

Pride of the Borough

Members Newsletter

January 2025



Pride of the Borough Oadby & Wigston

Dear member

I'm old fashioned enough to think of the traditional season dates relating to the sun's equinoxes ie Winter is 21st December to 21st March rather than the Met Office monthly periods ie Winter 1st December to 28th February. However, if we choose the Met Office periods then we are now half way through winter! I prefer that thought! The snowdrops and tips of bulbs in my garden are positive signs of the forthcoming Spring.

Looking forward to 2025 we have some news, good and not so good, to share with you,

Membership Matters:

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership and welcome to anyone who has joined us. The response has been excellent, we've needed to top up supplies in all our sales outlets on more than one occasion! Our online sales have also increased this year. It's not too late to get yours and benefit from discounts at local shops and traders. 2025 membership card holders can also vote at our AGM (see poster on page 3)



Business Offer changes:

We report the following amendments to offers

In Wigston

- Waggsy Dog Deli has now closed
- NG Kutahya Seramik withdrawn offer as they have moved address.

Our website is kept up to date [Business Offers - Pride of the Borough](#)

East Midlands in Bloom

Regrettably it is no secret that, like many authorities, Oadby & Wigston Council are having to take hard decisions to provide services to fulfil legal requirements whilst still providing services that residents may want. This has even meant losing staff, it can't get much more serious than that.

We have therefore been advised that the council feel they would not be able to support an entry into East Midlands in Bloom in 2025.

This is hugely disappointing to us after 21 years of promoting the borough on the regional, and even national, stage.



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However, that does not mean we will stand back and do nothing to help improve the environment of our borough... we still want to have pride in it!

It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)

Some of you may have heard of this and several local groups have entered this noncompetitive scheme in the past. It is about local groups (half a dozen neighbours are thought of as a local group) working in their local area to improve the 'feel' of an area, yes with horticulture but also community involvement. We have identified 6-8 potential IYN's so plan to work with these groups this year.

Do you want to learn more about IYN?

If so you can visit <https://emib.org.uk/its-your-neighbourhood/> or join us at our AGM on 10th February which will be followed by a presentation about IYN (see poster on page 3)



Neighbours planting bulbs on the green at Aintree Crescent

3rd Saturday work mornings are to stop.

Whilst this has been a worthwhile venture with some positive outcomes it has not proved to benefit, nor provided the opportunities we now realise volunteers want, as much as we hoped. Instead we are going to refocus our work on supporting groups etc with specific activities.

To achieve this we are looking to create a list of people who may be able to join us to help with any of these activities which could be anything from weeding and pruning to grass raking and litter picking in a chosen area. Would you be willing to join us? If so please let us have your email address and we can keep you informed.

One thing that never changes, whenever we meet, it always includes tea/coffee and biscuits and an opportunity to chat to each other.

Volunteer Recognised



We are delighted that Marilyn Bowles has been recognised as Volunteer of the Year at the inaugural Volunteer Awards organised by OWBC. Marilyn has worked wonders to transform the gardens at Aigburth residential home in Oadby for the benefit of residents and visitors

We are proud of our long association with Marilyn and Aigburth, cemented by the recent donation of a bench (made from recycled materials) purchased with funds raised from our membership scheme.



So mixed news, but we are taking a positive view looking forward in everchanging times. The constancy of your support is much appreciated.



Pride of the Borough

AGM and Open Meeting

Monday 10th February 2025 at 7pm

at

Thythorn Community Centre

Horsewell Lane, Wigston, LE18 2HR

Immediately following the AGM there will be a presentation on:

It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)

A RHS scheme that is open to all groups.

Everyone welcome, we'd love to see you.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served.



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