

Pride of the Borough, Oadby & Wigston

EMiB Gold Award 2019



Monthly Newsletter June 2020

Welcome once again to the Pride of the Borough monthly newsletter for June on the first weekend of summer, although you wouldn't think so with all this rain and what seem to me like gale force winds.

We're still in a lockdown situation, although I am sure like me you have difficulty at times understanding what we can or cannot do, who we can see or cannot see and how many. But we must keep going.

The shops will be opening this month and even with the social distancing conditions it might make things a little easier especially for the "small / local business owners". Things must have been tough these last couple of months but here at Pride of the Borough we are promoting the **Supporting of Local Businesses** and encourage all our members to make use of the local businesses in lieu of the multi-national guys.

As I mentioned in last month's edition regarding how some of the PotB associated community organisations have continued their work throughout the lock-down period to keep their local area clean and tidy by doing a bit of gardening work and litter picking on the local greens outside their homes, see this month's article in the Around the Borough section later in this newsletter for some terrific results.

Now onto the Pride of the Borough business news for this month and things you should be looking at in your garden.

Membership Numbers

As expected, and at the time of writing our 2020 membership, has remained at **1022** members this month.

Unfortunately, all the outlets where you previously picked up a membership cards are currently closed, and we are also still unable to access postal applications at this time.

The Elected Officers of PotB

Chairman: Simon Lucas

Treasurer: Sarah Dickinson

Secretary: Mike Connelly

contact details can be found at the foot of this page.

Participating Businesses May 2020



At the end of April, our records are showing 55 **local** businesses offering discounts to Pride of the Borough members. If you know of a business who



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would like to be part of our scheme, please let us know.

The Participating Businesses locations remain as follows:

Oadby: 27 businesses
Wigston: 23 businesses
South Wigston: 5 businesses

For the full listing of the participating businesses [Click Here](#)

Here are 5 points you may want to consider when choosing to shop at your local business outlets:

1. While the need to help the independent business community is most immediately obvious, the benefits of shopping small extend beyond times of crisis.
2. Small businesses are important to the economic and social fabric of our society, and we all play a part in their survival.
3. A healthy presence of small businesses in communities also helps people learn on-the-job business skills, empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs.
4. Every single customer matters when you're small.
5. Reach out: You may have built relationships with some of the small business owners where you usually shop. Reach out and ask what they need right now.

**SHOP LOCAL
EAT LOCAL
SPEND LOCAL
ENJOY LOCAL**

START THE TREND!

**SUPPORT THE LOCAL
BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT
THE AREA WHERE YOU LIVE,
WORK AND PLAY.**



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3rd Saturday Monthly Working Parties (MWP):

In line with government advice all MWP activities, maintenance of town centre planters and projects that we had in cooperation with Oadby & Wigston Council for the near future are now under discussion with PotB committee to see where we can possibly restart our activities. Keep a check on our website Events Calendar for further advice and updates.

[PotB Monthly Events - Click Here](#)

Take Pride

The Pride of the Borough new Campaign THINK LITTER continues to encourage residents of our Borough NOT TO DROP LITTER. The working group for this initiative is planning some interesting projects for this coming year so continue to watch this space.

Pride of the Borough Floral Display Competition 2020

Repeating our advice from previous newsletter issues we still want our Borough to look good and cared for and for residents to enjoy their gardens. We are therefore going to simply highlight front gardens that in our opinion look good and worthy of a mention. Our normal judging is scheduled for July which is where we are hoping that the worst of this situation will be over plus judges can view front gardens from outside and so have no need to have any contact with residents. Sometime in July we will visit the gardens that we have been informed about. There will not be an overall winner but feel it important that amongst all the gloom we all keep smiling and as we all know a lovely looking and well-tended garden is something, we can all be proud of. Gardening is also good exercise for you!

So just to remind you if you would like to be involved in a greater Floral Community spirit, please let us know at chairman@potb.org.uk by the end of June.

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East Midlands in Bloom 2020



An update from the RHS communities' team

Even with no BLOOM competitions in 2020, Britain in Bloom competitors continue to be active and indeed creative. This month we are showing you some of the work that Blooming Inverkip group have been doing up in Scotland.

For the complete RHS publication go to [RHS: Blooming Brilliant News](#)



Message to key workers

The volunteers that make up Blooming Inverkip in Scotland have built a beautiful garden to share their appreciation to key workers.

To build the garden the group used their daily exercise time, keeping at safe distances, and donated their own

money made use of recycled materials and received kind donations from local businesses.

"The pastel colours were chosen to try to give an atmosphere of tranquility, calmness and composure that our key workers have been giving to us whilst saving lives, delivering our mail and keeping our local shops open amongst many other examples... 4 white roses are planted as a sign of hope and new beginnings." said Bob Russell of the Blooming Inverkip group.

Find out more about the group [here](#).

The June Garden

Summer is here, believe it or not. There is still plenty to keep you occupied, such as cutting back and mowing, but this is a time of year when you can begin to enjoy the fruits of your labours. So above all else, do take time to sit and savour the sensory delights of your garden and reward yourself for all the hard work you have put into it. Gardening shouldn't be a chore.

Things To Do. Keep weeding and deadheading to maintain beds, borders, and container displays, and water new and young plants, as necessary. Look out for pests and suckers on roses and prune spring-flowering shrubs. You can also propagate climbers by layering them.

Cut back and tidy up spring-flowering perennials and take cuttings from pinks. Sow seeds of perennials and cut down the faded foliage of bulbs, lifting and dividing any overgrown clumps as required. Plant out summer bedding in borders and containers, including hanging baskets and sow plants for winter and spring colour, such as polyanthus and pansies.

Mow the lawn and trim edges regularly. Give tired lawns a boost with a liquid feed and water new lawns made in the spring.

Harvest vegetables as they come to maturity and plant winter brassicas, protecting them from pests. Keep fruit and vegetables well-watered in dry spells



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and shade and ventilate all the plants in the greenhouse.

LAST CHANCE. Plant new plants before the summer really heats up and sow hardy annuals outside to flower this year. Plant out tender vegetables such as tomatoes and runner beans to get good crops this year.

GET AHEAD. Sow chicory to force in winter for salads and peg down a few strawberry runners to make new plants. Sow seeds for pot plants to flower in winter.

Around the Garden in June.

Now with the weather we have had this past week and since the temperatures have dropped quite significantly it might still be pertinent to keep horticultural fleece or e.g. bubble wrap to give some ready protection to bedding and vulnerable young vegetables, including the shoots of late planted potatoes.

Apply and renew mulches over the soil. This is a good idea at any time of the year, but especially now, to reduce water loss from the soil and suppress weeds. The important point to bear in mind when putting down mulch is to make sure the soil is moist beforehand. If the soil is dry the mulch is just as good at keeping water out as it is at retaining it in the soil. Don't forget that you can also "mulch" newly planted containers; there's a wide range of decorative chippings now on offer that will compliment stone, terracotta and glazed pots.

Water plants thoroughly during hot spells, concentrating on newly planted plants, young vegetables and plants in containers, which need it most. If there's a lot to do, it is no good going out every night and splashing a little water around. In drought periods, divide the garden into areas and every evening give a different one a good soaking, which should last for up to a week. This is more beneficial because the roots will go deeper into the

soil in search of water. Smaller amounts of water encourage the roots to come to the surface of the

soil, causing more harm in the long run; roots near the surface can make the plants even more vulnerable in drier conditions.

Hoe or hand-pull annual weeds while they are still small. Choose a dry day and leave the weeds on the surface to wither. Perennial weeds have to be dug out leaving no trace in the soil. If any roots are left they will start to grow again, effectively propagating the weed.

Any gaps in borders are better filled with bedding plants for the summer now and then more permanent plants can be put in the autumn. These gap fillers will give instant colour to what may have been a bare patch of earth. Any annuals will do, whether hardy or half-hardy. If you need height among medium sized plants, you can even drop in a whole pot of summer display plants. Hardy annuals sown now will flower in late summer and autumn so extending the flower displays in the borders.

Dead-heading is a regular task in all parts of the garden as some flowers go over. With many plants-perennials, repeat flowering roses and hardy and half-hardy annuals – the flowering period can be extended considerable if old flowers are removed as soon as they fade. This will prevent the plants energy going into seed production and channel it into flowers later in the summer and autumn. Most dead-heading can be done with secateurs, cutting back to just above strong buds on lower stems. Some plants, like the hardy geraniums, can be quickly trimmed back hard with a pair of garden shears when the flowers fade. It may seem rather drastic action, but new foliage soon appears.

Now our monthly **Weather Watch.** At last we can look forward to warm, sunny days: very warm at times, with temperatures reaching 20-22°C in places. Don't let young plants suffer through lack of watering during hot spells. Getting them well established in their first year is the most important consideration.



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Winds. Now I know we've just had some really windy weather (which all but wiped out my alliums) but honestly June is usually calm.

Sunshine and cloud. Thankfully, there are usually more sunny days than dull, overcast ones this month. However, for Leicestershire AccuWeather is forecasting around 13 days of cloud this month with temperatures in the region of 13 – 24°C so keep your woollies and rainwear handy.

Rainfall levels. This is usually one of the driest months, but the weather cycle can vary (and does) from year to year and sometimes June can be quite wet. Forecast for our area is showing a further 4-5 days of rain mainly concentrated in the middle of the month.

Snow. However, I have some good news: No snow this month.

For more from the weather specialist AccuWeather [Click Here](#)

Monthly Topics of Interest

This month's **Topic of Interest** once again comes from Cherry Lane Garden Centre and is extracted from their gardening series for this year.

Shrubs

Shrubs are woody long-lived plants that form the backbone of most gardens, bearing flowers, attractive stems and interesting foliage, as well as lending height and texture. Not all shrubs are tall, back of border stalwarts, there are also ground covering varieties and many wonderful dwarf shrubs suitable for a container. The choice is huge and you'll be living with them for a long time, so here is some guidance to choosing shrubs for your garden, from the local Cherry Lane Garden Centre over at Countesthorpe.

Growing Shrubs for Foliage: Shrubs can be evergreen, semi-evergreen (these keep some leaves on in the winter depending on the

temperature) or deciduous (loses all its leaves over winter). Evergreens are deservedly popular as the attractive foliage remains through the coldest months. Evergreen shrubs with variegated (two-toned) leaves such as varieties of Euonymus and Pieris are bright and stand out in a border as do those with golden, red or blue coloured leaves, like Choisya, Photinia and Eucalyptus. Deciduous shrubs should not be forgotten as many have variegated or unusual coloured leaves, whilst many take on autumnal colours of red, orange and yellow before the leaves fall. Shrubs such as Spirea, Cotinus and Cornus are good for this.



Cotinus coggygria 'Flame'
Smoke tree

A superb rounded bushy deciduous shrub with large rounded apple green foliage colouring to brilliant scarlet and oranges in autumn. Smoky plume like flowers turning to a beautiful smokey blue.



Photinia often called the "Little red robin Christmas red berry". A handsome dwarf variety of a very popular shrub.

Shrubs with Flowers; Most shrubs will flower in spring making them a great backdrop to flowering bulbs and early blooming perennials. Deciduous shrubs tend to flower more flamboyantly than evergreens with a few exceptions – Rhododendrons, Japanese Azaleas and Camellias produce large quantities of flowers as does Ceanothus, Floriferous deciduous shrubs include Weigela, Deutzia and Forsythia which will clothe their branches in

colour throughout March and April, often before the leaves emerge. Earlier in the winter, shrubs such as Hamamelis (Witch Hazel), Lonicera Purpusii (winter Honeysuckle) and Viburnum Bodnantense flower on bare wood and are very nicely scented. Shrubs like Philadelphus will waft perfume across the garden when in full flower in June. Lilac has the same effect in May and Buddleia in summer.



Philadelphus coronarius is a species of flowering plant in the family **Hydrangaceae**, native to Southern Europe. It is a deciduous shrub growing to 3 m tall by 2.5 m wide, with toothed leaves and bowl-shaped white flowers with prominent stamens. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphus_coronarius)

Planting and Caring for Shrubs: Container grown shrubs can be planted all year round if the ground is not frozen or waterlogged. If planting in the summer, you will need to keep your new shrubs well-watered as drying out will be detrimental to the plant's health. Spring and autumn are the best times of the year to plant, especially if you are planting a lot of shrubs. If the planting area is new or has not been cultivated for a while, dig in some farmyard manure compost before you start. This is also a good idea if the soil is very sandy or like heavy clay. Dig a hole twice the width and depth of the root ball and half backfill using Rose, Tree & Shrub compost or Ericaceous if the shrub is acid loving. Mix half and half with the soil you dug out of the hole. Position the plant in the hole making sure the top of the root ball will be buried no deeper than 2-3cm from the surface.

Fill around the roots with the compost/soil mixture firming as you go and making sure that the plant remains upright. You should aim to leave a slight indentation in the soil around the shrub so that the water will pool around it, helping to keep the soil moist. Water in thoroughly then keep an eye on your shrubs for the next three months whilst it establishes, ensuring that they do not dry out.

Ref: Cherry Lane Garden Centre Information Guide: Shrubs January 2020

For more expert gardening advice on what to do in May in your garden go to ([use CTRL key + click](#)):

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

<https://www.cherry-lane.co.uk/blog/jobs-for-june/>

Out and About in the Borough

Well despite Covid-19, nature keeps going on regardless. I received a very welcome email from one of our members last month regarding spotting of one of our native flora.

Last Monday (May 4th) I took this photo of a Ladysmock flower on a grass verge in Dove Rise, Oadby.



It was one of 30 growing there, the first time I had seen them there in the 37 years I have lived here. It was clearly a splendid consequence of the verges not being mowed. I sent it to the Leicester Mercury, and they published it on Friday the day after the mowing contractor mowed the verges. If some of the verges

could be left unmowed we could have a series of mini meadows enhancing the environment.
David Foulkes

Additionally, I have received a report from the Portland Walk (Oadby) residents who have continued to keep the area outside their houses in immaculate condition. It should be noted that this is nothing to do with Covid-19, the residents up at Portland Walk do this on a regular basis just because they like to live in a well maintained environment and it brings them together. I'm sure you'll agree that the results of their work is nothing short of terrific.



Well done Andrea and the Portland Walk Team.

So, what are you doing to keep yourself occupied?

Let me know and we can share your exploits or adventures with all.

Notice of Monthly Meetings for June / July 2020:

The June monthly meeting should have been held on **Monday 8th June 2020 at 5.00pm at Brocks Hill Visitor Centre, Washbrook Lane Oadby, LE2 5JJ** however, due to the current COVID-19 situation **and the restrictions advised by the government** this "face to face" meeting has been cancelled.

The committee however took advantage of the new IT technology available to us in today's "new normal" and have arranged a "Zoom" meeting at the same time as our normal meeting would have taken place. Unfortunately, and mainly until we become more familiar and experienced in using the Zoom technology this meeting is by invitation only.

To see complete calendar for 2020, see [\(use CTRL key + click\) Events](#)

Call for Volunteers and Articles:

Pride of the Borough an organisation run by volunteers for residents of the Borough of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston are always on the lookout for additional people who can spare some time to assist us in the running of the organisation in various categories. If you have some spare time and would like to become a team member helping to keep PotB running, we would be pleased to hear from you.

We have an immediate need for someone to join our membership team as a Membership and Small Business Coordinator. Initially this means working alongside our existing Membership Coordinator who is retiring from this position at the end of the year, and who in the next six months will formally bring the new volunteer up to speed on the activities that are required to fulfill this position and subsequently make a full hand-over. If you are interested please contact us at secretary@potb.org.uk

Additionally, anyone out there who may have an interesting article, recipe, event notice or even a gardening problem etc. that you think that PotB would be interested in publishing and that such item fits in with the PotB philosophy please do not hesitate to send us for our consideration.