

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM 2022

Period 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2022

Charity Name Leominster in Bloom

Charity No: 1178381

Charity's principal address:

LEOMINSTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOC
LEOMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE
SCHOOL ROAD
LEOMINSTER
HR6 8NJ

Phone: 01568616460

The Objects of the CIO are

- 1) TO PROMOTE HORTICULTURE AND FLORICULTURE FOR THE PUBLIC GENERALLY AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LIVE IN OR VISIT LEOMINSTER BY PROVIDING AND ENCOURAGING THE PROVISION OF DISPLAYS FLOWERS SHRUBS TREES AND LANDSCAPES IN PLACES VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE GENERAL ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.
- 2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY, CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY.
- 3) FORGING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL CLUBS, SCHOOLS AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TOWN.

Type of governing document: Charitable Incorporated Organisation adopted 18th May 2018

How the charity is constituted: Constitution for a CIO with voting membership (in addition to the charity trustees)

Trustee selection methods: Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting as stated in the constitution.

Trustees

Geoffrey Crofts	Chair	Appointed: 14.11.2018
Councillor Felicity Norman		Appointed: 22.03.2018
Gillian Ding	Secretary	Appointed: 18.01.2018
Vivien Melia	Treasurer	Appointed: 15.01.2021

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2022

I am so pleased to once again report a very successful year with Gold Award received once again. The huge amount and effort put in once again reaped the reward. Not only the Committee members but the Community as a whole have to be congratulated, a superb Team Effort.

Our theme of Wool and the various interpretations that came were phenomenal. Echo supported with the Butter Cross and once again people could be heard admiring the display whenever you walked through that area. We managed to decorate Morris Mews and then, there were all the planters, troughs and displays around the town.

It was a rather experimental year with Peat Free compost being introduced in some planters and the difference was quite noticeable, I think. An experiment that showed the judges that we had listened to the RHS and as always, we embrace the right way to go about our business.

Always a dangerous thing to do but I feel that there are some individuals that do go above and beyond to make us a highly successful group. I know that I don't mention everyone individually, but one aspect of our plans is to get the schools involved and I really just say a huge thank you on behalf of us all to Helena. I think I can say that we have had more involvement and participation than ever before by the schools due to Helena's dedication and efforts in making contact and what is more in getting all the entries for the competitions and the shop windows and library exhibits were quite wonderful. A huge amount of time taken but thank you Helena and perhaps next year there might be more!! What a thought!

This year saw involvement from the Brownies under the guidance of Carol and the other leaders of the group. There was also the effort and work put in by The Scouts with herbs planted in the beds they transformed at the Etnam Street Car Park, sadly a few people removed some of the plants, but we mustn't be downhearted.

The cut-out sheep were also a resounding success with the fences by the Fire Brigade and a whole flock in the library, once again a big community effort. Lady BaaBaa got a bit of a makeover too during the year.

Thanks go to the Fire Brigade who continue to help in some way.

During the year we have increased our portfolio of planters with a most generous donation made by Barrington's who provided us with new troughs free of charge, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant kindly gave us two new planters which were placed outside the old Barclays Bank. Our rather old and rusty stock was supplemented by the purchase of other barrels and planters for which Lauren was able to attain a £500 from the Bulmer Trust.

At this point I must mention our grateful thanks for Lauren for work on our website and also for looking out for other grants. It is much appreciated, and we hope we can work with her in the coming years.

Our website was originally put together by Ian Wilkinson for whom we are grateful and wish him well when he and Julie move to Buckinghamshire to be near family.

I would also like to make mention our grateful thanks to the Town Council for the support they give and in particular the wonderful help that we receive from Stuart and his gang. It is much appreciated and the early hours watering our displays certainly do not go unnoticed. We also thank the girls from Philpotts who do provide us with excellent plants.

Bertie Bargates came to a conclusion when it was finally finished being restored and was dedicated to Jack Daw who had tragically lost his life whilst helping out. I must mention Chris Hodson who despite not having amazing health, he amazingly spent many hours in painting the box and in motivating people to help raise the money and now works with the team of locals who are checking to see all is well with the defibrillator.

Our sponsors, of whom there are so many, respond to Romey and Viv in a very positive way and we have to be so thankful that they do. It wouldn't happen without the support and pride that people show.

A young man, another unsung hero is Richard who helps to keep the town looking so clean and cared for. He is seen on his hands and knees sweeping up, we are so grateful to him.

Another of our unsung heroes is of course Romey who so rightly was recognised when she received an award for her massive efforts over the years. I know she would only accept it on all our behalf, but it was deserved regardless of what she says. We know it is the truth and I will make a hasty retreat after the meeting so that it doesn't become too violent!! In all honesty Romey we are so proud of all you do and just love being so nicely ordered about by your good self

Her partner in crime, Viv, also does a great job in keeping the books in order and also working hard on Facebook and everything else too. What with her and sister Cynthia, "the doyen of Plant Fairs" and so much else we are so lucky

Julia my Vice chair is so supportive too and keeps us informed of all that is going on and when we should turn up. (Usually to work)

I must just quickly mention the Bollard Covers which went down a storm, much as a result of our former committee member Kaye, who has now left us and living near Leeds, we shall miss her but wish her and Robin well.

Another person who has contributed so much over the years is Gill, who having retired from the TIC has agreed to continue as our secretary for which I am certain we are so grateful.

I know I have missed someone out but whoever it is then excuse me as I felt there was a lot to cover.

I really don't know what we are going to arrange this year for judging day, but I think last year we went out with a roar with the amazing Lion.

Thank you to everyone!

Geoffrey Crofts

Chair

Leominster in Bloom

LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM BREAKDOWN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
31st December 2022				31st December 2021		
LIB	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£120.00			£165.00		
DONATIONS	£1,378.50			£700.00		
GIFT AID RECLAIM	£126.49			£ -		
MARKET STALLS	£534.96			£448.39		
PLANT FAIR	£1,786.53			£1,929.93		
BUCKET COLLECTIONS	£219.07			£443.81		
EASY FUNDING/AMAZON	£49.70			£21.19		
SPONSORSHIP	£9,850.00			£7,750.00		
FUNDRAISING EVENTS	£ -			£ -		
JUST GIVING	£ -			£4.70		
SUNDRIES	£276.00			£ -		
GRANT FUNDING	£1,471.40			£ -		
BANK INTEREST	£4.36			£0.76		
RHS EXP		£145.00			£175.00	
ADVERTISING		£249.00				
PLANT FAIR REFUNDS		£55.00				
EQUIPMENT		£3,867.51			£ -	
PRINTING		£96.00			£261.72	
STATIONARY		£142.21			£118.85	
WEBSITE		£82.40			£ -	
PLANTING		£8,652.20			£7,240.45	
SPONSOR SIGNS		£815.15			£522.00	
TOMBOLA & MARKET PRIZES		£199.17			£148.70	
SUNDRIES		£417.39			£136.19	
TOTAL	£15,817.01	£14,721.03	£1,095.98	£11,463.78	£8,602.91	£5,713.76
BERTIE BARGATES PROJECT						
Income	£975.25			£3,191.21		
Expenses		£3,550.28			£338.32	
TOTAL	£975.25	£3,550.28	-£2,575.03	£3,191.21	£338.32	£2,852.89
FUNDS	31.12.22			31.12.21		
Petty Cash	£18.49					
CASH IN HAND	£ -			£50.90		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	£651.27			£1,002.27		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	£8,007.01			£9,102.65		
TOTAL FUNDS	£8,676.77			£10,155.82		
FUNDS SPLIT						
BERTIE BARGATES PROJECT	£277.86			£2,852.89		
LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM	£8,398.91			£7,302.93		
	£8,676.77			£10,155.82		

Declarations.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed:

Full Name Geoffrey Crofts

Position Chairman

Date 21/3/23

Treasurers Report AGM 08.02.23

The accounts for 2022 have been compiled and once again examined by Diana Emes. At her suggestion I have split out the figures for Bertie Bargates to give a true reflection of how LIB performed.

Diana has confirmed that she has found no reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) Proper accounting records were not kept.
Or that
- b) The accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I'd like to thank Diana for taking the time to carry out this examination and I will be using these figures when I complete the annual report on the Charity Commission website along with Geoffrey's annual review from this evening's meeting. Also plans for 2023 can be included if available.

2022 Income

Our income for the year totalled £15,817, an increase of £4354 on 2021.

Main changes

- Sponsorship increased by £2100
- Donations increased by £ 678
- Market sales increased by £ 86
- We received £1,471 in grant funding from Hereford Community Fund and The High Sheriffs Fund.
- I claimed £126.49 in gift aid, the first time I've done this.
- Our bucket collections were down by £224 as we didn't have a collection at Morrisons.

2022 Expenditure

Our Expenditure totalled £ 14721 an increase of £3258 over the previous year.

- The group had decided to invest in replacing several planters. We purchased 3 new self-watering troughs and 11 new barrels from Amberol at a cost of £2874.
- Also 2 tiered planters were purchased with the grant money received from the High Sheriff. We had intended to purchase a further 6 troughs but when approached to supply them R J Barrington offered to donate them, which was very much appreciated.
- We spent £249 on Plant Fair signs and a new LIB feather flag.
- Philpott's bill increased by £1412, some of this was due to the increased number of planters and also there was an increase in the cost of the plants of approximately 10%. We have increased our charges for sponsorship in 2023 to take account of this increase.
- The new sign for Lady Ba Ba cost £84
- We contributed £100 towards the expenses Echo incurred decorating the Buttercross.

The net result for LIB is that we had a surplus of £1095 for the year.

Bertie Bargates Project

Regarding Bertie, we saw a surplus of £2852 in 2022 and in 2023 we over spent by £2575 as we purchased the equipment needed to complete the project. It should be noted that we received a grant from Leominster Town Council for £843.86 To aid us in completing this project. There is a small

amount of £277 which remains of the funds raised and this is ring fenced with in our bank account to be spent on Bertie should any maintenance be needed in the future.

In total as of 31st December 2022 the LIB accounts had the following funds available

Petty Cash £ 18.49

Current Account £ 651.27

Deposit Account £ 8,007.01

Total £ 8,676.77

Bertie Bargates Project £277.86

LIB Funds £ 8,398.91.

Vivien Melia



Treasurer

Leominster in Bloom

LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM PLANS FOR 2023



Theme

"A Right Royal Carnival." Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III
Carnivals from around the world



Planting Scheme

Exuberant and colourful blooms. Insect, bee friendly, more sustainable areas

Schools

Comprehensive selection of age-related projects. Focusing on carnivals and fairs from around the world and the Coronation.

School entries will be displayed in empty shop windows throughout the town also utilising Leominster library and the train station.



Shops

Window displays to celebrate the Coronation and carnival theme.

Projects

Wildflower planting at The Priory

Bat and bird boxes being erected

Decorating bollards around the town. Lead by Leominster Freewheelers

Pom Pom decorations around the town.

Street benches to be repainted.

Bridge Street river bridge to be repainted. A request has been submitted to Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty to carry out the work

Forge links with The Cart Shed and Age UK Sheds Together.



Buttercross

Carnival decorations by Clever Betsy, Leominster 1st Brownies, Forbury Care Home
BUPA Care Home, Headlines Hair Saloon, Stitches Wool & Fabric Shop.

Community

Involvement with schools, youth groups, care homes and other local groups joining together with projects around the town. For instance: Forbury Care Home maintaining the herb beds in Etnam Street Car Park and Central Car Park lavender beds. The Wild Life Trust involvement with more sustainable planting. LIB attending Independence Day and Leominster Festival Events. B & Q helping to care for the flower bed in Coningsby Road and much more.



Leominster Town Council

Leominster Town Council working with Leominster in Bloom watering planters and helping with maintenance projects.

Publicity

Leominster in Bloom Website. www.leominsterinbloom.co.uk

Facebook, Twitter, RHS Newsletter, local newspapers, radio stations and networking events.



Environment

Self- watering planters. Peat free compost to be used where possible.

Composting with Grange Court, also investigating our own composting area.

Insect friendly planting, more sustainable planting areas.

Funding

Financial support from many local businesses and shops sponsoring planters.

Public donations

Leominster in Bloom Plant & Craft Fairs. Fund raising stalls at other local markets and events.

Super market collection days.

Grants where available



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LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM	£8,398.91			£7,302.93		
	£8,676.77			£10,155.82		

I have examined the financial accounts of Leominster in Bloom for the year ending 31st December 2022. I have found no reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) proper accounting records were not kept
- b) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

Signed



Diana C Emes

26/1/23