

Leominster In Bloom 2024

Another successful year with Gold once again being our reward.

In spite of all the problems thrown at us, the streets were decorated to such a high standard. All the chaos of the essential maintenance work to the streets did indeed create an extraordinary challenge. It was quite an upheaval that everyone experienced and in support of the businesses, I believe we did a great job.

In the Priory Church the “Threads through Creation”, a most wonderful exhibition gave us the opportunity to provide a lair for the wonderful Leominster Lion. We were so lucky to have Gail Harrison to assist with this. So many from the community played a part, such as Leominster Meeting Centre, 1st Orleton Brownies and The Pom Ladies and a huge number of the general public provided flowers, knitted and crocheted in abundance.

The planned single colours in the streets around the town worked well in spite of having to move some planters as worked progressed. We are extremely grateful to the Philpott’s girls and our chief designer Romey, with assistance from many others to make it happen as we envisaged.

The summer planting saw 155 bags of Miracle Grow Peat Free Compost being used and supplied by Hintons, although of course we paid for them!

Many others have helped us amongst these The Pom Ladies who did an exhibit in memory of World War II which was taken to Normandy and then on to Llandudno. The Ladies produced Phone and Mail Box Toppers, even on the new Walter Worcester Phone Box. This now has planters as well as the Topper.

We celebrated the opening of “Suzie” our very own Shed which is in the Secret Garden, thank you to the Town Council for allowing us to place it there. It is proving to be very useful

There are a number of other projects and Groups that we work successfully with including some of the Local Homes, The Nut Grove project which has been running since 2016, Ginhall Green Wild Flower meadow.

The schools competitions go from strength to strength under the guidance of Helena with literally thousands of entries. Also, Helena has encouraged schools to improve their gardens and wildlife areas

The Garden and Shop Window competitions run well with much enthusiasm from Sheila and others

We have been involved with Leominster Walkers and various trails have been developed during the year

A total Community Effort so well done to everyone in whatever way they have contributed.

Two Plant Fair events that we have held have produced good income but also has kept the LIB profile in peoples minds, a good way to promote ourselves. Thank you, Cynthia, for your organising skills.

I finally must mention our sponsors who never cease to amaze in giving their support and are so generous. I am sure we are to see more difficult times ahead with the economy, with many of our local shops and businesses trying to recover from the upheaval of the past twelve months. I do hope there is a light at the end of the tunnel and I have to say the town streets and Square are looking so good.

I have tried not to mention too many individuals, but I must just quickly mention, Gill who keeps great minutes, Julia who keeps us informed and Viv for her book keeping and getting the invoices out so proficiently and Diana for checking our books

*Geoffrey Croft
Chair
Leominster in Bloom*

Leominster in Bloom Treasurer's Report for 2024

Overview

Leominster in Bloom has had a productive financial year in 2024, with continued support from subscriptions, donations, and fundraising events. This report outlines the income and expenditure for the year, providing a comparison with the previous year's financials.

Once again Diana Emes has reviewed our accounts, and I would like to thank her for doing this and for the help and advice she has given me.

Income Summary

- **Subscriptions:** £85.
- **Donations:** £700, a slight decrease from £1067 last year. (Includes £150 from Caroline Savager in memory of her mother, plaque still to be placed and £200 from Jane Lacy for raffle/tombola prizes. We have a surplus of £214.57 from Janes generous donations carried forward into 2025.)
- **Market Stalls:** £650.92, down from £1424.33 in 2023.
- **Plant Fair:** £2066.40, a modest increase from £1983.24.
- **Bucket Collections:** £56.74, up from £29.43.
- **Easy Funding / Amazon:** No income was generated from these sources this year, compared to £46.96 in 2023.
- **Sponsorship:** £11,430, remaining consistent with £11,650 last year.
- **Fundraising Events & Just Giving:** No additional income from these streams.
- **Grant Funding:** £1230. (Herefordshire Community Fund £730 for wild flower meadow, we have spent £485.99 for seed, 80 Yellow Rattle on order at £120 so surplus of £124.01 for top up seed. Leominster Town Council £500 for Pom Pom Ladies Longest Yarn Project travel case forwarded in full in October)
- **Interest:** £177.8, up from £102.58 due to higher interest rates.

Total Income: £16,431.07.

Expenditure Summary

- **RHS & In Bloom Costs:** £200.00, an increase of £55 as this now includes the cost of tickets to the annual awards ceremony
- **Advertising:** £259.00. This year we had sponsorship of £300 for the plant fairs and garden competitions so invested in some new signs and leaflets to promote the events.
- **Plant Fair Refunds:** £50.00
- **Equipment:** £1,053.17 (Wheel Barrow £95. Shed costs including deposit in 2023 £1331.77)
- **Printing:** £234.99. Mainly printing for school's competitions covered by sponsorship
- **Stationery:** £145.24
- **Website:** £151.20
- **Planting:** £8,669.99. There was a reduction in planting costs from Philpotts as we had two less beehives and no hanging baskets.
- **Sponsor Signs:** £266.73
- **Tombola & Market Prizes:** £136.01 Down from £227.58, we did less events.
- **Expenditure from Grants:** £985.99. See grant funding above.
- **Competition Prizes:** £125.75
- **Sundries:** £175.64
- **Bertie Bargates:** £0.00

Total Expenditure: £12,453.71

Surplus and Comparison

Surplus: £3977.36 down £254.82 v 2023.

The overall income shows a slight decline in certain categories like donations and market stalls, while plant fair earnings and bucket collections showed improvement. Sponsorship remains a key component of our financial stability.

With a total expenditure of £12,453.71, the committee has managed spending effectively, ensuring funds are used to support planting projects, community engagement, and operational expenses.

We will continue to monitor and optimize our expenses to ensure the sustainability of our initiatives. Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their continued support.

Conclusion

Leominster in Bloom remains in a stable financial position, allowing us to maintain and expand our community projects. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Prepared by the Treasurer, Leominster in Bloom.



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Leominster in Bloom

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Leominster in Bloom for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: DIANA C EMES

Date: 7th April 2025

LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM BREAKDOWN OF 2024 INCOME & EXPENDITURE

| FULL YEAR 2024 | INCOME | EXPENDITURE | SURPLUS | 2023 | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| SUBSCRIPTIONS | £85.00 | | | £70.00 | |
| DONATIONS | £700.00 | | | £1,067.00 | |
| GIFT AID RECLAIM | £0.00 | | | £0.00 | |
| MARKET STALLS | £650.92 | | | £1,424.33 | |
| PLANT FAIR | £2,066.40 | | | £1,983.24 | |
| BUCKET COLLECTIONS | £56.74 | | | £29.43 | |
| EASY FUNDING/AMAZON | £0.00 | | | £46.96 | |
| SPONSORSHIP | £11,430.00 | | | £11,650.00 | |
| FUNDRAISING EVENTS | £0.00 | | | | |
| JUST GIVING | £0.00 | | | | |
| SUNDRIES | £34.20 | | | | |
| BERTIE BARGATES | £0.00 | | | | |
| GRANT FUNDING | £1,230.00 | | | £100.00 | |
| BANK INTEREST | £177.81 | | | £102.58 | £16,473.54 |
| TOTAL | £16,431.07 | | | | |
| RHS & IN BLOOM COSTS | | £ 200.00 | | £ 145.00 | |
| ADVERTISING | | £ 259.00 | | £ - | |
| PLANT FAIR REFUNDS | | £ 50.00 | | £ 30.00 | |
| EQUIPMENT | | £ 1,053.17 | | £ 1,108.49 | |
| PRINTING | | £ 234.99 | | £ 500.60 | |
| STATIONARY | | £ 145.24 | | £ 364.17 | |
| WEBSITE | | £ 151.20 | | £ 50.40 | |
| PLANTING | | £ 8,669.99 | | £ 9,253.85 | |
| SPONSOR SIGNS | | £ 266.73 | | £ 300.93 | |
| TOMBOLA & MARKET PRIZES | | £ 136.01 | | £ 227.58 | |
| EXPENDITURE FROM GRANTS | | £ 985.99 | | £ - | |
| COMPETITION PRIZES | | £ 125.75 | | £ - | |
| SUNDRIES | | £ 175.64 | | £ 260.34 | |
| BERTIE BARGATES | | £ - | | £0.00 | |
| TOTAL | | £ 12,453.71 | | | £ 12,241.36 |
| GAIN/LOSS | | | £ 3,977.36 | | £4,232.18 |
| Petty Cash | £ 15.00 | | | £16.89 | |
| CASH IN HAND | £ - | | | £0.00 | |
| CURRENT ACCOUNT | £ 658.48 | | | £830.47 | |
| SAVINGS ACCOUNT | £ ,612.03 | | | £11,309.59 | |
| Prepayment website | £ 100.80 | | | £252.00 | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | £ 16,386.31 | | | £12,408.95 | |

Bertie maintenance funds £277.95
 LIB funds £16,007.56
 Website to Jun 26 £100.80
£16,386.31

BELONGS TO BERTIE £277.95
 TOTAL LIB FUNDS £11,879.00
£252.00
£12,408.95

Trustees Declarations

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

Signed: [Signature]

Full Name: GERREY CROFTS

Position: CHAIRMAN TRUSTEE

Date: 9-4-25

Signed: [Signature]

Full Name: GILLIANDING

Position: SECRETARY

Date: 9-4-25

Signed: [Signature]

Full Name: FELICITY NORMAN

Position: Trustee

Date: 14.4.25

Signed: [Signature]

Full Name: VIVIEN ANN MELIA

Position: TREASURER + TRUSTEE

Date: 14/4/25