

East Midlands in Bloom Spring/Summer Newsletter 2026



EAST MIDLANDS

Welcome from our Chairman, John Constable

We are all experiencing signs of Spring - sadly interrupted by some periods when conditions revert to something less pleasant! Personally, it is my favourite time of year - bulbs flowering and fresh leaves appearing on many plants - the new growth always looks so bright and clean glinting in the morning sun.

Improving weather often signals the increase of outdoor activity, and many gardeners, Bloomers and IYN enthusiasts will be approaching their own activities with renewed enthusiasm. In my role viewing East Midlands in Bloom entries of all types I am already looking forward to seeing what has been created, making surroundings better for everyone to enjoy. This reminds me of some recent RHS publicity about creating sensory gardens. I think it is worth exploring the possibilities whatever environment you're involved with, because our senses of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch and social interaction can be stimulated in very many ways. Increasing their stimulation is something that can be incorporated in every situation - there is more information on Page 9 of this newsletter.

Finally, as I mentioned in the Autumn newsletter, circumstances mean that at EMiB we need to keep a tight watch on our financial situation. However, we are lucky to have a number of generous sponsors - Amberol, FCC Environment, geViews, Plantscape, Taylors Bulbs and The Art Department - without whose help our existence would be extremely challenging. Several have contributed to this newsletter - please support them all when you can.

Thanks for everything you all do for the East Midlands environment!

John F. Constable
Chairman, East Midlands in Bloom



Our Britain in Bloom entrants 2026

We're delighted to announce that East Midlands in Bloom will be represented by three communities in the Britain in Bloom competition this year.

Grimsby in Bloom will take part in the City and Small City category, Edwinstowe is in the Small Town category, and Bosworth in Bloom is in the Large Village category.

Details of all finalists can be found on the RHS website [Britain in Bloom 2026 UK Finalists / RHS](#)

Good luck everyone - and enjoy the experience!



Weaving hearts for a trail in Edwinstowe



Grimsby in Bloom



Bosworth in Bloom

RHS National Community Awards

Two years ago the RHS introduced new Community Awards to reflect current trends in community gardening. The categories are Community Engagement; Gardening with Young People; Gardening for Health and Wellbeing; Sustainable Gardening and Gardening for Wildlife. Details of last year's winners can be found here:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/rhs-community-awards-winners>

Each of the 18 Britain in Bloom regions can nominate one entry in each category, with both IYNs and Bloom groups being eligible. Entries are submitted at the end of August for judging in September. These are then judged remotely by a national panel, who take into account a report from local assessors and a video submitted by the entrant. Winners are invited to the Britain In Bloom awards in October.

This year, East Midlands in Bloom will be nominating two IYN groups:

Rectory Wildlife Garden in Loughborough is being put forward for the Gardening for Wildlife Award, and

Bulwell Forest Garden in Nottingham is nominated for the Community Engagement Award.

Both are very worthy nominees and we wish them well in the competition.

Judging advice from the Spring Seminar

If you attended the Spring Seminar at Newark Town Hall in February, we hope you picked up lots of useful tips to support your Bloom entry or IYN project in the future.

If you couldn't make it this time, you can find the presentations on the East Midlands in Bloom website [Information For Entrants and Judges - East Midlands in Bloom](https://www.emib.org.uk)



Uppingham was awarded Gold in Britain in Bloom last year. Mike Thornhill spoke about how the Uppingham in Bloom team prepare for judging day.



Biodiversity expert Jemma Maguire from Nottingham City Council spoke about 'citizen science' - how we can all help support the work of scientists while at the same time demonstrating the benefits to nature of the work carried out by Bloom groups. This information would be of great interest to the judges, too. There are lots of free apps you can download - see Jemma's presentation for details.

Simon Hill, East Midlands in Bloom Committee Award winner for 2025, suggested a huge range of ideas for working with young people, as he does at Hawton Halt in Newark.



Congratulations to the winners of the photo competition



We received an amazing 31 entries for our ‘Season’s Greetings’ photo competition featured in the Autumn/Winter newsletter. A shortlist of seven pictures chosen by the Management Committee were displayed at the AGM and Seminar where attendees voted for their favourite. Congratulations to Cheryl Finney (photo above left) and Grant Rawlins (above right), both from Ranby, who topped the poll. Each has received a £10 National Garden Voucher. See Page 6 for the other finalists’ photos. Thank you to everyone who entered!

Photo competition finalists



Right: Nature's Christmas Tree Decorations at Treetops Hospice in Risley - Sarah Butcher

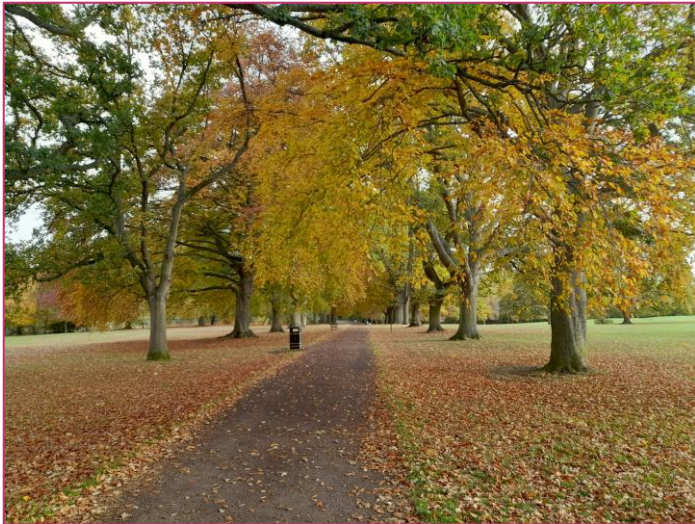


Below: Remembrance Tree on Newton Solney Village Green - Karen Brittan



Above: Garrya at the Dawber Garden in Lincoln - Lynn Ritson

Above: Winter cherry at the Dawber Garden in Lincoln - Jeannette Lill



Left: Autumn leaves at Abington Park, Northampton - Tracey Davidson



Best School Garden Competition

There's still time to encourage your local schools to enter the East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Competition. Entries close at the end of April.

Do you have young 'Green Fingered' gardeners in your school?

**This could be just what you are looking for to celebrate their
hard work this school year!**

We recognise the **Overall Best Junior and Senior Gardens** in the East Midlands, as well as **Best Wildlife Garden** and **Best Fruit and Vegetable Garden**.

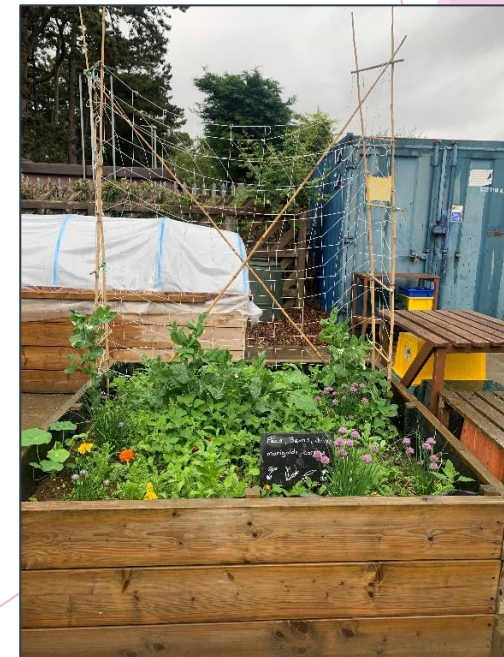
All participating schools receive a certificate and written report.

School Garden Award guidelines and requirements for entry are available on our website
www.emib.org.uk - click the **EMIB Competition** tab

Please complete the entry form and return to schools@emib.org.uk by Thursday 30th April.

Any questions? Contact our secretary at East Midlands in Bloom on 07925 565346 or
secretary@emib.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!



Dates for your diary

30th April 2026 - Closing date for School entries

31st May 2026 - Closing date for IYN entries

1st June to 12th June 2026 - School judging

1st June to 21st August 2026 - IYN assessments

3rd June 2026 - Committee meeting 7pm on Zoom

29th June to 10th July 2026 - Main Bloom judging

23rd September - Bloom presentation - Ockbrook, Derbyshire. More details to follow.

Dates in October tbc - IYN presentations

Earlier start for IYN assessment visits

Groups entering the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood awards may notice that assessments are starting earlier this year - from the beginning of June.

We have traditionally started in July, but this opportunity for earlier visits will benefit projects that have their high point in the Spring, and will also give our hardworking volunteer assessors more time to complete all their visits and reports.

Our Magnificent Seven new Judges!

The East Midlands in Bloom judging team has been boosted with the recruitment of seven new volunteer judges.

Please welcome:

Jane Bailey

Anne Coppen

Julie Heath

Caroline Lomas

John Simpson

Jayne Smith and

Caroline Wright

Each brings with them a wealth of experience and skills. They will be training and working alongside experienced judges.

They look forward to meeting Bloom groups across the region and hearing about your work.

The RHS Wellbeing Garden Blueprint

- ▶ **We are pleased to share with you the RHS Wellbeing Garden Blueprint, a new science-backed resource developed by the Royal Horticultural Society to support the creation of gardens that promote better health and wellbeing.**
- ▶ The Blueprint summarises over 12 years of RHS research, helping to identify the 'active ingredients' in gardens that contribute to measurable physical, mental and social health benefits.
- ▶ The Blueprint brings this evidence together with insights from international researchers, outlining how gardens can help promote good health, prevent ill-health and support recovery. It introduces three core elements of what a Wellbeing Garden can achieve, seven key design principles, and offers practical ideas for getting started in different settings.
- ▶ Detailed guidance is available for:
- ▶ **Home gardeners:** information for individuals, families and friends creating wellbeing-focused outdoor spaces
- ▶ **Organisations and communities:** guidance for groups developing gardens in shared, public or professional settings
- ▶ You can access further information about the Blueprint on the RHS website:
- ▶ [RHS Wellbeing Garden Blueprint / RHS](#)

[Creating a wellbeing garden with a community or organisation / RHS + A practical guide to develop an inclusive wellbeing garden / RHS](#)

[Explore examples of wellbeing gardens / RHS](#)

[What to plant in a wellbeing garden / RHS](#)

[The science behind the RHS Wellbeing Garden Blueprint / RHS](#)





A host of golden Daffodils . . .

We were honoured to welcome bulb specialist Johnny Walkers who gave an entertaining talk at our Spring Seminar at Newark Town Hall. Johnny's vast collection of awards includes 29 Gold Medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

How many varieties of Daffodil are there?

In 1548 there were 24;

In 1622 there were 90;

In 1948 there were 8,000,

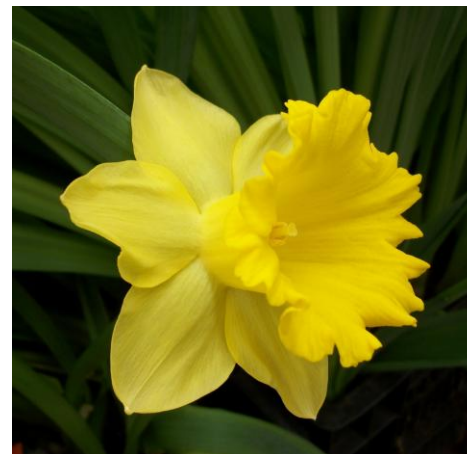
And by 2012 there were 24,000!

How many of the varieties pictured do you recognise?

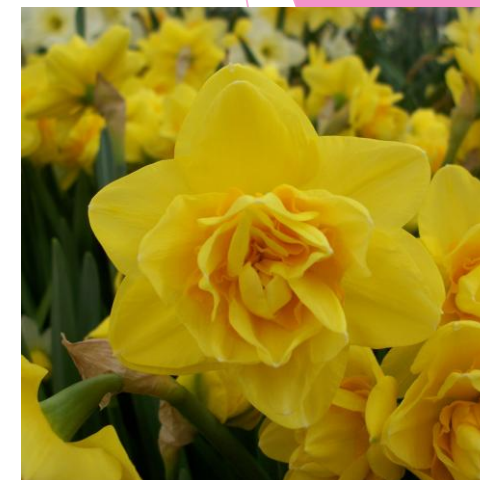
Answers on the back page.



A



B



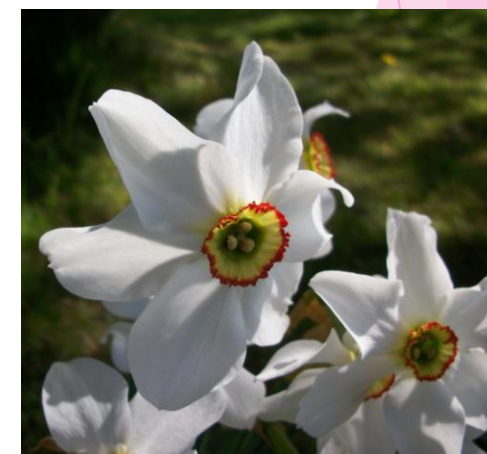
C



D



E



F

Thank you to our sponsors



East Midlands in Bloom's sponsors and supporters have been with us for many years. Please support them when you can.

Amberol is delighted to introduce the Amberveil Living Screen Range, a new solution designed to bring greenery into public and communal spaces.

Manufactured in the UK, Amberveil combines natural planting with durable, low-maintenance construction, making it ideal for areas where traditional planting may be limited.

Featuring integrated bench seating, it encourages people to pause, connect and enjoy their surroundings. With a built-in self-watering system, robust rotationally moulded planters and flexible configurations, Amberveil helps improve air quality, reduce temperatures and enhance wellbeing.

Perfect for schools, councils and public spaces, Amberveil creates greener, more welcoming environments with lasting impact.



<https://amberol.co.uk>





*Plantscape's
Alan McGregor at our
Spring Seminar at
Newark Town Hall*

Plantscape UK are the country's largest and most successful supplier of floral displays, providing stunning floral features for local authorities and corporate clients for over 40 years.

Our planters can be purchased on their own or planted. Or you may be interested in our comprehensive rental packages.

Discover how Plantscape and Stratford in Bloom achieved a spectacular year of colour. Despite the challenging summer heat, our partnership kept the town vibrant and pollinators thriving. Read the full update to explore our journey, from resilient summer hanging baskets to the stunning winter barrier planters brightening the streets today.

https://plantscapeuk.com/news/celebrating-a-year-of-colour-our-partnership-with-stratford-in-bloom/?utm_source=gov-business-digital&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=issue1-our-partnership-with-stratford-in-bloom
Or see the Video <https://youtu.be/CDf-Ae3Eks4>





Taylors Bulbs are a fourth generation family business, growing and supplying flower bulbs and associated products since 1919.

Daffodils are grown on our farm in Holbeach, Lincolnshire where we also design and pack a large range of products predominantly for the UK and Irish markets.

We are delighted to be back at RHS Chelsea Flower Show (19th - 23rd May 2026) with our award-winning Daffodil display. The team will also be attending the RHS Malvern Spring Festival (7th - 10th May), a new addition to the show schedule for Taylors bulbs. As usual, Taylors Bulbs are bringing a host of new spring and summer flowering varieties to market in 2026. With over 60 new varieties across the two flowering seasons, there are plenty of interesting additions for UK gardeners to get their hands on.



<https://taylors-bulbs.com>



The company is proud to have supported East Midlands in Bloom for 20 years, designing and producing the plaques for the winners of four annual awards:

- ▶ Best New Permanent Landscape
- ▶ Best Pub/Hotel
- ▶ Best Retail/Commercial Premises and
- ▶ Most Inspiring IYN.

Established in 1986, we are a leading provider of large format printing in Nottingham, delivering refined, high-impact visual solutions for brands across Nottingham and the UK. Ask us about your jobs big and small!

From signage and exhibition graphics to retail displays and bespoke branded environments, our expert team combines advanced large format print technology with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring exceptional results on every project.

As experienced large format printers in Nottingham, we provide a fully integrated service across design, digital printing, production, and professional installation, creating a seamless experience from concept through to completion.

With over 40 years of expertise and a reputation built on quality, precision, and reliability, we partner with clients who value outstanding craftsmanship and impactful visual communication.

<http://theartdepartment.co.uk>



Revamping our website

We'd love to refresh the design of the East Midlands in Bloom website. It's full of useful content but is showing its age.

If you - or someone you know - may have the necessary skills and some time to spare, we'd welcome a chat. Contact our secretary, Julie Walker, on secretary@emib.org.uk or www.emib.org.uk

Answers to the Daffodil quiz on Page 10

- A. Rynvelds Early Sensation
- B. Dutch Master
- C. Jack the Lad
- D. Rainbow
- E. Mondragon
- F. Pheasant's Eye



Daffodil display by Wickham Road Green Community Group in Oadby, Leicester

If your group is celebrating something special or is involved in an interesting project that could feature in our next newsletter, please let us know.
Contact Julie Walker - secretary@emib.org.uk



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Welcome to East Midlands in Bloom

East Midlands in Bloom is an annual competition organised by the EMIB Regional Committee, and is one of the 18 regional competitions which comprise 'Britain in Bloom', the campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

The aims of East Midlands in Bloom are to:

- Organise an annual campaign in the East Midlands region (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland) called 'East Midlands in Bloom' structured around the agreed criteria of Britain in Bloom.
- Nominate entrants to represent the region in Britain in Bloom.
- Co-ordinate the regional entries into activities that promote horticulturally and environmentally based community participation such as It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) as organised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).
- Support like-minded groups to improve local neighbourhoods, villages, towns and cities
- Represent the views and needs of EMIB groups through the Britain in Bloom Federation.

The aim of the competition is to encourage the improvement of our surroundings through the imaginative use of trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping. It also aims to achieve a litter free and sustainable environment. This links directly to the three RHS core pillars of excellence which are:

Horticultural Achievement

Environmental Responsibility

Community Participation

For more information about the East Midlands in Bloom competition and how you can get involved please view our EMIB Competitions page

To get in touch or for more information see our contacts page