

Churchtown in Bloom Report



As with all groups, and our wider community it's been a very difficult few months, trying to work around social distancing and protecting our members who are vulnerable whilst continuing our planting and planning has been a challenge, we have all missed being out and about as a group. Fortunately, we still managed to provide the village with some lovely displays, enjoyed by so many residents and visitors on their daily walks and hopefully we have brought a little pleasure.

Despite the North West in Bloom and the National Competition being cancelled we have been very lucky to have been granted the £600 funding from Wyre BC which would normally only be given if we were entering, we thank Wyre BC and NW in Bloom for their support. We could not have achieved the continued planting and developments without this financial assistance.

Previously we have been able to approach local businesses for sponsorship but as a group we felt in the current circumstances this was not appropriate.

We were successful in our application to become a member of the Wyre Lottery and although this will bring in some funds it is under-performing and giving little return, hopefully with greater social media promotion this may improve.

So many of our social, community and fundraising activities have sadly had to be cancelled, such as;

The 'Big Dig In Day' with the local school

The building of a Willow Tee Pee with Myerscough College & School in Owd Wills Wood (although with some helpful residents and children a den was built!)

Spring Social

Keep Britain Tidy (Churchtown)

Flowers & Fizz Evening

The Big Soup Share

Halloween Trick or Treat Takeaway

What we have achieved however is a stronger and closer community making our group more accessible and inclusive through our popular What's App Group. There are so many people now connecting and supporting each other which has been a real positive outcome in these difficult times.

During the period of lockdown we developed a community plant/seed and produce share we also shared hints and tips on growing, and our love of our environment and the wildlife and nature around our village. We also started a community information hub and book swop and sale, proceeds were given to the CRY charity with over £125 raised.

We also supported a local new business who used the Church field (a group providing outside activity and exercise for families) by promoting and opening our outdoor pop up café, homemade cakes and bakes were donated by the group and was a great little event.

There has also been some very positive feedback for our new lenthsmen, Peter and we would like to acknowledge his work and thank him for his contribution to the Improvements in the village and surrounding area.

As we go now into the Autumn and Winter, we are now using Zoom for our Bloomers to get together and try to plan our beds, barrels and displays and we hope soon that we can then start to plan for Spring and Summer.

It is our intention to enter NW in Bloom competition again in 2021.

I would kindly request on behalf of our group, consideration of support for the purchase of winter/spring planting from the Parish council, the cost so far has been in excess of £150.

Thank You for your continued support throughout our Bloom projects.

Regards

Karen Davies

Kirkland Parish Councillor

Churchtown in Bloom Project Leader

