUNDAY WORKING DAYS</b>		<b>Meet at 9.30am Midhurst Road Car Park</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	8th	
<b>MARCH</b>	8th	
<b>APRIL</b>	12th	
<b>MAY</b>	Sun 3rd Sat 9th Sun 10th	Bulb Lifting Bulb lifting LIB stall at Pic Nic on the Green
<b>MAY</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	Summer Planting
<b>JUNE</b>	7th	
<b>JULY</b>	12th	
<b>AUGUST</b>	9th	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	6th	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	11th	Summer Bedding lifted (before Carnival)
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sat 7th + Sun 8th	Bulb Planting
<b>DECEMBER</b>		

There will also be Weeding Wednesdays, as required, for those who are available. Remember, giving a few hours a year makes a real difference.

Well, we did a lot and a huge thank you to everybody who helped to make this possible.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, however you celebrate it, and we very much look forward to seeing you again in 2026 when our bulbs will begin to flower. Here is a reminder of the Spring display from this year to keep us going until then.



Liphook in Bloom Team