

Liphook in Bloom



Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all our Sponsors, Friends of Liphook in Bloom, everyone who took part in our Sunflower Competition and our fantastic Helpers, from the team at Liphook in Bloom. Thank you very much for everything that each and every one of you do to help keep our village looking fantastic and a great place to live, work and play. Liphook in Bloom is definitely a community effort, and we look forward to working with you all in 2025.

For 2025 we have a new Chairman, Lesley Hollands. Lesley is a well-known figure in the village and as well as her popular stall at the Liphook Artisan Market she also is the Chairman of the Horticultural Society. We wish her all the best for the future.

Paul Johnson has been "Acting" Chairman since the beginning of 2023. He is also our Treasurer and Permissions Officer, alongside his not so glamorous sounding roles, such as somehow finding himself in charge of taking the green waste to the tip! His flat-bed truck is usually full to bursting with weeds after our monthly working days and I believe it takes him all of the half hour slot at the tip to empty his truck! A huge thank you to Paul for all his hard work.

What a busy year 2024 has been. We have undertaken major projects, such as tree planting in Station Road, the complete replanting of the Heather Bed, as well as additional shrubs in the Station Road bed. We have also started to expand the permanent planting in several of our beds as well as keeping up with all of our normal activities.

We ran a highly successful Sunflower Competition which was evidenced by seeing sunflowers all around the village, outside of businesses, private homes and in the LIB flowerbeds. Grayshott Potteries generously provided decorated mugs for the winners. A big thanks to Miranda Rowe for organising the competition.

Several new volunteers have come forward, including our youngest regular, Oscar.

Workdays have been well attended and on our Bulb Planting weekend we had 34 helpers taking part.

But there is always room for more, so if you can spare a couple of hours out of the whole of next year we would love to see you.



During the Bulb Planting Weekend we planted 7,200 bulbs. Alongside different varieties of daffodils, including a double variety, we planted Tulips Merlot, Lalibela, Golden Parade, White Dream and Cherry Red. We also planted nearly 2,000 pansies!

Joan Holdsworth has been single-handedly designing, ordering and co-ordinating the planting of the village beds for several years and she's decided to hand over to someone else after completing the Autumn designs 2024. A huge thank you to Joan for all her very hard work and amazing designs over the years and we wish her well in the future. The new Planting Committee for 2025 is Patrina Johnson, Miranda Rowe and Lesley Hollands.



The Real English Drinks group became a major sponsor for Liphook in Bloom in 2021. We received a mysterious message that Brian Howard, former mayor of Haslemere, wanted to talk to us. Terry Burns and Paul Johnson met with Brian who informed us that his son Douglas's new venture, REDH would like to become a sponsor for Liphook in Bloom.

Terry and Paul, along with Joan, who was chairman at the time, were invited to meet the REDH team at 4.00pm on a Friday afternoon. We did not realise that this was the time that the management team enjoyed a 'wind down' drink before the weekend. We had a most jolly and enjoyable meeting and a tour of the distillery.

They also sponsor the Millennium Bed, opposite Sainsburys, which is one of our major display beds.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Real English Drinks Group, one of Liphook's best kept secrets, they are a range of companies encompassing drinks, hospitality and events. They employ 32 permanent and up to 25 temporary staff daily. Their products are shipped to over 30 countries.

Should you wish to try out your own village's gin, vodka or rum you can purchase from their website www.realenglishdrinks.co.uk or Amazon and Not on the Highstreet.



Liphook in Bloom are in urgent need of volunteers to help with the watering in the summer months. We particularly need vehicle drivers who have towing hitches. Rotas and schedules are drawn up ahead of time to allow for people's availability and holiday plans. Full training is given. For more information or to have a no-obligation chat please contact us on liphookinbloom@gmail.com

Being part of Liphook in Bloom is not all hard work. We always stop to socialise and have a coffee on our working days. And we take time out for our social events. We have a Summer Party, a Christmas Dinner and our popular Golf Day!

Our annual LIB Golf day took place in September. 12 golfers participated and the result was very tight. 4 golfers scored 29 points and a complicated 'count back' method had to be applied to their scorecards. In the end you can only have one winner, and by the tightest of margins, that was Colin Dodge. We are already looking forward to next year and even more members to be involved.



We're looking forward to a blooming good 2025 and seeing you all then. Don't forget our Sunflower Competition 2025 - these cold winter evenings are perfect for planning which sunflower varieties you'd like to grow. Will you go for the tallest, or the prettiest, or the most unusual? Or even all of them!! We will be attending the VE Day 80 celebrations on the Millennium Green on May 11th, and will have sunflower seedlings to give away to those who would like to take part.

If you'd prefer not to receive any newsletters in the future please email us on:

liphookinbloom@gmail.com