

Pride of the Borough

Members Newsletter

April 2023



Dear member

It's Spring, or at least it feels like it on warm sunny days with a bright blue sky but then it's cold rain the next....welcome to typical April weather!! I hope you are able to get out into gardens, vegetable plots/allotments and get some seeds sown, we'll be glad of the rain then! Remember the old saying "April showers brings forth May flowers"

Britain in Bloom Awards 2023

The date for judging has been confirmed as Wednesday 26th July so we are working hard to ensure everywhere is looking it's best by then.



Have you seen the banner proclaiming our entry? Can you work out where this photo was taken? Let us know where you think this is. Sorry no prizes!

Keep an eye out as it moves around the borough, is there somewhere you think it could be displayed? Let us know your suggested locations.

Membership Matters; Business Offer changes

One new business to tell you about this month. We are delighted that South Wigston Cycle Centre, Blaby Road: are offering 5% off accessories with a minimum spend of £10 plus 5% off selected bikes, excluding e-bikes. Perfect timing for getting out on your bike this spring.



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FREE Sunflower Seeds

We continue to give away sunflower seeds, the next scheduled events are:

- 14 April at 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm meeting in the South Wigston Community Garden near the Lansdowne Grove entrance.
- 22 April at 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Bell Street, Wigston Magna
- 28 April at 12:00 am - 3:00 pm The Parade, Oadby
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Join us at any of these events when Sunflower seeds and compost will be available for free, for you to join in growing these wonderful plants along with our team to bring sunshine into the open spaces of our Borough.

These dates of these events and other activities, are on our website <https://potb.org.uk/events/>



3rd Saturday working group.



On Saturday 18th March in conjunction with staff from OWBC, we tackled replacing the lavender in the central bed at Peace Memorial Park. What a day! The council staff had done a great job of clearing most of the old woody plants, we then arrived to complete the clearing, weeding, tidying the Euonymous and getting the ground ready for the planting. The area is surrounded by a box hedge and let's just say that not all

the volunteers have long legs! No one is embarrassed with a photo! Then just as we were getting on with planting the new lavender supplied by the council it rained! Whilst we will work in the rain, with dug over soil it soon became a sticky mess so we beat a retreat and took shelter with a cup of tea.



Three of us returned the next day in the sunshine to complete the planting of 3 quarters of the area and the Clean and Green Team have since completed the task.

Hoping for better weather, we next meet on Saturday 15th April at the front of Blaby Road Park

from 9:30 am to 11:30 am attending to the front beds. Please bring your own protective gloves and an assortment of tools for weeding and pruning etc..

There will be an opportunity for litter picking around the area near to the park (litter pickers and bags provided). Refreshments will be available at the end of the session.

If you would like to get involved, we'd love your help so please contact us, the details are in the footer.

No Mow May

We all know how important nature is, and that there has been a huge decline in numerous species of animals and plants over the last few decades. The Natural History Museum published an article on 6th May last year that stated that the UK's flying insect population has declined by as much as 60% in the last 20 years. Insects are of vital importance to us as pollinators of crops, fruit, and flowers and as food sources for a host of other species such as birds, hedgehogs, frogs, toads to name but a few.

If you have a lawn, you could help nature by deciding not to mow it during the month of May, even better you could leave it to grow until late summer. Smaller plants such as daisies, dandelions, selfheal and clover will get a chance to flower, and you may even find some rarer plants appearing.

I have left most of my front garden lawn and large areas of my back garden lawn to grow from mid-April to early September for the past five years. To keep it looking cared for, I mow a strip around the edge, and in the back garden, through the centre as well. I cut this strip every 2 to 3 weeks.

As well as helping nature, this is much, much easier than cutting the whole lawn every week, and last year when we had very little rain, my lawn remained green and attractive all the way through the summer without any watering.

It is fascinating to see which plants appear and how much more wildlife is attracted to a garden with longer grass. You don't have to go to the trouble of creating a wildflower meadow, in fact it is often better to see what happens naturally, and then after the first few years add a few plug plants or homegrown wildflowers.



My front lawn after 5 years and with the addition of yellow rattle and vetch, all other plants appeared on their own.

Go on give it a go!

For more information visit

plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay

wildaboutgardens.org.uk

rhs.org.uk/lawns/wildflower-meadow-establishment

[countryfile.com/news/no-mow-may-why-you-should-lock-up-your-lawnmower-on-1st may](http://countryfile.com/news/no-mow-may-why-you-should-lock-up-your-lawnmower-on-1st-may)

Plantlife.org.uk

Lawns provide a space for many uses including children (or in my case grandchildren) but I am still going to find a less frequented area to try this. As suggested, why don't you 'give it a go'???