

Secretary's report 2020.

The year started with the group's decision to go ahead and enter the Britain in Bloom competition, for which preparation started in vain. Our main projects for the year were to build a new road sign bed at the entrance to the village from Knighton, revitalise the Mary Keay bed with more sustainable planting and to move the water butts from the bus shelter to the pub. The year began with the clearing of Parton's Pool, a yearly activity that the group partake in. As the spring approached, our planting came to life and was yet again spectacular.

Our events calendar kicked off with a new addition, the Easter Egg Hunt, which made use, for the first time, of the new bunting that the group had made with attendees of the coffee morning. What turned out to be a theme across our year, the weather god's shone down on us. It was attended by over 40 children and many families that were new to the village – a great success! Next on the agenda was the duck race, again beautiful weather drew the crowds to Forge Farm and a great deal of fun was had by all. As we entered into the summer period, the Plant Sale attracted many donations – another success!

As the judging grew closer, the group focussed on the jobs at hand around the village and managing the watering. With an early drought, we looked to ways of filling the stores, but as a wetter summer than 2018 unravelled, we were able to cope! The village show started as a wash out, but attracted a few people later in the afternoon, with particular attention to Malcolm's exhibition hive. With help from the council, the curbs were weeded and the roads swept, and a last minute – extremely wet – litter pick by the group, left the village looking very smart ahead of the judging.

Yet again, the weather god's shone on us for the morning of judging – a beautiful blue skied summer morning provided us with the opportunity to truly showcase the village and its beauty. The judges appeared to be impressed, but didn't give much away!

Up next was the new Front Doorstep Competition, engagement had probably been limited, which was reflected in "entries". However, whilst judging the doorsteps, we managed to engage with new people in the village, which has resulted in new members to the group! The Fruit and Veg Show saw many new entrants and some incredible tea cosies, which helped the event to continue our wide community engagement.

At the long awaited Britain in Bloom awards, at the end of October, we finally had sight of the results – we had won a Gold! First time finalists Green Moor, from Yorkshire, were the category winners. Feedback was generally very complimentary, but highlighted a couple of areas for improvement, which the group have noted for the next competition.

The Christmas Fair, another well attended event organised by the group took place in mid-November, a lovely way to get into the festive spirit. In the run up to Christmas, the group decided it would be nice to re-introduce Christmas lights in the village. After numerous conversations with the church, it was decided that we would purchase some battery lights for the bus shelter – hopefully these were an addition all in the village were able to enjoy.

All in all, another extremely successful, and busy, year for the group! Thank you to everyone for their input!