



The Royal Horticultural Society and East Midlands in Bloom  
are proud to present

# Tattershall Thorpe Group

with a Certificate for **Inspiring Others** in 2020

COMMUNITY  
GARDENING

GET INVOLVED



The Royal Horticultural Society and East Midlands in Bloom  
are proud to present

# Tattershall Thorpe Group

with a Certificate of **Recognition** in 2020



EAST MIDLANDS

# SILVER GILT AWARD

## 2021

# TATTERSHALL THORPE GROUP

Small Village Category

Jeff Bates  
President  
East Midlands in Bloom

Sharon Sutton  
Chairman  
East Midlands in Bloom





EAST MIDLANDS

**AWARD**

**2021**

**TATTERSHALL THORPE**

Judge's Award

Servais Coulber for propagating (in his own garden)  
many colourful annuals for the flower displays around the village

Jeff Bates  
President  
East Midlands in Bloom

Sharon Sutton  
Chairman  
East Midlands in Bloom





## SMALL VILLAGE

### TATTERSHALL THORPE

#### SILVER GILT AWARD

Judged on 6<sup>th</sup> July

Judge: MARTHA WORSCHING

Judges Award: Servais Coulber for propagating (in his own garden) many colourful annuals for the flower displays around the village

#### Introduction

Tattershall Thorpe is an attractive small village in Lincolnshire not far from the medieval Tattershall Castle, along the B1192. The village is surrounded by wooded areas and many small lakes which were former gravel and sand pits; they are used as fishing lakes, and large parts of the surroundings have been developed for wildlife and recreation; there are footpaths for recreational walks, something that has proven particularly beneficial during the pandemic; the old airfield site has been taken on by Lincolnshire Wildlife. Among the residents there is just a small number of families with children, there is a pub but no school and no local shop; with an electorate of about 250, all residents can participate in the Jubilee Group which is steered by a committee; the members fundraise, organise social events and care for numerous colourful plant displays in the public areas of the village.

Driving or walking through the village, the overall impression is of very good horticultural design and maintenance, appropriate to the location, with interesting plant selection, reflecting very good community cooperation and local pride.

#### Areas of Achievement

##### Section A

Approaching the village, you are greeted by a colourful flower trough, with a plaque highlighting the fact that Tattershall Thorpe had earned the award of 'best kept village in Lincolnshire' in 2010. The first bus stop has a delightful plant border with well-trimmed evergreens and a mixture of colourful annuals and perennials, with yellow and orange marigolds particularly brightening up the display. The Bluebell Pub on the main road is open again after lockdown and has some tidy shrubs and a few colourful annuals in its well-gravelled forecourt. All the verges around the chapel and the war memorial are well cut, with tidy mixed planting in beds and containers around the memorial and the Parish Council noticeboard; in a stone trough opposite the former Wesleyan chapel (now a private residence), at the junction of the main road and Chapel Lane, there is an exuberant display of white alyssum, red pelargonium and strong marigolds of different heights. The small wildlife garden around the Charles-and-Diana-Tree is well-kept and secluded off the main road, with a barrier towards the canal and a bird box installed more recently; further on the main road, the absolute highlight of planting and garden design is the wide flowerbed on the island between the main road and North Road: rose bushes and evergreen shrubs with a variety of coloured foliage make up the background, there are strong perennials such as delphinium, larkspur, rose campion, lavender and antirrhinum, and these are interspersed towards the front with annuals like cornflowers, marigold and lobelia. The bus shelter on the other side of the island has a bed of some tall cornflowers and African marigold just about to flower, and this is backed by well-trimmed hedges.

## **TATTERSHALL THORPE**

Along North Road there is Maple View, the railway-themed garden maintained by Mark and Jean; tubs and planters are displaying white, pink and red begonias; there are tidy bright gravel and slate areas around the wooden planters. The annual fundraising event had just taken place on the previous Sunday in the garden behind the house where there is a mini-railway; the event brought in the community for a sunny afternoon of coffee/ tea and cake, raising a substantial amount of funds for community projects.

Photographic evidence was provided to show that planters in public areas were looked after with care all the year round by members of the group and provided excellent colour in early and late spring, too.

### **Section B**

There is particularly good evidence of a sense of local identity: History from stone age settlements, a Roman burial, the 2nd World War prisoner of war camp and the stationing of the RAF in the area to this day is memorialised in plaques and notice boards. Street furniture is kept to a minimum and is of good quality and condition, and there is no litter to be seen.

Former gravel pits have been developed as fishing lakes, home for a variety of waterfowl and wild animals in general, and there are mixed wooded areas and wildflower meadows providing an excellent environment for birds – nesting boxes are also evident in many trees, and a former air shelter in Carr Woods has bat boxes installed. Reed beds and wildflower verges are attracting a variety of birds for nesting and food. There are foot paths including a raised walkway connecting lakes, to give access for fishermen, bird watchers and walkers seeking recreation in nature generally.

Members of the Jubilee Group, led by Servais Coulber, are propagating most of the plants themselves, using horse manure for soil maintenance which is sourced from Steve and his wife's stable; all plant waste is also composted there. There is a water tank behind one of the bus shelters to collect rain for watering the beds around the street island between the main road and North Road. There is an overall sense of respect for the natural environment and sensitive use of natural resources.

### **Section C**

On arrival at the meeting place in Chapel Lane, where I was met by Servais and Steve, I was shown colourful displays of photos reflecting the group's activities taking place throughout the year. The group's members are involved in growing and planting out at different times of the year and also constructing and maintaining street furniture; there are litter picking events, and the well-tended roadsides and spaces between private gardens have been used for distanced socialising during lockdown.

The fundraising event at Mark and Jean's railway garden was very well attended again this year by many local families and, similar to the successful celebration of bonfire night in November at the lakes and other social events, this can be seen as an excellent way of reinforcing the sense of togetherness and community; the proceeds from the fundraising event will be spent to buy a speed detector for the main road, allowing residents to feel actively involved in contributing to the community's well-being.

As a result of the pandemic situation at the beginning of July, it was not possible to meet a larger representation of the community members before or after my tour of the village, but it was evident to me that the excellent maintenance of planted areas and public spaces around the village were the result of long-term and collective strong engagement of this community to ensure the sustainability and success of the Bloom project in Tattershall Thorpe.

## TATTERSHALL THORPE

### Areas for Improvement.

#### Section A

It would be nice if the Blue Bell Inn could again have some colourful hanging baskets, as in the year before lockdown; more floral colour in front of the pub in such a prominent position would highlight the benefits of all Bloom activities in the village to any visitors. Some dogwood, wild rose or box plants could provide more permanent colour in the small park around the Charles-and-Diana-Tree. This could create a more natural barrier towards the canal.

#### Section B

As mentioned in the previous report, some work had been started with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, but it was not evident this year during the Bloom visit how this work has been progressing.

#### Section C

As been mentioned before, the core members of the Jubilee Group have demonstrated very good gardening skills in producing their own plants, both annuals and perennial, and sharing their skills with a wider circle of villagers through seed sowing or soft/hardwood cutting workshops could help to engage more residents of all ages. Events such as plant swaps and plant sales could also be added to the fundraising calendar.

Given that there is no school in the village, it might still be possible to consider the suggestion from the 2019 Bloom Report, namely to find a small area of land which could be turned into a mini allotment where children could be encouraged to grow flowers and simple food such as herbs, strawberries, lettuce, peas and tomatoes; work started in the Easter Holidays could be tended at weekends and hopefully give more skilled gardeners the opportunities to pass on their love for gardening.