

# BRAY IN BLOOM

Autumn 2018

Dear Resident,

What a challenging year it has been. First the long, cold and wet winter followed by one of the hottest and driest summers on record. Not kind for gardeners! The Village still looked glorious for our **Bray Open Gardens** events and raising over £4000 for the High Sheriff's two charities (Thames Hospice and The Friends of St Michael's) was beyond our expectations. Thank you to all those who contributed and supported us on the day.

Our thanks go to Richard Crucefix, our local contractor, who kept the planters and troughs watered throughout the summer, sometimes watering 4 times a week during August. We pay for this from the funds provided by Bray Parish Council. Richard has also taken over from Rod Siddons as the Parish Handyman, so you will see him around more frequently. Thank you to Rod for all the years he has helped to keep the village tidy and cared for.

Following on from Margaret Pierce's resignation from the Bray Enhancement Committee last Autumn, we have also decided that we no longer wish to lead the Britain in Bloom campaign.

This does **not** have to mean the end of **Britain in Bloom** in Bray, should anyone else or another group like to take over.

It has been a tremendous community achievement over the years and we have thoroughly enjoyed being involved. Other activities are creeping on to our agenda and we plan to be away for some of next year and busy doing new things.

However, we still want to maintain the planters, troughs and barrels in order to make the village look colourful and welcoming. We have a suggestion on how we might achieve this which we hope will meet with your approval and interest.

Our proposal is that individual households or groups of Residents volunteer to look after a small selection of planters. These fall nicely into sections;

- the three troughs by the War Memorial
- the brick planters down at the slipway



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- the planters on the corner by Old Mill Lane & Ferry Road
- the Lych Gate
- the High Street
- the barrels at the Causeway Car Park

as examples.

There doesn't have to be a Village colour scheme so there is an opportunity for individual creativity and now is the time to think about the Autumn / Winter planting.

We would welcome your views, so either e-mail us or come along to discuss the options to manage both the work and the future funding **over a glass of wine at 7 Bray Close on Tuesday 23rd October at 7.30pm.**

We look forward to hearing from and seeing you.

**Chris and Julie Graham**

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