

PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH MEMBERS MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE JUNE/JULY 2019

Welcome back to June edition of PotB News.

Wow what a month, eleven days into the summer season and parts of the country under water for days and then we go full blast into a heatwave, although not as hot as mainland Europe which is probably just as well. Could we actually tolerate 40°C. Having lived in the Middle East for over 20 years I think I can safely say that the majority of us would struggle. But lets not complain with what we have now.

July brings us into the judging season for East Midlands in Bloom and the PotB annual Floral Competition so we need all your help to keep our Borough spick and span.

Now, onto the Pride of the Borough business news for June and things you should be concentrating on in the garden in July. I've also been out and about in the Borough so have a look at what and who I have found later in the newsletter.

Membership Numbers

Membership numbers for June 2019 stand at **1376** at time of writing. This represents 114.66% of the total for 2018.

To date our records, show 840 have renewed from last year and 536 brand new members. The growth continues.

The 2019 card remains available at a cost of £5. Anyone (not just residents of the Borough) can apply for the 2019 card by sending an application form to Brocks Hill Country Park & Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby Leicestershire LE2 5JJ or alternatively, visiting

- Brocks Hill Country Park Café, Washbrook Lane, Oadby.
- OWBC Customer Service Centre in Bell Street, Wigston.
- Zephs Café, Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Rd, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LA

Participating Businesses – June 2019

To date we have 52 businesses which offer discounts to Pride of the Borough members. If you know of a business which would like to be part of our scheme please let us know.

The Participating Businesses are as follows:

Wistow	1 business
Oadby:	27 businesses
Wigston:	20 businesses
South Wigston:	5 businesses

We also have been informed of changes to offers that participating businesses make available to our members :

- **Mustard Gift Shop** will unfortunately be closing for business this coming month. It has been a very successful business and has been very supportive of Pride of the Borough and we are sorry to see them closing.
- **Cheesecake Shop, Wigston**, have joined us and are offering a 10% discount off your bill, when spending £10 or more for all members showing a current members card.

For complete listing please go to our website (Ctrl+click) [membership-card](#) to see the latest business offers. If you know of a business which would like to be part of our scheme, please let us know.

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Members should note.

- *Pride of the Borough encourages members to use local trades and businesses but takes no responsibility for the goods or services provided.*
- *Participating businesses reserve the right to change and/withdraw their offers at anytime*
- *You will find that offers may not be on sale items or other special offers.*
- *You should show your Membership Card before making a purchase*
- ** May not be used in conjunction with other special offers.*

3rd Saturday Monthly Working Parties (MWP):

On **15th June 2019** our Monthly Working Party, consisting of three volunteers set out from Boulter Crescent car park in Wigston and down into Wigston town centre. Alongside the litter picking event we took the opportunity to refurbish the planter in Wakes Road, Wigston, which duly consumed 1 litre of teak oil, just in time for the sunny weather.

In July the Pride of the Borough volunteers will assemble at the Chartwell Arms, Wigston. Event will be on **Saturday 20th July 2019 commencing at 0930hrs** and participants should assemble at the Chartwell Arms Car Park, Wigston, where final routes will be decided. For those of you who need equipment this will be available as will the well-deserved cup of tea or coffee at the end of the event. ALL are welcome.

Other Litter Topics

On 23rd June 2019 also saw members of the congregation from St Pauls Church Oadby out and around their church area litter picking. This now becoming a regular event and pride of the Borough are only too keen to collaborate by lending litter picking equipment to them. This event was attended by 16 volunteers who duly collected and disposed of 6 bags of litter. Well done all of those from St Pauls.

Take Pride

The Pride of the Borough new Campaign THINK LITTER continues to encourage residents of our Borough NOT TO DROP LITTER.

Take Pride Anti-Litter Campaign

You, your friends and family can make a huge difference to our Borough. With your help we can Make Oadby & Wigston litter free.

The actions required are simple:

- Take your litter home and dispose of it through your weekly refuse collections.
- Put your litter in public litter bins.
- If you see someone drop litter, politely tell them about our campaign.
- Spread the word through family and friends.
- Join one of our litter picks.

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Town Centre Planters

After the splendid picture of our newest planter outside Two Steeples Medical Centre in last months issue, a reader shared concerns with others that there were no floral displays yet on the central reservation of Bull Head Street, Wigston or hanging baskets outside the shops. As he pointed out residents look forward to seeing them each year and consider it very important to the appearance in the town centre. His query was...

“ Are they just a little late being installed or have they succumbed to council cuts? If so our entry into East Midlands in Bloom will suffer from such a fundamental absence.”

Pride of the Borough reviewed the query and made some investigations as to the state of play this year and we would like to inform all our readers of the situation regarding Town Centre Planters and hanging baskets.

“ As you suggest, the hanging baskets are provided by the council. They do this through a specialist company who grow the plants, install them and then maintain them for the summer. It is our understanding that the council recognize the benefits of the displays and continue to include them in their budgets. As the East Midlands in Bloom judges are visiting the Borough on the 4th July, we are also keen on them being installed as a matter of urgency and as you can imagine we have made enquiries and are awaiting a response.”

As a volunteer group we have utilized some of the funds raised through our membership scheme to purchase and plant up a number of large containers across all 3 town centres, these remain throughout the year and are watered by the nearest business. Working with Oadby Rotary, the tree planters along the Parade in Oadby have also been planted up this year for the first time, hopefully this will impress the EMiB judges who last year commented on the bare base to the tree planters.

At the time of writing it is noted that the barrier baskets in both Bull Head Street, Wigston and London Road, Oadby have now been installed as well as the hanging baskets in Wigston Town Centre. At this point I have not checked other locations

Barrier Baskets along Bull Head Street, Wigston June 29th



Barrier Baskets along London Road, Oadby June 29th



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Pride of the Borough Floral Display Competition 2019

It's now too late to enter our annual competition which was open to all residents of the Borough.

The competition was well supported this year with 28 people making 38 entries across the seven categories. Well done to all those who entered and good luck.

- A. Best Front Garden
- B. Best Container
- B1. Young Person's container under 10 /10-14 / 15-18
- C. Most Unusual Container
- D. Best Business Floral Display
- E. Most Environmentally Front Garden
- F. Best School Garden

Competition dates for this year are:

Closing date for entry – CLOSED

Judging to take place – 15th to 26 July 2019

Competition Awards Evening – September 2019, specific date tba.

East Midlands in Bloom 2019

Pride of the Borough are once again leading the boroughs entry into East Midlands in Bloom, working closely with the councils Clean and Green Team. This past month we have been planning a route that visits all three town centres taking in places of historical interest, schools, allotments, open spaces, parks within the Borough. EMiB judges will be transported in what will be a packed 3 hour tour of the borough, commencing at the Peace Memorial Park in Wigston and ending up in the Leicester Botanical Gardens, Oadby. There has been so much fantastic work going on in our borough, and we are hoping that the judges leave dazzled and impressed by Oadby & Wigston efforts, hopefully we will retain our Gold Award standard.

Judging will take place on Thursday 4th July. I have included that route map that we will be following and we really would appreciate if you live on the route or close by or you just want to be involved it would really help us if you can ensure that the route is litter free.

Below is a copy of the route map. Just hover over the icon below and double click and hopefully it will open. For more information refer to our website on

<https://www.prideoftheborough.org/east-midlands-in-bloom>



PotB EMiB Judging
route map 2019.pdf

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Volunteer Openings

The following positions are still open within the Pride of the Borough management team. So, if you are interested then please contact us.

Volunteer Required for the position of New Businesses Development - Wigston.

Wanted is somebody willing to visit Wigston businesses that offer discounts to our members. The person would initially work with the membership coordinator courtesy calling businesses twice a year, and meeting business managers who are interested in belonging to the scheme.

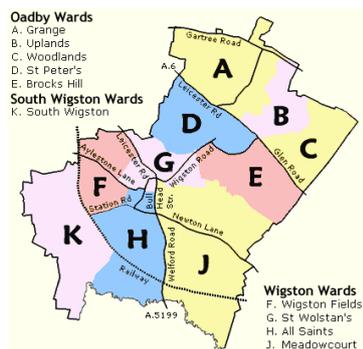
Previous positions which are still open to interested members:

- Volunteer for the position of Social Media Manager
- Volunteer to organize and assist in PotB mail deliveries.

For all of the openings above interested parties should contact us on:

Potb.oadbywigston@gmail.com or call to mob: 07874228491

Around the Borough Boundaries



Well even after last months markers I still had a feeling that I had missed some and it was driving me nuts, so off again around the Borough I travelled and sure enough I found another two markers. So guys and gals where are these two??



Left: Returning back into the Borough and there is some air traffic around.

Right: C7MGC entered the Borough – close to the gallops.

Next month I will declare all the locations that I have found, but are there anymore I ask myself?



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Garden Tips for the Month of July



Lavender at Downderry Nursery, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent CREDIT: GAP PHOTOS

Summer is progressing and this is often one of the hottest months of the year, hopefully, and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants well-watered, using grey water where possible, and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.

Now continuing on for works to be done in July, but firstly, please note that in our last issue some of our readers quite rightly corrected me that you **DO NOT FEED MILK** to hedgehogs and thank you for this correction. I would like to point out that some of the views, information and opinions expressed in this newsletter are extracted from past issues of other publications and as such are solely those of the original authors involved at the time they were written and may not necessarily be relevant or legal today. Whilst the articles and views in this publication I include are in my opinion deemed to be of interest to Pride of the Borough members or indeed readers in general, such articles and views may not be the views of Pride of the Borough. I encourage all readers to contact me wherever you think a correction may be required to what is published in this newsletter. To the hedgehogs, my deepest apologies.

<p>Bulbs Lift and dry off tulip bulbs. Complete your bulb order now for autumn planting.</p>	<p>Flowers for Cutting Gather everlasting flowers for drying. Make sure they are not wet when you pick them. Helichrysums should be mounted on false stems.</p>	<p>Fruit Prune cordon pears around mid-month. Melons will begin to need support now. Spray Loganberries. If you haven't already done so get nets over your soft fruit bushes to prevent the birds from helping themselves.</p>	<p>Greenhouse Chrysanthemums in pots need feeding from now onwards. Give perpetual carnations plenty of water and ventilation. Shade cucumbers from hot sun.</p>
<p>Hedges Mulch newly-planted hedges during dry periods. Leave spring-planted hedges untrimmed. Trim other hedges to a wedge shape. Wide at base, tapering to the top.</p>	<p>Herbaceous Plants Gladioli need lots of watering in dry weather. Annuals should now be supported with twiggy sticks. Remove flowers from delphiniums, lupins, paeonies as they fade.</p>	<p>House Plants Look for aphid damage and spray immediately. Other pests attack house plants now including red spider mite, mealy bug and scale.</p>	<p>Lawns New lawns sown or turfed in spring are now old enough to take weed killer if necessary. Take care with the dose.</p>
<p>Paths, Fences and Walls Plants spreading over walls are at their best now but need close attention, especially climbing roses. Feed well. Remove dead flowers.</p>	<p>Patios, Balconies, Roof Gardens and window boxes This is a vital time to water all container-grown plants regularly, some as often as twice a day.</p>	<p>Rock Gardens Take stock of your rock garden now and note down mistakes in planting. All iris species should be lifted and divided now.</p>	<p>Roses Roses can be budded during this month. The job must be done quickly. Take care not to damage the bud itself.</p>
<p>Shrubs, trees and climbers Shrubs like overhead watering on hot days. Continue pruning flowering shrubs that have finished blooming.</p>	<p>Vegetables Routine weeding is essential in the vegetable garden now. Attack with a hoe three or four times a week to prevent seedlings germinating.</p>	<p>Water Gardens Watch out for great pond snail which eats healthy pond plants. This is fish-spawning time so make sure your pool is not starved of oxygen.</p>	<p>Wildlife Grass snakes are laying now, usually in a warm, rotting compost heap. Take care you don't step on their eggs.</p>

Reference: Marshall Cavendish; Gardeners Diary; ninth edition 1988

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Talking Tatties

Starting from my closing paragraph last issue on “Talking Tatties”,

“Over the next few weeks you should begin to see the potato vines flowering. “ well my crop has started.

Now considering the facts, 1) you planted early, 2) banked up carefully, 3) cultivated and fertilized and now your potato plants are full and healthy. So now you're wondering when to harvest potatoes that you so carefully tended. Knowing how to harvest potatoes will help you will help you get the greatest benefit from your crop.

Prior to starting a little clarification, although I may be trying to teach my granny how to suck milk, before you go attacking the crop with the garden tools just have a think why you are digging the potatoes up for instance..... **“New potatoes,”** are **potatoes** that are purposefully harvested early for their smaller size and tender skin, will be **ready** for harvest 2 to 3 weeks **after** the plants stop **flowering**. For mature **potatoes**, wait 2 to 3 weeks **after** the foliage has died.

Now that you know when to dig potatoes, the question becomes how. To harvest potatoes, you'll need a shovel or a spading fork. If you're harvesting for lunch or supper, drive your fork into the soil at the outside edges of the plant. Carefully lift the plant and remove the potatoes you need. Set the plant back in place and water thoroughly so it continues to allow the potatoes to continue to mature.

If your digging up potatoes for winter storage, dig up a “test” hill for maturity. The skins of mature potatoes should be thick and firmly attached to the flesh. If the skins are thin and rub off easily, your potatoes are still to ‘new’ and should be left in the ground for a few more days.

As you dig, be careful not to scrape, bruise or cut the tubers. Damaged tubers will rot during storage and should be used as soon as possible. After harvesting, potatoes must be cured. Let them sit in temperatures of 45 to 60 F. (7-16 C.) for about two weeks. This will give the skins time to harden and minor injuries to seal. Store your cured potatoes at about 40 F. (4 C.) in a dark place. Too much light will turn them green. Never allow your potatoes to freeze.

A recommendation for when you decide when to dig up potatoes, **get the whole family involved**. Equipped with a small basket, even the smallest child can share in this fun and rewarding experience.

For other specialist advice/reading click on link below (Ctrl+click)

<https://www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-do-in-the-garden-in-july>

Other News around the Borough

Out and about at the weekend I happened across the Salvation Army Family Fun Day over in South Wigston where I met Paula Harris, Project Officer on the Eyres Monsell & South Wigston Local People Programme.

This is a very interesting group of people who are out there supporting local groups. We had a nice chat about her work with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). They have been at the forefront of environmental volunteering for almost 60 years and their work continues to ensure that vital green spaces continue to thrive to benefit both the natural world and local people.

Another local project is the Green Gym. This is a unique programme that can help you to improve your physical fitness and general wellbeing, while taking part in food growing activities. Green Gym offers the opportunity to tackle physical jobs outdoors – developing your strength and stamina, boost your

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confidence while learning new practical skills. They grow to eat – do sessions where they cook and preserve the produce. An interesting group of people all close by Oadby & Wigston. Maybe we can look into this for our residents and get some help into Oadby & Wigston from these groups. Watch this space.

In the meantime

Green Gym operates out of Rolleston Primary School on Thursday mornings 9am till 12pm (Adults only over 18) and Saturdays 1030am till 1330pm (family sessions)

You can get in touch by email: gg-leicester@tcv.org.uk or phone Julie on: 07483 050 747

Local People Programme operates out of Leicester South Salvation Army in Ladysmith Road, South Wigston and have sessions alternate Wednesday & Friday 0930(Wed) and 1200pm (Fri).

Paula Harris can be contacted by email paula.harris@tcv.org.uk

Notice of Monthly Meeting for July:

The next meeting will be on **Monday 8th July 2019 at 5.00pm at Brocks Hill Visitor Centre, Washbrook Lane Oadby**

All members - meaning those who have a 2019 membership card are welcome to attend the meeting and are entitled to submit motions for discussion.