



EAST MIDLANDS

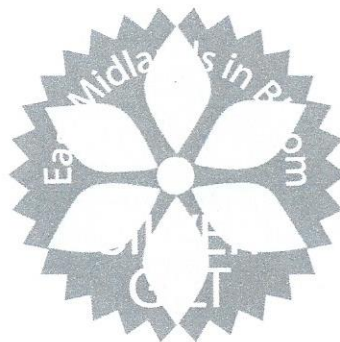
# SILVER GILT AWARD 2019

## TATTERSHALL THORPE GROUP

Small Village Category

*Jeff Bates*  
President  
East Midlands in Bloom

*Sharon Sutton*  
Chairman  
East Midlands in Bloom





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## JUDGES AWARD 2019

### TATTERSHALL THORPE GROUP

The commitment of the Jubilee Group in keeping the village tidy and colourful

Jeff Bates  
President  
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Sharon Sutton  
Chairman  
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## SMALL VILLAGE

### Tattershall Thorpe

Judged on 3rd July 2019

### Silver Gilt Award, 164 points

Judges: Irene Bates & Richard Welburn

#### Introduction

**Judges Award:** The commitment of Serv Coulber and the Jubilee Group in keeping the village tidy and colourful

Third time entrant Tattershall Thorpe is a lovely village in the district of East Lindsey in Lincolnshire. It is an area surrounded by gravel and sand pit excavation. Disused pits are now a collection of lakes and wildlife areas. The village consists principally of a main street in the shape of a horse shoe formed by Chapel Lane on one side and North Road on the other. The Tattershall Thorpe Jubilee Group fundraise, organise social events, and brighten the village by planting a colourful mix of annuals and perennials which are mainly grown by themselves. This was clearly evident on the sunny afternoon the judges came to visit!

#### Areas of Achievement

##### Section A

Colourful displays of annual and perennial flowers are present throughout the village, mostly the result of the work of the Jubilee Group. Notable examples seen include the large stone trough at the Chapel Lane/main road junction; at the frontage of the Wesleyan Chapel where there is a planted border and four more troughs; the junction of the main road and North Road where there is a border and a triangular island with a range of perennials and shrubs to which annuals have added some extra seasonal impact. Near this final area on North Road is a splendid line of maples along one side, contrasting well with the seasonal floral colour in the foreground of the view.

Both bus shelters within the village have borders alongside, containing a mixture of annuals that positively sparkle with colour and texture. These have been grown, planted and maintained by the group. One of the shelters has additional shrub planting of mahonia and some vibrant red salvia alongside blue cornflowers which attract pollinators.

It was pleasing to see that The Blue Bell Inn had put up a display of colourful hanging baskets. It is hoped this will continue in future years, as this historic public house has had many prestigious visitors in the past including Prince William while he was serving in the RAF.

Maple View which is situated further along North road has a beautiful garden maintained by Mark and his wife Jean displaying hanging baskets, tubs and planters of largely pink and white begonias supported with a tasteful planting scheme including red Japanese maples. This is where the annual Railway fundraising event is held. Areas not maintained by the Parish Council had been mown and maintained by Andy from the group.

##### Section B

The village is virtually surrounded by sand and gravel workings. Some of the old extraction sites are now fishing lakes and attractive environmental areas. There are seven lakes (some used for coarse fishing) each named after British WW2 RAF planes. On surrounding areas there are plans to introduce wildflower planting, one area to be pollinator-friendly and another to produce seeds for birds. New trees have been planted and there are areas of grassland in which native flowers, including orchids, are found. The lakes are well used by water birds, and several reed warbler nests have been used by cuckoos this year. A notice board explains the archaeological finds that have been unearthed during excavation of the gravel pits. It should be noted that some of these pits are still active. A notice board adjacent to the unoccupied Wesleyan Chapel also displays details of local archaeological finds from the area.

We were told about two strips of ancient woodland in Tattershall Thorpe and that these are home to many species of plant and animal life. There is a large population of bats who have the pleasure of occupying old air-raid shelters that have been converted into roosts. Bat boxes and barn owl boxes have also been



placed there. Recently the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has taken over an old airfield runway and plan to convert it to a nature reserve. The area around the Charles and Diana tree had been carefully cleared, thereby opening up the view. Three stumps here have been retained to use for seating.

Around the bus shelter beds it was pleasing to see pollinator friendly plants such as cornflower, marigold and lavender amongst the planting. Rainwater is collected in a large water butt by the side of one of the shelters enabling these planted areas to be more easily watered. Local horse manure was used to enrich the soil and added to the mulch. There was no evidence of litter, graffiti, or dog fouling. The bus shelters had been renovated and kept clean.

### Section C

The Jubilee Group consists of eight elected committee members but all other residents are automatically members. They organise social events within the community and carry out maintenance within the village area. Ten per cent of the community are actively involved, planting and maintaining flower beds, troughs, and roadside areas. This year they have put in new windows in one of the bus shelters and plan to start clearance of the ditch bank.

Notice boards are up to date, publicising local events and activities, including East Midlands in Bloom. Fundraising events include "Meet the Neighbours" in June, and a Railway Day at Maple View garden in July where families can view the lovely garden and miniature railway. This has become an annual treat. There is a Village clean-up event. Children from the nearby school design Keep our Village Tidy posters which were seen in the bus shelters. The group also work in liaison with Thorpe Camp, Lincolnshire Wildlife, and the Woodland Trust. Many of these aspects were described to the judges as part of a presentation at the start of the visit, where we viewed display boards, met group members and enjoyed a cream tea.

The archaeology of the village is very important, and Margaret is to be commended on the sterling work she is doing. It was an exciting moment to hold a Neolithic axe stone and see the gigantic mammoth bone that Steve brought out for us to see.

## **Areas for Development**

### Section A

Continue with the good work of growing your own plants and maybe consider growing more perennial/sustainable plants and shrubs that might alleviate some work of the annual planting each year.

### Section B

Could a composting scheme for residents be started and initiatives for further rainwater harvesting? Is there scope in the Charles and Diana Tree garden for bird/bat boxes to be erected and maybe at a later stage an interpretation board to explain what the area is for, information about the flora and fauna that are present, etc. A safety warning or barrier might be appropriate here too, because of the adjoining canal. If appropriate, could a link be made with the adjoining woodland to create a woodland walkway? We were told of the work started by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and it would have been interesting to see some of the bat/owl boxes that have been erected. The Blue Bell Inn's involvement was very good, please encourage them to continue; they might add a trough here too. There has been some prestigious patronage previously and it has a long history, may be this could be further explored and made good use of.

### Section C

Continue informing residents of the wonderful work you are doing and take every opportunity to try and involve others, particularly children, and hopefully their parents. Is there scope of a small area in the village being turned into a mini allotment where children/the nearest school might be encouraged in gardening? Can you consider entering the winner of your best kept garden into the EMiB Frank Constable Award for Best Garden visible to the public? Your Christmas activities bring many people together – this could be an opportunity to explain what your group do, how it benefits all residents, and how it always needs new people to become engaged to help the village to continue to thrive.