



Meeting Notes
‘ST IVES IN BLOOM’ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held in The Community Room, Morrisons
at 7.30pm on 25th October 2022

Present: 2021/22 committee members:
Carole Parker (Chair)
Linda Croucher
Sarah Banks (Treasurer)
Hattie Grimwade (Secretary)
Margaret King (Town Council link)
New committee member: Karen Jarratt

Other volunteers present:
Phil Pope (Mayor), Robin Hall and Dawn (Cemetery volunteers),
Chris Wildee, Barbara and John Sevier, Robin Bletsoe, Ann Barnes,
Jenny Cant, Lin Farnell, Gill and Peter German, Colin Saunderson.

1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Action

Carole welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited them to read the report from the Anglia in Bloom judges (*Appendix B*) and the plans for next year (*Appendix C*).
Apologies for absence were received from Moreen Wells and Phil Davies (Committee), Lisa Valla (2222/3 Committee), and volunteers Maggie Melrose, Helen Tiddy, Kerry Davies, Bunty Rawlings and Cathy Border.

2. MINUTES of last year's AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM had been emailed to all volunteers. There were no matters arising and the minutes were passed as a correct record.

3. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT (Carole Parker, Chair)

Carole presented her report (*Appendix A*), thanking both committee members and volunteers for all their hard work this year and explaining the projects that are continuing and new projects that are being planned for the coming year.

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (Sarah Banks, Treasurer)

Sarah Banks presented the Accounts (*Appendix D*) showing income and expenditure to the end of September. She explained that sponsorship and donations had enabled many projects to go ahead and that she is applying now for repeat funding from the Town Council for next year.

SB

5. THANKS TO CAROLE (Linda Croucher, previous Chair)

Linda thanked Carole on a personal note for taking over from her during the year, enabling the Committee not only to go ahead but to develop and to improve.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers have agreed to stand for a second term, with Linda offering to be Vice Chair if needed.

- i. **Appointment of Carole Parker, Chair**, nominated Hattie Grimwade, seconded Linda Croucher.
- ii. **Appointment of Sarah Banks, Treasurer**, nominated Margaret King, seconded Carole Parker.
- iii. **Appointment of Hattie Grimwade, Secretary**, nominated Robin Bletsoe, seconded Margaret King.

6. CONFIRMATION of other COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/2023

Moreen is leaving the committee owing to ill health. Karen Jarratt and Lisa Valla have kindly agreed to join the committee. There was some discussion about the appointment of a Vice Chair and about dividing the roles and responsibilities of the Secretary.

Since some Committee members were absent, these roles will be discussed and finalised during the next committee meeting. Carole invited other volunteers to join the Committee if they would like to be involved in the decision making.

7. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution that had been amended in 2019 and emailed to all volunteers before the meeting was agreed without any changes.

8. TIME and DATE of NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Morrisons.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) *Publicity and fundraising:*

Carole invited comment and help in improving both publicity and fundraising, prompting a very useful discussion. All the following suggestions will be followed up straightaway if immediate action is needed, or else discussed and actioned at the next Committee meeting in November.

i. *Publicity suggestions:*

- Plaques should be set up on all areas planted and/or maintained by St Ives in Bloom volunteers;
- A new more substantial publicity banner should be obtained;
- There should be a regular publicity stall at the Farmers' Market;
- Tabards or jackets with St Ives in Bloom logo should be worn by volunteers, (volunteers offered to pay for their own and to wear them to the gardening sessions);
- A sign with details of volunteer mornings should be set up near the taps in the cemetery;
- Residents near the areas for bulb planting should receive flyers asking for their help;

MK

HG

HG

- Copies of the Gold Award Certificate should be printed for display on the Town Council noticeboards.

HG

ii. Fundraising suggestions:

- Local plant nurseries and businesses should continue to be contacted with requests for specific projects, rather than for St Ives in Bloom generally;
- Both gardening and fundraising connections should be developed with diverse communities for different areas of the cemeteries;
- After agreement is reached with the Town Council on the details of the Ramsey Road cemetery project, funeral directors should be approached for sponsorship at the cemetery.

b) Social media and the website:

There was some discussion about the presentation of the website and of the St Ives in Bloom facebook page.

c) Berman Park:

Robin introduced the topic of Berman Park, and our plans to work with HDC and other community groups on improvements to the area, following a meeting we had with HDC in May 2021. Hattie explained that she and Phil had also attended a discussion day in September 2022, where Berman Park was identified as a priority project. However, HDC has not yet fully taken over the management of the park, Margaret will investigate. (The day after the meeting, Margaret received confirmation from Judith Arnold that Berman Park “will be managed by HDC when it is handed over from the developer”.)

MK

In the meantime various plans and ideas were suggested, including:

- the St Ives Eco-faith group have already pinpointed an area where they would like to construct a Peace Garden;
- both Robin and Hattie are interested in involving the schools, and have raised this possibility at both the meetings with HDC;
- involvement of the local residents group;
- creation of a “Friends of Berman Park” group;
- daffodil planting at the top of the slope;
- provision of better and more benches.

All volunteers were asked to go on a walk round Berman Park in the next couple of weeks and to email Hattie any ideas and suggestions for its management or improvement, for discussion at the next Committee meeting. The committee can then respond to the consultation process on behalf of St Ives in Bloom.

ALL

Appendix A

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022

Thank you all for attending tonight.

Firstly a very special thank you to all our volunteers and committee members.

This year the weather has definitely challenged us, we have worked in scorching sun and torrential rain with no complaints. Receiving GOLD In Anglia in Bloom was the pinnacle of our year. I would like to thank everyone involved for their help and mammoth effort in helping us to achieve this. The feedback from the judges and their comments should make us all proud to be involved with St Ives in Bloom. It was a lovely day that we all worked hard for, the bonus was the sun shining on us.

Our jubilee year has been productive, everything we had set out for this year came together, even though the hot weather made it challenging at times.

This year we have worked with many groups: shop keepers, Eco group, Norris Museum, Holt Island, Sponsors and the Council.

I would like, on behalf of the committee, to say a huge thank you to those who took on extra responsibilities throughout the year:

Robin Bletsoe - for the Park & Ride, wildflower & daffodil planting, Free Church planters and Allotments;

Linda, Ann, Kerry and Phil – for Kings Hedges;

Bunty – for the Post box garden;

Moo, Helen & Lol – for fundraising and anything else we ask of them, from weeding to serving food;

Karen, Kerry and Phil, and Robin Hall – for the Ramsey Rd cemetery;

Phil – for IT help (web page & security);

Barbara and John – for the Trefoil Guild Cabin/Guide Hut flowers;

Sue - for the portfolio front cover;

And not forgetting our very special secretary *Hattie* for her responsibilities too many to list, by doing far more above and beyond to make St Ives In Bloom the success it is. Her excellent portfolio for Anglia in Bloom was interesting and informative just what the judges were looking for.

Deep breaths and we'll start planning our 2023 visit from the judges in the New Year!

This following year we are concentrating on more sustainable planting, maintaining and improving our existing areas:

- *Park & Ride* - We are hoping to work with Mick George and our other sponsors to finish the last central avenue beds, when we are finally allowed back into the area.

- *Ramsey Rd Cemetery* - We are working with the Islamic community to design and plant a quiet contemplation area near the Islamic graves. We also plan to finish the planting at the main gates, and daffodil planting on the verge outside the gates.
- *Daffodil Planting* – This autumn will be at Oxford Road/Broad Leas, Ramsey Rd Cemetery and Warren Rd/Parkway.
- We are also hoping to work with Broad Leas Court in helping the residents maintain their garden.

We are now working closely with the council having regular meetings to voice our concerns and work together on future projects.

If anyone has any ideas for future projects, please speak to one of the committee members we are constantly open to new ideas.

Our 2022 committee members were:

Carole Parker: Chair

Hattie Grimwade: Secretary

Sarah Banks: Treasurer

Margaret King: Council Link

Angie Dickinson: Council Link

Phil Davies: Resident

Moreen Wells: Resident

Linda Croucher: Resident

Angie retired from the Committee in May, and Moreen is retiring because of ill health. We would like to welcome two new members – *Karen Jarratt* and *Lisa Valla* – who have offered to join our committee for the coming year.

We are always looking for new committee members so if you feel you could stand and help make a difference, again speak to a member of the committee.

The committee would like to thank Sarah for preparing this year's accounts, which she will now present to you.

Carole Parker

Chair

St Ives In Bloom

Appendix B

ANGLIA IN BLOOM JUDGES REPORT TO ENTRANTS

JUDGES REPORT

Entrant – St, Ives

Category – Large Town

Date – 14th July 2022

We arrived to a wonderful reception at the Norris Museum. Hattie and her lovely team were clearly very passionate and knowledgeable about what has been achieved throughout the town. The tour was well planned, and the judges were shown some great projects and features of St, Ives. The way the community pulls together to achieve and maintain these projects is a credit to the town.

Section A. Horticultural Achievement.

There is lots of colourful planting on display, with efforts made to have all year-round interest. All the displays were well maintained with healthy plants and a good mix of perennials and annuals. Many of the town businesses had floral displays, which made the areas very attractive.

*Areas of Achievement:

- The Waits riverside display was a colourful display of planting, and a good mix of varieties there was also wonderful knitting (Yarn Bombing) display on all of the railings.
- The Post box garden looked wonderful with its colourful all year-round planting theme.
- The Chestnut Road community bed was another colourful and sustainable planting display.
- The Kings Hedges shopping area had some lovely planters and seating, the drought tolerant planted bicycle racks were especially ingenious.
- Bridge street had masses of colourful hanging baskets and planters lining the street.

*Suggestions and Comments:

- Along the Judging route, the kerb lines were in need of being swept and tidied.
- There were a few weeds along the route needing attention.
- Street furniture needed cleaning and Graffiti needed removing.
- Attention to detail – Please remember we judge everything we see on our judging route, so attention to small details is vital for the very top marks.

Standard Achieved in Section A = **Gold**

Section B. Environmental Responsibility

A great deal of work has been done to improve the environmental surroundings of St Ives. There are lots of areas that have been improved to attract local flora and fauna. Holt Island is an amazing place to explore. Throughout the tour we were shown lots of projects that help the environment, from tree planting and wildflower swathes, to recycling bottles to make a green house for the children to grow produce in.

*Areas of Achievement

- Holt Island is wildlife haven in the centre of ~~the town~~ ^{St Ives} for everybody to use. Whether you want to help the team, learn or just observe the Flora and Fauna, it caters for everybody.
- The wildflower swathes looked very impressive with a wide range of flowers looking very colourful and full of insects.
- Bird and bat boxes were used to great effect especially on the Holt Island, with sightings recorded and monitored with help from the B.T.O. (British Trust for Ornithology)
- Ramsey road cemetery is another great area to see wildlife. It is well maintained again by volunteers thinking about the environment.

Appendix B (cont)

- Wheatfields school outdoor/garden area is a wonderful place for the children to learn about the environment from growing crops to learning about wildlife and even recycling materials from compost and old tyres to a plastic bottle green house.

*Suggestions and Comments

- Street furniture could be cleaned or washed down, there were lots of cobwebs and bird mess on them. There was also some Graffiti in a few areas
- More could be made of your recycling green matter from all of your community beds and re use of the compost.
- Possible solar panels on the roof of the information centre on Holt Island for use in the centre for school lessons.

Standard Achieved in Section B = **Gold**

Section C: Community Participation

The St Ives in Bloom team are clearly passionate about the local environment and have recruited lots of volunteers for the many great projects. The portfolio has an impressive calendar of work and photos showing how work is carried out all year round. Volunteers do various fund-raising events and several local businesses have helped with donations or supplies.

*Areas of Achievement

- Holt Island clearly has a dedicated and knowledgeable community that maintain and manage the area and, plan for the future.
- The community herb garden planted with academy students and maintained by the community has lots of good information on the uses of herbs.
- Kings Hedge community space is clearly maintained by passionate local people who take great pride in this busy area.
- The bus station planting has several different groups involved with its maintenance.
- The new contemplation garden in the cemetery is all looked after with volunteers.
- The knitting (Yarn Bombing) projects shows any body can participate in improving the area.
- The Norris Museum and gardens is another great community space well used and maintained. The great mural shows the timeline of all the people and groups who have helped on various projects around the area.

*Suggestions and comments

- Put together a presentation for the local council to ask for support.
- Consider applying for grants to help with planned works.

Standard Achieved in Section C = **Gold**

Very well done! A very dedicated group of people with great enthusiasm and some great ideas. St Ives should be very proud of all your efforts.

AWARD: Gold

Signed

Judge 1

Judge2

Appendix C

PROJECTS for 2022/23

ONGOING PROJECTS		PRESENT PROJECT LEADER(S)	Notes
1.	RAMSEY ROAD CEMETERY	Carole, Phil, Karen, Councillors	Ongoing but with possible new garden in planning stage
2.	KINGS HEDGES community space PLANTERS	Phil and Kerry, Linda	Ongoing
3.	STATION ROAD VERGE and SHOP PLANTERS	Carole, Hattie	Ongoing
4.	PARK AND RIDE	Robin Bletsoe, Hattie	Depending on success of sponsorship for 3 new beds
5.	FREE CHURCH PLANTERS	Robin	Ongoing
6.	HOUGHTON RD PLANTER	Eileen Knight, Rotary	Ongoing with the Rotary Club
7.	NORRIS MUSEUM PLANTERS	Carole	New display planned
8.	PARISH CHURCH PLANTERS	Hattie	Request for replacement planters
9.	TOWN BUS STATION PLANTERS	Hattie	Ongoing only if the problem of watering can be resolved
10.	THE WAITS, corner garden	Bunty Rawlings	Ongoing
11.	ELM ROAD/CHESTNUT RD	Local residents	Ongoing
12.	BROAD LEAS CEMETERY	Group Project	Ongoing
13.	WESTWOOD RD CHURCHYARD	Group Project	Problems with this project to be discussed in committee
14.	TREFOIL GUILD CABIN	Barbara Sevier	Ongoing
15.	BULB PLANTING	Robin	Ongoing
16.	WILDFLOWER PLANTING	Hattie (Westfields) Philip Bubbs (with Wheatfields School)	Completed in October If committee agree to fund crocuses (recently requested)
17.	LITTER PICKING	Becky Morgan (Eco)	Ongoing if committee agrees
NEW/CHANGED PROJECTS		POSSIBLE PROJECT LEADERS	Notes
A.	PROJECT with NORRIS MUSEUM/SPRING COMMON	Karen, Hattie	The Waits herb garden, to be planned with the Norris Museum
B.	PROJECTS with SCHOOLS	a) Ivo – Hattie b) Primary School(s)	a) In planning stage with Berman Park (see Project E below) b) To be arranged with schools
C.	PROJECTS with CARE HOME	Carole	In planning with Broad Leas
D.	LOCAL COMPETITIONS a) Gardens and Retail b) Allotments	a) Bunty b) Robin	The garden competition may run this year if a second judge can be found for gardens and retail.
E.	BERMAN'S PARK	Hattie, Phil, Jade Gunnell, HDC	Planning stage in consultation with GOVT, HDC, Eco-Action

St Ives in Bloom Income & Expenditure Report 2021 - 2022

Appendix D

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Income		
Town Council Grants	3239.87	3187
Donations/Fundraising	459	703.99
Project Reimbursements	1445.23	1066.79
Total Income	<u>5144.1</u>	<u>4957.78</u>
Expenditure		
Plants, Seeds & Compost		
Plants Parish Church	88.77	23.5
Free Church	40	0
Kings Hedges	510.9	81.49
Waits	66	193.12
Bus Station	110.8	0
Station Road	80.25	34.7
Houghton Road	50	0
Ramsey Road	169.5	0
Elm Drive	0	196.58
Other areas	70	65.25
May Day	0	355.31
Bulbs & Seeds	1077	140
Compost	738.55	103.97
	<u>3001.77</u>	<u>1193.92</u>
Materials		
Craft Supplies	43.8	163.49
Garden Equipment	73.36	0
Planters etc	0	486
Elm Drive	0	315.29
Plaques	0	230.4
	<u>117.16</u>	<u>1195.18</u>
Admin & Misc		
Anglia in Bloom Costs	365	85
Flower & Produce show	75	75
Website Hosting	194.4	194.4
Printing, Post & Stationery	18.09	23.84
Misc	125.5	48.14
Insurance	75	0
Cheque Adjustments	0	-132
	<u>852.99</u>	<u>294.38</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>3971.92</u>	<u>2683.48</u>
Surplus for Period	<u>1172.18</u>	<u>2274.3</u>
Balance Brought Forward	<u>3537.01</u>	<u>1262.71</u>
Balance Carried forward	<u>4709.19</u>	<u>3537.01</u>
Funds in Hand		
Natwest Bank Account	5147.06	2685.64
Uncleared Receipts	5	1071.79
Unpresented Payments	-392.87	-170.42
Accrued Expenditure	-50	-50
Total	<u>4709.19</u>	<u>3537.01</u>

Although costs have increased this year for both plants and costs associated with entering Anglia in Bloom in person (last year's competition was held online), we were prudent at the start of the year, focusing our energies into self-funded projects such as the installation of the new seating area at Kings Hedges. Further costs were saved with the postponement of any substantial replanting at the Park and Ride and the town continued to support us with their generosity, donating not only their time and funds but also large amounts of plants enabling us to have a greater impact on St Ives at a lower cost.

Appendix D (cont)

Budget Comparison FY22

A positive variance is more money received or money saved against budget

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Anglia in Bloom			
Spring Launch	60	40	20
Entry Fees Town	150	185	-35
Cemetery	50	0	50
Public House	50	0	50
Day of Hospitality	80	91	-11
Display	15	0	15
Portfolios	60	4.99	55.01
Itineraries/maps	20	0	20
Postage	20	4.1	15.9
Attendance			
Awards	30	100	-70
Autumn Seminar	50	40	10
	<u>585</u>	<u>465.09</u>	<u>119.91</u>
Other/Misc			
Insurance	75	75	0
Website Hosting	195	194.4	0.6
Tools	80	39.98	40.02
Litterpickers & Bags	40	0	40
AGM Costs 21	70	43.5	26.5
Photocopying	30	0	30
Community Fair	30	0	30
Competition Publicity	15	0	15
Competition Awards	25	0	25
Flower & Produce Show	75	75	0
	<u>635</u>	<u>427.88</u>	<u>207.12</u>
Projects			
Kings Hedges	95	816.35	-721.35
Ramsey Road Cemetery	125	521.68	-396.68
Station Road	90	249.5	-159.5
Park & Ride	260	36	224
Free Church Planters	65	40	25
Cromwell Planters	60	0	60
Houghton Road Planter	110	50	60
Norris Museum Planter	110	0	110
Parish Church Planter	80	88.77	-8.77
Bus station Planters	80	110.8	-30.8
The Waits Corner Garden	110	30	80
The Waits	75	116.85	-41.85
Wildflower planting	750	750	0
Trefoil Guild Cabin	50	41	9
Bulb Planting	220	192	28
Quay	30	36	-6
	<u>2310</u>	<u>3078.95</u>	<u>-768.95</u>

Appendix D (cont)

Receipts

Grants	3187	3239.87	52.87
Donations/Fundraising	150	459	309
Project Reimbursements			0
Wildflower Planting	750	750	0
Kings Hedges	0	695.23	695.23
	<u>4087</u>	<u>5144.1</u>	<u>1057.1</u>

Summary

Receipts	4087	5144.1
Anglia in Bloom Costs	-585	-465.09
Other/Misc Costs	-635	-427.88
Town Projects	-2310	-3078.95
Buffer for unexpected	-400	0
	<u>157</u>	<u>1172.18</u>
Surplus		
		<u>1015.18</u>
Total variance of		<u>1015.18</u>