

Britain in Bloom 2018 by Hilary Saunders and Lynda Hammond

The Britain in Bloom team were in full swing as they prepared for visits from two pairs of judges; the Thames and Chiltern Regional judges and the National Royal Horticultural judges, who are much stricter. We were thrilled to have received so many offers of help around the town including many residents who promised to water the planters on their doorsteps and at the street signs. This included two families from the Bulgarian community who came after church to help do doorstep planters. The core team has grown to four ladies with Jane joining us this year. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out, especially when it gets to winter pansy planting time. Remember, no gardening experience is necessary! We are also on the lookout for more male volunteers.

For next year, we would love to hear from anyone interested in helping to make Wolverton Station look attractive with plants, as all stations used to be. We are exploring the 'Station Adopter Scheme' as a new venture but would need extra volunteers to make this work. We would also like to hear from anyone who regularly visits the cemetery to help us keep the entrance bed looking welcoming.

The Wolverton Inner Wheel Ladies have undertaken to look after the War Memorial garden with us and will also be looking after the 175 Wheel on McConnell Drive.

The Britain in Bloom team were delighted to have help planting in the Greenleys area. Three college students cleared the planters outside Tesco Express in Greenleys, which were then filled with new plants by Urb Farm trainees. Tesco Express and the other shopkeepers will be keeping the planters watered.

Back in Wolverton, some residents in the Bedford and Oxford Streets came out to tidy their brick raised beds and lend green bins. We hope to work with them again in the Autumn.

We are grateful to our contractors, AxiomB2, for all the wonderful lamp post baskets and some of the ground level formal planting they have done as well as a huge amount of watering.

Thanks to everyone who has made a real effort to make their own front gardens look beautiful which is evident for us all to see.

We did struggle with weeks of wonderful - but DRY - weather but we have done our best and hope the judges are impressed. We shall have the results of the judges visits in the next newsletter.

The BIB team would also like to thank the Rotary Club for funding new planters in The Square and thank the MKC Ward Councillors for supplying new planters and buying materials for Men-in-Sheds who have made the new troughs for The Square.