

PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH MEMBERS MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE JANUARY 2019

Dear all

Happy New Year (are we still allowed to say that?)

Of course, we are, and I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday period although it now seems ages ago, even for me and I only returned on 22nd January. Before we go on, I would like to thank Simon for standing in for me and getting last months News Update out to everyone.

So, having spent all my Christmas and New Year on a Caribbean cruise it was quite a shock after leaving Costa Rica where it was very sunny and 38°C and arriving home to Wigston where it was freezing and snowing. However now it's back to normal, if there is such a condition and time to get on with it and look forward to Spring which for me is the best time of the year. I love to see early snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses and to see all the other plants and trees just coming back to life after their winter sleep. So, as I write today, we have 50 days to go. No not till Brexit, till the first day of spring. I'll give you a little bit of information on the Spring Equinox in next month's News Update.

Now talking about the chain around our necks and as I predicted all last year Brexit continues to stagger and stumble onwards. I really would like to say and I'm sure you are the same, that we are now close to the end but who knows, certainly not our government. Even the Muppets look better organized and behaved.

However, on the positive side, let's have a look at the Pride of the Borough news for January and what's happening in February.

Membership Numbers

A good start to the New Year our membership numbers for January 2019 stand at **965** at time of writing. This represents an increase of 400 from same period in 2018. We asked our 2018 members to tell their friends and family of the advantages of being a Pride of the Borough member and we think this is why we already have many more people buying the card this year. So, our **thanks go to all the people who have spread the word.**

The 2019 card is now available with the cost remaining at £5. Anyone (not just residents of the Borough) can apply for the 2019 card by sending an application form to Brocks Hill Country Park & Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby Leicestershire LE2 5JJ or alternatively visiting

- Brocks Hill Country Park Café, Washbrook Lane, Oadby.
or
- OWBC Customer Service Centre in Bell Street, Wigston.

This year membership cards are also available from the Hospitality Desk in Zephs Café, Oadby. The Hospitality desk in Zephs Café is staffed from 10.00 – 3.30 Mon-Fri and 10.00 – 1.00 on Saturday.

Participating Businesses – January 2019

To date we have 50 businesses which offer discounts to Pride of the Borough members. If you know of a business which would like to be part of our scheme please let us know.

The Participating Businesses are spread throughout the Borough:

Wistow	1 business
Oadby:	23 businesses
Wigston:	21 businesses
South Wigston:	5 businesses

For complete listing please go to our website (Ctrl+click) [membership-card](#) to see the latest business offers. If you know of a business which would like to be part of our scheme please let us know.

Volunteer Required to Organise Delivery Rounds:

Bi-annually we send all our members a newsletter and with one includes an invitation to rejoin. As I'm sure you know this costs 58p for 2nd class stamps so we can save a lot of money if these are hand delivered.

Previously we have had several people willing to deliver these letters and are confident more people would be willing to give an hour or so twice a year to do this. As such we are currently looking for a volunteer to work out a suitable number of delivery rounds by grouping post codes together and assigning the rounds to deliverers who could have their own delivery area. We already have volunteers who produce and put the newsletters into addressed envelopes. Should you be interested or know anyone who might be interested in this position please contact us on:

Potb.oadbywigston@gmail.com or call to **mob: 07874228491**

3rd Saturday Monthly Working Parties:

This month our Monthly Working Party focused attention on Launceston Road and Station Road in Wigston. Led by our Mayor and six volunteers the team collected 15 bags of litter over a 2-hour period. Once again, a fine effort and a good start to the year.

On **16th February 2019**, we are back at Hill Way, Oadby, LE2 5YG joining residents working morning. Tasks will include general clearance/tidy up with pruning of shrubs and roses plus identifying plants no longer wanted that we can transplant to other areas in the borough. Volunteers will need to bring hand tools, spade/fork/loppers/secateurs etc. plus garden gloves and gardening clothes. **Activity to commence at 0930hrs.**

On March 16th 2019, we will be back in South Wigston at Blaby Road Park primarily to do a bit of tidying up in the flower beds. More information next month. Refer also to our website

<https://www.prideoftheborough.org/blog>

Garden Tips

February despite being cold and wet is not a month to just sit back. A few crops that don't mind hitting the ground early (provided it is not frozen) are transplanted seedlings of **broccoli**, **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, **chard**, and **Asian greens**. It's also safe to direct sow several **vegetables** in your garden, including **arugula**, **cabbage**, carrots, **kale**, **lettuce**, **onions**, peas, radishes, **spinach**, and turnips. Be sure to succession sow, to keep the harvest coming.

Some other jobs for this February: Use a cloche to warm the soil up for early peas.

- Start chitting potatoes in a bright, frost free place.
- Plant raspberry canes on sunny sites.
- Start off Broad beans indoors
- Plant Amaryllis in pots for stunning indoor flowers.
- Brush heavy snow off hedges and conifers.

For further reading click on link below (Ctrl+click)

<https://www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-do-in-the-garden-in-february>

New Friends from my recent trip



After visiting 16 countries over 37 days during December and January, here is one guy I met when I visited Colombia, South America. More to follow next month.

Notice of Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting will be on **Monday 11th February 2019 at 5.00pm at Brocks Hill Visitor Centre, Washbrook Lane Oadby**

All members - meaning those who have a 2019 membership card are welcome to attend the meeting and are entitled to submit motions for discussion.

Kind regards to all

Mike Connelly, secretary