



PotB Members Newsletter March 2022

Dear member

Another month and hopefully another month towards spring when we can get back out into our gardens, allotments, open spaces and enjoy the outdoors without feeling cold! As we tell you later, we are starting to get out once again and there are opportunities for you to join in.

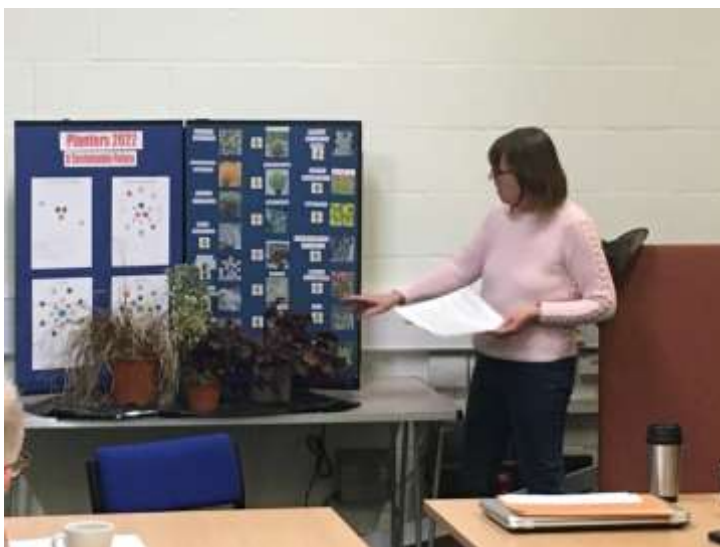
Membership Matters

We have one new business to tell you about, The Handmade Elephant in The Arcade in Wigston are offering 10% off purchases of £10 or more. Check them out online, <https://www.thehandmadeelephant.co.uk/>, or better still visit the shop. My wife loves the haberdashery and children's clothes, "Lovely and friendly, great service" (and that was before they joined our scheme!

Our card continues to be available by post and we are planning on attending 'pop-up' events with active Oadby & Wigston, on 24th March on Bell Street Wigston and 14th April on The Parade Oadby, both from 10.30-12.30 when cards can be bought directly, so do tell your friends and neighbours.

Social Media

We've said before that Facebook and the like are not really our forte, however we are working to refresh our Facebook presence, why not have a look and share posts? Or if you are more familiar and would be able to help us, the please get in touch.



Blooming future

We are making our plans to enter the East Midlands in Bloom regional competition again this year. At the recent regional seminar it was confirmed that there is a change in emphasis on sustainability and especially for planting, making sure that it is appropriate to the location. This fits with plans we have been working on, and agreed at our last meeting, when, following a presentation by one of our volunteers, we agreed to replace some of the more traditional seasonal planting in the town centre planters which we look after with herbaceous/edible plants.

The financial outlay may be slightly more than traditional bedding, but we will not need to replant



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twice a year and once established there will be a reduced need to water, and as they grow, we can divide them to provide more plants for other locations. I think that will look great and be just what the judges are looking for!!

At our next semi-formal meeting on 11th April our chairman will be giving a short presentation on what bloom is all about, including the history of Britain in Bloom. You are invited to attend and learn more.

3rd Saturday working group.

Many verges, parks and open spaces are being brightened up with some of the thousands of bulbs that have been planted by volunteers in the past 5 or 6 years, daffodils are showing and soon will be in full flower. Many have been planted as part of our 3rd Saturday working groups.

Our Saturday in February was based in Oadby when, on a horrible cold, grey, wet morning 14 volunteers collected 15 bags of litter. Our next meeting is from 9:30am on Saturday 19th March when we'll meet on Rolleston Road near The Nautical William pub for litter picking in the surrounding area.

Our April meeting will be in South Wigston, look out for more details in our newsletter or check the calendar page on our web site



Picture taken Spring 2021

Volunteers & Getting Involved

Volunteers at Aigburth are completing their hedge-laying project, featured in our last newsletter, on Saturday 12th March from 1-4pm, if you would like join them please contact us for more information.

Meeting venue

We have been meeting at Brocks Hill Environment Centre for the past few years, however it is planned to be converted for use as Council Offices. During that conversion work we will not be able to use the building for our meetings so will be using one or two different venues for our monthly meetings. We will keep you informed both through our newsletter and web site.

We hope our secure external letter box at Brocks Hill will still be available for post, however staff at Parklands Leisure centre will be pleased to accept our post, including membership application forms.

Thank you

Regrettably Mike has had to step down from taking an active role as Secretary and editor of our newsletters with effect from our recent AGM. I know that his refreshing style of writing the newsletters was appreciated by many, so I'll try and follow this if I can. We send him and his family our best wishes.