

## **ASH IN BLOOM – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT DELIVERED TO ASH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 6 JUNE 2022**

Thank you once again for this opportunity for Ash in Bloom, a volunteer community group here in Ash, to report on our activities over the past 12 months and our plans for the coming year.

Looking back on what we have achieved this year, we embraced the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by adopting a red, white and blue colour scheme for this summer's planting of all the village planters along Main Street. We also decorated both static and pole-planters in Union Jacks, bows and ribbons, all of which appears to have received widespread approval from residents.

This year we also planted and decorated the planters outside the Pavilion which we took on at short notice following a request from the Parish Council. Back in December we once again dressed all the planters along Main Street in Christmas lights and decorations.

We wish to thank the Parish Council for their £500 grant towards the work we do in enhancing the village street scene. I would also like to publicly thank Caz Halfhide and the regulars at The Bell Inn for a £100 donation from the proceeds of a raffle held at The Bell to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On a less positive note, the pony cart we had placed and planted on the grassy corner of Main Street and Burrough Street was stolen last autumn. Despite reporting its theft to the police the missing cart has never been found. If anyone within our community has and is willing to donate an old cart or other suitable piece of old farming equipment that we could possibly turn into an attractive floral display beside the old oak trees on the corner of Main Street and Burrough Street, we would very much like to hear from you.

On a more positive note, Ash in Bloom once again arranged for residents to participate in a bulk order and delivery of well priced and healthy summer plants in the Jubilee scheme colours and a number of residents took up the offer.

Looking forward, our plan for the coming year is to concentrate on planting and maintaining the summer floral displays in all the static planters and pole-planters along Main Street and decorating them at Christmas.

One of our biggest challenges is the watering of plants needed throughout the summer months. I'm pleased to say that this year we now have a number of residents who have said they will water a planter near their home. This is much appreciated but we still need more helpers if possible. If there is a planter near your home you would be willing to help water or if there is any other way you might want to get involved, please phone me on 01935 825020 or email me at [ashinbloom123@gmail.com](mailto:ashinbloom123@gmail.com).

Many thanks  
**Antoinette Groves, Chair, Ash in Bloom**