CLAVERLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Claverley in Bloom Report

12th April 2021

Not surprisingly, activities over the last 12 months have been seriously affected by Covid-19 restrictions. However, CIB has managed to make the most of the situation as follows:

Summer Planting Scheme 2020

Normally the highest profile project in the CIB calendar the 2020 planting scheme had to be restricted due to plant shortage and the need for minimal physical involvement of CIB members. Planting was confined to the village centre displays using whatever material was available. Many of the plants from the old winter scheme were left in place to help bulk up the displays which, in the end, turned out much better than expected.

Plants are on order for this year’s (2021) summer scheme which will be installed towards the end of May.

Winchester Crossroads

The absence of a summer scheme at any of the outlying locations provided the opportunity to renovate the lower troughs at Winchester which were badly decayed. The work was completed in time for the installation of the winter scheme (see below)

Winter Planting Scheme 2020/21

The one bonus of being unable to carry out the normal summer planting scheme was that additional funds could be put towards plants for the winter selection. Unlike earlier in the year a full range of plants were available.

Daffodil Bulb Planting

Covid safety concerns meant that the planting team was restricted to CIB committee members only. To make best use of the limited resources available the team concentrated on renewing the existing bulb planting in the Aston Lane school bank. About 3,000 bulbs were installed there to help build the display which has become increasingly sparse in recent years. A further 1,000 bulbs were taken away by committee members for planting later elsewhere including the green triangle at Farmcote, the green space at the top of High St and around the signposts at Hopstone and Woundale.

Highway Litter Pick

The exercise planned for last April had to be abandoned due to lockdown restrictions. A session is now planned for Sunday 18th April to cover all the main approach roads to the village and any litter” hotspots” that have escaped the attention of the many walkers/litter gatherers that have been active during recent times.

School Partnership

CIB continues to pursue its shared horticultural and environmental interests over a range of school projects.

Planting Beds

CIB is keen to encourage the use of the school planting beds and in particular the production of crops which can be used in the school kitchen. The raised beds recently acquired by the school have been filled with compost supplied by CIB.

Litter Picking

CIB led litter picking exercises have always proved popular with the school children and hope to promote an awareness of the environmental problems created by littering. An exercise will be arranged after the school has resumed from the Easter break.

Spring Painting Competition

CIB has recently sponsored a painting competition to mark school re-opening on 8th March and the arrival of spring. The competition was well supported, and the excellent standards achieved made judging difficult. Prizes of £10 W H Smith gift vouchers were awarded to the winners in each of the seven age streams.

Bull Ring Bench

CIB was pleased to have organised the renovation of the bench which had fallen into decay. Work on the bench was carried out last September by Wal Cox of Bridgnorth. CIB arranged the transportation of the heavy bench to and from Bridgnorth and Claverley PC paid for the materials used.

Tree Planting

Tree planting has been a major component of CIB’s environmental portfolio for many years including involvement of children from Claverley School planting whips in a variety of locations close to the village.

More recently CIB declared support for the RHS “Roots of Remembrance” initiative, encouraging those who have lost a loved one during the pandemic to plant a tree in their memory. A site for this has been identified in School House Bank and CIB is now awaiting a response from parishioners to the project publicity in the April edition of the parish magazine.

Funding

It has been over a year since it was last possible to hold a fund raising event so, apart from a few small personal donations, CIB has had to rely solely on the funding provided by the Parish Council. Whilst the support of the PC is much appreciated it is not taken for granted and will be supplemented by fundraising events as soon as circumstances allow.

Rod Parr