



Mrs Ellen Flynn winner of the Best Front Garden with the AiB judges and GMCiB Chairman John Thackray

Godmanchester in Bloom

Godmanchester in Bloom (GMCiB) has had another successful year. After so much hard work by so many people, Godmanchester achieved Silver Gilt at the 2010 Anglia in Bloom (AiB) awards, with certificates also awarded to Park Lane Nursery as Best Garden for Special Needs, and The Recreation Ground for Best Public Open Space. With ever increasing standards this is a significant advance. Many thanks must go to Chairman John Thackray for having the vision of where we wanted to be and for holding it all together to get there.

In July, certificates were handed out to the Best Floral Display winners in the Town. Preparations are now well underway for 2011. GMCiB has a number of ideas for the future - including identification of a site for a Town Orchard, and the installation of an Apiary and Bee Shed (The Godmanchester Bee Observatory) following receipt of a grant from the Cambridgeshire Community Fund. People will know of the difficulties bees are having at the moment, so anything we can do will help them. It is also intended to be educational, with regular visits from local schoolchildren, both as an interest subject and as part of the science curriculum. We are looking for any further assistance we can get in setting up the project, including ideas from across the Town - sponsorship for the hive, bees and shed, construction materials for the shed and fencing, and ongoing support (*please contact John Thackray on 420007 or Malcolm Cohen on 07935 075322*). If you are interested in the sort of flowers and plants you can plant in your garden to attract both bees and butterflies please go to www.growsonyou.com/craftnutter/blog/4145-bee-friendly-plants-for-dying-bees for information.

This year saw three new initiatives – the Open Gardens Day in June, a Scarecrow Festival and the creation of a Bird Group. Fifteen gardens, some of them serving teas, were open to the public and, in the lead up to Gala Day, more than a dozen scarecrows appeared as if from nowhere, some of them hanging precariously from upstairs windows!

Godmanchester in Bloom is successful because it is a team effort from across the town: residents, businesses, schools, retirement homes, the Churches and the Community Nursery have all played an important part. Thanks to them and to support, as always, from The Town Council, the Community Association, the Housing Associations and Huntingdonshire District Council (particularly Paul Smith). Mrs Ellen Flynn in Bascraft Way was this year's winning front garden and Bart Simpson the winning scarecrow.

The initial meeting of the Godmanchester Garden Club has now taken place. The GMCiB AGM will take place in the Queen Elizabeth School on Thursday 21 October, when details of some of next year's plans will be revealed, including how YOU can become involved in the Garden Club.