



The past year has been extremely difficult to maintain our usual projects in and around Lowestoft, but in January 2020 we ordered a range of plants for our projects, obviously not knowing what was to follow with the Pandemic and the lockdown. So, we decided as a committee to try and continue our projects, we stopped face to face meeting and went onto WhatsApp and Zoom to communicate, this worked well.

Our commitments for 2020 was to plant up the following; Lowestoft Railway station, Sparrows nest museum garden and hold our annual competition.

Lowestoft Railway station is LIB main project, this is our second year of doing this. 20 hanging baskets had to be planted up using social distancing, two boats also had to be planted using the plants we ordered in January, which by the end of May the baskets were ready to hang. In the first week of June two of our committee (husband and wife team) transported the baskets and plants to the station, where Martin Halliday (East Coast Officer) placed the baskets on their brackets. The boats were planted up by individuals off the committee over the following week.

This year 2021 the train station will be a bigger project as we have introduced 11 tubs and a train to be planted up.

Many of the plants we grew in 2020 were also for Sparrows nest museum garden, once again using social distancing, several of the committee took it in turns to go to Sparrows nest to plant up the garden, we also planted bulbs in late 2019.

Lowestoft in Bloom competition 2020 was going to be challenging, we knew that we couldn't use our usual format and we had to come up with ideas to overcome this, one of the committee put forward an idea about just using photographs, so we discussed it and decided to run with it. Each category in our competition could submit 5 photos of their front garden, hanging basket, standing container etc it worked out well, with the winners of each category receiving £25 garden voucher, which was sponsored by Lowestoft Town Council.

2021 is going to be challenging because of the uncertainty of what we can do and cannot do. Lowestoft in bloom are hoping that we can deliver projects like 2020 and we have already started to plan for this. Lowestoft train station and Sparrows nest museum garden will be planted up, although

the plants will be purchased locally, the train station in particular all baskets and tubs etc will be potted up on site, we envisage by May/June things may be a bit more relaxed so we can help as a group and not as individuals as we did in 2020.

LIB competition 2021, the uncertainty has forced us to once again use photographs for the competition, because we can't guarantee that we can go around and judge as we have done in other years. The schools category will be different this year, because we are only going to judge photographs on 22 wheelbarrows that will be donated to schools, these barrows can be planted up using teachers and pupils imagination, in conjunction with the barrows they will also have to make/construct a scarecrow, to either stand alongside or sit alongside the wheelbarrow.

The wheelbarrows were sponsored by Carlton hall and Cal and Angela.

Regards

David

Secretary for LIB