

PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH MEMBERS MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE JULY/AUGUST 2019

Welcome to the July edition of PotB News.

What a terrific month, where we have had the hottest day on record great for the sun but some nights nearly impossible to sleep and trying to keep the garden watered was a challenge. Then the downpours all across the country. I know I wanted rain for the garden but I meant during the night and not all of the rain in one day. I was up in Scotland end of the month and we had little rain, showery rain, light rain, heavy rain and just complete deluge. So, hopefully we are back to some sunshine now. I do think however that there is definitely something in this climate change stuff and the experts are telling us that we are getting more hot days and more frequent than ever. For me fine but we will need to take a bit more care of ourselves and sun-cream application needs to become a habit more than just "do I really need to" attitude.

July brought us the judging season for East Midlands in Bloom and the PotB annual Floral Competition and we now await the results of such, where August brings us the holiday season and of course garden tidy-up and planning for winter. Have a good month.

Note our apologies since the Around the Borough article has been left out this edition. The roving reporter went "out and about" with the camera and is still out and about. Hopefully more Around the Borough next month.

Now, onto the Pride of the Borough business news for July and things you should be concentrating on in the garden in August. I've also been out and about in the Borough so have a look at what and who I have found later in the newsletter.

Membership Numbers

Membership numbers for June 2019 stand at **1422** at time of writing. This represents 118.4% of the total for 2018.

To date our records, show 843 have renewed from last year and 579 brand new members. The growth continues.

The 2019 card remains available at a cost of £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.
- OWBC Customer Service Centre in Bell Street, Wigston.
- Zephs Café, Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Rd, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LA

Participating Businesses – July 2019

To date we have 57 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 as follows:

Wistow	1 business
Oadby:	29 businesses
Wigston:	22 businesses
South Wigston:	5 businesses

We also have been informed of additions to our participating businesses that make offers available to our members:

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- **Joy Coffee Bar, Oadby** (next to shiny car wash) 20% off your bill Mon-Fri only.
- **Shiny Clippers, Oadby** (next to Shiny car wash) 20% off your bill Mon-Fri only.
- **Buddies, Wigston** 10% off on a Mon and Tues. Food only.
- **The Bedder Place, Wigston** 5% off your bill. (does not include sale items)

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.

Members should note.

- *Pride of the Borough encourages members to use local trades and businesses but takes no responsibility for the goods or services provided.*
- *Participating businesses reserve the right to change and/withdraw their offers at anytime*
- *You will find that offers may not be on sale items or other special offers.*
- *You should show your Membership Card before making a purchase*
- ** May not be used in conjunction with other special offers.*

3rd Saturday Monthly Working Parties (MWP):

On **20th July 2019** our Monthly Working Party, consisting of **14 volunteers** from both Pride of the Borough and South Leicestershire Litter Wombles (SLLW) set out litter picking. Based at the Chartwell Arms in Wigston the guys and gals spread out along Chartwell Drive and West Avenue and collected **22 bags of litter** and some other larger items. As normal the collection was picked up and disposed of by OWBC. A good effort by all who participated on the day.

In August we have had to unfortunately had to cancel the litter picking event due to the lack of volunteers coming forward to lead the event. For anyone who wishes to participate in litter picking during month of August and likes to be part of a group I suggest you look at the SLLW website and see where they are going to be.

However, do not fear we are back on line for litter picking from September through end of the year. Details as follows:

- 21st September, Oadby at Ellis Park and Sensory garden
- 19th October, South Wigston, assemble at Countesthorpe Road carpark for litter picking along Blaby Road and adjacent side streets.
- 16th November, Wigston Meadows, assemble at Cuisine of India carpark for litter picking in the adjacent area.

For those of you who need equipment this will be available as will the well-deserved cup of tea or coffee at the end of the event. ALL are welcome.

Take Pride

The Pride of the Borough new Campaign THINK LITTER continues to encourage residents of our Borough NOT TO DROP LITTER.

Pride of the Borough Floral Display Competition 2019

The competition was very well supported this year with 28 people making 38 entries across the seven categories.

The judging has now taken place and we currently await the results from the judges.

We can however announce that in the Best School Garden category Wigston Academy Trust were awarded the Gold Award and Waterleys School were awarded the Silver Award. Congratulations to both schools and we hope to see you back again next year.

All awards will be presented to the winners of each category at our award evening which will be on the 26th September at the Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre in Oadby. Invitation will be by letter which should be out by first week in September.

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East Midlands in Bloom 2019

The day was the 4th July 2019 and the delegation of two judges from EMIb arrived at a sunny Peace Memorial Park in Wigston. After the formal introductions of the PotB team, the OWBC representatives our chairman gave a short presentation on what has been going on in the Borough over the past 12 months and what we have achieved. Particular emphasis was placed on the number of actual volunteers manhours expended throughout the year by all groups associated with PotB.

After a short walk about in the Peace Memorial Park, which looked outstanding on the day, the group boarded the tour bus and off around the Borough. A short stop at the Wigston Pinfold to view the site after its first year in place. Then off to Wigston Academy who this year have reinstated their allotment with the collaboration of the Abington House part of the school and PotB. The students have made remarkable progress this last year starting from a very overgrown and rundown allotment and turning it into a fully functioning garden, where they have been able to grow vegetables and even sell to the teachers and use in the school kitchen. Representatives from the school including some of the students were out in the allotment to greet us and I think they made a good impression on the judges.

The tour then proceeded onwards to South Wigston stopping briefly at Blaby Road Park which again looked in excellent shape. Continuing through South Wigston along Saffron Road, down Dorset Avenue/Glenbourne Road and back onto Aylestone Lane and stopping at the Aylestone Lane Allotments. This is always a good stopping point since there is such a diversity of activities going on by the allotmenters (I think that is a word).

Following on up into Wigston town centre where a stop was made at the William Wigston pub to view their floral display. This year they have also been entered in the EMIb special category, so good luck there. Continuing on to Brockhill in Oadby where after a short walk about of the grounds at Brockhill specialist groups gave presentations to the judges of works and projects they are involved in throughout the year. This is about the halfway point in the tour and cups of tea and coffee were well received at this point.

We now leave Brockhill Centre and head out up Rosemead Drive heading for Wickham Road where volunteer groups from Wickham Road residents and Portland Walk had a terrific presentation set up on the green and very professional it was to. Several minutes were spent here and more could have been but time adherence is crucial on this tour.....well Mike's got the bus ticking over and it's getting hot.

Moving on down Fairstone Hill into Oadby town. A brief stop was made at the Morwoods Play Area to show off the new Oadby Pinfold commemorative bench then off through Oadby town centre and down to the racecourse. The racecourse always has spectacular hanging basket displays and planters around the course and it is well worth a look if you can get in.

Finally, we complete our tour at the University of Leicester Botanic Gardens after nearly 3 hours. A short tour is made around part of the gardens before we complete.
All in all an excellent day and now we await the judges decisions. Watch this space.

Volunteer Openings

The following positions are still open within the Pride of the Borough management team. So, if you are interested then please contact us.

- Volunteer for the position of Social Media Manager
- Volunteer to organize and assist in PotB mail deliveries.
- Volunteer for the position of New Businesses Development - Wigston

For all of the openings above interested parties should contact us on:

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

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Garden Tips for the Month of August



University of Leicester Botanical Gardens
Photo courtesy of BK Windows Ltd

As summer begins to draw to a close August becomes a month of tidying up and thoughtful preparation for the winter and of course for next Spring. Jobs done now provide the basis for future joys – from planting strawberries and herbaceous seeds, to laying paths and taking shrub cuttings. This is also an important time in the kitchen garden.

Now continuing on for works to be done in August.

Bulbs Plant narcissi of all kinds from the miniature ones up to the big daffodils. Start preparing bowls for indoor winter flowering. By planning a few bowls now you will make sure of a succession of flowers throughout the winter months.	Flowers for Cutting Gladioli can be cut now and kept for several days. Hollyhocks and clematis, with hot water treatment will both last well in an arrangement.	Fruit Early apples and pears can be picked and eaten. Suitable rootstocks can now be budded. Plant summer-fruiting strawberries.	Greenhouse Cyclamen may be sown now and cuttings from heliotrope and fuchsias may be taken. Arum lilies may also be started into growth. Ventilate tomatoes well.
Hedges Take care when pruning your lavender hedge. New growth only should be lightly trimmed now. Old wood cut back will not shoot again.	Herbaceous Plants Dahlias may need extra staking by now. Sow calendula, godetia, candytuft, cornflowers, sweet sultan, larkspur, echium, alyssum and agrostemma for early bloom next summer.	House Plants Plants left alone during holidays like to be grouped together to provide humidity for each other. They can be left inside a plastic hood forming a miniature green house.	Lawns Frequent mowing is still the order of the day. If going away leave the mower box off for the final cut. The cuttings will help the soil moisture to be retained.
Paths, Fences and Walls This is a suitable time to lay paths. Always treat base soil with weed-killer first. Remember to give paths a camber to drain off heavy rain.	Patios, Balconies, Roof Gardens and window boxes Make sure outdoor living spaces are not too cluttered. Plants should be removed to the edges to make room for people and furniture.	Rock Gardens Take cuttings of dwarf rhododendrons. Plant spring-flowering bulbs and corms. Divide and replant bulbs already in the ground.	Roses Spray against black spot at intervals. Stop feeding with nitrogen. Start cutting out old wood from established ramblers. Suckers are numerous now. Trace them to the root and pull them off.
Shrubs, trees and climbers Deutzias, buddleias, philadelphus, berberis and many evergreens will root easily this month. Remove leaves from lower half of stem. Dip end of cuttings in hormone rooting powder.	Vegetables Shallots and autumn sown onions are now ready for lifting in dry weather. Lift and store beetroots. Sow brussels sprouts for next year, and last batch of lettuce for this year.	Water Gardens Be ready to spot aphids. Blast them from foliage with a hose jet. The fish will then eat them up from the surface of the water.	Wildlife Animals of all kinds are already starting to prepare for the winter so step up quantity and variety on your bird table and other types of feeders.

Reference: Marshall Cavendish; Gardeners Diary; ninth edition 1988

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Talking Tatties

By now you will no doubt have started harvesting your potatoes. Used to love this period when I was at school when the local farmers recruited the school kids for the big “*Tattie Pick*”. Was hard work as I remember but the few pennies or if you were lucky shillings came in very handy in a schoolboys pocket and the lunch put on by the farmers wife was always to die for. However back to the tatties in hand. You will now have way too many potatoes to eat in one go so it is important to store them properly so that they remain in good condition for later consumption.

Once your potatoes have been harvested, brush off any excess soil with your hands. Be careful not to bruise or break each potato's skin, and do not wash potatoes before storing. Allow your dug potatoes to rest in a single layer for three or four days in a well-ventilated, dry location. Once they have rested, they're ready for storage.

Potatoes are best stored in dark, cold conditions; between 7 and 10 degrees C is best. A dark, well-ventilated root cellar is a great place, but not everyone has one. If a root cellar isn't an option, put your harvested potatoes in a wicker or plastic basket, a brown paper bag, or a cardboard box and store it in a dark basement or cool garage. Protect the tubers from light, and don't layer them in the box or basket any more than a foot or so deep. Do not freeze them or store them in a refrigerator.

Some gardeners prefer to leave their potatoes in the ground for storage and dig them only as needed. This is possible where the ground doesn't freeze or become waterlogged with autumn rains. For this method, put a thick layer of fresh straw over the plants after they have died back, and dig the tubers up as needed. Some gardeners might experience a high rate of rot in potatoes stored in-ground, particularly during periods of wet weather. Also, potatoes stored in the ground are left vulnerable to voles, chipmunks, mice and other tuber-munching mammals that enjoy burrowing under the straw mulch.

Well folks that's the end of our “Tattie Talk” for this season and I hope you have found the advice given useful and now have buckets full of the good old tattie.

For other specialist gardening advice/reading click on link below (Ctrl+click)

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

Other News around the Borough

Green Flag Awards in the Borough

The Keep Britain Tidy organisation awards the Green Flag to well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. This year they have awarded the Green Flag to Brocks Hill Country Park, Oadby and the Peace Memorial Park, Wigston!

Excerpt from OWBC News. July 19 2019

https://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/news/2019/07/19/green_flag_awards

Notice of Monthly Meeting for September:

Note that there is no meeting in August and therefore the next meeting will be on **Monday 9th September 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.