

THE Elswickian

NEWSLETTER OF ELSWICK PARISH COUNCIL March 2016

HELP

Elswick has once again been judged the Best in Bloom Village in the North West of England and has again been invited by the North West in Bloom organisers to represent the North West of England in the national finals. In 2014, in the national competition, we came within a whisker of winning the title of Britain's Best in Bloom Village, finishing joint second overall and taking the top Gold award in all four judging categories. This year we are determined to win the competition but to do so we need YOUR help

Contrary to what people think, Britain in Bloom is not simply about horticulture or what the judges see on the day of judging. Horticulture carries only 50% of the marks with environmental responsibility and community participation making up the balance. We have to be able to show that the whole community is behind Britain in Bloom and that the work that we do is over 12 months, not just a few summer weeks. To demonstrate this to the judges we have to present them with an illustrated portfolio. We therefore need your help.

Over the next few months we will be holding a number of events which we will record in our portfolio. The first of these will be held this Sunday 3rd April when we will be holding a welcome back Andrew litter pick. Everyone in Elswick will surely know that our legendary lengthsman Andrew Atkinson has been out of action since Christmas following a hip replacement. Our normally spic and span village has struggled in his absence as we have found it impossible to keep up to Andrew's standards.

Andrew expects to be back at work at the beginning of April so we are calling upon all villagers to lend a hand on 3rd April, to restore the village to what it was before Andrew had the operation and to lighten his load as he returns to work. We will be meeting at 2pm at the Village Hall so please come along and give us an hour of your time.

The second event is a public meeting which will be held the following evening Monday 4th April at 7-30pm at the Village Hall. At the meeting we will be outlining our plans for Elswick in Bloom 2016 and how we intend to win the title Best Britain in Bloom Village. It should only take a half hour of your time but at the meeting we are hoping to compile a list of volunteers, who we can call upon when we have odd jobs to do around the village. These will include painting seats and benches, transplanting wild primroses from the winter bedding, some weeding and possibly help with fundraising. We don't expect people to be able to attend every event but an hour or so here and there will be a huge boost to our efforts and will demonstrate to the judges that the village is behind Britain in Bloom. No horticultural experience is necessary but if you do have some expertise we would be delighted if you would join us, as one of our main tasks this year is to design and plant a new herbaceous bed.

We hope to see you on Sunday and Monday. Please come and support us.