

Judged on : 13th July**Judges: Chris Beal and Andy Boyton**

The north Lincolnshire village of Redbourne was making its debut into East Midlands in Bloom this year. A visit to the church for a presentation saw the new stumpery in the church grounds. The tour of the village saw possibly the smallest but probably one of the most floriferous wild flower borders of this years judging. The mixed borders along the main road were immaculately maintained and the tour finished with a look at the heritage of the village with a display of farming implements and the old village fire engine now returned to the old fire station.

Areas of Achievement**Section A Horticultural Achievement**

The stumpery within the grounds of the church has utilised an old tree stump whilst at the same time produced an unusual feature. The low maintenance mixed borders along the main road in the village has produced a colourful corridor for those driving through whilst minimising the use of annuals. The attractive display and garden at the Red Lion Coaching Inn makes this a future contender for the Best Kept Pub award.

Section B Environmental Responsibility

The judges were impressed with the colour in many of the beds and planters being provided by the begonias, recycled from previous year's displays in a local resident's garden. The use of the biomass by-product from the local anaerobic digester system is improving soil quality within the numerous beds throughout the village and the plants all seem to be thriving on it. The heritage of the area has been well documented within the village with a lectern devoted to the local RAF base, a range of traditional agricultural implements on display and the return of the old fire engine.

Section C Community Participation

The partnership working with the Huntercombe Centre is paying dividends for both parties with the residents of the centre being able to participate in bloom maintenance throughout the village. The notice board on the wall of the old fire station drew the judges attention as it advertised their visit to the residents as well as advertising their previous and many successes in similar competitions. The fund raising efforts by the bloom group will enable this group to continue with their work throughout the village and be a strong contender in this competition in future years.

Areas for Development**Section A Horticultural Achievement**

Continue to work with the local authority tree officer on maintenance of the trees on the green area before they become too crowded; there was also significant dead wood within the crown of two trees on the boundary of the car park with the highway. Continue to fund-raise for improvements to the recreation ground to improve this valuable asset for the younger generation of the village.

Section B Environmental Responsibility

The group could consider the use of verges on the periphery of the village as additional wildflower areas, the current area in the field on Carr Lane is good but lacks security for the future. Further interpretation panels at strategic points throughout the village would explain the immense history and heritage held within this village.

Section C Community Participation

The younger sectors of the community could be engaged with to provide additional features within the village and to ensure the longevity of the bloom in Redbourne. The judges noted front gardens on the judging route worthy of entry into the special awards category, as well as the Red Lion pub. The local bio-waste plant could be approached for sponsorship to offset the additional traffic it brings through the village.

A: 84 B: 36 C: 37 Total: 157