

# Liphook in Bloom



Welcome to Liphook in Bloom's September 2024 Newsletter. We've had a busy year and the weather has been slightly challenging! We planted the summer bedding at the beginning of June and then had a long dry spell which meant "action stations" for the watering team. This was followed by lots of rain which meant the weeds grew at an alarming rate and all of our volunteers had to join forces and tidy up before they swamped the displays.

## **Sustainable Planting**

We've started to add permanent planting to some of the beds around the village. We added some grasses, hebes and sea hollies to the raised planters in Fletcher's Field. The sea hollies have proved to be particularly vigorous and are rather too tall for those beds, so they will be moved elsewhere before the winter. The aim in the next couple of months is to plant more permanent bedding in the beds in front of the Millennium Hall. We will still plant some seasonal colour and bedding into the trough and 2 pots that are there too. Permanent planting will hopefully cut our work load down slightly, at the same time we are being more sustainable and helping the planet!

## Sunflower Competition



The Sunflower Competition started with the team and helpers all agreeing to sow seeds which we could give away at the Picnic on the Green 2024.

There was great enthusiasm, a slight sense of competition even at this stage, on who could grow the most sunflowers. Our Chairman Paul Johnson won this hands down and produced over 120 sunflowers of all different varieties in his greenhouse.

The seedlings were very popular at the Picnic and we could see that there would also be inter-competitions between families, streets and workplaces.

We had several categories that you could enter your sunflower. As well as the tallest, there was the sunflower with the most blooms, the most unusual and the funniest.

Over the months, photos were sent in and the competition grew - there was a buzz in the air. Thank you to Keith Thomas for co-ordinating the photos and putting them on our website.



We drew up a shortlist, thank you to Sue Moss from the RHS and Milly Moss who agreed to be our judges and on 19th August at 5.45pm we had 11 houses to visit before dark to judge their sunflowers.

We had a great evening, we met our lovely entrants, the standard was very high, their gardens were amazing.

Sue and Milly had a hard job deciding who had won which category.

We had so much help and generosity from so many people. Huge thanks to Toby Hutchins from Grayshott Pottery who sponsored and produced our Liphook in Bloom Sunflower Winner Mugs which are amazing. And to Milly Moss who designed the certificates for our Winners and Highly Commended.



Number One The Square kindly hosted our Prize Giving on 30th August and provided us with coffee.

The sun shone, our President Terry Burns, along with Toby Hutchins from Grayshott Pottery handed out the certificates and unique mugs to the winners.

If you'd like to see photos of the winners please go to our website and click on gallery and then 2024, scroll down to the bottom and there they are.

[https://www.liphookinbloom.co.uk/?page\\_id=53](https://www.liphookinbloom.co.uk/?page_id=53)

It was so lovely to hear from people who had never grown anything before, getting really excited about their sunflowers. And so many children really enjoyed growing and watering their plants. And as a team, we enjoyed it so much that we're doing it all again next year!

We believe there are plans being made for VE Day 80 Picnic on the Green on May 11th and we'll be there with our seedlings, so either plan to grow your own next year or come along and grab one.

## **Thank You**

Liphook in Bloom could not operate without YOU - our Sponsors, whether monetary or "in kind", Friends of Liphook in Bloom, our Helpers and our Team. A huge thank you to each and every one of you for supporting Liphook in Bloom and ensuring our village continues to look like a great place to live, work and play.

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