

YOUR NEWS:

TEN YEARS OF GIB!
Fiona looks back on ten years of Garforth in Bloom
page 1

OUR MEMORIES
We reflect on our 10 year anniversary
page 2

SEASONS ROUNDUP
Catch up with our work this season
page 3

EVENTS
What we have planned for the coming year
page 4

Garforth in Bloom



SEPTEMBER | ISSUE 30 | 2018

10 Years old: Ten years of Garforth in Bloom!

10 years ago, in 2008, Garforth in Bloom was started by a small band of just a few volunteers.

I'm sure you will agree that the work we have achieved since then has been incredible.

Since then we've created over 100 displays around Garforth all of which are maintained by our volunteers.

It's been a privilege to be part of it. We are still a relatively small band of just 25 regular volunteers. We are always looking for more help!

You don't need experience of gardening to take part. We always have experts on hand to point out what's a weed and what's not!

Even if you can't physically help us with gardening, there are lots of skills we require to help keep us going.

We run regular fundraising events throughout the year which take up lots of volunteer hours. If you can help run our Band Concert or man a tombola stand we will be very grateful!

Please contact us if you can help in any way. – **Fiona Murray - Chair**

One of our volunteers reflects on her experience with GIB.

“A couple of years ago, I was newly retired, wondering what was next in life and feeling a bit down. On a grey Monday morning I went into Main Street and my spirits were immediately lifted by all the colourful flowers in the planters there. As luck would have it, the following Saturday Garforth in Bloom were holding a coffee morning and as I was buying plants there, I asked about supporting them as a Friend of GiB. “Why don't you come to a dig day as well,” said the person I asked. I turned up the next Sunday and found myself welcomed into this enthusiastic and friendly group of people. It has been my pleasure and privilege to be a ‘Bloomer’ for two years now and can thoroughly recommend it. Come and join us!” – **Sue Lomas – GIB Member**



HOW TO JOIN US: We meet every second Monday of the month in the Gaping Goose Pub at 7:30pm. Dig days are every 1st Thursday & 2nd & 4th Sunday (Mar-Oct) or every 3rd Sunday (Nov-Feb), meeting at the Jubilee Garden near the Gascoigne Pub at 9:30am.



www.garforthinbloom.org.uk

Please visit our website to see our latest news, events and photographs.

You can also find us on Facebook; search 'public groups' for Garforth in Bloom.

You can find us on Twitter @garforthinbloom

10 Years of memories

Some of our longtime volunteers have been reflecting on their favorite memories of GIB

"Garforth in Bloom was started as a little group, the purpose being to make Garforth more attractive for all. The group has grown and its members have become good friends, which is a bonus. We have helped to strengthen community spirit and a general feeling of pride. We get great support from all of those who we associate with. I think that the group is appreciated by our community. The official opening of the Diamond Jubilee garden was a highlight for me. I am proud to be a member."

– Phil Dunwell – GIB Secretary

"Phil, Mark and I were part of a small but effective group aiming to improve our locality. I remember the long 'Vicar of Dibley' style meetings. Mark was keen for us to plant around the Welcome stones. Maybe start an 'In Bloom' group? No! Exasperated, after a long debate, I said I'd plant one stone, Phil said he'd plant another and he was sure we'd find people to help us. He did! Garforth in Bloom was born." – Angela Utley – GIB Member

"The group style is highly informal with procedural niceties kept to a minimum. I've never heard anyone say 'According to Rule 36a we must refer this matter to the relevant sub-committee.' At first I was rather unnerved by what seemed to be a 'just sort yourselves out' approach. Now I am used to the light touch method. I enjoy the warmth, good humour, knowledge and diverse personalities of my fellow Bloomers. And when you have been working on a bed and it is colourful in the sun and when a stranger stops to offer positive comments and encouragement - that is the icing on the cake!"

– Colin Roberts – GIB Member

"Wow, 10 years of Garforth in Bloom! I remember a few volunteers wanted to plant in front of the, then new, Welcome Stones.

"*Why not form an In Bloom group?*" I said. "*Hmmm, yes, but we don't want to go in for judging*" they said. Fast forward a couple of years, "*We want to go in for judging now*" they said. "*Great*" I said. Fast forward a couple more. "*Best of luck with BRITAIN IN BLOOM I said*".

Great memories laced, as life often is, with deep and heartbreaking tragedy. So, GIB I salute you!

Thank you for making our home so very beautiful. For absent friends."

– Mark Dobson – Local Councillor





Our Season: Looking Back

It's been a busy season with Spring judging, followed by our Summer Fair and the Lions Gala Day.

Thanks to all who supported our **Summer Fair** in June. It was a great day with lots of cake and plants sold! We raised a

fantastic £850!

The **Lions Gala Day** was held in June. It was a little quiet due to the event

A few people renewed their membership and we also received some donations.

We spent some of the day

knitting and crocheting poppies for our display in October 2018 to commemorate



clashing with the football and the tennis, but we still sold many raffle tickets for the hanging basket competition. Many people commented on how nice Garforth looks with all the beds, baskets and barrels.

the end of WWI. If you would like to help with this and need a knitting or crochet pattern, please contact us.

- **Carol Woodhead**

(Photo from gala day top left)

Lifetime Friends!

We have decided to introduce a **Lifetime Membership** as part of our fundraising 'Friends' scheme.

Life members will receive our newsletter throughout the year along with any extra correspondence we may send out informing of our upcoming events but will no longer need to complete an annual renewal membership form. If you would like to do away with the hassle of sending us a cheque to renew every year but would still like to support Garforth in Bloom, why not become a Life Member at your next renewal. – **Joanne Styles**



Yorkshire in Bloom Judging

SPRING JUDGING

We were a little disappointed to receive Silver Gilt this year for our Spring displays, despite all our best efforts. We are very proud of our work and we are grateful to have the whole town's support.

SUMMER JUDGING

Before we received our Spring results, we made the very difficult decision to withdraw from the competition. Due to the unusually hot weather it had not been possible to maintain our beds to the standard required.

We are very grateful to our Bloomers and everyone else who worked so hard to help keep our displays watered. If there is anyone out there who can help us with watering, particularly anyone who can drive a van with a water bowser, please do get in touch! – **Fiona Murray**

Upcoming Events!

COMMUNITY BULB PLANTING

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd – Meet us at 9:30am at the Miners Welfare Hall. Help us plant some bulbs for Spring and then pop back to the Hall for a cuppa and a bacon butty!

BAND CONCERT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27th – Join Garforth Brass Band at the Miners Welfare Hall at **7:30pm**. All proceeds from the concert go to Garforth in Bloom. Tickets must be bought in advance from the Library or SPT Uniform shop. Last year was a sellout and we had to turn people away on the night so, please, do buy a ticket in advance.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8th – 10am – 12 at the Miners Welfare Hall. All the usual fun stalls plus we hope for a choir to serenade you while you shop!

THANK YOU

Garforth in Bloom would like to thank all our Friends and our Sponsors, without whom our work would not be possible.

Thanks also to Leeds City Council for their continuing help, advice and support.

We'd also like to thank Garforth Camera Club members.

Thank you everybody for helping to make Garforth a great place to live and work.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you so much to all the friends, volunteers and local business owners who worked so hard to keep our plants watered during this unusually hot summer. We are so grateful.

