

East Midlands in Bloom

Talk and slides by Jeff Bates (Judge for EMIB)

Notes from meeting held at Yew Tree Cottage 17th November @ 7.30pm

Those present:-

Brian Taylor (presiding), Chris Knightley, Rita Sayers, Dorothy Toplis, Sally Leighton, Michael Strange, Audrey Strange, Marion Ball, Polly Morton and Teanie Dornan

For several years Tansley village has achieved a Silver Award in the above competition. Jeff Bates complemented the village on its many excellent aspects, particularly the 'front gardens'; entrance to the village-pub and garden centre displays; the flower festival and well dressings (earning Judges' Award) but felt that as a village it (we!) should be progressing towards a Silver Gilt Award and that a little more knowledge on how the competition was organised and the additional work necessary to gain points would ultimately earn a prestigious Silver Gilt or eventually a coveted Gold Award.

In 2009 Tansley earned 123 points, for a Silver Gilt the village would need 150+ and for Gold 170+

The categories judged are:-

A - Horticultural Achievement 50% of total = 100 points)

B - Environmental Responsibility 25% of total = 50 points)

C - Community Participation 25% of total = 50 points)

Tansley scored A = 57, B = 30 & C = 36

Jeff outlined the different sections, points awarded for each section and how the points for the various categories were awarded and like certain exams it was necessary to score in all areas in order to achieve well. Jeff's lovely photographs depicted examples of good and bad practise but nevertheless were a joy to see!

In section 'A' Jeff commented on the village gardening competition, front gardens, pubs, shop, village hall, green spaces and community (57/100)

Section 'B' This is what the villagers do for the village in addition to what the council does for the village (30/50)

It's the 'How we care for the environment' for instance:

Do we have a clean up?

Are the seats clean? Is the area round them tidy? Who looks after the litter bins?

What is our heritage? How do we make the most of it?

Section 'C' Community Participation -the all year round effort not just the summer gardens competition e.g. bulb planting, publicity, fund raising, engaging with the schools (Jeff mentioned the RHS schools' campaign). (36/50)

Each village has to produce a portfolio so there was evidence of ongoing year round activity/participation. (Judges were not mind readers!)

Above all there should be enjoyment in participation

Some thoughts after Jeff's presentation:

National Spring Clean

National Autumn Sweep

Who does what already? War Graves – Heritage

More flower beds/planters under village signs clean signs

Litter picking during the year and of course a name ... 'Tansley Bloomers' was a very apt suggestion.

Bloom tour to end at school with the children to take the judges round Show off what the village is proud of make sure all good aspects are covered. Where aspects of the village are poor or beyond the scope/remit to change produce evidence of an effort having been made; people approached etc.

The full judges report, including suggestions, may be found on www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk and click on the judges reports, then scroll down the page till you get to Tansley (pp 7 & 8) (or use this http://www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk/2009_village_awards.pdf direct link)

Next meeting at Yew Tree Cottage 7.30 pm Monday 7th December to look at the judges recommendations, to consider where we go from here, to brain storm other suggestions included – a list of helpers and advertising one off activities. (Apologies for the fact that the date clashes with other meetings already arranged for that night)

Notes compiled by Teanie Dornan at the meeting and are not definitive
23rd November 2009